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THE DOWNUNDER

Newsbulletin of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 99
November 2004



From the Clan Society President
Dear Members,

It is a pleasure to write to you, introducing to our Clan Society the latest issue of The Downunder, and with some news items. I start with the news that Sandy McPhie our Commander has announced a new address for the Clan Home Page. It is : www.clanmacfiehomepage.org I commend this Home Page to you. It is an excellent work, and will provide a great introduction to our Clan Society.

McPhee in World War II. Clyde Smythe's article about Alexander Duncan Kaietia McPhee of the 2/1st Infantry Battalion, 6th Division of the AIF tells of the heroic man's service in Libya and Tobruk and his death in Crete, and his burial in the War Cemetery there. Thank you Clyde for your kindness in presenting this information to our members.

Battlefields. I suppose that quite a few members of our Society will have visited Culloden Field, the battlefield of 1746. From now on, as our report taken from the Scottish Banner outlines, there will be a different and perhaps less divisive remembering of those events which ended the aspirations to power of the Bonnie Prince Charlie. And the same will happen at Bannockburn battlefield.

Cobb and Co. In response to a letter from Dorothy Murphy of Currumbin in Queensland, Sandy McPhie told me that in 1977 the Macfie Clan Society Newsletter printed an article about John McPhee, coach proprietor and owner of Woodstock Station and owner of the Lexton Hotel. John McPhee had died in 1899 when he was 67 years of age. Only this week Norah McPhee of Mt Vincent sent me a copy of this article. It was in fact a reprint of the relevant section of that wonderful book: "Victoria and its Metropolis : Past and Present 1888" I found a picture, and an advertisement for coach travel in McPhee's coaches, in the recently published book: "A Valley of the Finest Description", by Margaret Oulton.

Clan MacNeil, Colonsay and Oronsay. One of the oldest Clans in Scotland, the MacNeils have been an influence for centuries on our Macfie ancestral Isles of Colonsay and Oronsay. So Glen McPhee has given us some information by way of this short history of the Clan MacNeil. And the article by Sandy McPhie complements this general history as Sandy tells us who owns the two islands now.

15th International Gathering. To catch the early bird specials, I shall soon be making my own booking for the 15th International Gathering and the 9th Parliament of the Clan Macfie in Scotland next year, from 6th to 14th September 2005. I sincerely hope that some, or as many of our members as possible will be joining me, and joining Sandy and Helen McPhie at Inverness and Colonsay. I went to this gathering in 2001, and it was just the best experience. How do you make bookings? Sandy McPhie gives ample details in this issue of The Downunder.

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McFee of Aberdeen. I found this poem: "McFee of Aberdeen", by Edwin James Brady in a book entitled: "The Golden Treasury of Australian Verse", Edited by Bertram Stevens, London, Angus and Robertson, 1909. I hope you'll like the poem. I understand that there was indeed a Captain McFee on the Australian shipping circuit.

Voyage of the "Brilliant". Read about the 1837-1838 voyage of the ship "Brilliant" to New South Wales. "Brilliant" was one of the eighteen ships that was loaded with destitute Highland Scots coming to Port Jackson and Port Phillip. They were to make a valuable addition to this Colony. In particular this article about the ship "Brilliant" focuses on the McPhee family who came to Australia aboard that ship. Thanks to John Redman for this contribution.

Marelle Lee. We are pleased to present an article about our Clan Society member Marelle Lee, journalist, artist and regional historian, and to learn also about her wonderfully talented family. I trust that one day Marelle will make it to Colony to pick up her artistic work there in the spirit of: "The Crofter and the Laird."

Bonnie Bush. In these pages too you'll find a notice about the book: "Riverboats on the Clarence". I have seen a copy of this lovely book, and I commend the contribution made by Bonnie Bush, in this detailed history of Alexander McPhee, and Bonnie Bush's grandmother Janet Beaton.

Lords of the Isles, Robert the Bruce and McPhee. (I got this information from Charlie McFarlane of Glenfinnan.) Angus McPhee of Glenpean figured in the 1431 Battle of Inverlochy. Angus is associated with the history of the Lochaber Sword. Angus, (and then afterwards these Angus McPhees,) after 1466 settled in Glendessary under the MacIntosh, and then under the Camerons. One could consult Symington Grieve's "The Book of Colonsay and Oronsay", 1912. Angus McPhee of Glenpean's daughter Margaret McPhee married Alister Carrach. Now this Alister Carrach was some important person, firstly, his mother was the great grand daughter of Robert Bruce, and secondly, Alister was the son of John, the second Chief of Keppoch, Lord of the Isles. Margaret McPhee's sister by the way married Alexander, the third Lord of the Isles.

Macfie at Glenfinnan. McPhee raised the Standard, for Bonnie Prince Charlie, at Glenfinnan. McMaster from Corriebeg raised the pole for the Standard. Corbett from Moidart made the pole. MacDonald, of the MacDonalds of Clanranald, whose most famous person was the BARD of Clanranald, wrote about the event. The ladies of Dalilea, down along Loch Sheil, did the sewing of the Standard. I got this information from Charlie McFarlane, "Innis a Bhorhain", Glenfinnan, Invernesshire, Scotland, a member of the 1745 Association, and Board Member of the West Highland Museum at Fort William.

Our next number of The Downunder will be the 100th edition of this Macfie Clan Society of Australia Newsletter. Glen McPhee is contemplating a few extra features for this landmark issue of The Downunder. Thanks to Glen, and to all the contributors to this 99th bulletin.

I'll be working soon with our treasurer Anthony Gartland in sending out notices for subscriptions for the calendar year of 2005. With every best wish for Christmas and always,

Yours in the spirit of wonderful Macfies past and present,

Bernie McPhee

OBITUARY

It is with much sadness that we record the passing of the following members:

- Colin C McCathie, Berwick, Victoria
- Merle Kortlang-Kaluga, Benowa, Qld
- Donald McPhee, Banora Point, NSW
- Elizabeth Anne McPhee, Amaroo, ACT

DONATIONS

Bruce McPhee, Box Hill North, Vic
Neil McPhee, Mornington, Vic

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to the following new members:

- William Miller McVie, Canberra
- Rebecca Lee McVie, Canberra
- Linda Waddington, Belmore South, NSW
- Bernadette McPhee, Blackheath, NSW
- Michael Mack Murphy, Mildura, Vic

The Origins of Clan MacNeil



The Clan MacNeil has strong ties to the island of Barra and can trace its lineage back to the O'Neils of Ulster (hence the red hand on the arms of the Chief) who came to Barra from Ireland around the year 1000.

