

The Macfie Clan Society of Australia

(Founded in Richmond NSW on 3 May 1974)

Newsbulletin



Number 51

July 1988

From Your President



Sandy McPhee

The best laid plans often need amending to meet unexpected changes in arrangements or circumstances. In this instance, the programme for mailing Newsbulletin No. 51 required to be re-worked quite significantly in July even though a timely start had been made on its preparation.

In June/July I was a member of a Queensland Parliamentary delegation visiting some Pacific-rim countries. All very interesting and timely to visit Ron MacPhee in Hawaii and five of our Clan leaders in Vancouver - timely too for discussions on a number of Clan Matters.

In Vancouver it was great to see our Clan Patron, Jennie MacPhee again. Jennie is the widow of our late Commander, Dr Earle MacPhee. She has retained her interest in and involvement with the Clan in recent years. She is in great form and will be 97 come November.

I have mentioned in previous Newsbulletins a concern shared with others, that interim arrangements for Clan leadership were not proving successful. You may recall a Committee of six Clan Armigers (one from each national area), was charged with this leadership responsibility in 1984 pending the appointment of a new Clan Commander.

As a result of this concern, Clan Seneschal in Australia, Sandy McPhee of Mt Vincent, N.S.W., in his capacity as Chairman, has again called the Clan ad hoc derbhfine into session and sought nominations from the Clan's eighteen Armigers for recommendation for appointment as Clan Commander. When the derbhfine last addressed this problem, three armigers nominated but none received majority support.

Following discussions on this overseas trip, and with Clan Seneschal in Canada, Sylvia McPhee of Toronto, I have agreed to my being nominated as a candidate for this appointment. Nominations within the derbhfine close at the end of September.

Our Seventh Biennial General Meeting was held in Sydney in May. Again, a most enjoyable weekend - but again, attendance was disappointing. I do hope that members will come to the fore in November to meet some fifteen or so overseas Clan Macfie visitors and represent the Clan at the functions listed opposite during the International Gathering of the Clans celebrations in Sydney.

My thanks to all involved with the General Meeting weekend, especially to Vice-President Bill and Dorothy Tyrrell for the overall organisation and to Geoff and Ruth McPhee (N77-339 and 340) of Lugarno for having us to their home above Cooks River for the barbeque lunch on the Sunday.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy McPhee".

Alex McPhee
President

22 August 1988

Address all correspondence
to the Secretary:
(Telephone 076 32 3469)

Mrs Helen McPhee,
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THE 1988 INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF THE CLANS

Organisation is well advanced in a number of centers for the 1988 International Gathering of the Clans - the first time this event has been held in the Southern Hemisphere.

Amongst the more notable guests will be:

The Duke and Duchess of Argyll
The Earl and Countess of Erroll
The Earl of Dunmore
Mr Philip and Lady Caristiona Siggers
Viscount and Viscountess Fincastle
Lord and Lady Forres
Gilbert Robertson of Struan and Mrs Robertson
Torquil MacLeod of The Lewes and Mrs MacLeod
Iain MacNeacail of Scorrybreac and Mrs MacNeacail
Shaw of Tordarroch and Mrs Shaw
Alastair Campbell, Yr. of Airds, Unicorn Pursuivant of Arms
at the Court of the Lord Lyon.
Peter Lamont of that Ilk.



Our own Clan will be well represented with overseas visitors too. Miss Sylvia McPhee, former Commissioner for Clan Macfie in Canada (and Vice-President of the Scottish International Gathering Trust, representing Canada) will be here along with our own former Commissioner, Sandy McPhee of Mt Vincent, N.S.W., Scott and Marvene McPhee from Florida, Leith and Yvonne Brew from New Zealand and some twelve or so other Kiwis (all staying at Cambridge Inn, Sydney) and many more.

The main programme for the International Gathering is centred in Sydney from 26 November to 4 December and is provisionally scheduled as detailed on the following page.

Clan Macfie special functions are:

SATURDAY, 26 NOVEMBER

Barbeque Luncheon and afternoon at the home of Vice-President Bill and Dorothy Tyrrell to welcome our overseas visitors.

