

# The Macfie Clan Society of Australia

(Founded in Richmond NSW on 3 May 1974)



## Newsbulletin

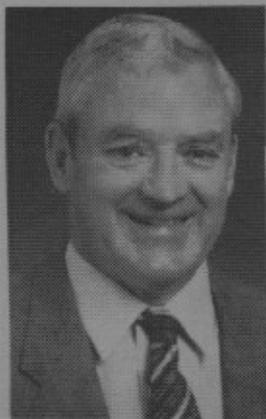
### IN THIS EDITION:

Grandfather Mountain - latest details,  
Snizort Cathedral and the Lords of the Isles;  
The Clan Commissioners;  
Sydney University's Family History Course;  
Any Queries - General Notes -Historical and  
Genealogical Items etc etc etc.



Number 59

March 1991



None of us can be happy with this New Year while the situation in the Middle East remains as it is. I am sure all members will join with me in praying for an early, peaceful and permanent end to hostilities there. Our thoughts especially will be with any Clan members directly involved in the Gulf War and with their families.

This is our eighteenth year of operation as a Clan Society - not a bad effort considering it started from absolutely nothing. In the beginning in 1974 there were some (not Clan members, I hasten to say) who said we wouldn't last five years. How wrong they were!

The Clan Society and with it, the Clan, is a dynamic body continually strengthening its position as is exemplified by the enclosed membership list of some 465 names and by the sound position shown in the enclosed 1990 balance sheets.

But really, we are only as strong as our membership and its participation in, and support for, Clan Society activities. At times I wonder about that as often the response we have to Clan functions of various sorts, must leave those responsible for the organising wondering if the results were worth the effort involved.

The late Lord Maclean of Duart, Twenty-Seventh Chief of Clan Maclean, was spot on with his comment:

"The strength of a unified clan, such as ours today, is no longer found in stone and mortar. The strength of our Clan today is found in the INDIVIDUAL - in each one of you, whether man, woman or child, no matter where you be. It is found in your blood, in the pride which you have for your ancient name and the heritage which lies behind it, it is found in your very heart. It is indeed a challenge."

It bears thinking about for a challenge is there alright, for all of us to become involved as best we can to ensure Clan Macfie continues to develop and prosper in the years ahead.

Those 1990 financial statements are at the auditor at present, by the way. His report will be in the next Newsbulletin.

I know it is out of the question for most of you to even consider attending the International Gathering of Clan Macfie this July at Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina - but if any of you can make the trip to be there with Helen and me, I can guarantee a most warm welcome and a wonderful few days which you wont forget.

One of pleasures in being President of any organisation such as our's over a number of years is that you come to know and know of more of the members than probably anyone else. Conversely, one of the sad things is that every now and then you must farewell members who have passed on and who have become friends and supporters over the years. In this Newsbulletin we say good-bye to two such people, Miss Keerie MacPhee in Scotland a former Keeper of the Records of Clan Macfie and Honorary Member of this Clan Society, and Colin Macfie of Sydney an Original Member of the Clan Society and New South Wales Vice-President. They were both staunch supporters of the Clan and are sadly missed.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Sandy McPhie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'S'.

Toowoomba,  
25th February 1991.

A. C. (Sandy) McPhie  
Clan Society President, and  
Commander of Clan Macfie

All correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, Mrs Helen McPhie, 8 Panorama Crescent, Toowoomba, Q., 4350. (Tel 076 32-3469)

FROM CLAN COMMISSIONER SANDY McPHEE

Mt Vincent, N.S.W..

I know it is a hoary old saw, but they say that there are two types of people in this world - Those who belong to a Scottish Clan and those who wish they did! It seems to me that, even in this day and age, the Clan system must fill a need in the human psyche.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since the "Macfies" first came together in Australia in 1974 and a host of lasting friendships have been made. Family histories have been worked out and are held by the Clan Society to help others as they join and become interested. Our late Commander, Dr Earle MacPhee of Canada, would have been very pleased about that as he believed very strongly in the strength of the family unit and the importance of handing down to our children a pride in their forefathers and their ancestral homeland.

Dr MacPhee had discovered that the Macfies had very little written history but he was sure that out there in all parts of the world to which Scottish emigrants had gone, our Clan flame was still burning. So he and his wife Jennie set to work. Some years later eight small volumes of Clan History had been compiled and hundreds of "Macfies" world wide had formed into Clan groups in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, U.S.A., Sweden and of course, Scotland.



in 1981, just ten years ago, the Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland looked at this tremendous effort and announced that the Macfies had proved to him and the Crown that they were a strong and "honourable Community" once more and henceforth would be recognised as a Scottish Clan again.

Clan means family - family means strength, security and firm friendships - all these are greatly needed in the world to-day.

Sandy McPhee (Commissioner)

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VALE

With regret we record the deaths of the following members:

Peter McGuffie (W88-628) of Como, W.A., in May last year.

Miss Keerie MacPhee (H3-80) of Taynuilt, Argyll, Scotland. Keerie was probably the last Macfie to grow up on Colonsay, she was the Keeper of the Records for Clan Macfie from 1977 until forced to relinquish the appointment due to ill health in 1987, and was a strong support of the Clan in all matters.

Colin Macfie (N74-015) of Galston, N.S.W., in February this year. Colin was one of our Original Members and served as New South Wales Vice-President in 1974 and 75. His move out of Sydney some years ago restricted his direct involvement in Clan affairs but he continued his strong support for all our activities at all times.

Deepest sympathy has been extended to all three families.

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SYDNEY UNIVERSITY'S FAMILY HISTORY COURSE.

This year the University of Sydney is running a course entitled Researching Your Family History as part of its Continuing Education Programme History unit. The course will be held at the Royal Australian Historical Society's rooms in Macquarie Street on 12th and 26th May, from 9:30am to 4:00pm each day.

