

There is a lot of interesting information included with this Newsbulletin. Ted Seythe's report from the Clan Gathering in Scotland earlier this year is included in full as a separate paper due to its significance and comprehensive coverage. Ted as you know, is our A.C.T. Vice-President and was one of our two official representatives in Edinburgh.

# The Macfie Clan Society of Australia

(Founded in Richmond NSW on 3rd May 1974)

Enclosed too, is a one sheet notice regarding our Fourth Biennial General Meeting. Ted Seythe is organising the programme and has arrangements well in hand for the meeting itself which is to be held at the Burns and Highland Society Clubrooms in Canberra on the afternoon of Saturday, 20th January next. A dinner will be held at the same venue that night, and a programme as to be held on the 21st.

Too, the National Capital itself provides a massive programme of entertainment every Australia Day week-end and has numerous buildings and other points of interest which are a must for all visitors. What about the Macfie Clan members and their friends - just complete the card slip on the notice and return, please.



Ancestral Home of The Clan Macfie

The call for nominating selective offices in the Society Executive met with a fairly nil response. This is cause for great concern and an announcement provide continuity within the Executive and an announcement to this effect will be made in the next General Meeting. Too, the Clan Society is continuing to attract new members through narrowed membership each year. We can only continue to function as a viable body through strong member support and our obligations have increased if anything, rather than diminished, with the appointment of a Clan Commander and official recognition as 'an honourable community' or active clan once again.

## Newsbulletin

No 32 Nov 81

**Society Secretary:** Mrs Helen McPhie  
6 Keats Place, Melba ACT 2615.  
**Telephone:** (062) 65-5516 (Office)  
58-3192 (Evenings)

*Alex McPhie*  
President

## From Your President

There is a lot of interesting information included with this Newsbulletin. Ted Smythe's report from the Clan Gathering in Scotland earlier this year is included in full as a separate paper due to its significance and comprehensive coverage. Ted as you know, is our A.C.T. Vice-President and was one of our two official representatives in Edinburgh.

As interesting as Ted's report, are the comments and descriptions by Society Historian Norah McPhee on her visit to Mull after the Gathering in Edinburgh. That article is on page 4 of the Newsbulletin while on page 8 we reproduce an article from the 1950 English Country Life about Donald MacPhee of Mingulay.

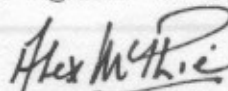
Enclosed too, is a one sheet notice regarding our Fourth Biennial General Meeting. Ted Smythe is organizing the programme and has arrangements well in hand for the meeting itself which is to be held at the Burns and Highland Society Clubrooms in Canberra on the afternoon of Saturday, 30th January next year. A dinner will be held at the same venue that night, and a barbeque is to be held on the Sunday. Too, the National Capital itself provides a massive programme of entertainment every Australia Day week-end and has numerous buildings and other points of interest which are a must for all visitors. What about attending? Ted wants fifty or more at the Dinner which is open to all Clan members and their friends - just complete the tear-off slip on the notice and return, please.

The call for nominations for elective offices in the Society Executive met with an absolutely nil response. This is cause for great concern. However, action is in hand to provide continuity within the Executive and an announcement to this effect will be made at the General Meeting. Too, the Clan Society is continuing to lose members through unrenewed memberships each year. We can only continue to function as a viable body through strong member support and our obligations have increased if anything, rather than diminished, with the appointment of a Clan Commander and official recognition as 'an honourable community' or active clan once again.

After over 20 years service in the Royal Australian Air Force I have decided to retire on 25th March next year. We will be moving to Toowoomba Q'ld...present plans are for Helen and the children to move at Christmas time to be there for the commencement of the new school year. I'll follow later, but will have Christmas leave there and will be doing resettlement training in Toowoomba throughout February. For the present the Society address remains as

6 Keats Place, Melba, ACT 2615.

Helen and I have thoroughly enjoyed our many contacts with Clan members during this year whether by phone, letter, in person or just through a note on the back of a subscription notice. Our many thanks to those who have not previously been acknowledged in some way or other. Our best wishes go to everyone for a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. We look forward to hearing from you again in 1982.

