

Ancestral Home of
The Clan Macfie

The Macfie Clan Society of Australia

(Founded in Richmond NSW on 3rd May 1974)

NEWSBULLETIN

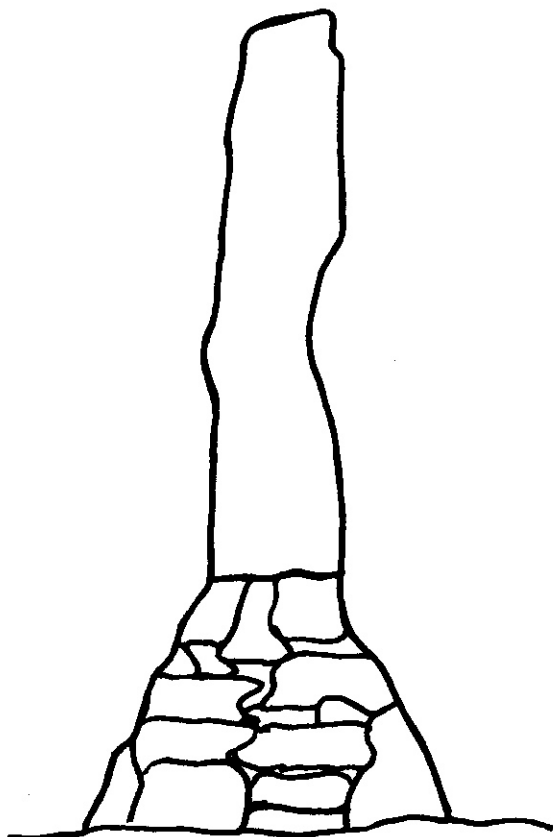
No 19

Aug 78

President Wing Commander Alex McPhie, Headquarters Support Command, RAAF,
Victoria Barracks, Melbourne V. 3004. (698-7008)

Vice-President Sandy McPhee, 47 Bellamy Street, Pennant Hills NSW 2120.
(Sydney 84-2257)

Secretary Mrs Helen McPhie, 8 Floreat Court, Glen Waverley V 3150.
(Melbourne 232-6640)



There has been a steady response to our appeal for funds for the Mhic a Phi Standing Stone project, with several donations of a most generous size.

My many thanks to those who have made contributions.

The Appeal is still open, however, and I would like to see participation by more members please. All donations are welcome, no matter how large or how small, and should be sent to our Secretary, Helen, at the above address.



'FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES'

The following list of Family History Societies may be useful to members. Most Societies will undertake a limited amount of research, generally of its own records, and usually this is for members only. Much of their work is honorary, though some do charge or request a donation. The Genealogical Society of Utah is an off-shoot of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and has the world's most comprehensive genealogical records in its archives in Salt Lake City. The individual Society's publications are named in brackets after each entry.

- NSW Society of Australian Genealogists
Richmond Villa, 120 Kent St., Sydney. (Descent).
1788-1820 Association,
Assembly Hall, Margaret St., Sydney. (GPO Box 1212) (1788-1820 Gazette).
Fellowship of First Fleeters,
Assembly Building, Jameson St., Sydney. (GPO Box 4441).
Genealogical Society of Utah,
141 Reservoir Rd., Cardiff Heights.
- VIC Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies,
P.O.Box 66, Oakleigh. (The Genealogist)
Genealogical Society of Victoria,
Block Arcade, Elizabeth St., Melbourne. (Ancestor).
(Port Phillip Pioneers is part of the above Society and is limited to
descendants of arrivals in Port Phillip until 1852)
Genealogical Society of Utah,
186 Westgarth St., Northcote.
- SA South Australian Genealogy & Heraldry Society,
Box 13, Marden. (The South Australian Genealogist).
- ACT Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra,
P.O. Box E 185, Canberra. (Ancestral Searcher).
(The Genealogical Society of Utah is scheduled to open in Canberra shortly).
- WA Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies (W.A.Group),
1 Myera St., Mt Claremont.
- TAS Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies (Tas Group),
44 High St., Bellerive.
- QLD (No information available at present - can anyone help?).
- N.Z. Armorial & Genealogical Institute of New Zealand,
P.O. Box 13301, Armagh, Christchurch. (Family Tree).
New Zealand Society of Genealogists,
P.O.Box 8795, Auckland. (New Zealand Genealogist).