The course will be conducted by Dr Carol Liston and cover research methods for tracing births, deaths, marriages, shipping arrivals and land records. There will be an opportunity for course members to conduct private research in the library of the Historical Society.

The course number is IC2A572 and the cost \$125.00 for the two days. Those interested should contact:

The Centre for Continuing Education,  
Mackie Building, K01,  
University of Sydney, N.S.W., 2006.  
(Telephone 02 692-2907)

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CLAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LISTS

A current Membership List is enclosed with this Newsbulletin for all Clan Society members. The last list was issued on 4th May 1979 so an update is well overdue.

This list is from a computer print out and was painstakingly compiled by Secretary Helen with some help from her spouse, using the individual work lists for members in each State. Although checked, it as acknowledged there will probably be some inaccuracies. Please check your entry and let Secretary Helen know of any corrections required in names, addresses, numbers etc - or, perish the thought - if you've been missed altogether!

In several instances we do not have a record of Christian names for all members of a family and these will be welcomed. In two other cases membership numbers are missing - these are recent contacts who (hopefully) will be joining the Clan Society in the near future.

With this detail on computer disc amendments to, and updating of, information can be carried out relatively quickly and easily. Please help to keep the list current.

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Catch the moments as they fly,  
And use them as ye ought, man;  
Believe me, Happiness is shy,  
And comes not aye when sought, man.

Robbie Burns



"We seem to have arrived at some Godforsaken place where the women have whiskers!"

CLAN MACFIE INTERNATIONAL GATHERING  
GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN, N.C., 11-14 JULY 1991

(From the Fall 1990 copy of Clan Chatter, the publication of  
The MacDuffee Clan of America Inc.)

**CLAN MACFIE INTERNATIONAL GATHERING (CMIG).** The 1991 CMIG will be held in Boone, NC, and at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games July 11-14, 1991. We hope for a large turnout of Clan Macfie members from the United States and abroad to greet our new commander and enjoy the Gathering and the Games. If there is the slightest chance that you can come, please return the questionnaire on the last page. This is no commitment but will help us plan. Additional material will be mailed to respondents.

**Arrangements.** A Transportation and Hospitality Committee is evolving, and has so far the following members: Clyde Hollifield (A-325), Black Mountain, NC; Mary McDuffie Howell (L-115), Raleigh, NC; Bette McDuffie (L-104) and Mildred McDuffee (L-108), Oak Ridge, TN; and Enzell Middleton (L-28), Guyton, GA; also, *ex-officio*, Ruth Macfie Johnston (L-68), Ruth McDuffee Veeder (L-30), and your president. Our new Editor will help with publicity.

**Travel and Transportation.** We expect that international visitors will make their own travel arrangements, but we will help if called upon. After reaching the United States, we suggest that visitors fly to an airport near Boone, NC (see map on last page). Tri-Cities Airport, TN, is about 70 miles from Boone; Charlotte, NC, (a US Air hub) is about a 2-hour drive from Boone; and the Raleigh-Durham Airport, NC, is about 3-1/2 hours from Boone. The Transportation Committee will try to arrange transportation to Boone from these airports, unless visitors prefer to rent a car (and drive on the

right!). We know that some visitors plan to tour parts of the United States before and/or after the Gathering; they may want to fly to a Southeastern city (e.g., Atlanta, a Delta hub) and proceed by ground transportation, ordinarily a rental car.

I recently obtained some representative lowest fares from several airlines: RT (supersavers, 14-day advance purchase, stay over a Saturday night, and in some cases avoid peak travel days) Atlanta-TriCities (Delta) \$196; NYC-TriCities (Delta) \$263; Dallas-TriCities (AAL) \$307; LA-TriCities (AAL) \$444; NYC-Charlotte (AAL) \$263; Sydney, Australia-Atlanta (AAL) \$1373, staying five days to two months. These prices will go up soon, with oil prices.

**Lodging.** A large block of rooms is being held at the Broyhill Inn for Clan members and their families. The Inn is a conference center on the campus of Appalachian State University in Boone; most meetings of the Gathering will be held there. Rates are: single \$56, double \$60, suites \$85 or \$100. Advance deposit of one night is required. To make reservations call (704) 262-2204; from the Eastern United States (800) 438-6022.

There are many motels in the Boone area. Examples are, for two adults: EconoLodge, \$45/\$53, Friday and Saturday (indoor pool); Comfort/Quality Inn, \$44 (includes Continental Breakfast); and the Holiday Inn, \$62/\$72, Friday and Saturday. In nearby Blowing Rock: Days Inn, \$55 (\$78, suite for three or four). Some senior discounts may apply.

Please complete the questionnaire on  
the reverse side of this page and send  
to Bruce McDuffie in Chattanooga, TN.  
and

let our Secretary, Helen, know if you  
are a likely starter as will be there  
along with Sandy.

# Macfie International Gathering

Please complete and return the questionnaire below to advise us of your plans to attend the International Gathering of Clan Macfie. Here's what we've planned for this special event:

## Thursday, July 11

3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Reception  
Broyhill Inn

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Picnic and Torchlight Ceremony  
Grandfather Mountain

8:30 - until Informal Get-together  
Broyhill Inn

## Friday, July 12

Morning Area Group Tour and Lunch

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Annual MacDuffee Clan Meeting  
Broyhill Inn

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Reception for Patrons and Sponsors  
Linville Country Club

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Clan Macfie Banquet

9:00 - midnight Scottish Country Dance Gala  
Banner Elk

## Saturday, July 13

7:00 a.m. Informal Clan Breakfast  
Broyhill Inn

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Grandfather Mountain Games  
Linville

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Informal Clan Dinner  
TBA

9:00 - midnight Tartan Ball or Ceilidh

## Sunday, July 14

8:00 a.m. Clan Breakfast  
TBA

9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
Kirkin' o' the Tartan  
Parade of Tartans and Games  
Grandfather Mountain

5:00 p.m. Farewell Supper/Ceilidh  
TBA

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact a member of the planning committee listed in the President's Message.