However, Barra is not the only island in Scotland where you will find MacNeils. There are also McNeils on the Inner Hebridean islands of Colonsay and Gigha. The Gigha branch of the MacNeils established themselves under Torquil MacNeil in 1427. While these branches have their own crest and tartan, they now acknowledge the Barra Chief as their own.

The Barra MacNeils and the Gigha/Colonsay MacNeils supported different sides in a feud that developed in the 1400s between the MacDonalds and MacLeans. The Barra MacNeils sided with the MacLeans of Duart while the Gigha/Colonsay MacNeils sided with the MacDonalds of Islay. These differences of opinion are generally forgotten today, though centuries ago they would have happily killed one another.

Clan MacNeil is one of the oldest clans in Scotland. The Clan descends from Niall (Neil) of the Nine Hostages, who became High King of Ireland in 379. Niall is the "*eponym*" or "*name man*" of Clan MacNeil, he is reckoned as the first Chief of the Clan. It is said that Niall's son Eoghan was baptized by St. Patrick. Eogan's grandson Muirceartach is said to have given the Stone of Destiny (Stone of Scone) to his grand-uncle Fergus, King of Dalriada, Scotland.

The 21st Chief, Niall of the Castle, came to Barra around 1030, and began construction of Kisimul Castle in Castlebay. Kisimul Castle is the ancestral seat of the MacNeils and is one of the oldest castles of its type in Britain. Construction was continued by the 22nd chief, Aodh (Hugh), and was completed by the 23rd Chief, Donal. There is more information on Kisimul Castle on the Kisimul Castle Page of this section of our site.

The MacNeils have a noble place in the history of Scotland. The 25th chief, Niall (who was described as a Prince at a Council of the Isles in 1252) fought along with King Alexander III when King Haakon's army was defeated at the Battle of Largs in 1263. This battle ended the Norwegian domination of the Hebrides. His son Niall Og, the 26th Chief, fought with Robert the Bruce against Edward II at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 and was rewarded with lands in north Kintyre which were added to his barony of Barra.

The MacNeils also have a colourful (some would say "*chequered*") history of seamanship. It is said that a galley was kept on the beach of Kisimul Castle. A crew hut was built on shore nearby, so, at a moment's notice the crew could man the galley and raid passing ships. The 35th Chief, Rory (Roderick), became known as "Rory the Turbulent" and was (for lack of a better term) a pirate, who, after raiding ships, could retreat to the safety of Kisimul. Legend has it that Rory would send a herald and trumpeter to the battlements of Kisimul to proclaim to each point of the compass "Hear, oh ye people, and listen oh ye nations! The Great MacNeil of Barra having finished his meal, the princes of the world may dine!" Due to his tradition of sea borne raiding, Rory was sometimes called the last of the vikings.



Clan Macfie News

From: Clan Commander A. C. (Sandy) McPhie
Clan Macfie Secretariat

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Clan Macfie Home Page: www.clanmacfiehomepage.org

CENTENARY OF COLONSAY'S OWNERSHIP

On the 25th August 1904 the ownership of Colonsay and Oronsay was transferred by the Trustees of the Estate of the late Sir John Carstairs McNeill VC GCVO to Donald Alexander, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal of Glencoe in the County of Argyll and of Mount Royal in the Province of Quebec, Canada, for the then price of £44,000 sterling. Oronsay was subsequently sold by Lord Strathcona and had several owners before becoming the island home of Ike and Frannie Colburn of Manchester, Boston, U.S.A. The restoration work which they initiated at the Priory, and which Mrs. Colburn has continued, following her husband's death some years ago, is widely acknowledged. The past hundred years on Colonsay is one of overall wellbeing of which the Strathconas can be justly proud. The ever-changing future for both islands is most promising and a far cry from that in 1904.

VALE

Clan members worldwide were saddened by the death of Colonel Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel KT, 26th Chief of Clan Cameron, on 26th May. The links of many Clan Macfie members with the Camerons have been close for a number of centuries with, even to-day, a number of McPhees living on Cameron lands in Lochaber.

Sir Donald, an accountant by profession, was born on 12th September 1910 at Buchanan Castle, Loch Lomond. Following his father's death in 1951, the new Lochiel returned from London to live at Achnacarry and manage the extensive Cameron estates. He served in the Army throughout World War II and continued that service with Territorial appointments after the war. He also held a number of important appointments in public life and was Knighted in 1973.

Sir Donald married Margaret Gathrone-Hardy, a niece of the 3rd Earl of Cranbrook in 1939. They had two sons and two daughters. Their eldest son, also Donald, succeeds to the Chiefship as the 27th Lochiel

Kilmartin House Museum Many members will recall visiting Kilmartin House Museum south of Oban either privately or as members of that happy bus group traveling through the rain three years ago at the time of our 13th International Gathering and 8th Clan Parliament in Oban. Now sadly to say, the Museum is experiencing funding difficulties and is threatened with closure. The Museum was established in 1994 and is an independent charitable institution, but its work of most value (curatorial, research interpretation and educational) does not bring in enough income to supplement that from (mainly) summer visitors and shop sales. Should the Museum close much of its important work will be lost, its excellent displays dismantled and this historical significant locality will lose its major point of focus. The present shortfall in funding is in the vicinity of £70,000 per year. You may help should you so wish, by forwarding a donation to Rachel Butter, Trustee of Kilmartin House Museum at 2 Glenogle House, Edinburgh, EH3 5HR,

James and Mary McPhee in Christchurch, New Zealand have recently bought two car rental franchises and can offer competitive discount rates to Clan Macfie members using Pegasus Rental Cars at Christchurch Airport.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN A TRIP TO SCOTLAND
IN SEPTEMBER 2005

15th INTERNATIONAL GATHERING AND 9th PARLIAMENT OF CLAN MACFIE
INVERNESS, SCOTLAND, 6th TO 14th SEPTEMBER 2005

The Fifteenth International Gathering of Clan Macfie and Ninth Clan Parliament will be held in Inverness, Scotland, and on Colonsay from the 6th to 14th September 2005. The Gathering and Parliament will be mainly centred at the Thistle Hotel situated on the outskirts of Inverness City Centre, approximately 15 minutes walk from the City and close to both Inverness Airport and Train Station, from 6th to 11th September. It will be followed by a Clan visit to our ancestral homeland, the islands of Colonsay and Oronsay on 11th to 14th September.