  
Alex McPhie  
President

FOURTH BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

CANBERRA 30 January 1981

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Greetings and Welcome to Those Attending
2. Apologies
3. Opening Address - Clan Seneschal in Australia  
A.L.(Sandy) McPhee
4. Minutes of the Previous Biennial General Meeting  
and Matters Arising Therefrom
5. Reports and Financial Statements
6. General Business
7. Closing Address - Clan Society President  
Alex McPhie

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ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE SOCIETY EXECUTIVE

In accordance with Paragraph 9 of the Society Constitution nominations were called for in the last Newsbulletin for the election of the following members of the Society Executive:

- President
- Vice-President
- State Vice-Presidents for New South Wales
  - Victoria
  - Queensland
  - South Australia
  - Western Australia
  - Tasmania
  - Australian Capital Territory
- Treasurer

Nominations closed on Monday, 26th October 1981. None were received.

Paragraph 9 (5) of the Society Constitution states that 'The Society Executive may fill vacancies amongst the Office Bearers at any time'. Accordingly, the present three permanent members of the Society Executive, Clan Seneschal in Australia, Sandy McPhee, and armigerous members, Victor McPhie Esq. of Dalby Q'ld and Hector McPhie Esq. of Toowoomba Q'ld, will be inviting members of the present Executive to continue in office for the 1982/83 period as a first step in ensuring continuity in the Clan Society affairs. An announcement of the names of the new Executive will be made at the General Meeting.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any member or members willing to accept nomination for the above positions should contact the Society Secretary as soon as possible.

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AGENDA ITEMS

No Agenda Items for the Fourth Biennial General Meeting were received from Society members or the Society Executive by the deadline of 16th November 1981.

Sandy and Norah McPhee of Pennant Hills, Sydney (Clan Seneschal in Australia and Society Historian) stayed in Scotland after the Gathering of the Clans main programme in Edinburgh was completed earlier this year and went touring. Norah sent the following account of their visit to Mull.

We loved Mull, but were surprised to find that very few McPhees still live there. Apparently all our families left during the clearances, though a few went to Skye or other islands. I am going to communicate with the leader of the Historical Society there to give her what information we have on the old McPhees, McPhies etc of Mull as she has little about them. We wanted to go to Iona and down the Ross of Mull but weather was against us. We did see some churchyards which Maurine Cunningham (N76-214 of Mona Vale NSW), who was with us, wanted to explore but we found very little evidence of our Clan. Place names from the Mormon births, deaths and marriage lists were located as place names on the map but in actual fact they turned out to be a house, not a village. If villages existed once they were not there now. So perhaps the farm name has always been the one put on the map.

At a place called The Old Byre near Dervaig on the way to Tobermorey we saw a very good audio visual tableau where a hay loft had been turned into a theatre with life-like displays at each end. First, one is taken into the world of the Scottish crofter before 1850 when the houses had a fire in the centre of the floor. All the family lived in one room, often with animals in an adjacent area. Smoke from a peat fire found its way through a gap in the roof, depositing black soot as it went. Furniture consisted of a few large beds with curtains around them, a dresser, a table, and a few stools and chairs. Possibly a spinning wheel, a primitive butter churn and a fishing net or two hung up to dry. This was the typical 'Black House' of the Highlands and this is how many of the Scottish crofters lived before they were cleared off the land by the Lairds and forced to emigrate to Canada or Australia. The scene in The Old Byre comes to life with sound and we hear the voices of the life-like models as they go about their daily tasks. Their thoughts are expressed aloud and we get an insight into their feelings. It was a hard but reasonably happy life for them and it is easy to see why they made such tough and successful settlers in the new lands.

Later in the 1800s when there were less people in the Highlands more pressure was put on the landowners to improve conditions for the crofters. The second tableau shows a house with a large fireplace and chimney, windows of glass and some form of floor covering instead of the bare earth. The man of the house was probably now a game-keeper, a shepherd or a servant at the laird's house with an assured living and some education for his children besides domestic skills. A barn would contain the cow, the chickens, and the feed stuffs which had previously shared the same roof with the family. The mother would still spin and weave cloth for the family clothes perhaps, but was able to buy woollens from the towns and have better household goods for her use, due to a proper wage being paid to her husband.