Address 18 Yeran Street, Sylvania

Telephone (02) 522-6420.

Time midday onwards.

For catering purposes please contact Bill if you can attend and we hope everyone in the Sydney area can. A plate will help in that regard too.

SUNDAY, 27 NOVEMBER

Main activity will be the Clans March followed by the open air concert at the Opera House. Assembly in the Domain with the March moving off at 1.30 p.m..

Members of many Clans will attend the Kirking of the Tartan at Scots Kirk at 10 a.m..

MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER

Official Opening Ceremony in the Martin Place Ampitheatre - All welcome.

FRIDAY, 2 DECEMBER

There will be Macfies at the Grand Scottish Ball at the Roundhouse, the University of New South Wales. Tickets from the Scottish Australian Heritage Council are \$75 per person. Why not join them?

SUNDAY, 4 DECEMBER

Sydney Scottish Games at Fairfield Showground from 9 a.m. onwards.
The Grand Kilted Parade at 4 p.m. for all Macfies wearing the tartan.
Look for the Clan Macfie tent.

SCOTLAND AND AUSTRALIA EXHIBITION IN EDINBURGH

Scotland's National Library in Edinburgh opened a special exhibition on 1 June this year to celebrate Australia's 200th birthday. It will run until 15 October.

Two years in preparation, it is an exhibition to delight historian and layman alike. Over 500 books, manuscripts, letters, paintings and other artefacts have been brought together to tell the story of the close connection between the two countries since 1788.

The exhibition coincides with the publication of an illustrated book, "The Land of Exiles: Scots in Australia", of which Professor Eric Richards of Flinders University is the main author.

Scotland's association with Australia began with Captain James Cook. The exhibition shows that the Scots were under-represented in the penal colony initially because Scottish judges did not agree with the transportation policy.

The Dumfries-born artist Thomas Watling whose works are featured in the exhibition, was accused of forgery and asked to be transported rather than stand trial. He was the first professional artist to live and work in Australia where he recorded in vivid water colours the new land together with its flora and fauna and aboriginal inhabitants.

Among the exhibits are records showing that three of New South Wales' six Governors in those early years were Scotsmen. Lachlan Macquarie from the Inner Hebrides was the first to refer to the new land as Australia in 1810. He transformed the convict settlement, built schools, hospitals and roads and - as the documents show - promoted a humanitarian policy towards ex-convicts.

Other manuscripts record the work of Sir Thomas MakDougall Brisbane who gave his name to the capital of Queensland and was largely responsible for introducing democratic government.

Scotsman John McDowall Stuart arrived in Australia in 1839 and became a national hero by crossing the continent from north to south. Another Scottish explorer, John McKinlay's travels in the outback, are recorded in documents.

Letters and documents in the exhibition also turn the spot light on the ordinary settlers - such as the woman who wrote urging any girls, however ugly, to emigrate if they wanted husbands!

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KAYE MACPHEE-POWELL JOINS EXECUTIVE

At the Clan Society Executive Meeting following the Biennial General Meeting in Sydney, it was decided unanimously to invite Mrs Kaye Macphee-Powell (V74-023) of 717 Burwood Highway, Ferntree Gully, Vic., to join the Executive as an "invited" member.

Kaye has been a member of the Clan Society from the outset. She is the daughter of the late Charles Macphee Esq., (V74-010). Kaye's knowledge of and involvement with Clan affairs makes her a welcome addition to the Executive.

JOHN MCPHEE MEATS, ALBURY

The following article appeared in the Sydney Sun Herald on 19 June this year under the heading "Mr Fixit Buys into a New Meat Challenge". It details recent moves by John McPhee (N76-223) of Albury, in the meat trade business. A most successful man, John is to be warmly congratulated on his initiative here. Australia would certainly benefit from more of his calibre.

JOHN MCPHEE is the sunrise man who swims against the tide, the Mr Fixit of the meat industry.

He may soon be known as the saviour of Blayney, a Central West town whose economy is geared to its abattoir.

Give McPhee an ailing meatworks and he will pick it up by the tail and make it work.

While meatworks all over Australia have gone to the wall lately, his operations have got stronger.