A tentative programme provides for Clan Parliament, functions and visits to be held in Inverness from 6th to 10th September (incl) with travel to Colonsay on Sunday 11th September for two days of activities there. Travel to and from Colonsay will depend on CalMac's September 2005 ferry timetable.

Accommodation Bookings: Bookings for both Inverness and on Colonsay are to be made direct by the members concerned. The Clan co-ordinators in Scotland will not be involved in any way although assistance will be forthcoming if needed.

Thistle Hotel - Tel: 01463 252503 Fax: 01463 711145
Email: reservations.Inverness@thistle.co.uk
Website: www.thistlehotels.co.uk

Thistle have offered the following rate for accommodation in 2005.
Per Half Twin/Double Room (inclusive of Dinner, Bed & Breakfast) @ £51.00 per person. Single supplement £20.00 per room per night.
Colonsay Accommodation details etc., can be found on the Colonsay Homepage at <http://www.colonsay.org.uk>

Other Bookings etc.. Details of arrangements for other bookings etc., and payment of deposit money will be notified in due course. It will assist the Clan Co-ordinators in Scotland, Iain and Fiona McFie, if members notify them of their intention to attend. They may be contacted at: Address: Coulintyre, Kinncraig, Kingussie. PH21 1LX Scotland, or by email: iain@mcfie.org.uk.



President Bernie McPhee visiting
Norah and Sandy McPhee at Mt
Vincent NSW.

Battle Plans

With thanks to the Scottish Banner March 2004

It was the setting of Scotland's greatest victory over the old enemy, the spot where King Robert the Bruce sent England's King Edward and his mighty army homeward tae think again!

But now Bannockburn, along with our other great battlefield at Culloden, is to be revamped to create a less confrontational environment. It is the brainchild of the Trust for Scotland, which manages both battlefields.

Mr Phillip Schreiber of the Bannockburn Battlefield Memorial Project, the headquarters of which are on the outskirts of Stirling, insisted it wasn't going to be all about Scotland versus England.



They want something truthful and sympathetic that isn't just the football match shout of Remember 1314. Mr Schreiber wants the new attractions to be comparable with modern WWI memorials such as in Flanders Fields at Ypres, which, focuses on the experiences of all soldiers for both sides.

He reckons Flanders was interesting to visitors from Germany as well as from Britain because it looked at the war in a balanced way. Visitors could feel what it was like to be in a gas attack and it caught the imagination brilliantly. So it was hoped to apply that level of thought to something that happened in Stirlingshire 700 years ago

Mr. Schreiber was induced to revamp the locations after viewing footage of a Bannockburn battle reenactment used to illustrate a story about Scots living in the past.

The idea was that it was ridiculous that we are still reliving something that happened all that time ago, and they were anxious to avoid historical locations

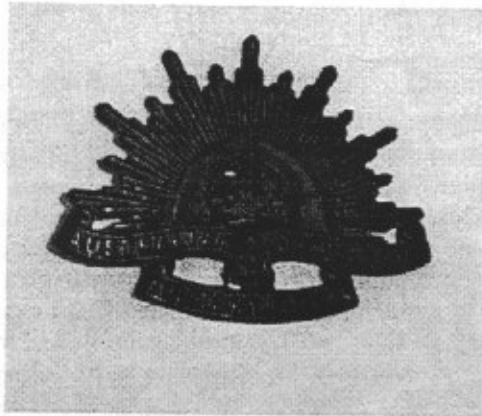
The trust intends to spend up to ten million pounds on each site and is appealing to companies to submit proposals. The project will be financed with a mixture of lottery cash, European grants and funds from the Scottish Executive Council and local enterprise councils.

Bannockburn, near Stirling was where King Robert the Bruce defeated King Edward II in the conflict regarded as Scotland's finest victory over the English. It led, in 1320, to the Declaration of Arbroath from which emerged England's acceptance of Scottish independence.

The current visitor centre which opened over 40 years ago, displays replicas of armour and Weapons, slide shows and models depicting the hostilities.

Culloden Moor on the outskirts was where Bonnie Prince Charlie was soundly defeated by the army of the Duke of Cumberland on 16 April 1746 ending the Jacobite uprising.

Ms Roseanna Cunningham, the SNP (Scottish Nationalist Party) culture spokeswoman, hoped there would be no attempt to minimize the importance of Bannockburn and Culloden as they were obviously extremely important battle sites in the history of Scotland.



WORLD WAR II - 1939- 1945

NX 2656 - Lance Corporal

Alexander Duncan Kaiatia MacPhee

**2/1st Infantry Battalion 6th Division A 1 F K. I.A. Crete 20.
5. 41**

Alex was the son of Robert Duncan McPhee and Margaret McPhee (nee Robinson). He was born 16th May 1906, in Labasa, Fiji. He came to Sydney from Fiji to work, during the 1930s.

On Nov 3rd 1939, at the outbreak of World War II, he joined the 2/1st Infantry Battalion AIF. Alex saw action with the 6th Division in the victorious Libyan campaign culminating in the capture of Tobruk. Tobruk, defended by 25,000 Italian soldiers "was taken in a brazen and exhilarating two day assault by the 6th Division on 21st Jan 1941, with the capture of the entire garrison." (Most of these captured Italians spent the rest of the war in POW camps in Australia, working on local farms.)

The 6th Division was then sent to Greece in a hopeless attempt to halt the German overland invasion from Yugoslavia. This disastrous campaign, lasting from 6th April to 30th April 1941, was a fighting withdrawal against a vastly superior enemy, through high mountain passes with no air support.

On May 3rd the exhausted troops from Greece were evacuated to the island of Crete (about 300km across the sea) with no real plan of action. On Crete they soon found themselves, on 20th May, in an even more desperate situation than in Greece; they had no air cover and no artillery when the Germans attacked with massive air power and thousands of heavily armed paratroopers.

The German plan of attack was to capture the three airfields on Crete using paratroopers and then to land Junkers troop carrier aircraft to storm the remaining defenders.

The three airfields were attacked by 205 Stuka dive bombers and 228 Dornier bombers, supported by fighters, while 600 Junkers waited to fly in storm troopers. "German command of the air was devastating. Any movement of the defenders was pinned by dive bombing and machine gunning. Field telephone lines were cut isolating the defenders until the end of the battle".