This display in the hayloft had terrific impact on the viewers. We went away with more understanding of the crofters who were our forefathers. We have seen the sailing ships that brought them to Australia and know something of the early days of their struggles to build homes and farms there. Now this realistic insight into how

they lived and what they thought when in the Highlands of Scotland is a great help to us as we try to write the history of our people. It is certain that these settlers lived in 'Black Houses' of the kind described, and in many cases whole families and small communities came on the same ship - fathers, mothers, cousins, uncles and aunts, batchelor sons, married daughters and the relations of their husbands. When people on board had never met before, it is logical to presume that many shipboard romances led to the founding of new family groups and firm family ties in the new world. We know that ships from the Fort William Lochiel area of Lochaber brought McPhees and Camerons, MacMillans and MacIntyres, and that many were related by marriage. They often sailed from Loch Linnhe which stretches into this area from the foot of Ben Nevis to the sea. They had lived at Kilmallie and Corpach, Spean Bridge, Banavie and Camisky and all within the shadows of the mighty Ben Nevis and the territory of the laird, Cameron of Lochiel.

Recent studies have shown that some MacPhees who live in Fort William are descendants of one man who was almost on the ship for Australia when Lockiel offered him land to farm for himself. The land was swampy and needed many months of draining and firming, but the young man decided to stay. He built his house when the land was firm and his family live there to this day. To save splitting up the land, each generation decides on the one most suited to farm it and the land becomes his to pass on in the same way. But for that offer by the laird, this would have been an Australian family and there must be many here related to that family of John MacPhee of Camaghael near Fort William. John's brothers and sisters who sailed on that ship could possibly be your great, great grandparents. Certainly, as we met the MacPhee families of the Highlands and Islands the same dark-featured faces were seen. The same type of face and build is seen in the MacPhees of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in eastern Canada. Likewise there is a fairer more solidly built MacPhee who is quite a contrast to the dark, lean looking one. Both can show up in the same family in Scotland, or Canada, or New Zealand or in Australia.

You will see why the prospect of tracing the fortunes of our families is so intriguing. In Australia we have families from Mull and Skye, South Uist and Islay and I hope to see them traced back to their homelands. However, we (the Society Historians) need the help of those members who have the time and patience to go through old letters and records of their family and others. Please think about it and get in touch if you can help in any way.

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Our Society Historians can be contacted as follows:

Mrs A.L.(Norah) McPhee 47 Bellamy Street Pennant Hills NSW 2120	and Mr Clyde D. Smythe 8 Avoca Road Turrumurra NSW 2074	Mrs J. B. (Margaret Phee) 12 Pitt Road North Curl Curl NSW 2099
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GENERAL MEETING RAFFLE 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  Metres of Ancient Macfie Cloth  
56ins wide.

Tickets .50¢ each....available from Society Secretary  
6 Keats Place, Melba, ACT 2615.

LEST WE FORGET

In the arcaded cloisters flanking the Commemorative Stone and Pool of Reflection at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra are the bronze panels of the Roll of Honour listing the names of all Australians who made the supreme sacrifice while serving their King and country on Active Service.

The following names of Clan members have been copied from the Roll of Honour by Clan Society President, Wing Commander Alex McPhie. More names will appear in following Newsbulletins.

The Soudan Contingent 1883

The China Contingent (Boxer Rebellion) 1900 - 01

No Clan names recorded.

South Africa 1899 - 1902

South Australian Contingents - Bushmen's Contingents

C. W. B. Currie

Western Australian Contingents - Bushmen's Contingents

W. J. McPhee

First World War 1914 - 18

Royal Australian and Allied Navies

No Clan names recorded.

