

From your President

The Macfie Clan Society of Australia

(Founded in Richmond NSW on 3rd May 1974)

Newsbulletin



Ancestral Home of The Clan Macfie

Number 33

MARCH 82

TOOWOOMBA WEST . Q . 4330
c/- P.O. Box 6111
Mrs. Helen Macfie

Until further notice all correspondence for the Macfie Clan Society of Australia should be addressed to:

From your President

The Fourth Biennial General Meeting of the Clan Society and Clan Dinner in Canberra at the end of January were well attended functions with members coming from interstate and overseas to join local members. Reports, financial statements and Meeting minutes are included with this Newsbulletin. The Meeting, our first since the Clan once again became an active one, saw some lively discussion on the possibility of a change being made to the Clan name. However, I am happy to report that since the meeting, proposals for a name change have been dropped and Clan Commander Earle MacPhee has stated that the Clan name will remain as Macfie.

The Clan Dinner at the Canberra Burns Club was most enjoyable with a well run and entertaining evening of dancing, piping and singing following the excellent meal. My sincere thanks go to A.C.T. Vice President Ted Smythe for making all arrangements for the weekend - including Sunday's programme which was a worthy follow-on after the night before, but which I missed as I was driving to Toowoomba that day.

The Executive Meeting held in Canberra immediately after the Biennial General Meeting critically examined our overall position after eight years of operation and reluctantly decided to increase membership fees from 1983 onwards and to reduce the number of Newsbulletins per year from four to three in an endeavour to reduce costs and workload connected with running the Society. Although we have operated within our income each year, the margin has always been narrow with Newsbulletins being the most costly single item of expense and generating the highest workload.

Names and addresses of the new Society Executive are listed in the Minutes of the Fourth Biennial General Meeting. Please give them your support. Bill Tyrrell, Ted Smythe and Bruce McPhie especially, will be looking for help later in the year when Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne are visited by Clan Commander Earle MacPhee.

Our move to Toowoomba is progressing satisfactorily and should be completed in April following my retirement from the Air Force and our move into a home we are negotiating to purchase on the range. More details in the next Newsbulletin - -


(ALEX McPHIE)
PRESIDENT

CLAN SOCIETY ADDRESS

Until further notice all correspondence for The Macfie Clan Society of Australia should be addressed to:

Mrs. Helen McPhie,
c/- P.O. Box 6111,
TOOWOOMBA WEST . Q. 4350

GREETINGS FROM CLAN COMMANDER DR. EARLE MacPHEE.

I am asking permission of the Editors of our News Letters to allow me to speak to Clansmen and Clanswomen who are members of our Societies.

From 1623 until May 27, 1981 our Clan had been described in the literature of Scottish Clans as a "broken" clan which meant our Clan had no land which they could call their own and they had no leader.

The representatives you sent to Edinburgh for the 3rd Gathering came with the conviction that through the generosity of Lord Strathcona, some land in Colonsay had been deeded to Clan Macfie. The choice of a leader, who would be called the Ceann-Cath or Commander but not Chief, was brought into the discussion at the beginning of the Gathering.

The decision to ask Sir Iain Moncrieffe, the Albany Herald, to propose to the Lord Lyon that I should be chosen as Commander was unanimous. Sir Iain recommended this on May 26th.

On May 27th, 1981 the Lord Lyon, at a meeting with your representatives, examined all members to discover their wishes and said it was very unusual to find the entire group unanimous in support of a proposal, but since all persons recommended that Earle Douglas MacPhee become the Commander, there was no need for further investigation.

This would require applications by at least seven armigerous members of the Clan. It was his privilege to declare on the recommendation made by Sir Iain Moncrieffe, the unanimous consent of all Societies and by armigerous members of the Clan that Earle Douglas MacPhee was now the Commander-Elect of the honorable Clan Macfie.

The Investiture would take place on November 6th in Edinburgh - the birthday of Jennie Minerva MacPhee.

The Investiture did take place in the Court of the Lord Lyon, to be followed by a service in St. Giles Cathedral by the Minister, Rev. G. MacMillan.

I am very pleased to be elected by my associates to become the first leader since 1623 of this ancient clan, and will do all that I can to make it one which will be respected and honored by other Clans.

This will require many persons to do many things. May I ask your support in making our Clan outstanding for its membership and for its usefulness to society.

Earle Douglas MacPhee
Ceann-Cath
Commander
Clan Macfie

December, 1981

CLAN COMMANDER TO VISIT AUSTRALIA

An invitation has been extended to Clan Commander Earle and Mrs. MacPhee to visit Australia in November this year. The invitation has been accepted and planning is underway - probably to visit Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.

Further details will be included in our next Newsbulletin in July.