To do this he gets up at 3.45 am every day and is at his works by 4.30.

That is why they call him the sunrise man. He sees most of them.

Last month McPhee, 45, father of six, owner of the Wodonga meatworks, bought the near-shot Blayney abattoir for \$3.5 million.

Hopefully he will do for it what he did for Wodonga - turn a fat trading deficit into a bulging success.

He bought Blayney from the NSW Government, thus relieving it of a rapidly decaying liability.

His principal objective was to give himself another challenge.

Having in less than five years turned the Wodonga works from a struggling operation into a great money spinner for his family

company, he needed some other stimulus for his prodigious talents and appetite for work.

Not content with working a minimum 70 hours a week he decided to shake off his lethargy by adding the Blayney abattoir to his responsibilities.

Blayney has had the skids under it since 1979, losing money at the rate of \$1 million a year.

The excuses offered for its near demise - declining meat sales, drought and the chemical residue scare - cut no ice with McPhee.

Meat operators had to get off their backsides, go to the market place and sell, sell, sell.

McPhee is expert at that.

It has made Wodonga works, known as John McPhee Meats, one of the most successful Australian exporters.

It sells millions worth to the Middle East, Taiwan, US, Japan, Iran and Taiwan.

Mr McPhee plans to do the same with Blayney and as soon as

possible will reinstate the 300 men who in recent years have lost their jobs there.

He will have to spend almost as much as he paid for the works on capital improvements, buy in extra stock and make the operation pay its way.

He will spend at least two days a week at Blayney getting to know all the staff and firing them up with the same enthusiasm he engendered at Wodonga when he took over five years ago.

Wodonga works have been free of industrial trouble since he bought them.

He has a reputation among his 400 employees as being a man's man, will talk to anyone and by some still unexplained device manages to be seen in several places at once.

He will not ask anyone on his payroll to do anything he will not do himself.

He is an expert stockman, an excellent judge of sheep and cattle and capable of handling both in yards, paddocks or on the road.

An intensely shy man he has refused to be photographed and details of his activities come from people around him.

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THE SEVENTH BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING SYDNEY - SATURDAY 7 MAY 1988

Minutes and Reports from the Seventh Biennial General Meeting of our Clan Society are enclosed with this Newsbulletin.

Thirty two members attended the meeting at the North Sydney Leagues Club. The meeting was followed by a Clan Dinner at which members were joined by several guests.

A Clan barbeque was held at the home of Geoff and Ruth McPhee, Lugarno, on the Sunday. Twenty two members enjoyed the luncheon in a delightful setting high above the Cooks River.

In accordance with para. 15 of our constitution, the biennial General Meeting minutes are automatically considered to be ratified provided no objections are received in writing from five or more members within four weeks of the minutes being mailed to members.

THE SCOTLAND AUSTRALIA CAIRN

Many of you will have been following the saga of The Scotland Australia Cairn - Scotland's bicentenary gift to Australia. A grand idea whereby a special cairn is to be built with stones from all parishes of Scotland - but unfortunately it has not been so grand in implementation.

The former government of New South Wales originally decreed it could be built initially in the Domain overlooking Lady Macquarie's chair but would be later removed (banished?) to a less imposing and out of the way site in Sydney Park.

Not really the right thing to do with such a significant and appropriate bicentenary gift as it was of imposing proportions with each of the stones engraved by local craftsmen with the names of the parishes from which they came. It contains also a hand made brick from Glasgow Cathedral and the pinnacle stone from the Isle of Ulva has a Celtic cross on one side and Governor Macquarie's motto in Gaelic on the other.

With the stones came a letter, the official presentation of the cairn to Australia from Scotland. It contained an indication of the significant part played by such cairns in Scottish tradition, and the hope that this one would truly represent the link between our two countries. There was also suggested text for inscription on a plaque. Both are too long to reproduce here, but the plaque text contained the following verse, in Gaelic and in Scots:

Seo, as gach airde, clach air clach,
Cuinte comhla, tromh dhile 's gaoth,
Cuimhn air Albainn, an dachaidh shean.

Here frae a' the airts, stane upon stane,
Haud thegither thru wind and rain
Mindere o' Scotland that aince was hame.