Bruce McDuffie, President  
MacDuffee Clan of America, Inc.  
1601 Edgewood Circle  
Chattanooga, TN 37405  
USA

Telephone: (615) 267-3520

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### CUT

If there's any chance at all you will attend the International Gathering, please check below and return to: Bruce McDuffie, MacDuffee Clan of America, Inc., 1601 Edgewood Circle, Chattanooga, TN 37405.

I/We plan to come

Lodging Preference:

Broyhill Inn ; Local Motel   
# Adults ; # Children

I/We may come

# Adults ; # Children

There is only a remote chance I/We will come

# Adults ; # Children

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CLAN MACFIE COMMISSIONERS



CANADA

Sylvia McPhee of Toronto, Ont. Here in front of a portrait of the late Dr Earle MacPhee of Vancouver, our first Clan Commander.



AUSTRALIA

Investiture of Clan Commissioner Sandy McPhee of Mt. Vincent, N.S.W., (centre) by Clan Commander Sandy McPhee of Toowoomba, Q., (l). The Commander's Banner Bearer (r) is John Phee of Clareville, N.S.W..



SWEDEN

Ulf Macfie Hagman of Uddevalla. His forebears came to Sweden from Scotland in the 1820s.



NEW ZEALAND

Leith Brew of Wanaka, Central Otago (r) watches as Clan Commander Sandy McPhee pins on the Commissioner's Badge.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dr Bruce McDuffie of Chattanooga, TN.. Bruce is President of the MacDuffie Clan of America Inc., hosts to this year's International Gathering of Clan Macfie.

## HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL NOTES

In our last Newsbulletin Beth Sainsbury (W76-154) of Gosnells W.A. asked if anyone had further information on a Donald McPhee who fought at Waterloo and later migrated to Australia. He is, of course, well known to our Historians - especially Norah McPhee of Mt Vincent - as he is the great-great-grandfather of Norah's husband Sandy and a number of other Clan Society members. A.C.T. Vice-President, Ted Smythe (N74-064), another g-g-grandson, replies to Beth:

DONALD MacPHEE joined the 79th Cameron Highlanders as a "Gentleman Volunteer" and served in the Baltic and Spanish Campaigns against the armies of Napoleon. He received a Commission from the Prince Regent and continued his service in the Cameron Highlanders, taking part in the engagements which culminated in Waterloo and during which he was wounded at Quatre Bras, a particularly fierce encounter.

He was placed on half-pay in 1819 and lived for some years at various houses in Argyle (in the Western Highlands and Inner Hebrides) until he was posted as a Lieutenant to the 28th Foot and came to Sydney with a detachment of that Regiment at the end of 1839. In New South Wales, his postings included a time at Government House, Parramatta and at the "convict becoming free" settlement at Port Macquarie (where certain Colours of the 28th are at present laid up in St. George's Church).

In 1842, DONALD MacPHEE went with his Regiment to India, where he was transferred as Captain to the 22nd Foot. He retired in 1843 and returned to Australia in 1844.

He obtained several parcels of land in Sydney town and in 1848 secured the lease of a substantial pastoral holding along Boggy Creek near Mila in the Southern Monaro region of NSW. His mother, his two daughters and his only (and much younger) son came to Australia at various times during the late 1830's and early 1840's and were associated with him in various commercial and pastoral ventures. His son, Alexander Robert McPhee, who, as a teenage schoolboy in Sydney in the early 1850's, acted as "Sydney Agent" while Donald was "on the Monaro", later developed grazing, mining and educational interests variously in Goulburn, Cowra, Bathurst, Lithgow, Sydney and parts of the Southern Highlands.

DONALD MacPHEE died in 1855 and was buried in the Devonshire Street Cemetery (since absorbed by Sydney Central Railway Station). His direct descendants are to be found all over Eastern Australia and (appropriately) in parts of Northern France. Clan Commissioner (Australia) Alexander Iachlan McPHEE, Clan Society Joint Historian Clyde Donald SMYTHE and Clan Society Vice-President (ACT) Ted SMYTHE are great-great-grandsons of "CAPTAIN DONALD M'PHEE". His portrait (photocopied from an original in the Mitchell Library, Sydney) looks across my desk as I type.

*Ted Smythe  
Canberra  
Dec '90*

Gallipoli Veterans amongst Clan members were mentioned in Newsbulletin No 57 (July 1990). Clan Historian Clyde Smythe (N74-059) of Turramurra, was able to turnup details of the actions in which two of these men were killed - Pte Bernard McPhie of the 13th Bn and Sgt Angus McPhie of the 6th Bn. This information will appear in a later Newsbulletin.

Phemie Scales (V80-482) of Burwood, Vic., is a neice of Sgt Angus McPhie. She wrote...."Sgt Angus McPhie of the 6th Bn was my uncle - my father's brother. He went to the Boer War as well as World War I. He was born at Lexton in Victoria and was in the Victorian Police Force, as was my father."....Phemie is a sister of our late Clan Piper Donald MacPhie who died in 1983 Donald was also in the Victorian Police Force as were his sons and son-in-law.