Australian Flying Corps

Names included under Australian Imperial Force

Australian Army

1083	Pte	Caffrey	Thomas James	33Bn	DOI	Sea	15.11.17	Sea
3270	Pte	Caffrey	William	54Bn	KIA	Fr	15. 5.17	NR
3061	Pte	Cathie	Harry Lorraine	8Bn	KIA	Fr	29. 5.16	Fr
3474	Pte	Currey	Frederick Arthur	26Bn	DOW	Fr	7. 8.16	Fr
4099	Pte	Currey	John Henry	1Pnr Bn	KIA	Blg	4.10.17	NR
	Lt	Currie	Archibald	MM	5LHR	DOW	Syr	25. 9.18
47	Dvr	Currie	Andrew		12AFAB	DOC	Fr	4.12.17
765	Pte	Currie	Archibald		42Bn	DOI	Fr	30. 4.17
2357	L/Cpl	Currie	Adam	MM	14Bn	DOW	Fr	23. 8.18
4175	Cpl	Currie	Albert Alexander	59Bn	KIA	Fr	12.12.16	Fr
95	Spr	Currie	Arthur Edward Watts	3FCE	KIA	Blg	20. 9.17	Blg
3298	Sgt	Currie	Arthur William	59Bn	KIA	Blg	26. 9.17	Blg
1125	Pte	Currie	Charles Chetwynd	7Bn	KIA	Gal	8/9. 8.15	Gal
3528	Pte	Currie	Charles Norman	31Bn	DOW	Fr	11. 4.18	Fr
1695	Pte	Currie	Frank	45Bn	KIA	Fr	6. 8.16	NR
6803	Pte	Currie	Frederick Barr	27Bn	KIA	Fr	17. 7.18	Fr
1721	Pte	Currie	Francis Moore	1Bn	KIA	Gal	6/9. 8.15	Gal
831	Pte	Currie	Harry	14Bn	KIA	Gal	1. 5.15	Gal
2662	Pte	Currie	Hugh Roy	60Bn	KIA	Fr	5. 4.18	Fr
884	Cpl	Currie	Hubert Roulstone					
			Clifford		8LHR	KIA	Gal	7. 8.15
1526	L/Cpl	Currie	James		5Bn	KIA	Gal	8/12. 5.15
2001	Pte	Currie	John		23Bn	KIA	Blg	9.10.17
3717	Pte	Currie	Joseph		60Bn	KIA	Fr	19. 7.16
								NR

A HALF-FORGOTTEN TRAGEDY

4158	Pte	Currie	John	9Bn	DOW	Fr	18. 9.18	Fr
2140	Pte	Currie	John Charles Hutton	21Bn	KIA	Fr	9. 3.17	Fr
2639	Pte	Currie	John Edward	51Bn	KIA	Blg	26. 9.17	Blg
1897	Pte	Currie	Norman James	50Bn	KIA	Fr	2. 4.17	Fr
4755	Pte	Currie	Patrick	4LTMB	KIA	Fr	30. 3.18	Fr
2885	Pte	Currie	Robert John	19Bn	KIA	Fr	3. 5.17	NR
1197	Dvr)	Currie	Thomas	ASC	RTA		25.5.15/Re-emb	16.7.15
1761	Pte)			21Bn	KIA	Gal	27.10.15	Gal
2614	Pte	Currie	Thomas	1MGBN	DOI	Egy	13. 2.19	Egy
1326	Pte	Currie	William James	11Bn	KIA	Fr	25. 7.16	NR
356	Cpl	Currie	Walter Michael	MM MID	13Bn	DOW	Fr 25.4.17	Fr
4764	Pte	Currie	Westlet Wentw rth	59Bn	DOW	Fr	31.10.16	Fr
2583	Pte	Curry	Alexander (stated to be Cherry, Alexander Beck)	49Bn	KIA	Fr	5. 9.16	NR
219	2/Cpl	Curry	Bert Wood	MM 1/D	SIG COY	KIA	Blg 30.9.17	Blg
2350	Sgt	Curry	Charles	14Bn	KIA	Blg	21.10.17	Blg
1891	Spr	Curry	Frank	1FCE	KIA	Blg	4.10.17	Blg
201	Pte	Curry	George John	18Bn	KIA	Gal	27. 8.15	NR
5997	Pte	Curry	John	7Bn	KIA	Fr	17. 4.18	Fr
859	Pte	Curry	James Patrick	7Bn	DOI	Fr	5.12.18	Fr
4758	Cpl	Curry	Robert Alfred	57Bn	KIA	Blg	16.10.17	NR
1770	Pte	Curry	Samuel Hugh	5LHR	DOI	Syr	24.10.18	Pal
6651	Pte	Curry	William Clarence	19Bn	KIA	Blg	7.10.17	Blg
3719	Pte	Duffey	Robert James	1Bn	KIA	Fr	19. 8.16	Fr
1824	L/Cpl	Duffy	Arthur	41Bn	DOW	Blg	5. 1.18	Fr
1053	L/Cpl	Duffy	Archibald John Francis	31Bn	KIA	Blg	26.9.17	Blg
4101	Pte	Duffy	Arthur Patrick	22Bn	KIA	Fr	5. 8.16	NR
3306	Pte	Duffy	Ben	14Bn	KIA	Fr	3. 7.16	Fr
	2Lt	Duffy	Desmond Gavan	20Bn	KIA	Fr	15.11.16	Fr
2062	Pte	Duffy	Eugene Charles	41Bn	KIA	Blg	26. 7.16	Blg
2600	Pte	Duffy	Frank	55Bn	DOW	Fr	7. 8.16	Eng
4480	Pte	Duffy	Francis	1PnrBn	KIA	Fr	21. 8.16	NR
4912	Pte	Duffy	Herbert William	12Bn	DOW	Fr	22.11.16	Fr
662	Pte	Duffy	James	8LHR	KIA	Gal	7. 8.15	NR
5091	Pte	Duffy	Joseph Augustus	59Bn	KIA	Blg	26. 9.17	NR
1694	Pte	Duffy	Joseph Cavan	59Bn	KIA	Fr	19. 7.16	Fr
821	L/Cpl	Duffy	James Hilton	40Bn	KIA	Fr	9. 4.18	Fr
725	Pte	Duffy	John Patrick	10Bn	KIA	Fr	13.12.16	Fr
999	Pte	Duffy	Owen	2Bn	DOW	Gal	6. 5.15	Egy
3645	Pte	Duffy	Ormond Clarence	26Bn	KIA	Fr	5. 8.16	NR
2326	Pte	Duffy	Patrick Joseph	5MGB	DOW	Fr	1. 9.18	Fr