Dr MacPhee and his wife after the ceremony.

Macfies become a clan again

AN 86-YEAR-OLD former Canadian professor who, since 1969, has fought for official recognition of the Macfies as a clan, achieved his aim yesterday at a ceremony in Edinburgh attended by the Lord Lyon, King of Arms.

Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee and his wife Jennie, 86, travelled to Scotland to celebrate the restoration of Clan Macfie from being a broken clan in 1623.

The last chief of the Macfies, Malcolm, was murdered in that year on Colonsay — their spiritual home — and since no direct descendant could be found the Lord Lyon ruled Dr MacPhee be made clan commander.

The clan, which since

Dr MacPhee's campaign began, has become very active with members all over the world including Sweden, New Zealand, and Hawaii, now have a right to a tartan, crest, and motto.

The Lord Lyon exercised his right to appoint a clan commander, the next best thing to a chieftain.

Dr MacPhee, a retired dean of the University of British Columbia, had part of his education in Edinburgh and since taking up the campaign has written books on the clan and been involved in setting up clan societies.

He said yesterday: "I am very proud about this but it is a bit sad that the commander of a Scottish clan should come from outside the country."



Canberra Times Sunday 31 Jan 82

Ancient clan revived and meeting here

GATHERING in Canberra for the first time over the Australia Day weekend were members of the Clan Macfie Society of Australia, which held its fourth biennial meeting and clan dinner at the Burns Club, Forrest, yesterday.

About 40 people were expected to attend, with some coming from Sydney, Melbourne, Toowoomba and Adelaide.

The clan was reconstituted last year and a commander, Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee, of Canada, was installed in Edinburgh, in November. This move recognised the clan as an active group for the first time since 1623.

The clan was first founded in 500 AD in the Hebrides. However, in the past 10 years earnest efforts have been made to re-establish the clan in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Scotland and the US.

Wing-Commander "Sandy" McPhie, of Melba, was the founding president of the clan in Australia in 1974, which now has 400 members, including the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Mr Ian Macphoe, and Mr Donald MacPhie, of Melbourne, who has been the Lone Piper at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo several times.

World appeal for Scotland

The National Trust for Scotland is conducting a world wide golden jubilee appeal to save the country's beauty spots and historic places.

People can contribute to the appeal by asking their bank to remit donations to The National Trust for Scotland Golden Jubilee Appeal, 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 1/2 Du, United Kingdom.

Quote to your bank Reserve Bank of Australia Authority E C M C K J B 7080, dated December 4, 1980.

For further information contact Mr L.M. Muir, chairman, Australian Appeal: 2-89451.

McPhees by the hundreds meet at Bell showgrounds



It would have pleased Angus and Christine McPhee, who started it all, to see the dozens, if not hundreds of their descendants at the Bell Showgrounds on Saturday.

The clan gathered almost 110 years to the day when the founder of the family in the Bell area took up land near where the town now stands.

It was on December 6, 1871, that Angus McPhee started on the land which he had served so well on other properties.

That interest in the land, and the love of it, has been passed on to the present generations of the McPhees for some still farm the land taken up by their forebears. This was outlined in an address by Mr. Lester (Mick) McPhee.

There were old McPhees, young McPhees and McPhees in between. Their occupations ranged from farming, to the public service, teaching, technology and the insurance industry.

A family member said that the McPhee clan seemed in no danger of diminishing, judging by the numbers of younger people.

There were many groups of young mothers and their children and there were several groups of teenage McPhees to carry on the name.

A family spokesman said the McPhees had spread throughout the State and interstate from Rockhampton to Canberra and beyond. The oldest direct descendant of the McPhee founders, Mrs. Violet (Doll) Pearson (from Rockhampton) at 82, happily recounted the times when she and her cousins and friends "were around the ridges" of Bell.

Mrs. Pearson happily cuddled the youngest direct descendant, Glenn Davies, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Colin Davies, of Marsden, Brisbane.

Mrs. Davies is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted McPhee of Bell. The oldest member of the McPhee family, not a direct descendant (Mrs. Essie McPhee), aged 90, attended.

She is the widow of the late Ralph McPhee who lived in the Bell district before retiring to Toowoomba.

Mrs. Essie McPhee was the daughter of Chas Rowland, another of the pioneers of the Bell district.

Also present was one grandson of Angus, Ceramic Quinn McPhee of Stafford, Brisbane.

Tributes to the work of planning the reunion was paid to Mr. and Mrs. Ted McPhee by the day's

chairman, Mr. Neville McPhee of Toowoomba.

It took more than a year of work and planning but members of the McPhee families who attended said the day was a major success.

They said they were glad of the opportunity of meeting family members some of whom they had not seen for years.