From Ireland comes this item by Belinda Mahaffy (Z87-581) who happens to live over there, but is a member of our Clan Society. Belinda has been spending some long week-ends on an island off the coast of Donegal. She writes.."The island is about 70 miles square and one of a group of islands, population is about 700 and the pubs stay open until 6am with music! Many Scottish people holiday there. There is an old teacher of bagpipes on the island and there are seals. About half the people still speak Gaelic and they believe the stories of the seal-folk. The fishermen in very modern boats still don't learn to swim as drowning is a quicker death than foundering. They have a tradition that Bonnie Prince Charlie stayed there for a time before he finally escaped to France. Some Duffyslive near the island on the mainland at a place called Rannafost. A hundred years ago Rannafost was known as Duffstown....." (And, no doubt a note for your editor)... "They also have lovely oysters in that area too..."

Editor's note: The name of the island has been missed in the transcription I'm sorry to say - and Belinda's letter wont be locatable for another month or so due to house renovations here.....which is just as well as those oysters and the 6am closing sound interesting.....

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#### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Accounts are attached for 1991 Membership Subscriptions. Please attend to them promptly. Several members have yet to pay their 1990 subs - accounts are included where applicable. You may pay any number of years in advance if you so wish - it will help the Clan Society by being invested at interest, and will reduce the workload for Treasurer Lorraine. Think about it...

Subscription rates remain unchanged this year, \$6.00 per member or \$12.00 per family resident at the one address. Those under 18 years or over 75 are excused from the payment of fees.

Fully Paid Membership is an option worth thinking about now. Introduced at the commencement of 1991, it has been taken up by a number of members already. Funds, of course, are invested. The rates for Fully Paid Membership are:

\$ 100.00 per member under 50 years of age, and  
\$ 80.00 per member over 50 years of age.

Those who add a bit. Quite often members add a few extra dollars when paying their subscriptions. These additions are most welcome and are gratefully received. If you do add a bit but do not give an indication of the preferred allocation of this extra, it will normally go to the Clan Capital Fund or to the Clan Society Trust Fund.

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## IONA ABBEY, SNIZORT CATHEDRAL AND THE LORDS OF THE ISLES

(The following article by Dr. Alasdair MacLean is taken from the Clan Mac Nicol Newsletter of November 1990. It gives an interesting account of Iona Abbey and Snizort Cathedral on Skye during the years of the Lords of the Isles. Traditionally, the Macfie Chief on Colonsay was Keeper of the Records to the McDonald Lords of the Isles.)

### A CATHEDRAL AT SNIZORT?

DR. A. MacLEAN

*While thousands of tourists flock to Iona Abbey each year, few who pass Skeabost are aware of the ecclesiastical importance of the site on an island in the River Snizort. Dr. Alasdair MacLean reveals the history of the forgotten cathedral of Snizort.*

ST. COLUMBA'S ISLAND IN THE SNIZORT RIVER JUST BELOW THE BRIDGES AT SKEABOST, IS UNQUESTIONABLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL SITE IN SKYE, ITS SIGNIFICANCE LIES IN THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RISE AND FALL OF THIS ECCLESIASTICAL COMPLEX DEPENDED ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS.

THE EARLIEST EVIDENCE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SNIZORT IS FOUND IN NORWEGIAN DOCUMENTS OF THE 11TH CENTURY WHEN IT WAS THE SEAT OF AN INDIVIDUAL, VARIOUSLY NAMED AS THE BISHOP OF SKYE OR OF SODAR (THE SUDEREYS, THE SOUTHERN OR WESTERN ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND, AS DISTINCT FROM THE NORDEREYS, ORKNEY AND SHETLAND). THE BISHOPRIC WAS SUBJECT TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF TRONDHEIM.

FOLLOWING THE BATTLES OF LARGS IN 1263 THE LINK WITH NORWAY WAS BROKEN AND THE WESTERN ISLES AND THE ISLE OF MAN WERE CEDED TO SCOTLAND. A NEW BISHOPRIC OF SODOR AND MAN WAS ESTABLISHED WITH ITS CATHEDRAL AT PEEL IN THE ISLE OF MAN. BECAUSE OF THE OUTCOME OF THE SCOTTISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, THE SCOTS WERE, HOWEVER, DRIVEN OUT OF MAN AND AS A RESULT, IN 1327 TWELVE CANONS IN SNIZORT ELECTED A BISHOP OF THE ISLES, IN THE PERSON OF ONE BERNARD DE LINDEN THE FIRST OF AT LEAST SEVEN BISHOPS, WHO OCCUPIED SNIZORT AS THEIR EPISCOPAL SEAT FOR OVER ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS.

THE FIRST HALF OF THE 14TH CENTURY SAW THE BURGEONING POWER OF THE LORDS OF THE ISLES AND THE BISHOPRIC OF THE ISLES BASED ON SNIZORT, FOLLOWED AN EXACTLY PARALLEL COURSE, BOTH DEVELOPING IN THE VACUUM LEFT BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF NORSE INFLUENCE FROM THE AREA. WHEN AT THE ZENITH OF THEIR POWER IN THE EARLY 15TH CENTURY, THE LORDS CONTROLLED ALL THE WESTERN ISLANDS AS WELL AS THE WEST COAST OF THE SCOTTISH MAINLAND FROM THE MULL OF KINTYRE NORTHWARDS, AND BEYOND THE GREAT GLEN, TO THE EAST AS FAR AS DINGWALL. THE BISHOPRIC, PRESUMABLY, CONTROLLED A SIMILAR AREA.