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A summary of Australian Army casualties from World War I was generously made available by Australian War Memorial staff. The columns after the member's unit represent the nature of the casualty, locality in which casualty occurred, date of casualty and place of burial. Abbreviations used are:

Bn	Battalion	Sig Coy	Signal Company
Pnr	Pioneer	DOI	Died of Illness or Injury
LHR	Light Horse Regiment	KIA	Killed in Action
AFAB	Australian Field Artillery Brigade	DOW	Died of Wounds
		RTA	Returned to Australia
FCE	Field Company	Re-emb	Re-embarked
	Engineers	Fr	France
		Blg	Belgium
LTMB	Light Trench Mortar Brigade	Syr	Syria
		Pal	Palestine
		Eng	England
		Gal	Gallipoli
ASC	Army Service Corps	Egy	Egypt
		NR	Not Recorded
MGBN	Machine Gun Battalion	DOC	Died of Other Causes

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# A HALF-FORGOTTEN TRAGEDY OF THE SEA

By SETON GORDON

COUNTRY LIFE—JUNE 30, 1950

THE story, vividly and minutely narrated, of the loss of the entire able-bodied population of Pabbay, an Outer Hebridean isle in the vicinity of Barra Head, in a storm in 1897 was told me on Barra by Domhnall Mór Eileanach. Domhnall Mór, Big Donald, is known as Eileanach, the Islesman, since he was born on Mingulay, moved, when that island was evacuated, to the neighbouring isle of Vatersay, and from it to the larger isle, considered almost as the mainland, of Barra, where he now, in the evening of his years, lives at Brevraig. At Brevraig I heard his narrative, and was thrilled by the beauty and clearness of his language as he narrated, half in English and half in Gaelic, the story of the disaster.

Big Donald, whose name is Donald MacPhee, comes of distinguished ancestry. He is a MacPhee of Colonsay. The earlier form of the family name was MacDuffie, and in the *Annals of Ulster* is to be found a record of the original founder of the family. He is MacDubh Shithe, a name which may be translated Son of the Black Man of Peace, and was head of the school on Iona in 1164. The learned traveller Pennant mentions that near the tomb of the MacPhees on Oronsay, close to Colonsay, was the ensign-staff of the family, which had been preserved miraculously for 200 years: on it depended the fate of that illustrious race. The MacPhees incurred the wrath of the Lord of the Isles, who slew the head of the family, but Donald Mór's ancestor, Coinneach Mór or Big Kenneth, escaped in his boat to the island of Eigg. At a later date, when the MacLeods of Dunvegan ("Maybe," said Donald to me fiercely, "maybe you'll be a MacLeod?") massacred the population of Eigg by suffocating them in a cave, Coinneach Mór was one of the few survivors. He escaped in his boat together with two old men (who died at sea) and a boy. They sailed towards the north-west, and reached Barra, where Coinneach Mór placed himself under the protection of MacNeil of Barra.