Alex MacPhee's 2/1st Battalion, along with the 2/11th Battalion, put up a fierce resistance to hold the crucial Retimo airfield near Suda Bay, the first drop of paratroopers, on the afternoon of 20th May, was annihilated by the defenders concealed in the bush around the airfield perimeter, using bren-guns and rifle fire.

"German morale was severely shaken by the ferocity of the defence forcing a change of their plans to capture the airfield by direct attack. Their reserve paratroopers were dropped in the valley behind the airfield to fight their way through the bush to the AIF positions." The defenders ran out of ammunition and food and surrendered on 30th May 1941.

Alex MacPhee was killed in action, probably during the ferocious defence of Retimo airfield on the afternoon of 20th May 1941. His grave is in Suda Bay War Cemetery, Crete, Reference No.1 C.11.

References:

Helen Cameron Family history notes

John Connor The Oxford Companion to Australian Military History

Thanks to Clyde Symthe for collecting and formatting the information on the Macfie Clan people who served in the Australian Services

A BRILLIANT VOYAGE

On Wednesday 11th October 1837 the 'Inverness Courier' carried the following report:

"The arrival of the ship *Brilliant* at Tobermory, for the conveyance of emigrants to New South Wales, took place on the 10 September. The size and splendid fittings of the vessel created a sensation on Mull never before equalled, the Highlanders having only been accustomed to see small vessels fitted for American emigration, and when the time of embarkation arrived many families came from a distance prepared to embark, if those engaged should change their resolution, as everything appeared so comfortable for such an undertaking. The state of the weather on Monday 25th enabled the embarkation to be completed with the utmost regularity; and on Tuesday afternoon a farewell sermon was preached in Gaelic by the Rev F. McPherson of Tobermory to 320 souls about to leave their native land. The people to be conveyed by this vessel are decidedly the most valuable that have left the shores of Great Britain; when they are all of excellent moral character, and from their knowledge of agriculture, the management of sheep, cattle, must prove a most valuable acquisition to the Colony like New South Wales. The greatest credit is due to the clergymen, the proprietors and their agents for the kind interest and attention to the poor people's wants, as there is not one family but are amply provided with every thing necessary for the voyage. Among the many visitors that came to see the *Brilliant* was a gentleman, a native of the country of their adoption, Mr James McArthur. The interest created by this gentleman's visit was truly astonishing, and Mr McArthur expressed himself highly gratified with the prospect of having so valuable an addition to the colony, and presented all he met with letters of introduction, which were joyfully received as passports to sure and profitable employment.

The ship was towed out of Tobermory by a steamer on Wednesday at daylight, with a fine light breeze, and sincere and true were the kind wishes of all who beheld her depart.

The embarkation was superintended by Dr Boyter, RN, the Government Agent, to whom most grateful acknowledgements were made for his kind attentions to all interested.

The following is a list of the districts from which the emigrants were taken and the number from each:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--|
| Ardnamurchan & Strontian | 105 | The dates and days reported are: 10 September 1837 Sunday Arrived Tobermory 25 September 1837 Monday embarkation complete 26 September 1837 Tuesday farewell sermon 27 September 1837 Wednesday ; departed Tobermory. |
| Coll & Tiree | 104 | |
| Mull & Iona | 56 | |
| Morven | 25 | |
| Dunoon | 28 | |
| Teachers | 2 | |
| Surgeons | 2 | |
| Total | 322 | |

The *Brilliant*, this ship of the splendid fittings was of 428 tons and only three years old, having been built in Montreal, Canada in 1834. It was under the command of Captain James Gilkison, the Medical Superintendent being Angus Campbell Esq, Surgeon RN. It sailed via the Cape of Good Hope, touched at Cape Town for three days (29 November to 2 December) and arrived in Port Jackson Sydney on Saturday 20 January 1838.

Because of the increased demand for wool the landlords of the Scottish Highlands decided to introduce Cheviot sheep which could withstand the Highland winters. This entailed the displacement of thousands of agricultural workers. On Ardnamurchan Peninsula along the central shore the farms were cleared in one sweep in 1828. In the north of Scotland during the winters of 1836 and 1837 destitution was greater than the Highlanders ever known. There was no public funds for migration to America but there was about 200 thousand pounds from the sale of crown lands in NSW which could assist migration to Australia. The availability of this money was revealed by John Dunmore Lang. As a result eighteen shiploads of destitute Scots, over 4,000 people were carried out to Port Jackson and Port Phillip. (Victoria was not separated from NSW until 1851).

The *Brilliant* was commissioned to carry the September 1837 group of emigrants to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) but after arrangements were made and too far advanced to be abandoned, Lord Glenelg (Secretary for War & the Colonies) wrote to Governor Sir Richard Bourke of NSW, saying in consequence of the unfavourable advice he received from Sir John Franklin (Lieut Governor of Van Diemen's Land) of the existing prospects for Emigrants in that colony, her destination has been changed.

It seems that the *Brilliant* was not a John Dunmore Lang ship.

The total number of migrants who embarked at Tobermory and disembarked at Sydney differs in various reports but it seems that 322 is the number left and 312 is the number arrived, the difference being due to infant deaths.

When the *Brilliant* sailed out into the Sound of Mull on that Wednesday early morning it carried my Scottish forebears on my mother's side; two Cameron groups led respectively by 'The Widow Isabella' (to the Hunter River and Clarence River); Donald of Lochiel (to the Hunter River and Karuh River) and a McPhee group.

The McPhee family led by Donald was the only group of assisted immigrants by that surname on the *Brilliant*. Donald had the distinction among my connections of having his character certified by two people ; Alexander McKenzie, Minister of Stontian and Sir J. Miles Riddell. He was responsible for enforcing many of the 'clearances'.

Donald McPhee, the Father was given age 36 a gardener, son of John McPhee and Catherine Cameron. Donald's wife Catherine aged 30 years a dairymaid, daughter of Angus McPhee and Mary MacMillian. Their children were Anne 16 a house maid; Catherine 14; John 12 Hugh 10; Janet 8; Mary 3. They were of the parish of Ardnamurchan.

In a McPhee history in a Grafton 'Daily Examiner' in 1962 the family is said to have lived on Loch Sunart, the sea - way along the southern shore of Ardnamurchan Peninsula.