THESE MACDONALD LORDS, DESCENDANTS OF SOMERLED, WHOSE VICTORY ACHIEVED THE FIRST RELAXATION OF THE NORSE GRIP ON THE WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND, WERE VIEWED WITH SOME SUSPICION BY THE KING OF SCOTLAND. THAT WAS DESPITE CONSIDERATION OF PAST SERVICE AND BLOOD RELATIONSHIPS. ANGUS OG OF THE ISLES USED HIS GROWING POWER TO HELP SECURE THE THRONE OF SCOTLAND FOR ROBERT THE BRUCE BUT KING ROBERT, NEVERTHELESS, CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE LORD OF THE ISLES SHOULD NOT BECOME TOO POWERFUL; ANGUS OG'S SON, JOHN OF ISLA, MARRIED THE DAUGHTER OF KING ROBERT 2ND, BUT SUCCESSIVE STEWART KINGS LOST NO OPPORTUNITY TO CURB THE POWER OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

SIMILARLY, AND LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE PATRONAGE OF THE LORDS, THE BISHOPRIC OF THE ISLES GAINED NO GREAT FAVOUR WITH THE PAPACY. THE MAIN CAUSE OF FRICTION, CURIOUSLY, CONCERNED THE ABBEY OF IONA. IONA'S ASSOCIATION WITH ST. COLUMBA, HAD GAINED IMPORTANCE UNDER THE POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF THE DALRIADIC KINGS, OVERSHADOWING THE EARLIER MISSIONS OF ST. NINIAN AND ST. MUNGO. IT WAS PERHAPS IONA'S VULNERABILITY TO VIKING RAIDS THAT CAUSED KENNETH MACALPINE TO REMOVE THE RELICS OF ST. COLUMBA TO DUNKELD IN 849 AND THE MONKS OF THE COLUMBAN PERSUASION RETIRED TO IRELAND. IN 1164, PERHAPS HOPING TO RE-ESTABLISH A BASTION OF THE CELTIC CHURCH ON IONA, LORD SOMERLED ASKED THE COLUMBAN MONKS TO RETURN BUT THEY REFUSED, AND IN 1203 REGINALD, SON OF SOMERLED, ASKED AN ORDER OF BENEDECTINES TO SET UP A MONASTERY ON THE ISLAND. THIS INTRODUCED THE ROMAN RITUAL INTO WESTERN SCOTLAND AND SO MUCH DEPARTED FROM THE COLUMBAN ETHIC THAT THE IRISH DEVOTEES CAME OVER, IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR, AND WRECKED THE ABBEY BUILT ON IONA BY THE BENEDECTINES. THE BENEDECTINE FOUNDATION CONTINUED TO EXIST UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE LORDS OF THE ISLES, BUT ONLY AS LONG AS THEY DID AS THEY WERE TOLD.

WILLIAM RUSSEL, WHO WAS BISHOP OF SNIZORT 1348 - 1384, APPOINTED AN ABBOT TO IONA AND, ALTHOUGH A PAPAL DELEGATION DECLARED THE APPOINTMENT ILLEGAL, THE ABBOT CONTINUED UNDISTURBED IN HIS OFFICE FOR NEARLY HALF A CENTURY.

THE TROUBLES WITHIN THE PAPACY ITSELF, NO DOUBT, HAD AN ADVERSE INFLUENCE OVER THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF

SNIZORT. In 1308 the POPE had been expelled from Rome and took up the residence in the State of Avignon. Certain countries, notably England, resented possible French influence on the Papacy and Scotland, automatically ranged itself in the opposite faction. In 1375 the POPE returned to Rome and France, supported by Scotland and some other states, elected a POPE of their own in Avignon. This situation continued for some years but POPE GREGORY, in Rome, proved most unpopular and a COUNCIL of the Church elected yet a third POPE in Pisa. In 1417 all three POPES were formally deposed and MARTIN V, was elected SUPREME PONTIFF in Rome. Scotland alone continued to support POPE BENEDICT in Avignon until his death in 1421.

It was probably as an attempt at rapprochement with POPE MARTIN that ANGUS MACDONALD was elected BISHOP of the ISLES at SNIZORT in 1428. BISHOP ANGUS was a man of impressive credentials; he was a son of the LORD of the ISLES and cousin to KING JAMES I of Scotland but although he made his PILGRIMAGE to Rome in the following year, he apparently gained no favours for the CATHEDRAL of SNIZORT.

Relations with Rome would not have improved when, in 1444, the LORD of the ISLES again defied a PAPAL edict concerning appointments to the ABBEY of IONA, threatening to remove from the ABBEY his family's earlier gifts, including the bones of his ancestors! It is interesting to speculate if SNIZORT would have acquired this mixed bag of goodies if the BENEDICTINES had not remembered on which side their bread was buttered. As a reward for their compliance, the LORD of the ISLES contributed liberally to the resultant development of the ABBEY which brought it to a layout much as we see it to-day.

More disabling to the Island Bishopric was the gradual wane of the power of the LORDSHIP of the ISLES which was finally forfeit to the Crown in 1491. The CAMPBELL EARLS of ARGYLL were quick to exploit the political vacuum left by the forfeiture and a CAMPBELL was elected as BISHOP of the ISLES and he, in 1498 successfully petitioned to have his seat transferred to IONA where he was able to enjoy the considerable revenues of the ABBEY. The advent of the REFORMATION shortly afterwards spelt the final eclipse of SNIZORT CATHEDRAL and may have initiated its actual destruction.

The CATHEDRAL of SNIZORT was a small one, the nave and chancel combined measure only 80 feet. It may never have been intended as a permanent one. BISHOP WILLIAM RUSSEL considered that the Isle of Man still lay in his episcopal jurisdiction and as late as 1499 he, then, BISHOP of the ISLES anticipated a time when "his principal kirk in the Isle of Man be recoverit frae Englisemen".

Of the cathedral building little more than the wall footings can now be identified. The building was cruciform but later burial enclosures have so encroached the area and, no doubt, robbed the walls of building material that the outline is obscured. In the south transept area lies a high relief effigy of a knight. Relatively recent incised lettering support the tradition that this slab belonged to a family of MacSweens or MacSwans. Just outside the limit of the north transept lies a much damaged slab which may be a representation of the Madonna and Child.