It so happened that no news had come to Barra for some time from the outlying, rocky island of Mingulay, and MacNeil, taking MacPhee with him, sailed in his galley to Mingulay, sending Coinneach Mór ashore to investigate. He found no one alive on the island: all the people had died of plague. When he returned to the shore, and reported this to MacNeil, he was forbidden to embark, or to leave the island, lest he should have caught the infection. He was provided with a live peat for fuel, and with food for his sustenance, and was left on Mingulay for the space of a year. The hill on which he was accustomed to watch for the coming of the relief boat is to this day named MacPhee's Hill, and a ledge of the rock where he rested is MacPhee's Bed. At the end of a year MacNeil arrived at Mingulay. He had brought a wife whom he had chosen for the lonely man, but would not permit him to return to Barra for another year. MacPhee's loneliness was now lessened, and his descendant is Donald Mór Eileanach, a tall, erect man of distinguished bearing and flashing eyes. He is over 80 years of age, an islesman of the old type.

As he described the loss of the Pabbay boat, in which was the entire able-bodied



DONALD MACPHEE OF MINGULAY, whose boat came safely through the disastrous storm of 1897 in the Hebrides

population of the island, he lived again his intense hours afloat during that great storm of May 1, 1897, when his own boat from the neighbouring isle of Mingulay made that island only at great and constant hazard.

In those days the men of Pabbay and Mingulay were accustomed to set long lines, the great lines as they are called, for cod and ling during the months of April, May and June. At this season of the year, good, steady weather is to be expected on the Atlantic and on the morning of this first day of May, Donald Mór's boat was lifting the great lines on the fishing bank known as Cuan a' Bhocain, Fishing Bank of the Monster, when a hard breeze from south by east sprang up, increasing rapidly to gale force.

A wild sea quickly arose, and with the sail made as small as they could make it, and the bottom of the boat filled with great fish, they set out on their hazardous six-mile voyage to Mingulay, the waves breaking in every direction and threatening to engulf their small undecked craft. The Pabbay boat was at this time outside them, and neither they, nor any other human eye, saw it again. By skilled use of the helm the greatest of the breaking waves were avoided, and when they had fought their way to the neighbourhood of Barra Head they reached, said Donald Mór, the abode of two great and terrible giants. These giants lived in the air currents which the gale for a time imprisoned in two high ravines, Slochd na Beiste (Ravine of the Monster) and Slochd Dubh an Dùin (Black Ravine of the Fort) on the west side of Berneray or Barra Head, near where the lighthouse stands. The wind currents, which were for a time held prisoner in the ravines, burst out from them with extraordinary



violence and, once free and exulting in their might, contended with each other with extreme ferocity above the tide-swept sound which lies between Barra Head and Mingulay. As they wrestled and fought the giants rose high into the air, and again descended, in whirlpools and eddies at least twenty feet beneath the surface, while the grey, frenzied Marcaichean Sine, Riders of the Tempest (as Donald Mór time after time poetically named the spindrift) rose almost to the low cloud ceiling. The coming of whirlpool and spindrift was closely watched for, for they might engulf a small open boat.

When one appeared the close-reefed sail was lowered, and the men stood on it, in order to prevent it being torn or carried away. When the spindrift had passed, the sail was hoisted once more. By this time the wind had veered to south-south-west, bringing in the full might of the Atlantic waves and making the task of the Pabbay boat to regain the land still more formidable. Donald Mór Eileanach during his narrative again and again repeated that their one chance was to have sailed across the Minch to Bunvegan Head in the Isle of Skye; he believes that the boat filled when attempting to reach Pabbay. He said that some of the bodies were washed ashore on the north coast of Ireland, nearly one hundred miles to the south. The isle ever since has been uninhabited.

Fifty-three years is a long time, yet Donald Mór's narrative was so vivid, and in it was such a wealth of detail, that to him, and soon to his listeners, the tragedy seemed to have occurred only a few weeks before. When describing the battle of the giants the narrator rose from his chair, and stood erect, with arms held

high above his head, while his voice rose and shook with emotion. The past became the present, and in that small, warm room one could sense the coming of the tremendous, breaking waves, and the tense moment when the skill of the steersman was pitted against them. It was evident that the crew of that small fishing boat did not expect to see their friends and relations again.

The storm was exceptional for early May. At that time the sea-bird population had already arrived at their nesting ledges on Mingulay. The men of that island used to kill the birds for food by striking them down as they sailed close to the cliff in certain winds, and by snaring them on the giddy ledges. The feathers, so the old Statistical Account tells us, they sold at six pence the pound, for feather beds.