The Sydney Park banishment was not well received. Then it was found the chosen hill in the Park had previously been a rubbish dump and over the past twelve months had subsided three feet! If the hill went on subsiding at that rate the cairn would be below ground level in about four years.

A letter to the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald on 21 May summed up some people's feelings even if a little on the sour side and not a fair reference to the Highlands. Headed "No Braw nor Bricht", it read "Sir: It seems fitting that the Scottish Government (sic) has chosen Sydney Park for the site of the presentation cairn. Sydney Park must remind them of the Scottish Highlands; not a tree in sight, no light at night, and a bog when it rains."

The offer by a firm of architects to float the cairn on a concrete slab to prevent it sinking was not well received either - they quoted \$150,000 for that solution!

But it appears all will be well that ends well - Mosman Council in Sydney has offered to specially landscape a high point in their Rawson Park for the cairn. It will overlook Sydney Harbour on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other as well as some nine municipalities. Surely a far more fitting destination for this thoughtful and enduring commemorative gift.

The Cairn will be built by Scottish Stone-mason Duncan Matheson. It will be 4.5m high and contain some 1700 individual stones. The official unveiling is expected to be in October.

HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL NOTES

Trustee Neil McPhee met a visiting "McPhee" bowler at Mornington, Vic., late last year. A follow up letter brought this reply from Mrs Ivy Willock of 4/34 Villiers Street, Mayfield, NSW 2304.

"My Mother's maiden name was McPhee and her Mother & Father were Irish and born in Ireland, and of the Catholic Faith. I don't have any records of them, but recall being told they came out to Australia, bringing my Mother, Ellen McPhee, and settling in Newtown in Sydney. They had 3 more daughters (no sons).

My Mother (Ellen McPhee) married my father Henry Hugh Moore, and they had 5 sons in due time, then in May 1909 I was born and three years later - another son. I was her 6th child, and we were all christened as Catholics and reared as such.

My mother (now Ellen Moore) was a very well known singer in her young days, before she married my Dad. She had to give all that away, having babies so quickly. But one of my loveliest memories of my childhood was of being rocked to sleep, and my mother singing all Irish songs "Does your mother come from Ireland" was my favourite one.

My father, Henry Moore, was a boss on the Pyrmont Wharves and got himself killed on the Pyrmont Bridge, trying to stop a runaway horse (startled by a motor car) who reared and crashed into a telegraph pole, and broke my Dad's neck. I was about 15 years old then, and working at Grace Bros Lay-Bye Office (Broadway, Sydney).

My eldest brother (Harry Moore) went to the First World War, came home after and died from gas poisoning about 6 weeks later. The next brother Les Moore, married and lived at Leichhardt, Sydney. He was very interested in politics, and became Deputy Lord Mayor of Leichhardt. Three more of my brothers died, leaving just one older than me, and one younger, Cecil and Wally respectively."

More on the Clarence River McPhees, this time from the Maclean District Historical Society's newsletter. The Society also forwarded a complimentary copy of their booklet "Maclean and the Scottish Connection" which is a welcome addition to our Clan archives and was referred to in our last Newsbulletin.

The family tree of the Clarence River McPhees begins some distance from the island of Colonsay with John McPhee of Strontian, Loch Sunart, Argyllshire.

His son, Donald was the first emigrate to Australia arriving by the "Brilliant" from the Isle of Mull on 24th January, 1838 accompanied by his wife Catherine and children Anne, Catherine, John, Hugh, Janet and Mary. Another son, Allan, Donald's brother, died at Sunart in 1852 predeceased by a son, Angus. Allan's son, Thomas, who had married his cousin Janet (Jessie) Cameron left for Australia by the ship "Kate" arriving 16th October, 1852 accompanied by his wife and children Angus, William and Catherine.

They were closely followed by Allan's widow, Catherine nee Weir with her sons John, Alexander, William, Donald and Duncan and daughter, Mary.