Donald's brother, Allan, is said to have lived at Strontian on the shore of Loch Sunart at the extreme eastern end. And Allan's son Thomas is said to have married at Acharacle, 15Km NW of Strontian. The 1841 census was the first to include individual names and by that time the *Brilliant* people had been three years in Australia.

On arrival Donald went into the employment of Capt Livingston at Paterson about 18Km NW of the property of Mr J. Baker where the Cameron group led by 'The Widow Isabella' had settled and daughter Anne went into the employment of Mr W Lawson of Prospect. Anne returned to the Hunter Valley where she was partnered out of wedlock by Duncan Cameron son of Isabella . On 16 July 1841 she mothered John Bowthorne Cameron my great grandfather. Two more children followed.

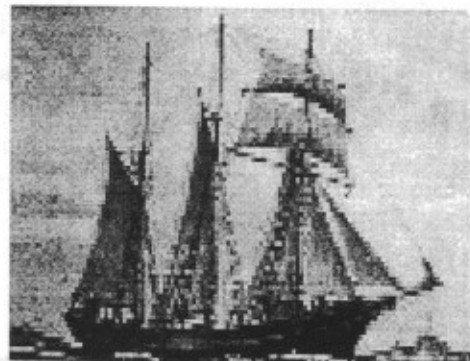
On 24 September 1868 at South Grafton John Married Jane Macpherson grand daughter of Donald of Lochiel through his daughter Sarah.

Anne and Duncan separated. They each married and settled with children on the Clarence River. There are many descendants of both these marriages on the far north coast of NSW. Anne's parents also went to the Clarence River. It seems that they settled at Southgate for they both died there, Catherine on 23 April 1870 at a given age of 83, Donald on 3 June 1870 at a given age of 78. Both were buried at Grafton.

Anyone doing a little arithmetic on these given ages and comparing them with the given ages on the immigration papers should be aware that a good deal of fibbing went on in the making out of the immigration records, for it was wise on the making out of the age to say that they were somewhat younger. The ages of the children were generally correct. Anne died at Palmers Island on 23 July 1874 at a given age of 54 and was buried at McLean. Duncan died at Codrington, Richmond River on 10 March 1879 at a given age of 58 and was buried at Coraki.

This paper is derived from my earlier history ' All the Way Form Ardnamurchan' wherein acknowledgements is made to 36 sources and correspondents.

John Redman
52 Raglan Street
Wallsend NSW 2287



Macfie Clan Society Members - We need your help.

A small group of dedicated Clan Society members recently met at Ian and Judith McPhee's home at Allambie Heights NSW. In attendance were: Ian and Judith McPhee, Sandy and Norah McPhee, David McPhee, Trevor Phee, and Glenda and Glen McPhee. Ian organised the meeting to rekindle interest and enthusiasm in enhancing the membership and Clan Societies activities in NSW/ACT. A very enjoyable meeting was topped off with a BBQ and a quiet ale that was very well received.

If you have some spare time, skills, and the interest to help out please contact Ian McPhee. This is good opportunity to contribute to the Clan Society, in an informal way to meet other members and enjoying yourself.

If you would like to help out please contact either in NSW or the ACT please contact either:

Ian McPhee
9 Forbes Place
Allambie Heights NSW

Telephone 02 9938 4628
or

Glen McPhee
88 William Webb Drive
EVATT ACT 2617
Telephone; 02 6258 6058

McFee of Aberdeen

They've scraped her sides, and tarred her ropes, and patched her suit o' sails;

They've filled her full o' varied stock for firms in New South Wales;
She's left her berth in London Docks, she's left the Lizard light,
And in the rough Atlantic now, her bowsprit stabs the night.
But rough or smooth, or foul or fair, what'er the waters be,
He'll take her out and bring her home, or sink her, will McFee.

They've seen the sun go down, go down, and turn her canvas red,
And as she rides the darkened seas they'll watch the stars o'erhead;
They'll watch the stars that splash the skies with sparkling silver spray,
Out in the Great Unfathomed Deep, away, and still away!
But when the Trades have stretched her sheets and sing among her shrouds,
Like some glad buoyant spirit thing, she'll leap towards the clouds:

From morn to noon, from noon to night, she'll pitch and roll and toss,
And as the Bear goes out of sight they'll see the Southern Cross;
Across the Line and off the land, hull-down this side the Cape,
By chart and compass and the sun her outward course he'll shape;
And be the ocean deep and blue, or be the ocean green,
'Twill not affect his wonted calm - McFee of Aberdeen!

The Glasgie skipper, towing down, will pass him on the way,
And as she dips her colours aft his crew will hip-hooray,
For in the ports where sailors meet and out across the sea
Hath passed the name and gone the fame of sturdy Jock McFee.

Though print has spread and wars have raged and rebels have been hung,
Though o'er and o'er the world has changed since Jock McFee was young,
The ways of steam he will not learn; but Lord! To hear him speak
Of racing trips and rousing deeds when ships were built of teak,
Ere paddle wheels or double-screws had altered all the years,
And "sailor men *were* sailor men, not sea-sick engineers!"

So build your steamboats big as towns, electric lights and all,
By wood and canvas to the end, McFee will stand or fall;
For wood and canvas, wind and tide, the books of sky and sea,
With strange salt oaths and curses make the knowledge of McFee.

The wars may come, the wars may end, and crowns be lost or won,
He rolls around the rolling world that rolls around the sun;
And men may write most wondrous books, and men may count the stars,

His aim in life is still to get all sail upon his spars;
Nor does he care how kings may fare or empires may decline,
When underneath his vessell's keel deep lies the cable-line;
But skies of lead and seas of ink, when winds like devils roar,
Will find her reefed or taut and snug, bare poles and well off
shore.

The port is not on charts laid down, nor put on maps, I ween,
Where, in his youth, or in his prime, some time he hath not been.
He'll talk and tell of Plymouth town, of far Alaskan bays,
Of New Orleans and Puget Sound, Colombo and its ways,
Of arrack drunks, and sam-shu speers, of Old Kaintucky rye;
But when he comes to talk of girls, be sure that none are by:
For sailormen *are* sailormen – the same right all the way
From Glasgow to the Golden Gate, from Rio to Bombay;
And Neptune rules the rolling deep, but Venus reigns ashore,
So rest assured that Venus is – as Venus was of yore!

A lusty glass of smoky Scotch, and pass the cabin jar;
Here, fill yer pipe with "duty free" and smell the smell o' tar.
Oh, hear 'em tramp the planks above – "Ey-hey!": they strain and
creak.