Mrs. Dorothy McPhee said it was planned to publish a booklet outlining the history of the family and incorporating some of the pictures taken on Saturday.

The oldest and the youngest



The oldest and youngest McPhee direct descendant, Mrs. Violet (Doll) Pearson of Rockhampton and Glenn Davies of Marsden, Brisbane.



● Pictured from left are Glenn Davies' grand-father, Mr. Ted McPhee of Dalby; Mr. McPhee's mother, Mrs. Essie McPhee of Toowoomba, and Mr. McPhee's daughter, Mrs. Davies, who is Glenn's mother. The group made up four generations of McPhees.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS. Membership Subscriptions for 1982 are now due, notices are enclosed for those members who have not already paid. Please give payment of dues your early attention.

Reminder notices are also enclosed for those members who are still unfinancial for 1981. Your attention is drawn to paragraph 20 of our Society Constitution which provides for the withdrawal of membership rights from those members who are more than 12 months in arrears with their subscriptions.

FROM THE SOCIETY EXECUTIVE.

The Executive of the Clan Society has:

1. Agreed to a reduction of from four to three copies per annum for our Newsbulletin to reduce costs (over \$200.00 per edition) and workload.
2. Increased membership fees for 1983 and 1984 to \$5.00 per member to contain rising costs. Existing age and family concessions will continue.
3. Invited Clan Commander Earle MacPhee of Canada to visit Australia later this year, and
4. Endorsed a proposal to go before the Society membership as a whole to pay a percentage of annual subscription moneys each year towards the Clan Commander's expenses.

FOURTH BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes and Reports from the Fourth Biennial General Meeting are enclosed with this Newsbulletin. Members attention is invited to paragraph 15 of our Society constitution which provides for the Society membership as a whole to ratify all motions passed or resolutions adopted at a Society meeting.

In particular, General Meeting Agenda Item No. 6b dealing with the Clan Commander's Expenses requires some elaboration. A copy of expenses incurred and income received by the Clan Seneschal during 1981 appears opposite. Expenses will increase with added responsibilities now that this post has been replaced by that of Clan Commander and the Societies have a definite obligation to assist. The Society forwarded A\$78.14 in 1980 and A\$102.91 in 1981 as a contribution towards the Seneschal's expenses. The Clan Commander has requested, if possible, a fixed rate of contribution to permit forward budgeting with some certainty of income amount. Accordingly, the Society Executive and the General Meeting agreed that 20% of membership subscriptions collected annually should be forwarded to the Clan Commander's fund. This will amount to some A\$237.00 per annum on present membership numbers and subscription rates.

GENERAL MEETING RAFFLE

Our ticket sellers have been looking after the overseas visitors once again! Winner of the raffle for a kilt length of Macfie cloth was:

Bill McPhie of Hutton Rugby, Yorkshire.

Bill was present at the Clan Dinner to receive his prize when the raffle was drawn - and commented on the generosity of Clan members in Australia as they had also presented his cousin, Freda Sutcliffe from Sussex with a similar trophy following the drawing of the raffle at the Third Biennial General Meeting in Adelaide in 1980. Perhaps we should vet Bill and Dorothy Tyrrell's guest list before the Fifth General Meeting!

STATEMENT OF CLAN SENESCHAL'S 1981 INCOME AND EXPENSES.

A. Clan Seneschal Receipts:

| | | | |
|----------|------|--|------------|
| Oct. | 1979 | Clan MacPhee Society of Ontario | \$ 25.00 |
| Oct. | 1979 | Clan MacPhee Society of Alberta | 50.00 |
| Oct. 9 | 1979 | MacFie Clan Society Australia | 10.00 |
| Oct. | 1979 | Clan MacPhee Society of British Columbia | 50.00 |
| Nov. 12 | 1979 | Thorburne MacFie Family, Sweden | 50.00 |
| Nov. | 1980 | MacFie Clan Society Australia | 100.00 |
| Sept. 9 | 1980 | No name | 63.00 |
| Sept. | 1980 | Clan MacPhee Society of Ontario | 55.00 |
| Sept. | 1980 | MacDuffie Clan, America Inc. | 100.00 |
| | | Exchange | 16.00 |
| May 13 | 1981 | Clan MacPhee Society of Ontario | 100.00 |
| Sept. 16 | 1981 | MacFie Clan Society Australia | 140.00 |
| Sept. 29 | 1981 | Clan MacPhee Society of Alberta | 50.00 |
| Oct. 26 | 1981 | Clan MacPhee Society of British Columbia | 124.00 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | Donations by E.D.M. | 933.00 |
| | | | 260.53 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | \$1,193.53 |

P.S. Contributions of \$60 from Alberta and \$62 from Ontario are placed in the Bank of Montreal, 41st Avenue & Arbutus, Vancouver, for the use of the Commander.