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1979 & 1980 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Society Executive has determined that the 1979 and 1980 membership subscription rate will remain at \$3.00 per member. (Members below the age of 18 years are excused from the payment of membership fees.)

From Robert Macfie Young of Nairn, Scotland, comes this press article by one Angus Macleod, dated 1st March 1978.

COLONSAY - ISLAND AWAITING A FUTURE

The Inner Hebridean island of Colonsay, about 50 miles west of Argyll, stands at the crossroads of its history. For its 140 inhabitants, it is a place to live. For its owner, Lord Strathcona, it has been a responsibility and an asset. The responsibility has begun to outweigh the asset.

Only last week, Colonsay's little brother and neighbour, Oronsay, was sold by Lord Strathcona. The buyer was Mr Adam Bergius, chairman of the Teacher's whisky group. The price is rumoured to have been about £100,000.

Colonsay and Oronsay came into the possession of Lord Strathcona's ancestors in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1830, the population of Colonsay stood at 1,000; to-day 140 people try to carve a living out of an island that offers everything to the romantic and nothing to the realist.

Colonsay is eight miles long and about three miles broad. It has its beaches, its lochs, its golden eagles, its privacy, its peace and its cliches. It is fertile but no sportsman's paradise. It has its faults but it is a Scottish island and for a potential buyer it is an asset to play off against the Inland Revenue. The island's people, mainly middle-aged or elderly, are worried. If Oronsay can go will their island not be next? Could it be that their future in their home will be determined by the self-interest of some Arab or some Dutchman keen to own a piece of land? As one islander told me, is Colonsay on the way to becoming a "second St Kilda".

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal says No. He wants to keep the island going but will sell if a 'suitable person' was to come along; he would have to satisfy Lord Strathcona's bank and would have to have the interests of the people of Colonsay at heart. It would be easy to be snide about that list of priorities. The truth is that Lord Strathcona ranks well beside many Highland landlords.

That, though, is a backhanded compliment. The Church of Scotland minister on the island, the Rev. Ron Crawford, said, "We are a bit in the dark. On the one hand he says he wants to keep the island. On the other he says he cannot afford to keep it going. The Lord does not seem to be interested any more in his island. Lord Strathcona says, virtually, that Colonsay is an albatross round his neck. But then all landlords say that". Other islanders say that Lord Strathcona spends more time in London - he is Conservative Whip in the House of Lords - than he does in Colonsay.

Lord Strathcona has a pedigree that any Highland landlord would be proud of. Aged 55 he was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. He served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War and is a past chairman of the Bath Festival Society. He married for the second time ten days ago, his first marriage ended in divorce. Colonsay and Oronsay - the islands are joined at low tide - have been a family retreat since the nineteenth century.

The islands are steeped in history and Columba is said to have stopped off there on his way to Iona. But recently the islands' history has perhaps been of the wrong kind. For it has centred on that special kind of Highland feudalism which has seen population diminish and economic progress become non-existent. It has been a place to live - at a price. That price is about to be discovered by the islanders. Security, the future, the plight of this Hebridean paradise now hangs in the balance. The old order could be about to change - or die.

Where does Colonsay go? The people welcome the increasing interest taken by the Highlands and Islands Development Board, but the Board cannot be expected to provide a dramatically obvious panacea. As the Rev. Crawford said, "It is all very well saying 'come to Colonsay', but where do the people that come here live? There

are no houses available in Colonsay. If we could come up with a realistic economic answer, then the HIBD would back us."

