



# The Macfie Clan Society of Australia

## NEWSBULLETIN

No 16

14 Nov 77

### SOCIETY EXECUTIVE

- President : Squadron Leader Alex McPhee, Headquarters Support Command,  
R.A.A.F., Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, Vic. 3004.  
(Telephone Melbourne 698-7008 (Office) 232-6640 (Home))
- Vice-President: A.L. (Sandy) McPhee, 47 Bellamy Street, Pennant Hills, NSW, 2120.  
(Telephone Sydney 84-2257)
- New South Wales Vice-President : Colin Macfie, P.O.Box 132, Forster, NSW 2428.  
(Telephone Forster Exchange (065 - 5451) Extension 1461)
- Victoria Vice-President : Bruce McPhee, 8 Calypso Court, Forest Hill, Vic. 3131.  
(Telephone Melbourne 878-4873)
- Western Australia Vice-President : Andy McPhee, 2 Beck Place, Warwick, WA 6024.  
(Telephone Perth 48-1807)
- Treasurer : Ross McPhee, 5 Wendover Court, Mt. Waverley Vic. 3149.  
(Telephone Melbourne 277-5274)
- Armigerous Member: Victor McPhee Esq., P.O.Box 2, Dalby, Qld. 4405.  
(Telephone Dalby 62-3412)

### SOCIETY OFFICE BEARERS

- Secretary : (Mrs) Helen McPhee, 8 Floreat Court, Glen Waverley, Vic. 3150.  
(Telephone Melbourne 232-6640)
- Piper : Donald MacPhee, 21 Mudgee Street, Burwood East, Vic. 3151.  
(Telephone Melbourne 288-5264)
- Historians : (Mrs) Margaret Phee, 12 Pitt Road, North Curl Curl, NSW 2099.  
(Telephone Sydney 93-5399)  
(Mrs) Norah McPhee, 47 Bellamy Street, Pennant Hills, NSW, 2120.  
(Telephone Sydney 84-2257)
- Trustees : President Alex McPhee  
Treasurer Ross McPhee  
Neil McPhee, 3/84 Locksley Road, Ivanhoe, Vic. 3079.  
(Telephone Melbourne 497-2958)

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE  
SOCIETY EXECUTIVE

In accordance with paragraph 7 of the Society Constitution, nominations are now called for for the election of the following members of the Society Executive for the 1978 - 1979 term of office -

President

Vice-President

State Vice-Presidents for   New South Wales  
  Victoria  
  Queensland  
  South Australia  
  Western Australia

Treasurer

Nominations close with the Secretary on 14th December 1977, and are to be in writing specifying the nominee's name and nominated office. They are to be signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder.

Note : Only financial members of the Society are eligible to accept nomination for office, or to propose, second, or vote for nominees for office.

Additionally, in the case of a State Vice-President, only financial members in the State concerned are eligible to accept nomination for such office, or to propose, second, or vote for nominees for State office.

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The State Vice-President jobs are not very demanding. The incumbent is looked on as Society (and Clan) representative for the State and would be called upon to act in that capacity should the need so arise. As a member of the Society Executive a State Vice-President participates in running Society affairs, however, business is conducted through the mail so there is little cost or time involved in that regard. State Vice-Presidents are expected to organize at least one social function in their own area each year, and, of course, may form State committees to further Society and Clan aims, should they so wish.

If an election of Executive members is required, ballot papers will be mailed by 28th December and be returnable by 25th January 1978. Results will be notified to members with Newsbulletin No 17 in February next, and transfer of responsibilities will take place at the 2nd Biennial General Meeting next year.

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OUR NEW LOOK NEWSBULLETIN

This Newsbulletin is our first movement away from the cheaper roneoed production we have used in the past. We hope it will be permanent as the advantages of the more professional appearance and capability to reproduce photographs using this off-set printing method are obvious. However, a lot will depend on the costing of this Newsbulletin which is really a trial run for that purpose.

Dont forget contributions will always be welcome.....



REVEREND GEORGE MACFIE  
MINISTER AT PORTLAND HEAD & PITT TOWN

1842 - 1867

One of the early settlements west of Parramatta was established in 1802 at Portland Head, near Windsor. The first settlers came by boat along the Hawkesbury River to take up the land allotted to them. Their religious services were held in the open, or in settlers' homes, until they erected a small slab building with grass thatch roof as a church. In 1808 the tiny community commenced building a permanent church at Ebenezer. It cost £400 and was constructed with stone walls two feet thick. Completed in 1809, it was the first Presbyterian Church in Australia and the first church in the country to be erected by voluntary help and contributions. It is now the oldest church of any denomination in Australia which is still used for public worship.