To the west of the cathedral proper is a better preserved but older building, Nicholson's Aisle where, according to tradition, 28 Nicholson chiefs are buried. This building may well be contemporary with the original episcopal seat of the 11th Century record. Inside this mortuary chapel is a more weathered effigy which will, shortly be removed to a place of safety, while an attempt is made to stabilise the walls.

The only other evidence remaining of the SNIZORT Cathedral is in place names. The township of Tote, Gaelic Tobhta, must refer to the ruin which has dominated the area for centuries. The whole valley of the SNIZORT river, including Skirinish and Tote up to Peinness is still referred to as Ung na Cille, the ounce land of the Church.

*FOOTNOTE: Skeabost and District Community Council is looking for monetary contributions and offers of voluntary labour to help tidy up the cathedral site and to provide a footbridge to the island. Donations can be made at the Clydesdale Bank, Portree or at the following post offices: Skeabost, Bernisdale and Snizort. Names of volunteer helpers can also be left at these post offices.*

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#### CLAN PATRON's BIRTHDAY

Clan Macfie Patron, and our Honorary Member (H4-81), Jennie MacPhee of Vancouver Canada, celebrated her ninety-ninth birthday on 16th November last year.

Birthday Greetings and Congratulations were forwarded for the 16th by Clan Commander Sandy on behalf of all Clan Members. Jennie was delighted to receive the good wishes and has recorded her thanks. She is in great health at last reports and still very active, even flying alone across Canada at times to visit relatives.

ANY QUERIES?

\*Sandy McPhie, 8 Panorama Crescent, Toowoomba, Q., 4350, is looking for family connections in Scotland in the 1775 - 1850 period.

A John MacPhie married Catherine Cameron during or before 1773 and settled on Mull probably between 1779 and 1800.

Sandy does not know where they came from or where they were married but the following information about some or all of their children might tie in with someone on your family tree - if so, please contact Sandy. Note: Children not necessarily in order of birth.

Flora McFee (1773/1862) m. Donald Maclean, crofters on Iona.  
Children: Cirsty (1805), Lachlan (1807), Ann (1809), Hector (1811),  
Mary (1813) and Catherine (1816)\*\*

Ann McFee m. Eachern McEachern 1805.  
Children: Hugh (1806), Dugald (1808) and Mary (1812).

Neil McPhee m. Catherine McKinnon.  
Children: Archibald and Duncan (1807) and Duncan (1814).

Alexander McFee m. Ann MacDonald, Iona, 29 Jan 1807. Crofters at Caitchean in Ross of Mull. Sandy's G/G/Grandfather. 14 children.  
Malcolm McPhie m. Ann McEachern 1812. Children: John (1813), Angus (1814), Duncan (1815), Mary (1819) and others.

Catherine McPhee m. John McEachern (1813).  
Donald McFee m. Mary MacInnes, Iona 1816. Children: Duncan (1817).

\*\*Last known member of this family, Hector Maclean, a grandson, born 1878, died on Iona?1958, did not marry.

\*Were You a Black? - By Name that is - We have a Macfie query from Inverness for addresses of the adult children of the late Mrs Penelope Black who lived at Kenmore in Queensland. There was a son and daughter, the son may have been called Robin, the daughter's Christian and married names are not known. If you can help, please contact Secretary Helen.

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FAREWELL TO EXECUTIVE MEMBER KAYE MACPHEE-POWELL. Kaye (V74-023) and husband Graham (V87-595) have reversed the order of things as it were, and migrated from Melbourne to Scotland where the weather is about the same. Kaye is an Original Member of the Clan Society and has been actively involved from the outset. She served as a co-opted member of the Executive from 1988 onwards. Plans in Scotland are a little indefinite at this stage but our best wishes go with them for a most successful move - they are continuing their membership of our Society.

McPHIE FAMILY GATHERING AT NOOSA, Q'LD.. Four generations of descendants of early settlers John and Mary McPhie had an enjoyable family get together at Noosa on Australia Day this year with over fifty there. Organised by Gwen Duff (Q90-739) of Noosaville, family members came from as far afield as Sydney and Moree and points in between. The original family of Archibald McPhie, his wife Janet and their six children arrived in Sydney on 12th February 1849 in the "Walter Morrice". The family and their descendants established on the land from Cooma to Moree and Roma in Queensland and in the banking industry. The John McPhie (1867-1953) heading this branch of the family was a grandson of Archibald and Janet, being the fifth child of their third son, David. In the main, John's family was centred on Moree where he operated tank sinking plants before the war and was the first to replace the large horse teams with crawler tractors.

Some of the family are still at Moree to-day where the Hospital Matron is Helen McPhie, a grand daughter of John and Mary's....and a most professional lady too as one (elderly) visitor found on the 26th when he tried hand feeding the local goannas after lunch. The Clan Macfie is no doubt fortunate that there were two nursing qualified Helen McPhies in attendance to dress a finger the goanna wanted!