Lord Strathcona still looks to that 'suitably well-heeled' person to come along and take the burden off him. As he says, the only answer at the moment is to have 'another go' and to make the best of it. He does not consider selling the island to the HIBD a viable proposition. "The answer is NO because they would be talking about district valuation figures. It would not be in the best interests of the bank or myself or in the interests of the community. I would welcome a HIBD development, however, running parallel with the interests of the estate."

Colonsay is expected to sell eventually for the best part of £1 million. That is the contradiction - an island on its last legs can attract such a sum for the simple pleasure of owning it. But will the person who takes it off Lord Strathcona's be motivated by the prospect of owning a doomed, splendid Hebridean no-man's-land? Or will he have another £1 million ready to resuscitate a place where people want to live.

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Ulf Macfie Hagman of Sweden writes accepting Honorary Membership of our Society :

"I have been greatly honoured to be a Honorary Member of The Macfie Clan Society of Australia and I thank you very much.

"My interest for Clan Macfie and Scotland has come from my older relatives who could tell about their experiences when visiting cousins in Britain, and then when I myself was able to visit Scotland and even see a few Scottish descendants from the very same ancestors as my own, my interest grew stronger.

"During one of my visits to Britain I was able to go to Isle of Colonsay. It was 1970. I had tried once before, 1966, but because of a seaman strike I had to stay on the British mainland that time.

"However in 1970 I found the so-called Macfie Standing Stone lying down broken to pieces. I felt very sad. So when Lord Strathcona gave permission for me to try to mend it, and Angus Clark promised to help with his tractor if I had to move it, I was full of confidence and I bought tools and stainless steel bars and bolts, and I thought I had everything to do the job when I went to Colonsay in July 1973. So I had! but I missed one very important thing! Time! Holidays always fly away. One week was much too little time to do the job - so I had to leave, with the job just half-done, and I must say I was somewhat ashamed to leave like that!

"I think you understand how glad I was when I heard of an Australian kinsman, Charles Macphee, who visited Colonsay a few years later and was interested in continuing my job. And really he did a very good work with the help of a local mason, Hugh McDougall. The stone was mended!

"Later Hugh McDougall with the help of his son Duncan, and Angus Clark built a little pedestal on the original place of the stone, and re-erected it. I was very happy to be one member of the party who was present at the re-inauguration a few days after it was re-erected in May last year.

"I hope the work we all are involved in now, to get a small piece of land around the stone as a special land, owned by the Clan and with a nice fence to protect the stone from cattle, will come out as a joining and connecting link between the different Macfie Societies in the world.

"Although Australia and Sweden are so very remote I think I have got many very good ideas and get a source of inspiration by letters from several members from your Society about Clan matters. I hope that the international co-operation within Clan Macfie, whatever spelling of the name we use, will grow, and I send my best wishes to all the Australian Macfies. I do hope I once in my lifetime should be able to visit you. Thanks a lot!"

GENERAL MEETING ITEMS RATIFIED

All items from our 2nd Biennial General Meeting which were submitted to members as a whole for ratification in Newsbulletin 18 have been approved. They referred to amendments to the Society Constitution and provided for :

1. A fifth Aim to establish and maintain close international ties with other bodies of our Clan.
2. Associated membership for interested individuals who are ineligible for ordinary membership of the Society.
3. Termination of membership of the Society.
4. Establishment of a Trust Fund.

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EDINBURGH CLAN GATHERING MAY 1977

CLAN MACFIE DINNER

We are indebted to Belle Brew of New Zealand for the tape recording of Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee's speech at the Clan Macfie Dinner in Edinburgh at the time of the Gathering of the Clans in May last year.

"Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, for a very brief moment to talk to this first gathering of the international group of our Clan. It is a matter to which some of us went back some time; it is a matter of very great importance that such a thing has happened in 1977 at the twenty fifth anniversary of our Queen. If ever a people had a history, then the Macfies have had it. For many decades our people have not been able or willing to put together the facts about their history from time immemorial. Fortunately, with the assistance of many people who are in this room, I have been able to put together some brief histories of the Clan at home and the Clan abroad. They are the beginnings - they are not a history - they are the beginnings of a history which I hope the young people and the middle aged people who now are coming to retirement and are looking forward to periods of activity in this field will develop; a history of our Clan beginning way back probably in the seventh or eighth century.