The Rev. George Macfie was the third, and the longest serving, of the Ministers at Ebenezer. He was born at Calton, Glasgow, on 3rd October 1789 to Alexander Macfie (1755 - 1823) of Bute and Mary Sinclair (1767 - 1828) of Lorne. He matriculated at the University of Glasgow in 1808, and was employed for some years as a school teacher until, in 1828, he was licensed by the Presbytery of Brechin in Scotland. He was ordained on 2nd July 1828 and appointed to the Parish Church of Birdhopcraig (Northumberland) as the first minister to serve in the New Kirk. He resigned on 11th June 1837 to migrate to Australia.

In April 1833 the Rev. George had married Elizabeth, daughter of John Hutcheson and Susannah Smith of Fulbar, Renfrew, in the Parish Church at Renfrew. They had six children, two born in Scotland and four in Australia -

Susannah Smith	b. Birdhopcraig	26 Mar 1834	d. 20 Feb 1930
Mary Sinclair	b. Birdhopcraig	15 Apr 1837	d. 13 Oct 1903
Magdelene Allen	b. Bergalia	28 Aug 1839	d. 19 Apr 1920
Catherine	b. Bergalia	21 Apr 1841	d. 14 Jul 1915
George Alexander	b. Pitt Town	20 May 1843	d. 9 May 1886
John Hutcheson	b. Pitt Town	21 Mar 1847	d. 23 Nov 1918

The family sailed for Australia in July 1837 aboard the "Portland", and arrived in Sydney on 3rd December of that year. There were eight ministers and four probationers on the vessel, with their families, coming to Australia under the sponsorship of Dr John Dunmore Lang. The Rev. George Macfie settled first at Penrith, but after six months he moved with his family to Bergalia in south eastern New South Wales, and, operating from his home as there was no church, he travelled the district between Bergalia and Bega moving from station to station, preaching, marrying and baptising. In 1842 he was called to Portland Head and Pitt Town and inducted to Ebenezer by the Presbytery of Windsor. He continued to visit the Bergalia area until 1859 or later.

Documenting this man's twenty five years of service to the community at Portland Head and Pitt Town will probably never be done in full, but it requires little thought or imagination to visualize the record of dedication and devotion of a country minister in the Australian bush towns during this era. It is known that the family resided at Pitt Town; that the Rev. George was the Minister there when the Pitt Town Presbyterian Church was built; and it is recorded that he laboured in his parish with much zeal and acceptance.

Perhaps the most reported incident during these years dealt with the "big" flood of 1867 and is viewed in lighter vein to-day, though pathos is ever present in such stories of our early settlements. The Ebenezer Church was built close to the river so that it might serve the settlers on both sides equally well. In fact,



river funerals were once a most impressive and unusual ceremony there with funeral parties coming by boat along the river, or across from the far side, to land on a small sandy beach close to the church and then to walk up to the cemetery. In 1867 flood rains fell in the Hawkesbury catchment and the river rose at an alarming rate. The Rev. George's daughter, Mary Sinclair, was to be married at this time and preparations continued despite the downpour. Flood waters actually entered the Manse as the ceremony commenced and continued to rise so quickly that proceedings were abandoned the moment they were pronounced "Man and Wife". The bride and groom (and no doubt the others present also) escaped through an attic window and into a waiting boat, but the wedding breakfast was claimed by the flood.

During this flood the Rev. Macfie lost all his books and flood devastation rendered the Manse uninhabitable for a time. The Reverend George retired in 1867 - soon after the flood. He died at "Kegworth", Petersham, Sydney on 17th December 1869, and is buried in Balmain Cemetery. An obelisk to his memory is in the churchyard at Ebenezer. His wife, Elizabeth, died at Linden, New South Wales, on 22nd June 1899. The following descendants of theirs are members of our Clan Society -

N74-008	Dr. R. Kerr Chatfield	Penrith	NSW
N74-020	Mrs Eve Mason	Greenwich	NSW
N74-050	Mrs Mary Macfie Chatfield	Penrith	NSW
N74-088	Miss Jean Poole	Double Bay	NSW
N77-303	George Macfie Poole	Armidale	NSW

They are descended from the second daughter, Mary, who married William Thomas Poole during the 1867 flood - Kerr and his family live on the banks of the Hawkesbury at Penrith to-day where they can look out on the not infrequent river floods, and no doubt think back to the near catastrophe of 110 years ago. Descendants of the younger son of the Rev Macfie's, John Hutcheson, are believed to be alive to-day, but no contact has been made with the Society as yet.