THE MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

SAVINGS INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

BALANCE SHEET                      1 JAN - 31 DEC 90

RECEIPTS

<u>Balance B/F 1 JAN 90</u>		
Trust Fund	641.99	
General Fund	28.68	
Per Capita Levy	1263.70	
C/Capital Fund	430.23	
Standing Stone	48.91	2413.51
<u>Trust Fund</u>		
ASB 24 Interest	19.60	
ASB 29.1 "	41.60	
ASB 29.2 "	65.00	
ASB 24 Redempt.	160.00	
1989 Donations	8.76	
A/C Interest	71.76	366.72
<u>General Fund</u>		
Redempt C/Credit		
Debentures	300.00	
C/Credit Interest	.15	
A/C Interest	17.29	317.44
<u>Clan Per Capita Levy</u>		
1990 Levy	269.25	
A/C Interest	112.62	381.87
<u>Clan Capital Fund</u>		
1989 Donations	35.00	
A/C Interest	37.70	72.70
<u>Standing Stone Maintenance</u>		
1989 Donations	5.00	
Clan Soc 1989/90		
Contributions	50.00	
A/C Interest	7.74	62.74
<u>Fully Paid Membership</u>		
1990 (3)		240.00
		<u>\$3854.98</u>

EXPENDITURE

<u>Transfer of Clan Funds Previously</u>		
<u>Held in Trust</u>		
Per Capita Levy	1645.57	
Clan Capital Fund	502.93	
Standing Stone	111.65	2260.15
<u>Balance C/F 31 DEC 90</u>		
Trust Fund	1008.71	
General Fund	346.12	
Fully Paid Members	240.00	1594.83
		<u>\$3854.98</u>
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STATEMENT OF FUNDS & INVESTMENTS

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1990.

<u>General Fund</u>		
Cheque Account	220.23	
Less 1990 Trust		
Donations	14.00	206.23
Savings Invest A/C		346.12
Custom Credit Debentures		1000.00
(2 JUN 92)		<u>\$1552.35</u>
<u>Trust Fund</u>		
Savings Invest A/C	1008.71	
1990 Donations	14.00	1022.71
ASB 29.1 (1 JUL 93)	320.00	
ASB 29.2 (1 OCT 94)	500.00	
AGC Debent (1 APR 91)	750.00	
Compounded Int	120.01	1690.01
		<u>\$2712.72</u>
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*Lorraine*  
Lorraine McPhee - Treasurer

GENERAL ACCOUNT

BALANCE SHEET 1 JAN - 31 DEC 90

RECEIPTS

<u>Subscriptions</u>		
1989	95.00	
1990	1743.72	
1991	160.88	
1992	45.71	
1993	22.00	
1994	18.00	
1995	12.00	2097.31
<u>Donations</u>		
Trust Fund	14.00	
General Fund	65.96	
Clan Capital Fund	47.00	
Standing Stone	12.00	138.96
<u>Sales</u>		
Histories		81.00
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
8BGM Raffle	197.00	
Refund 8BGM Deposit	50.00	
Account Interest	14.29	
Invest Interest	188.50	
T/fer ex Sav Invest		
A/C (S/Stone)	111.65	561.44
		<u>\$2878.71</u>

EXPENDITURE

<u>Balance B/F 1 JAN 90</u>		197.06
<u>General Expenses</u>		
Postage	149.98	
Telephone	26.77	
Stationery	27.66	
Print 8BGM Minutes	156.00	
Federal Tax Debts	3.75	
Stamp Duty	4.30	368.46
<u>Newsbulletins</u>		
Printing	950.00	
Postage	535.84	
Stationery	68.40	1554.24
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
SAHC Membership	20.00	
Aust H/lander Sub	20.00	
8BGM Raffle	6.32	
Bank Deposit Book	2.50	
Standing Stone		
Donations	123.65	
Clan Capital Fund		
Donations	47.00	219.47
<u>Transfers</u>		
To Sav Invest A/C		
1990 p/c levy	269.25	
1989 & 1990		
S/Stone Contrib	50.00	319.25
<u>Balance C/F 31 DEC 1990</u>		<u>220.23</u>
		<u>\$2878.71</u>

*Lorraine*  
Lorraine McPhee                      Treasurer

SYDNEY'S SCOTTISH WEEK 1990

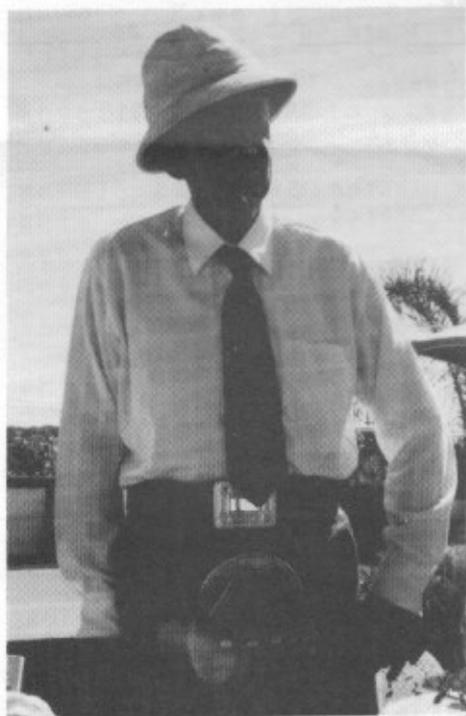
Clan Macfie attendance at last year's Sydney Scottish Week functions was fairly dismal - probably the worst yet which was most disappointing!



NSW Vice-President Bill Tyrrell and Dorothy again hosted members at a barbecue at their home on the Saturday before Sunday's start to Scottish week. Some of those attending are in the photo on the left.

Following the Kirkin' of the Tartan at St. Stephens members had a picnic lunch in the Domain before the march along Macquarie St to the Opera House for an open air concert to finish a great day.

On the Monday Commander Sandy and Commissioner Sandy attended the official opening of Scottish Week in Martin Place. On the right are (l to r) Dr Ian Cameron of Melbourne, Chieftain of Clan Cameron in Australia, Commissioner Sandy, Helen (Clan Society Secretary), and Clan Commander Sandy awaiting the start of proceedings.