The music of the blocks, my lads, 'tis good to hear them speak;
But, oh, the sough of swirling seas that from her glide and go.
The song of lone mid-ocean, and all the songs ye know!
So roll along, so race along, so tack and turn and drive,
You'll get a taste o' sand and weed, or else - come back alive;
You'll take a swim some stormy night, but not for pleasure's sake,
Or else, in ninety days from now, a deep long-beer you'll take!
So pull away and haul away, and let the chanty rise-
'Tis watch and watch for ninety days and nights, and "damn yer
eyes!"

'Tis watch and watch when on the poop your skipper takes his
stand;
When far behind and low behind and out o' sight the land!
"Sou'-East by East" her course is set, and "Nor' by East" again,
With every inch o' canvas on, she cuts the seas amain;
Across the world and round the world and bits o' port between,
He lives the life that sailors live, McFee of Aberdeen!

Edwin James Brady was born at Carcoar, NSW on 7th August,
1869 of Irish parents. Educated at Public School in NSW and at
Washington DC in the United States. He engaged in farming and
various other occupations in NSW.

He was Editor of '*Australian Workman*' 1891; Editor and Proprietor of '*The
Grip*' Grafton NSW; Editor of '*The Workman*' Sydney NSW 1905;
Afterwards a free-lance journalist in Sydney: Editor of '*The Native Compan-
ion*' magazine, 1906. Now a press agent in Melbourne. (This would be about
1906.)

"*The Ways of Many Waters*" Sydney 1899, Melbourne 1909.

"*The Earthen Floor*", Grafton NSW. "*Bushland Ballads*", Melbourne 1910.

"*Bells and Hobbles*" Melbourne 1911.

LETTER FROM ELVA HAMANN

Elva Hamann writes from Nanango
in Queensland about her great
Grandfather James McPhee, whom
she believes is the one after whom
McPhee's Creek in the Kimberly was
named. I shall give some parts of her
very interesting letter:

"I am one of the claimants to
McPhee's Creek being named after
my great grand father. There are a
couple of people making such
claims.

My great grandfather was a station
master, besides being a Jack of all
trades. He was also a prospector.
Robert C Scarlett McPhee was a sur-
veyor's assistant, and James McPhee
was the prospector who was called
'Jack', 'Jim' and 'Jock' at various
times because his name was James.
My great grandfather, being a pros-
pector, was the individual who
guided the Duracks and their herds
through the Kimberley – Oh yes, he
was there all right, but proving it is a
bit of a problem.

Family history (no proof as yet) says
he found diamonds in the Kimberley,
but not worth keeping – not gem
quality – suitable only for industry.

He was also at Hall's Creek. My
Dad told me that when he was six
years old, he can remember going
with his grandfather in a dray that
sold vegetables at Hall's Creek. My
Dad's dad was postmaster at Wynd-
ham, and his name James McPhee is
mentioned immediately below the
Duracks in WA records. I under-
stand he was a very good tele-
graphist."

Thank you, Elva. Yes, we did enjoy
your writing. This is what makes our
magazine.

RESUME- Marelle Lee

A trained journalist and trained artist, Marelle Lee has been winning regional art prizes on the New South Wales Northern Rivers for more than 20 years. Her main media have been painting, drawing, ceramics and glass. Since moving to Lennox Head, between Byron Bay and Ballina, nine years ago, she has enjoyed creating pebble mosaics and using found materials.

Her artwork began with night painting and drawing classes at Grafton TAFE when her two children were small. This interest continued at Lismore TAFE when she returned to work as a journalist, then as a subeditor. The award winning English-born artist, Michael Taylor, of Lismore, whose work now sells as far as New York, was her main lecturer.

On his advice Marelle took up ceramics, and was student of the year twice for that genre at Grafton TAFE. After being severely injured when engaged on newspaper work, she enrolled in the first full-time Ceramics Certificate Course at Lismore TAFE, then obtained an Arts Degree from Southern Cross University, majoring in ceramics and glass sculpture, and obtaining several High Distinctions for Art History and Theory. She has taken part in individual and group exhibitions, and her work is mainly in private collections. In recent years, her artwork has focussed on environmental causes.

Regional history is another abiding interest. Since coming to Lennox Head from Lismore she co-wrote, co-edited and provided drawings for *'Wartime on the Richmond 1939-1945'* with nationally-known historian Annette Potts, also of Lennox Head. This publication continues to be re-printed by the Lismore-based Richmond River Historical Society. Marelle is on the Society's Heritage Committee. She has written about and taped interviews with leading regional figures for the Society's Archives, and its quarterly Bulletin.

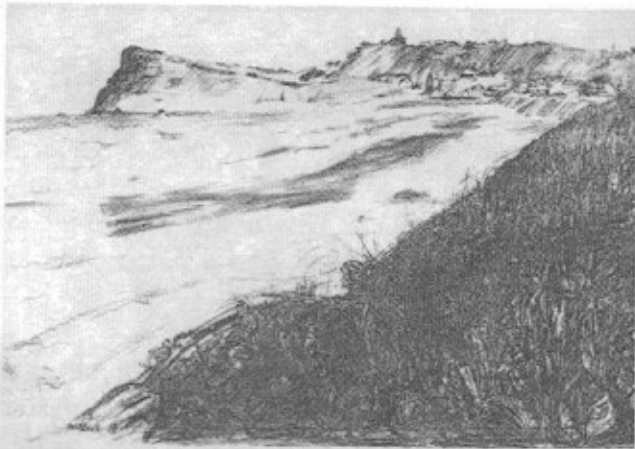


Lately her time has been increasingly taken up with fighting to preserve important regional history from overdevelopment. These heritage icons have ranged from Lismore's giant cedar log to its War Memorial Baths... significant memorial trees ... a surf club ... Lennox Head's Lake Ainsworth ... to the last of the Richmond riverboats, the *MV Florrie*, which has just received a NSW Government Heritage Grant.

In 2000 she thoroughly enjoyed being a sub-editor for the Olympic News Service at the Sydney Games and does freelance journalism, particularly with an historical emphasis. Now she will concentrate on a commission to draw one of the district's few remaining notable, late Victorian mansions.

Soon she wants to go to Europe, and is vainly trying to find time to learn Italian, to help her in visits to major art institutions. A long-held ambition is to visit Scotland, especially Colonsay, with sketchpad. She has a well-thumbed copy of John McPhee's *The Crofter & The Laird*, and an illustrated brochure on Colonsay, kindly given to her by former president of the Macfie Clan Society, Brian McPhee.