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#### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Twenty eight members have yet to pay their 1977 membership subscriptions. Reminder notices are attached for those concerned - please give the matter your urgent attention.

The Executive have determined that the 1978 membership subscription rate will remain unchanged at \$3 per member 18 years of age and over.

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#### NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY

Mrs Belle Brew of 8 View Road, Papakura, New Zealand is initiating action to form a Society of our Clan in that country. Belle visited Scotland for the Gathering of the Clans earlier this year and is keen on the idea of an N.Z. Society. However, she does need support and contacts over there, so please take a minute and drop her a line with the names and addresses of eligible relations or friends in New Zealand, or pass her address on to them.

EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

International. As a result of initiatives developing from the International Gathering of the Clans in Scotland earlier this year, your Executive has recognised the Clan MacPhee Society of Scotland as the parent Society of our Clan, and have sought to affiliate with it. We have also recognised, and indicated our willingness to financially support, any appointment the Clan MacPhee Society of Scotland may make as Keeper of the Records of the Clan.

Society. The Executive have decided to introduce a series of Society Standing Orders to officially record decisions taken on the interpretation or application of the various paragraphs of the Society Constitution. The following have been determined to date -

1. Membership subscriptions paid by new members on or after the first day of November are to be credited as their membership subscription for the ensuing year.
2. Expenses incurred by the President for postage, telephone and minor administrative items are to be automatically repaid on submission of an account to the Treasurer.
3. A Clan Seneschal, when appointed, is recognised by the Executive as the Titular Head of the Clan in Australia.
4. The required election for members of the Executive is to be carried out prior to the expiration of the sitting Executive's term of office. Transfer of responsibilities of office is to be made at the conclusion of the next following Biennial General Meeting of the Society.

Financial. The following bank account balances were reported by the Treasurer at the beginning of October 1977 -

General Account	Cr \$451.26
Trust Account	Cr \$ 25.79
Trust Funds invested in Commonwealth Bonds	\$360.

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2nd BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

SYDNEY 1978

The Second Biennial General Meeting of the Society is to be held in Sydney in the early part of next year - unfortunately dates are not available at this time, but Society Vice-President Sandy McPhee has initial arrangements well in hand and full details will be notified to members with Newsbulletin No 17 in February. Tentatively it would appear that the Meeting and associated social functions will be held in April.....so what about keeping a week-end or two free at that time so you can be sure to attend?

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SOCIAL CALENDAR

An informal gathering will be held in TOOWOOMBA on Saturday ~~20th~~ 21st January 1978 at Weis' Top of the Range Restaurant. Smorgasboard Dinner, 7.00PM Assembly....Members and guests responsible for their own accounts for the evening.... Nev McPhee (Q74-084) of 6 Eymard St., Toowoomba, 4350. (Phone 35-8454 (Home) or 32-4155 (Office)) is the contact there - but he will be away 1st to 15th January, and messages may be left at the Office. Attendance notification by 18th January please, to Nev or his office.... Helen and I will be attending this one, so I hope we see you there -



GENERAL NOTES

Congratulations and best wishes to :

- \*Stewart McPhee (V75-113) of Croydon, Vic., on his eightieth birthday on 14th September last. Hale and hearty, Stewart and wife Irene (V75-114) are just back from an overseas trip which included a visit to Colonsay where they "walked all over the place".
- \*Bob (V76-151) and Helen McPhee of Vermont, Vic., on the birth of a daughter Lucy Catherine on 9th September.
- \*Western Australia Vice-President Andy McPhee (N74-024) and Glenys (N74-081) on the arrival of their second son, Matthew John on 17th October - and to Matthew too, as he is now our youngest member...Mr W77-378 no less.
- \*Peter Hastings (N75-106) of Grafton NSW and Miss Jan Marchant of Gilgandra NSW on their recent engagement. Wedding plans hinge round May next year...
- \*Jean McPhee (Q77-329) of Toowoomba, Qld., on her engagement and forthcoming marriage to geophysicist Colin Davis of Brisbane. Their wedding is for Bell on 31st December.

A special Christmas Wish goes to Sergeant Glen McPhee (V77-357) who is serving with the RAAF's 5 Squadron detachment with the United Nations peace keeping force in the Middle East. Glen is normally based at RAAF Base Point Cook just outside Melbourne.