Following the pattern of other Scottish migrants they went first to the Hunter River and then to the Clarence settling at Southgate, Swan Creek and the Coldstream. The McPhees may be said to have started a trend towards family gatherings when they met at Lower Coldstream in July, 1962. Some of the leaders in that project have since died including Ken McPhee who spoke on the family history on that occasion. His widow, Jean, now Mrs Gellweiler, kept the family tree drawn up at the family gathering.

Just as the languages of England and Scotland are distinct, so Scot's cooking is entirely different from English cooking. Scot's cooking has been described as "a pastoral cooking, brightly influenced by old ties with France."

Walter Scott refers to Scotland as "the land of cakes", and Meg Dods, author of "The Cook and Housewife's Manual" (published in Edinburgh in 1826) speaks of it as "the land of kail". But both were Lowlanders - the Highlander and Islander preferred nettle to kail and regarded the taste for kail as effeminate!

In the days of the Auld Alliance, the Scots nobility were much influenced by the French Court and early Stuart kings competed with their continental contemporaries in the magnificence of their banquets. Records show that James I (of Scotland) kept a French cook and, during the reign of James IV, the Scots Court was regarded as the most brilliant in Europe. The poet, Dunbar in his "Dirige to the King at Stirling", invites James to return to Holyrood:

"To eit swan, cran, portrik (partridge) and Plever (Plover)
And every fische that swymis in rever;
To drink with us the new fresche wyne,
That grew upon the rever Ryne,
Fresche, fragrant Clairettis (clarets) out of France,
Of Augers and of Orliance,
With movey aue course of grit dyntie:
Say amen, for Chantie."

In the 16th Century, Mary of Lorraine (wife of James V and mother of Queen Mary) introduced to Scotland many more French customs, especially during her long regency.

James V was, according to the contemporary historian, Buchanan, a temperate man who drank little wine. But this did not affect the customs of the Court, for Buchanan records that the Earl of Atholl entertained him "with all sich delicious and sumptuous meattis as was to be had in Scotland, for fleschis, fischis and all kinds of jyue wine and spycis, requisit for a Prince".

Under Queen Mary the influence of "New Cooking" was maintained and John Knox complained that - "the affairis of the kytchening were so gryping that the mynesteris stipendis could nodit be payit".

Indeed, the extravagance was such in a naturally poor country that in 1581, a law was passed against "superfluous banquetting" which limited the type of dishes and number of courses which may be had, according to the rank of the person dining.

But it seems that the French influence was confined to Edinburgh, Court circles and some of the Lowlands. Tynes Moryson, who visited Scotland in 1598, wrote - "myself was at a Knights house who had many servants to attend him, that brought in his meate with their heads covered with blew caps, the Table being more than half furnished with great platters of porridge (i.e. pottage or broth) each having alittle bit of sodden (i.e. boiled) meat; and when the Table was served, the servants did sit down with us, but the upper messe (i.e. the head of the table "above the salt") instead of porridge, had a pullet with some prunes in the broth. (Cock-a-leekie?) and I observed no art of cookery or furniture of household stuff, but a rude neglect of both, though we were entertained after their best manner. They drink pure wine, not with sugar as the English, but they have not our vintner's fraud to mixe their wines. They vulgarly eat hearth cakes of oaks, but in cities have wheaten bread which, for the most part, is bought by courtiers, gentlemen and the best sort of citizens".

one traditional Scots dish which is still eaten with relish is the "pullet with some prunes in the broth" Moryson mentioned. Here is the receipe for - Cock-a-Leekie

Ingredients: A plump fowl, leeks, prunes, Jamaca (green) peppers, salt, beef stock (or water). Method: Cut off the roots and part of the heads of 2 or 3 bunches of leeks, and wash them well. Truss the fowl and place in a large pot with 3 or 4 leeks (blanched and chopped) and 2 quarts of good stock. Bring to boil and then simmer slowly for at least 2 hours until fowl is tender. Then remove fowl from soup. Clear the grease off the liquid with paper and add remainder of leeks, cut into lengths, and salt and Jamaca pepper to taste. Simmer very gently until leeks are done. Half an hour before serving add about 12 prunes. (Meg Dods says the "soup must be very thick of leeks, and the first of them boiled down into the soup until it becomes a lubricous compound).