B. To Scotland:

To Mrs. Sheila Duffy -

| | | | | |
|---------|------|----|----------|----------|
| Feb. 27 | 1980 | 20 | \$ 53.45 | |
| June 4 | 1980 | 50 | 136.63 | |
| June 4 | 1981 | | 260.00 | \$450.08 |

To Mrs. Gillies -

| | | | | |
|--------|------|---|--|-------|
| Aug. 5 | 1980 | 5 | | 14.40 |
|--------|------|---|--|-------|

Total sent to Scotland

\$ 464.48

Expenditures in Vancouver:

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------|
| C. Stationery, typing, xeroxing, postage | | | 393.15 |
| (January 1, 1980 to July 31, 1981) | | | |
| D. Cables and Telephones | | | 92.13 |
| Jan. 1981 | 250 letterheads, MacDhubshith-MacFie | | 47.00 |
| | Postage | | 15.00 |
| | Envelopes | | 18.00 |
| March 1981 | Telegram Sandy II | | 9.46 |
| Aug. 1981 | Telephone to Scotland | | 20.00 |
| Oct.20 1981 | 100 copies of program | | 51.00 |
| Oct.20 1981 | Stationery | | 20.00 |
| Oct.15 1981 | Telephone | | 3.89 |
| Oct.26 1981 | Postage | | 11.42 |
| Oct. 1981 | Typing | | 26.00 |
| Nov.10 1981 | Postage | | 14.00 |
| Nov.20 1981 | Postage | | 8.00 |

\$1,193.53

THE MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA 1981 FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

| <u>RECEIPTS</u> | | <u>EXPENDITURE</u> | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Subscriptions | 80 54.00 | Newsbulletin -Postage | \$ 415.57 |
| | 81 1078.18 | -Printing & Stationery | \$ 470.86 |
| | 82 87.00 | Postage (ex N.B.) | \$ 57.52 |
| | <u>\$1219.18</u> | Printing/Stationery | \$ 22.59 |
| Bank Interest | \$ 14.68 | Telephone | \$ 25.21 |
| Donations-General fund | \$ 41.39 | TFR- Mhic a Phi Standing Stone | \$ 116.97 |
| -Trust Fund | \$ 39.50 | - Seneschal Expenses | \$ 102.91 |
| -Standing Stone | \$ 47.00 | - Trust a/c | \$ 44.68 |
| -St Giles Restoration | \$ 2.00 | <u>Purchases</u> | |
| <u>Sales</u> | | 40 Badges | \$ 120.25 |
| General Meeting Raffles | \$ 69.00 | House of Scotland Tartan Cloth | \$ 100.24 |
| Badges | \$ 26.00 | Dishonour & Bank fees | \$ 10.50 |
| History | \$ 17.00 | | |
| Footstep | \$ 6.00 | | |
| | | | |
| | \$1481.75 | | \$1487.30 |
| Balance B/F 31/12/80 | \$ 227.41 | Balance C/F to 1982 | \$ 221.86 |
| | | | |
| | \$1709.16 | | \$1709.16 |

NEW MEMBERS

Our first new member in over six months is welcomed with pleasure:

V82-504 Mrs. Ina Jean Mansfield, Aberdeen St., Blackburn South. V. 3130.

GENERAL NOTES

- * The Honour Roll of Clan members who made the supreme sacrifice while on Active Service with Australian armed forces will be continued in the next Newsbulletin.
- * A copy of the Commission by the Lord Lyon King of Arms in favour of Dr. Earle Douglas MacPhee as Ceann Cath or Clan Commander of Clan Macfie is enclosed for other than N.S.W. and A.C.T. members - they received their copies with the last Newsletter from N.S.W. V-P Bill Tyrrell.
- * Congratulations to Dr. Donald MacPhee, V76-168, Macleod, Vic., who has been appointed as an adviser to the House of Representatives and the Senate Standing Committees on the Environment. Donald is a leading authority on genetics.
- * Noel McPhie, Q77-267, of Corinda, Q., visited Scotland last year and will be setting out on 22nd March for an eight week visit to North America - and looking for Macfies on the way.
- * Queensland Clan Member Peter McPhee was one of Australia's star bowlers in the under 19 cricket internationals against the touring Pakistan team earlier in the year.
- * Congratulations and best wishes from all Clan members are extended to the following members who have had birthdays in the last few months:
 Vernon McHaffie, V77-248 and his wife Oonah, V77-249 of Melbourne, Hector McPhie Esq. V74-002 of Toowoomba, Victor McPhie Esq. V74-013 of Dalby, Keith McPhee, V74-048 of Melbourne and Neil McPhie, V74-027 of Brisbane.

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