Victoria Vice-President Bruce McPhie and wife Betty are about to move into their new home at 8 Calypso Court, Forest Hill, Vic..

Paul McPhee (V75-100) has recently left the Bar to join a firm of Solicitors. When talking to him the other day he reaffirmed his willingness to talk problems over with members should they so wish - especially in accordance with the fourth Society Aim to help any disadvantaged members of the Clan in Australia - Paul can be contacted on Melbourne 231-1511. He made a good point too, in that if you are buying or selling a house or land, be sure to see a solicitor of your choice before signing any contracts -

Current membership figure is 360. The Invitation-to-Join brochures mailed earlier this year went to all "Macfies" in the Australian telephone directories. But, what about the ones without telephones ? or the many "Macfie" girls who have married ??? Names and addresses of likely prospects to Secretary Helen McPhie for follow-up action please -

New Members are :

S77-362	Miss Jane Elizabeth McPhee	55 Crown Terrace, Royal Park	SA	5014
S77-363	Rowan Andrew McPhee	55 Crown Terrace, Royal Park	SA	5014
N77-364	Robert Keith McPhie	"Wainui", Middlingbank Rd., Cooma	NSW	2630
N77-365	Elaine Catherine McPhie	"Wainui", Middlingbank Rd., Cooma	NSW	2630
N77-366	Ian William McPhie	"Wainui", Middlingbank Rd., Cooma	NSW	2630
N77-367	John Hilton McPhee	22 Tirriki St. Old Bar	NSW	2430
N77-368	John McPhee	2 Bareena Street, Strathfield	NSW	2135
N77-369	Greg McPhee	2 Bareena Street, Strathfield	NSW	2135
V77-370	Malcolm McPhie	87 Summerhill Road, Glen Iris	Vic	3146
S77-371	Christine McGuffie	7/32 Addison Road, Black Forest	SA	5035
Q77-372	Heather McGuffie	20 Maiwela Street, Seven Hills	Qld	4170
V77-373	Peter Andrew McPhee	7 Shrewsbury Road, Nunawading	Vic	3131
N74-374	Mrs Judith Margaret Hill	"Manooka", The Lagoon Rd., Perthville	NSW	2795
Q77-375	Alastair Gordon McPhee	8 Warilda Street, Camp Hill	Qld	4152
N77-376	Mrs Cheryl G. Wallace	28 James Cook Ave., Singleton Heights	NSW	2330
N77-377	Wayne Bruce McPhee	4 Dudley Street, Paddington	NSW	2021
W77-378	Matthew John McPhee	2 Beck Place, Warwick	WA	6024

Courses in Scottish Gaelic. Secretary Helen has details of the first ever audio lingual courses in Scottish Gaelic. The course is available from the National Extension College, Cambridge, England, and costs range from UK£19.50 to UK£43.30 depending on selected tapes and/or texts.

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THE SONG OF COLONSAY

The lonely deck he paces o'er  
    Impatient for the rising day,  
And still, from Crinan's moonlight shore,  
    He turns his eyes to Colonsay.  
Now, lightly poised, the rising oar  
    Disperses wide the foamy spray,  
And, echoing far o'er Crinan's shore,  
    Resounds the song of Colonsay.  
"Softly blow, thou western breeze,  
    Softly rustle through the sail,  
Sooth to rest the furrowy seas,  
    Before my love sweet western gale."  
So melting soft the music fell;  
    It seems to sooth the fluttering spray -  
"Say, heard'st thou not these wild notes swell ?  
    Ah! 'tis the Song of Colonsay."

(From J. Leyden's ballad 'The Mermaid' in Sir Walter Scott's  
'Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border'.)

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SCOTTISH SHORTBREAD BISCUITS

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup plain flour	125g (4oz) butter or substitute
2 tablespoons ground rice	1 egg, separated
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar	1 tablespoon cream

Sift flour and ground rice into bowl, rub in butter until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Add sugar, combine well. Add combined egg yolk and cream, mix to a firm dough. A little extra cream may be needed if dough is too dry (approximately 2 teaspoons). Roll out dough thinly on lightly floured board to 3mm ( $\frac{1}{8}$ in) thickness. Cut into rounds with floured 3.5cm ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ in) fluted round cutter. Prick top of biscuit with fork, put on greased oven trays, bake in moderately slow oven 15 minutes or until biscuits are very lightly browned. Remove from tray, cooling on wire rack. Makes approximately 35.

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My very best wishes to all members and their families  
for a happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

*Alex H. P.*  
President.