Another old recipe may be welcome with the onset of colder weather - it is that for Atholl Brose. No. 1. Ingredients: 1 lb Oatmeal, 1 lb of clear, runny honey and 4 pints of good whisky. Method: Mix equal parts of oatmeal and honey with a little cold water then very slowly pour in the whisky and stir the whole until a good froth rises. Bottle and cork well. Let stand for two days - then strain and serve.

Atholl Brose. No 2. (Duke of Atholls' recipe). To make 1 quart of mixture: 4 dessertspoons of clear runny honey, 4 sherry glassfuls of prepared oatmeal. Stir these together, put into a quart bottle and fill up with good whisky. Shake well before serving. To prepare oatmeal: Put it into a basin and mix to the consistancy of thick paste with cold water. Leave stand for 30-40 minutes and then pass through a fine strainer, pressing with the back of a spoon to leave the oatmeal as dry as possible. Use the liquid for brose. It is optional to serve with creak.

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IRELAND AND THE BICENTENARY

Ireland's Bicentenary gift to Australia is microfilm and computerised records of the documentation relating to Irish convict transportees to Australia.

A special publication was also recently announced in Dublin. Titled "Ireland-Australia: A Bicentenary Celebration" it highlights an exciting range of Irish projects prepared to commemorate the Australian bicentennial.

Ireland's involvement in the bicentennial celebrations in Australia included the participation of the handsome Irish sail training vessel, Asgard II, in the Bicentennial Tall Ships Events. Asgard II remained in Australian waters undertaking programme of goodwill visits to a number of Australian ports.

Additionally, Professor Patrick O'Farrell's highly-praised publication "The Irish in Australia" was grant aided by the Irish Government as an official bicentennial project. It won the prize for non-fiction in the 1987 New South Wales Premier's Literary Awards.

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Queensland Vice-President Nevell McPhee (Q74-084) of 6 Eymard Street, Toowoomba, (right) who has been elected as the incoming State President of the Life Underwriters Association.



GENERAL NOTES

- * Congratulations to Robyn (N83-518) and Mark Phillips of Padstow N.S.W. on the birth of their new daughter Kate Johanna (N88-606) on 20 May 1988 - a playmate for Sarah (N86-563).
- * Congratulations to our Submariner Allan McCarthy (N82-507) and wife of Sydney on the birth of their son, Samuel Allan on 6 June and to his sister Janet Mackay (N82-506) and husband of Bracken Ridge, Qld, on the birth of their son Martin John on 13 April. This information from a proud grandparent Esme McCarthy (N81-497) of Lismore.
- * The Clan Wallace Society of Australia has been formed in Queensland, so if your name is Wallace, James Wallace-Young, Commissioner for the Clan in Australia, would like to hear from you. Write to Box 598, P.O., Ipswich, Queensland 4305.
- * Lyndal McPhie (Q76-163) of Toowoomba, home from ten months overseas and now nursing at Charleville in south west Queensland. Her grandmother, Nellie McPhie (Q74-029) (nee Shanasy from Nhill Vic.) was a nurse there after World War I and married the late Hector McPhie (Q74-002) a Clan armiger, in February 1926.
- * That "Macfie" spell is there again. Several News bulletins back we recorded a member changing his non-Clan surname by deed poll to McPhee. This time we have a McPhee girl married for 42 years outside the Clan signing her membership cheque "McPhee"!
- * Many thanks from your editor to the many members who sent a note on the occasion of our 50th Newsbulletin. Yes, quite a milestone and a lot of interesting info packed into those copies. Don't go away though, there's more to come - back copies are available too, should you need them (\$1 per copy, posted).
- * Overseas trippers. Grace Herron (V85-555) of Mitcham to Colonsay at the moment, Neville (N77-236) and Sonia Phee of Cooma are looking at going next year. President Sandy McPhie of Toowoomba recently visited Canada and he and Helen hope to be in Scotland for Clan Parliament next year - plus Treasurer Lorraine too!
- * Spotted in a Newsbulletin belonging to a certain Caledonian Society:

THIS WEEKS FUNNY!!!!!!!!!!!!
A helicopter pilot had to make an emergency landing on a small Scottish Island. He saw a woman walking along the beach and asked her was there any mechanics on the island. "Noo," she said, "Only McPhies".
- * EXPO 88 visitors to Brisbane who have made contact with President Sandy McPhie are John (N77-246) and Hazel McPhee of Lapstone N.S.W. and Colin (V79-447) and Mirna of Box Hill Vic.. All staying on the Gold Coast and commuting to EXPO - and in good form, but Colin due to go back into dock in Melbourne shortly. Best wishes Colin.