**A SALUTE TO NEW SOUTH WALES VICE-PRESIDENT BILL TYRRELL**

The years have unfolded with weal and with woe  
And everyone's asked "where did all the flowers go?"  
But throughout the long passage of days dull or bright  
There's a lad who has kept the last goal in his sight --  
It's BILL TYRRELL - our host - our friend and our mate  
who's always been there with "G'day!" at the gate.  
A Macfie by adoption, he's one of the Clan  
And no clansmen the better of Bill -- he's a man  
whose courage and temperament pass every test --  
So here's to BILL TYRRELL - he's one of the best!

Ted Smythe

BILL TYRRELL

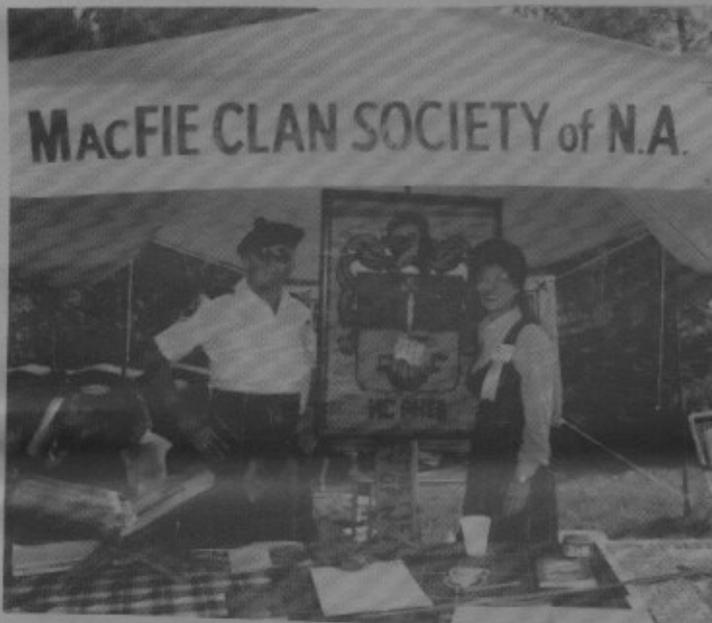
GENERAL NOTES



The fine group of "Macfies" gathered at left are at the home of Sandy and Norah McPhee at Mt Vincent NSW last September for Sandy's investiture as Clan Commissioner in Australia. That's the new Commissioner kneeling, front row on the left with Norah standing next to Sandy's left shoulder. In all thirty eight attended what was a most enjoyable function.

In our last Newsbulletin we reported that Dr Ian McPhee had shifted camp from Orange, but we didn't say where he had moved to - its Wentworthville, N.S.W.. Sorry Ian...

Congratulations to Ian and Aileen McPhee of Toowoomba on their 40th wedding anniversary in January and to Aileen for a birthday soon after - her 60th. Relatives came from as far afield as Mildura for the anniversary party.....and belatedly, to Elsie McPhee of Traralgon, Vic., on two first prizes in last year's Australian Sheepbreeders Assn Show in Melbourne - for a Fairisle Hat and a Shetland Shawl. Congrats too, to Norah McPhee on winning the Sydney Scottish Australian Heritage Council raffle last Scottish Week.



Congratulations are in order too, for Scott McPhee and his MacFie Clan Society of North America. At last year's Stone Mountain Highland Games in Georgia they won the inaugural prize for the best turned out Clan tent etc - from a field of 108 entrants! The photo is of Scott and wife Marvene at the tent - many of our members will remember them from their visit in 1988.

Clan Commander Sandy McPhee and Helen will be attending the Stone Mountain Games this year at the conclusion of their trip to USA and Canada visiting Clan Societies and Clan members.

Australian Highland Gathering dates:

Geelong V.	17 March
Ringwood V.	24 March
Scottish Week Sydney N.S.W.	24 November to 1 December.



FOR SALE Secretary Helen has the following Macfie items available for sale :

- 2 strap and buckle badges
- 5 kilt pins
- 5 leather backed key rings.

They are similar to those opposite but with the Macfie crest on them.

Price : \$15.00 per item, posted.



Queensland Vice-President and Clan Piper Bob McPhee (Q77-353) of Windsor in Brisbane visited Longreach in western Queensland before Christmas and was co-opted by the local Lions Club to play the pipes at their Christmas Party at the Longreach Pioneers' Home. That's Bob on the left all dressed for the part and stoked up ready to go.



Last September some twenty five descendants of a McPhie family which arrived in Sydney on the ss Minerva in January 1838 and settled at Iona near Maitland, visited the old family farm. In the photo above they are gathered on the site of the original farm home - those holding their hands up are indicating, more or less, where the corner posts of the building stood. The cove just right of centre in the white shirt is Clan Commander Sandy McPhie, surrounded by his cousins.

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NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members who have recently joined our Clan Society:

- Q90-740 Mrs Judith Matthews, c/- P.O.Box 705, Ayr, Q. 4807
- \*N90-741 Mrs Gwen McPhie, 251 Lakedge Avenue, Berkeley Vale, NSW 2259
- \*V90-742 Mrs Merna McPhee, 36 Wellman Street, Box Hill, Vic 3128
- Q91-743 Gib McPhie, 3 Tosti Street, Sorrento, Q. 4217

\*We especially welcome Gwen and Merna who are continuing membership of their respective late husbands Cam (N74-021) and Colin (V79-447). Cam was one of the Original Members who formed the Clan Society in 1974 and both he and Colin have been strong supporters of our activities.

THEY'VE MOVED

- Miss Pauline Flynn (V87-599) from Kew in Melbourne to 5/32 Berkeley St, Hawthorn, V., 3122, which is still in Melbourne.
- Miss Bev Badcock (N82-511) from Parramatta to 12/22 The Trongate, Granville, N.S.W., 2142.
- Warwick and Helmi Mehaffey (N87-570 and 572) from Burwood in Sydney to 27 George Street, Bexley, NSW, 2207.