"We are an ancient Clan, we are one of the most ancient Clans in history. We are one of the people who, from as far as the records go, have a name that is not recognised even by the Gaelies as being within modern history. Being a Clan - protecting, firm, hardy, well enduring Macfies as was described by MacDonald - we are now able to say to the world at last, people have come here from all over the world to say we are a Clan. But we are a lot more than a Clan; we are a people who, regardless of the origins of our parents, regardless of the history of our Clan in Scotland; we are a people who have some concern about three or four things. That is why we have formed in all parts of Canada, United States, Australia, New Zealand and other areas, some groups of people who will do two or three things, which I hope you will go back and endeavour to do.

"A Clan Society is not a Clan; a Clan Society is a group of people who believe that it is worth while knowing each other, helping each other, working along with each other purposely to make sure that their Clan and the people to whom they are related - even by distant relationship, but in some form of relationship - are members of one Clan group. I know that ten years ago Allen MacDuffie started his society, the Clan MacDuffee of America; I know that in Australia, and Sweden longer than that, years before, there was a Clan Society the Thorburn-Macfie Family. In Ontario, in Alberta, in Saskatchewan we have Clan Societies dedicated

not only to having fun with each other, but dedicated also to the point that we will help each other - protecting, firm, hardy, well enduring. Well enduring is a phrase that to me corresponds to another theme and that is loyalty. People who have gone through some things that were rather rough and rather tough but are still well enduring with each other and for each other.

"All I want to do on behalf of Allen and the committee who are in charge of this affair is to say to you that we are very proud to have our first meeting in this old province, in this old country, in this old land. We are very proud because we are close to home and the roots, the theme, the religious authority and educational outlook. These are the things that our nation has carried through in many a country and which makes us very proud to have been one of the members of the Scottish Clan society. Thank you Mr Chairman, I hope that you'll come back to another meeting and that as time goes on you will grow in helpfulness; in the meantime go back and join your Societies.

"For most of us this is one of the happy days of the Queen of England, the Queen of the Commonwealth. This young woman who last year went to the US and captured all society. And to-day on her twenty fifth anniversary I would be very happy Mr Chairman, if you would accept an invitation, a proposal that we would drink to the health of Queen Elizabeth II."

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SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

ADELAIDE A barbeque at Parra Wirra National Park is scheduled for Sunday, 1st October from 1030am onwards. Tennis courts 1, 2 and 3 have been hired - they are near the main entrance.

Members, friends and children are all welcome. Further details can be obtained from South Australian Vice-President Brian McHaffie at 23 Berrima St., Glenelg North 5045. (Telephone 295-6017).

MELBOURNE An October or November function is scheduled, but as yet nothing firm for inclusion in this Newsbulletin - will advise Melbourne members when known.

FOR THE RECORD An attendance of sixteen was logged at the informal gathering of Adelaide members at the home of Brian McPhee, Stonyfell, on 30th June.

In Melbourne fifty turned up for the dinner dance at Carnevu on 14th July.

From all reports, both evenings were most enjoyable.

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With due acknowledgment to Jim Russell -



For the fortunate ones who have an ear for music, or even the more fortunate who have the gift for playing the pipes, we reproduce the special tune which our Society Piper Donald MacPhie wrote for us -

CLAN MACFIE RESURGENCE

Strathpey



On three occasions Donald has been honoured to be the Lone Piper on the battlements of Edinburgh Castle at the time of the Edinburgh Tattoo - I wonder if perhaps he shall play this tune of his from there one evening in recognition of the appointment of a new Chief for the Clan Macfie ?