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Accounts for Membership Subscriptions are attached for those who have yet to pay - plus letters to any who are still unfinancial for 1987. Your prompt attention to these accounts will be appreciated by our financial manager.

Moggie 'miracle' a purrfect match . . . almost



MELBOURNE.— Who says cats have nine lives? Cats flying Qantas could end up with 10 lives, according to a recent Qantas newsletter.

It told the sad tale of a black moggie air-freighted to a Queensland city from Melbourne. On arrival, the box was opened and puss was found to have passed on.

Mortified staff raced to the nearest RSPCA to buy a replacement. After some frantic attempts at moggie matching, they found one which fitted the bill.

But when they delivered it, its elderly lady owner was adamant: "That's not my cat."

A Qantas cargo officer insisted it was. All the papers were in order. But the lady insisted it was the wrong cat.

A futile attempt to convince her followed and eventually the anxious officer asked how she knew it wasn't her cat.

"My cat died last week and I was shipping it home for burial," she replied.

* The item opposite has nothing to do with Clan Macfie or things Scottish as far as we know, but it's too good to pass by -

* The list of Clan Names printed on the front page of Newsbulletin No 49 can be amended with the addition of "Mahaffey".

* In Queensland a Clans Congress has been formed by a number of the more active Clans in Brisbane. Members were on duty at the big Scottish Day at QEII Stadium on 12th June this year.

* Was it mentioned in a Newsbulletin last year that Goodwin Macfie Poole (Q86-565) of 46 McIntyre St., Woolloowin Q 4030 was to be admitted as a solicitor in Queensland? It wasn't? Well he was to be and he is - Congrats Goodwin!

* "Will Ye No Come Back Again?"

* In the last Newsbulletin we reproduced this photo from the British Tourist Authority's advertisement in the 1986/87 SAHC Annual. It is of a McPhee boy who sold White Heather to tourists near Loch Lomond. The story below from the Journal of the Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Qld) tells the sad tale of the significance of White Heather.



AN OLD CELTIC TALE

White heather has long been regarded as a symbol of good luck and it is not uncommon for a bride to have white heather incorporated in her bridal bouquet, but what is the story behind the quaint custom of associating white heather with good luck.

We all know that purple heather grows profusely in its wild state in Scotland but not so white heather which is comparatively rare and is usually specially cultivated in gardens.

The story of the white heather is an old, old tale and a sad one. The Celtic Bard Ossian had a daughter Malvina who was as fair as the dawn and gentle as the dew. She was betrothed to Oscar a warrior as gallant as he was handsome. Though he had wandered far in search of fame and beauty, no one held chief place in his heart save Malvina the fair.

Once in the glory of autumn, Malvina and her father were sitting on the moor's edge talking of Oscar's return from some warlike expedition. Over the heather came limping to them a ragged messenger. Wounded and weary he knelt before them. Holding out a spray of purple heather to Malvina, he told her that it came from Oscar as a last token of his love for he was slain in battle and his henchmen had barely escaped to bring the news.

As Malvina listened, her tears fell on the purple heather which immediately became white.

Ossian made mournful music for his daughter's dead lover and, as they wandered over the moors, her tears often fell upon the clumps of purple heather which immediately turned white. Then, even in the bitterness of her own sorrow, wishing that others may be happier than she, Malvina said "Although it is a symbol of my sorrow, may the white heather bring good fortune to all who find it."

* Neil (N74-071) and Jill McPhie have moved from Killara to Ashburton, Vic., where Neil has accepted appointment as Manager of the Macquarie Bank. Neil is a former Clan Society Treasurer.