Like St. Kilda, Mingulay and Pabbay are now uninhabited. The people, some of them the flower of the Celtic race, have gone. Times are changed, and there is a danger of the old values being lost. This I realised when I heard Donald Mór Eileanach tell his story, which lasted the best part of two hours, with never a dull minute throughout its course. The sun shone through the small window, lighting up the bowed figure, at times sunk in the chair and lost in thought, at times with erect bearing and voice vibrating with passion. An islesman of the old type, a grand man. I feel the better for having met him, on misty Barra far out on the wild Atlantic where great waves ever make deep music on the shores, strewn with sea wrack, and sometimes also with wrecks.

The above article was contributed by Victor McPhie Esq. of Dalby Q'ld and is reproduced here with due acknowledgment to the proprietors of English Country Life.

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1981 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS A number of 1981 membership subscriptions are still outstanding. Please give the attached accounts - for those who are unfinancial - your urgent attention.

1982 SUBSCRIPTIONS 1982 subscriptions will remain at \$4.00 per member or \$8.00 per family at the one address, with no payment required by those under 18 years or over 75 years...However, the onus is on members themselves to notify the Society Secretary if claiming a waiver for age as we do not keep a register of members' birth dates.

RECEIPTS for payments are mailed with the Newsbulletin following payment as a means of reducing postage costs.

MACFIE BADGES Secretary Helen McPhie has a new supply of Macfie Badges for sale to members. These are bigger (and better) than the earlier ones being approx. 6 cm in circumference with a Scottish thistle motif surrounding the Dreghorn Macfie strap and buckle badge. They are competitively priced reference the commercial badges at \$4.00 each post paid.

WHY NOT buy some tickets in the Fourth General Meeting raffle for 3½ metres of Ancient Macfie cloth at the same time as attending to the above ? Tickets are .50¢ each.

Written by ACT Vice-President Ted Smythe and dedicated to Clan Commander elect, Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee, this song was sung at the Ceilidh at Coll Earn Hotel, Auchterarder on 30th May 1981.

We've been a broken clan, my friends, since 1623,  
And our kith and kin are scattered wide  
O'er distant land and sea --  
But now the tide of history  
Has turned once more our way --  
The Lyon King of Arms declares  
MacDhubhsithe's here to stay!

Hurrah, my friends, the scene is set,  
The documents in train --  
Commander Earle from Canada  
Will lead us home again!  
And when the clansfolk rally round  
To raise the Chief we claim,  
Colonsay once more will salute  
Our ancient Gaelic name!

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(The tune is from an Australian Bush Ballad, "Widgeegowera Joe", which celebrates the unswerving determination to succeed, despite all delays, difficulties and setbacks encountered, displayed by Joe. Our Commander has displayed the same resilient persistence and been rewarded with due recognition of the Clan and his part in its re-activation.)

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V A L E

The passing of the following members of our Clan Society is recorded with deep sorrow. All have been staunch supporters of our Clan and Clan Society. Sincere sympathy is extended to their families on behalf of all Clan members.

John Lanark McPhie (S79-469) of Torrensville S.A. June 1981

James Arthur McHaffie (S77-282) of Somerton Park S.A.  
25 July 1981

Mrs Edith Alma Ivy McPhee (V75-114) of Croydon Vic.  
3rd August 1981

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Some of those relatives of Ulf Macfie Hagman had their difficulties when they first visited Scotland...its not Ulf though, he's far better looking! Acknowledgment to Hagar's owners....

And our Scottish Football poem has been borrowed from Colleen McEwan's excellent magazine of Scottish culture, 'The Australasian Highlander'.



**BELLES OF THE BALL**

The 1978 World Cup Football tournament stimulated a great interest in the game. As a postscript to the competition we have included this poem from one of our Contributors.

The ladies o' Blairavon hit upon a lively theme  
Tae show the menfolk whit wiz whit, an' form  
a fitba' team.  
Since Maisie wiz a great yin fer this Women's  
Liberation,  
It came as nae surprise that she provided  
inspiration.  
Said she, 'nae maitter whit they say — despite  
the hoots an' yells,  
We'll set the fitba' world on fire, wi' the name  
Blairavon Belles.'  
She got the girls thegeither, an' proceeded tae  
explain,  
'If men can dae it, so can we, but first we've  
got tae train.'  
An' true enough she planned tae git the lassies  
at the peak  
O' physical condition in the park twa nichts a  
week,  
But sad tae say, the husbands were non-  
plussed, an' far frae keen  
Tae see their wives stravaigin' on the stormy  
soccer scene.  
The days an' weeks went by, an' a' the men  
were gey fed-up,  
An' no' the least excited by them winnin' ony  
Cup,  
Yet Boab, the local bachelor, showed interest,  
tae be sure,  
But only in the hope they micht appoint him as  
masseur.