Marelle's daughter, Sue Broadbent, has just finished studying for her Doctorate of Exercise Science - her third academic qualification. Sue is married to Gold Coast architect Jon Broadbent, and they have two children Sophie and Christopher.



Marelle's son Bruce Peters, is the Australasian Director of Finance for SUN (Stanford University Network) Computers, and his Korean-born wife Nancy is an IT manager for Channel 9, Sydney. When Bruce was working for Hitachi Data Systems Corporation at Silicon Valley, San Clara, California, and Nancy was IT manager for Knight-Ridder Newspapers, Marelle took the opportunity to visit that dazzling state, and also had a brief stay in New York, where she visited leading art museums and galleries.

Marelle's only sibling is Ian McPhee, science graduate, trained teacher, businessman importing gliders and aeronautical components, and the organiser for the Byron Power Gliding Club, at Tyagarah, near Byron Bay. Ian introduced her to membership of the MacFie Clan Society.



In the beginning, there was a *plaid*

No other culture can claim a uniform as uniquely personalized as the Scottish kilt. The tartan of the kilt identifies the wearer's family, instantly signaling kinship among Scots who have scattered around the globe. Less obvious to the casual observer is the history sewn into each of those trim pleats.

The kilt began as a tartan blanket, or *plaid*, about two yards by six yards. In the 1600's, the *plaid* was worn as a belted plaid, or *feilidh-Mor*. The blanket would be placed on the ground on top of a belt, and folded into pleats at right angles to the belt. The wearer would then lie down on the blanket, fold the edges over himself, and fasten the belt. This created a pleated skirt below the waist, and the excess material above the waist could be draped over the shoulders or head. This simple and practical *feilidh-Mor* served double-duty, reverting to use as a blanket at night.

It is not altogether clear how commonly the *feilidh-Mor* was worn, but paintings and documents of the time suggest that it was in general use.

The evolution of *feilidh-Mor* to kilt was fairly straightforward. By cutting off the blanket above the waist and stitching the pleats in place, a simpler, less cumbersome garment was created. Identifying the first kilt-maker is not as simple. A letter published in Edinburgh Magazine in 1768 suggests that it was actually an Englishman, Thomas Rawlinson, who first trimmed the *feilidh-Mor* into the *felie-beg*, or "little kilt." If some Scots find the nationality of the first kilt-maker a little galling, it may be reassuring to know that Rawlinson lived in Glengarie and Lochaber, and developed the kilt as the result of a great fondness for Highland dress. Highland regiments in the mid-eighteenth century still wore the *feilidh-Mor*, and used the little kilt in undress order. Gradually, though, the *felie-bag* replaced its predecessor, the belted plaid.

In 1745, after the Jacobite Rising, the victorious Hanoverian government passed an act banning Highland Clothes, including the little kilt, as well as tartan coats. This ban lasted 35 years, until the act was repealed by the Duke of Montrose, and as long as it lasted, only military regiments wore the kilt. While it lasted, the ban bestowed Highland dress with great cultural importance, and when it was lifted, civilians began to wear the Highland dress with a sense of pride that remains today.

The glory of the kilt was further heightened in 1822, when King George IV planned a State Visit to Scotland, and agreed to wear a kilt for the occasion. In anticipation of the royal visit, the country plunged into a "tartan frenzy." The kilt and indeed all Highland dress achieved a social status and dignity with King George's celebrated visit à and the rest is history.

Obituary—Harry James McPhee
14 December 1921 –28 December 2003

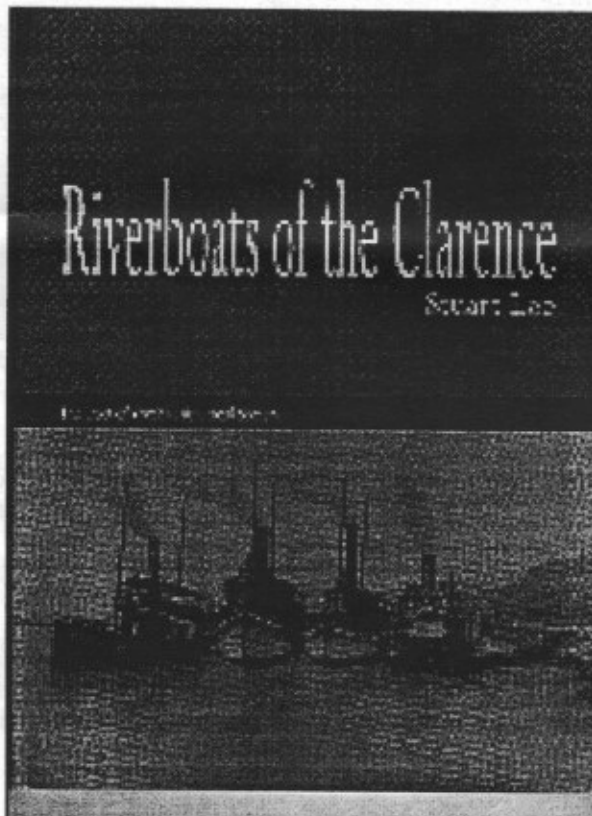
Harry McPhee's parents settled in Springwood in 1911. He was born in St Marys on December 14, 1921. Harry, and his seven siblings, lived with their parents in a corrugated iron fettler's cottage built between the railway line and the Great Western Highway, opposite Lewin Street, Springwood. Harry's father was ganger with the railways. The cottage was demolished when the Great Western Highway was widened about 1966.

Harry's parents were one of the three families who founded Springwood Methodist Church in the 1920s. Harry was a Sunday School student there, and later, Sunday School treasurer, for some years. Harry attended Springwood Public School, which later became the Scout Hall, next to IGA, Springwood, he left school at the end of Year 6, to work, and to be available to look after his mother who was ill.

When he left school he worked for Charlie Carter, who had a green-grocer's run in the Springwood and Lower Blue Mountains area. Charlie had printed on his truck, "Nobody calls me Dear". Harry's sister, Joyce McPhee, recalls Harry calling out in his sleep, "Spit on 'em, Charlie", a reference to the spit polishing of the apples. Perhaps that's why Charlie and Harry's customers didn't call them Dear.