■ **A SINGING Scotsman** who changed his name from **Walter Reid** to **Elvis MacPresley** has been banned from appearing at a London music festival because organisers regard his name change as an insult to Presley's memory.

Said an outraged spokesman: "He ain't nothing but a hound Jock."

* Nat and Elsie McPhee (N77-253 and N78-419) of Cooranbong have a visit to Colonsay scheduled for this year - they'll find it a bit different from Broken Hill where they once lived.

* Congratulations to Glen McPhee (V77-357) of Canberra on promotion to Squadron Leader in the Royal Australian Air Force. Glen lives at Hawker in the A.C.T. and is an Environmental Health Officer in the Directorate of Air Force Medicine.

The lands of the Lordship of the Isles are often referred to as the "Sea Kingdom". Five hundred years ago it extended from Antrim in Ireland to the Butt of Lewis, and included most of the west coast of the mainland. It was decreed by the Lord of the Isles that the Council of the Isles could meet anywhere, but its main meeting place appears to have been on Islay, on Eilean na Comharle (Island of the Council) in Loch Finlaggan.

The Clan Macfie Chief on Colonsay was traditionally the Keeper of the Records for the Lord of the Isles and that era was probably the greatest period in our Clan's past. Research into those times is currently being carried out by the Finlaggan Trust on Islay which is just across from Colonsay.

The Finlaggan Trust has been set up to promote research into the history of Finlaggan, from the period of the Lordship right back to the days of Finlaggan himself. If you want to support research into an exciting era of West Highland history, you can send 5 pounds sterling to The Finlaggan Trust, High Street, Bowmore, Isle of Islay, Argyll, PA43-7JE, Scotland.

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THEY'VE MOVED

- Mrs Grace McAfee (V77-260) from Coolum Beach, Qld to
6/36 Junction Road, Clayfield, Qld, 4011.
- Mrs Rosalie Taylor (V76-231) from Oakleigh, Vic., to
"Riverdell", RMB 8370, Pryor Road, Drouin South, Vic. 3818
- Neil McPhie (N74-071) from 79 Albert Drive, Killara, NSW to
7 Osric Street, Ashburton, Vic., 3147.
- Roger McPhee (Q77-350) from Ascot in Brisbane to
18 Nauria Street, Fig Tree Pocket, Qld, 4069.

NEW MEMBERS

A hearty welcome to the following New Members since the last Newsbulletin was printed.

- Q88-600 Mrs Beverley Fee, 64 Twilight Street, Kenmore. Qld 4069
- Q88-601 Miss Melita Elizabeth Fee, 64 Twilight Street, Kenmore. Qld 4069
- Q88-602 Cameron Smith Fee, 64 Twilight Street, Kenmore. Qld 4069
- N88-603 Miss Fiona McPhee, 70 Moons Avenue, Lugarno. NSW 2210
- N88-604 Miss Elizabeth McPhee, 70 Moons Avenue, Lugarno. NSW 2210
- V88-605 Mrs Joan Stow, Cassinia Drive, Junortoun. Vic. 3551
- N88-606 Miss Kate Johanna Phillips, 45 Watson Road, Padstow. NSW 2211
- V88-607 Mrs Shirley Doris McPhee, 21 Devira Street, Dandenong. Vic. 3175

The New Members were introduced respectively by Eddie Fee (Q87-585) (husband and father), the girls themselves during the General Meeting Clan picnic at their home, Morman McPhee (N76-199) of Kogarah Bay, N.S.W., Kate's proud Mum, Robyn (N83-518) and an equally proud husband, Charles (V83-528). Many thanks to those concerned.

AUSTRALIAN BICENTENNIAL TATTOO FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER 1988

Enquiries to the military director, Australian Army — Organiser Col. A. McGhee. In Melbourne and Canberra the salute will be taken by principal guests of the International Gathering, which itself is an official Bicentennial activity. Dates — 12-28/8 Sydney. 10-18/9 Brisbane. 26-28/9 Townsville. 7-8/10 Darwin. 18-22/10 Perth. 31/10-2/11 Adelaide. 10-12/11 Hobart. 19/11-3/12 Melbourne. 8-10/12 Canberra.