The team wiz picked, the scene wiz set, excite-  
ment grew an' grew,  
Blairavon Belles were ready noo tae see the  
venture through.  
Blairavon Bella as the Goalie wiz the vote  
unanimous,  
Since she hud the kind o' figure that could  
pulverise a bus.  
The backs were Jean an' Rita — jist like  
Astronauts, they'd brace  
Theirsel's tae pit opponents intae Outer Space.  
Wi' Jessie, Nessie, Bessie as the hauf-backs —  
there's a notion,  
That onythin' they did wid be like poetry in  
motion.  
At ootside-richt wiz Nora, wi' the tak'-it-easy  
style,  
But pit a moose ahint her — she'd brekk  
records fer the mile.  
Marjorie at inside-richt wiz pleased that they  
should star her,  
But hoped it widnae rain, in case it ruined her  
mascara.  
Centre-forward Sadie hud a style, sae slick an'  
braw,  
The only trouble wiz she aye forgot tae tak' the  
ba'.  
The inside-left position went tae Mary  
McNamee —  
She only got the gemm because she helped tae  
mak' the tea.

Her pairtner, Henrietta, wiz a Socialist hum-  
dinger,  
An' held sic views that made her quite a  
natural 'left-winger'.  
A Challenge Match wiz organised — at last,  
the great day came,  
Their rivals, Hame-Perm Hotspur meant tae  
stake a claim tae fame.  
Bets were placed afore the gemm — yin  
bookie, Honest Willie,  
Observed, 'It's even money they'll scratch each  
ither silly.'  
Alas, yon Rabbie Burns wiz richt — it seems  
the best-laid schemes  
Gang aft agley could weel apply tae women's  
fitba' teams.  
Fer oot they came — ye git the same effect wi'  
dynamite —  
Baith teams wore strips identical — in shockin'  
pink an' white.  
If looks could kill, they'd a' be deid, an' the up-  
shot wiz unique —  
It's the oly fitba' match tae be postponed,  
because o' pique.  
J.M.R.

## NEW MEMBERS

No new members have been enrolled since the last Newsbulletin was printed! Surely we can do better than that.

One of the early acts of our Commander-elect, Dr Earle MacPhee, was to accept the Cathies as a Sept of our Clan. No dedicated effort has been made to date to contact the Cathies as a whole, nor have we ever made contact with the many Duffys in Australia.

Do you know any Macfies, Cathies or Duffies who are not already members? If so, please contact them and invite them to join our Clan Society. The more common spellings of the Clan surnames are:

Cathie	MacPhee	McGuffie
Currie	Mahaffy	McHaffie
Duffy	McCafferty	McPhee
Fee	McCaffrey	McPhie
MacAfee	McCathey	Phee
MacDuffie	McDuffie	Phie
Macfie	McFee	
MacPhee	McFie	

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### INVESTITURE OF CLAN COMMANDER

Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee of Vancouver, Canada, was to be invested as Clan Commander in Edinburgh on 6th November. At time of typing this Newsbulletin, no word had been received from there and we trust everything went according to plan. Regretably, no members of our Clan Society were able to be present at the ceremony, however, greetings and good wishes were forwarded on behalf of all Clan Macfie members in Australia.

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### THE CLAN MACPHEE SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND

Following the fine work done by Mrs Sheila Duffy of Auchterarder, Scotland, in handling arrangements for Clan Macfie at the time of the International Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh earlier this year, The Clan MacPhee Society of Scotland has been reformed with Hamish Cathie at the helm. Hamish is a Director of Travel Scotland and maybe contacted at 33 Heriot Row, Edinburgh.

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### HIGHLAND GAMES CALENDAR.

Combined Scottish Societies of NSW	Sydney	1 Jan 82
Canberra Highland Gathering	Canberra	1 Jan 82
Adelaide Highland Games	Adelaide	Mar 82
Geelong Highland Gathering	Geelong	Mar 82
Australian Pipe Band Championships	Sydney	Easter 82
Lower Clarence Scottish Assn Highland Games	MacLean	10 Apr 82
Campbelltown Highland Games NSW	Campbelltown	Nov 82
Daylesford Highland Games Vic.	Daylesford	Dec 82

and at Daylesford on 5th Dec 81.

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