GENERAL NOTES


- * Treasurer Ross is just about ready to try a bit of walking again after being hit by a car in April. His speedy recovery is most welcome news and no doubt due in no small way to Betty's excellent home nursing.
- * 1978 Membership Subscriptions. Reminder notices are enclosed for members who have overlooked their 1978 membership subscriptions. Receipts for subscriptions are normally enclosed with the Newsbulletin following payment of the sub. This helps us save a little on postage, but delays acknowledgment to you.
- * Newsbulletins have been forwarded to all Society members in the past (except the very young), irrespective of the number of members in the one family or at the one address. This is done in recognition of individual member's entitlements to a copy each, however, if any families are receiving more Newsbulletins than they require, please let Secretary, Helen, know and we will adjust the mailing list accordingly. The photographs in the last Newsbulletin turned out quite well and we will be printing more in future copies. The single page of photographs increased the printing costs per copy from 28¢ to 36¢ - when you add postage and envelopes to that and multiply it by four there's not a lot left from your annual subscription. This Newsbulletin is late in mailing again, apologies - should be back on schedule by the end of the year.
- * Visitors & Visiting I had Alf McGuffie (Q77-266) of Brisbane call in earlier this year for an all too brief yarn about Clan matters, and more recently Sue Spinks (Q74-034) of Dalby Q. made contact. While in Queensland on a recent trip I had the pleasure of meeting Donald Fee (Q77-316) and wife in Mt Isa and Mary Alison Palm (Q74-038) in Rockhampton. At Weipa I missed Bill and Cath McGuffie (Q77-272 and 273) by a few days - they were off overseas, as too is Lorraine McPhee (S77-287) of Toowoomba and Dr Kerr Chatfield (N74-008) of Penrith NSW. Just back from Europe and America is John McPhee (Q74-036) of Brisbane, while Charles Macphee (N74-010) of Ferntree Gully V. is still in Scotland on last reports and Christine McGuffie (S77-371) of Adelaide is in London.....Move about a lot don't we?
- * Sick List Sorry to report that Dr Donald Macfie (Q74-025) of Surfers Paradise has been ill in hospital for some three months. Best wishes for a speedy recovery Don, you've certainly got the right place at Surfers for some convalescing -
- * McLeod Contact. Society Vice-President Sandy McPhee, wife Norah, New South Wales Vice-President John Phee, wife Margaret, and friends Doug and Margaret Brooks attended the Clan McLeod annual ball in Sydney on 14th July. They received a great welcome, had an enjoyable night, and were most impressed with the Clan McLeod Pipe Band which was in action throughout the night.

* New Members The following new members have joined since the last Newsbulletin -

T78-415	Norman John Duffy	29 Apsley St.,	South Hobart	TAS	7000
T78-416	Paul James Duffy	29 Apsley St.,	South Hobart	TAS	7000
T78-417	John Michael Duffy	Tunnel Hill,	Cambridge	TAS	7170
N78-419	Mrs Elsie McPhee	590 Blende St.,	Broken Hill	NSW	2880
N78-420	+Andrew McPhee	590 Blende St.,	Broken Hill	NSW	2880
N78-421	+Miss Meredith McPhee	590 Blende St.,	Broken Hill	NSW	2880
V78-422	John Thomas McPhee	30 Wilson St.,	Oakleigh	VIC	3166
N78-423	Geoffrey A. Kendall	3/32 Victoria St.,	Coffs Harbour	NSW	2450
Q78-424	+Ewen McPhee	161 Ibis St.,	Longreach	QLD	4730
Q78-425	+Alastair McPhee	161 Ibis St.,	Longreach	QLD	4730
Q78-426	+Lachlan McPhee	161 Ibis St.,	Longreach	QLD	4730
Q78-427	+Miss Fiona McPhee	161 Ibis St.,	Longreach	QLD	4730
N78-428	John McPhee	46 Church St.,	Leeton	NSW	2705

+ denotes under 18 years of age.

Until next time -


Alex McPhee
President