World War 11 started. Harry was a member of the Citizens Military Forces from December 1941 to November 1942. He then served in the Australian Army from November 3, 1942 to his discharge on May 30, 1946, spending 473 days abroad in New Guinea and New Britain from November 29, 1944 to March 17, 1946.

Blue Mountains Gazette January 2004.



Riverboats on the Clarence

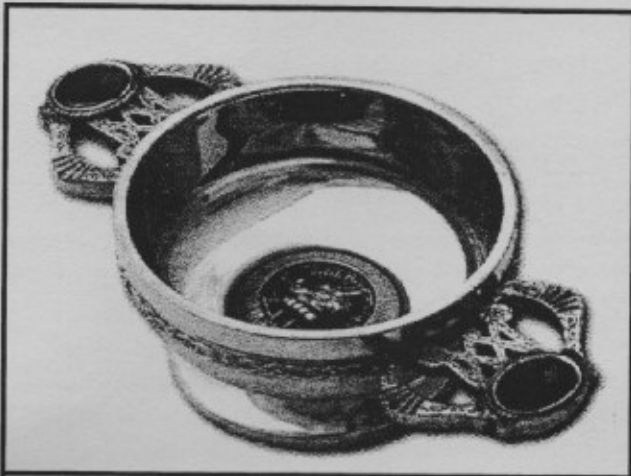
The Book *Riverboats on the Clarence* by Stuart Lee was kindly donated by Bonnie Bush (N74 007F). The book is a very interesting history of the early days on the Clarence River. The brief on the book includes:

The Clarence River has some of the richest maritime history in Australia. This book looks at both local and long distance shipping on the Clarence over more than a century.

The book goes into quite a detailed history of Alexander McPhee (Sandy) 1878-1958. Who was the son of Alexander McPhee (1843-1909) and Janet Beaston (1856-1945). (Note: Janet Beaston was Bonnie Bush's Grandmother

Bonnie Bush is acknowledged throughout the book for her contributions of photographs and information sources.

Bonnie had the honour of writing the Preface for the book.



QUAICH

Background The Quaich (pronounced "quake", from the Gaelic word "cuach") has a rich heritage in Scotland - indeed, they are a uniquely Scottish invention, having no apparent connection to any other European drinking vessel. A traditional Scottish drinking vessel to offer a guest a cup of welcome and also as a farewell drink, usually a dram of whisky. Travellers were known to carry a quaich with them.

Origins They were used for whisky and brandy but there was also larger quaichs which were used for ale.

(The largest surviving examples having capacity of about 1.5 pints). It is believed that one of their ancestors was the scallop shell, in which drams of whisky were taken in the Highlands and Islands.

Like the shells, quaichs were always wide and shallow. The distinctive shape has been fixed now for possibly more than four hundred years.

How Were They Made? Traditionally made of wood, it is a shallow circular-drinking vessel for whisky, with a pair of small lug handles projecting horizontally from opposite sides of the rim. The lugs, though functional, are of a unique carved style giving the quaich much of its special character.

The making of these cups was an intricate art by which the quaich was either turned from the solid or built up with tiny staves. The best quaichs, considered to be masterpieces, were built up with light and dark wood staves and bound round with withies or metal bands.

The dozen or so staves of alternating woods such as plane-tree and laburnum were coopered together and also 'feathered' into each other; this was a technique in which small slivers of wood were split away from the sides of the staves and slotted into equivalent parings cut in the opposite direction. that they were made of a single piece of wood turned on a lathe. The lugs were sometimes covered with silver, providing a place for initials. It was a passion in 17th century Scotland to place your initials everywhere: on your silverware, your furniture, the lintel, ceiling, and panelling of your house, and of course on your quaich.

The Quaich in 1745 travelled from Edinburgh to Derby with the Scottish Army in Bonnie Prince Charlie's canteen. Its bottom was made of glass so that the drinker could keep watch on his companions.

A more romantic Quaich had a double glass bottom in which was kept a lock of hair, so that the owner could drink to his lady love; and in 1589 King James VI of Scotland gave Anne of Norway a Quaich or "Loving Cup" as a wedding gift.

Modern Quaichs In more recent times, the Quaich has been used as a favour at many Scottish weddings, being presented to all at the top table. A symbol of the shared love and partnership between their hosts. Also at christenings (in Kilmuir in Scotland, there is a wooden quaich which was formerly used as a baptismal font, thus the quaich has become a traditional baptismal gift), or even births, to drink the health of a bairn and to share the love and celebration of that new life.

The Quaich in Scottish Culture The Quaich has a rather unique history and is surrounded by myth and mystique. In ancient time, during the Celtic period, it is believed that the Druids filled the quaich with blood from the heart of sacrificed humans.

It has a special place in the heart of all who know something of its history and is a prized possession of many people who have an association with Scotland. And will always be remembered in its traditional use as a visitor's welcome or farewell cup by proud clan chiefs, worthy merchants or humble crofters,

Scottish Events during December 2004—March 2005.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| November 2004 | Kirkin O The Tartan. | Sunshine Coast, QLD - the Soc. of St Andrew of Scotland | Info Fred Logan 07 5441 4238 |
| 4 December 2004 | Daylesford, VIC - 53rd Daylesford HG at Victoria Park, Daylesford. and more.Info | One of the largest Scottish events in Australia.Piping and dancing comps, stalls, parade | Catherine & Max 03 5348 2001. |
| 1 January 2005 | Nambour, QLD - The Fred Logan 10th New Year's Day Scottish Gathering at Petrie Park, Nambour. | A free family day out of the sounds, sights and tastes of Scotland. | Info Fred Logan PO Box 5281,S.C.M.C, Qld 4560 or 07 5441 4238. |
| 3rd-5th, 7th-8th February 2005 | Sydney, NSW - The Edinburgh Military Tattoo- at Aussie Stadium, Moore Park, Sydney. | A Salute to Australia. First time ever in Australia with over 1200 performers | Bookings/info 02 9266 4015 or www.edinburghattooinaustralia.com.au |
| 20-30 November 2004 | Australia. Sydney Scottish Heritage Week. | | (Contact: Secretary David Campbell 61 2 9522 3631 or davidcam.cron@bigpond.com |
| 21 November 2004 | Macfie Clan Society Church Service Scots Church Melbourne | Special commemorative of Macfie heriage. | Minister of Scots church, Rev Douglas Robertson, Victoria Vice President Maggie Mulherin |

The Macfie Clan Society Executive wishes all members of Clan Macfie a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

THE MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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