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THE DOWNUNDER

News Bulletin of The Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 101

July 2005



From Your President

Clan Macfie Day 2005
Thanks to Clan Commander Sandy and Helen McPhie for their warmest Greetings and Good wishes to us all for 27th May, our Clan Macfie Day.

We appreciate in return all that they are doing to celebrate and acknowledge our Scottish Clan heritage.

In this issue: International Gathering

In September this year, our Clan Society will gather in Inverness Scotland for its 15th International Gathering and 9th Parliament. I thought that we should give some prominence to these events in this issue of The Downunder.

Twice already I have had the privilege of attending these Clan gatherings. In 1983 in Nova Scotia Canada, and in 2001 at Oban and Colonsay in Scotland. And, I'm booked in for 2005: I see the Gatherings not only as a very important part of our worldwide organization and governance, but also as an important part in building up in the Clan a spirit of world-wide kinship and family.

Nova Scotia 1983 Nova Scotia in 1983 was a wonderful event for me. I have lasting and happy memories of meeting Sylvia McPhee and her sister Jean, and also Peter McPhee of the Clan Macfie Society in Canada, all still active in the Society. And I met others in attendance also, Jennie MacPhee, widow of Earle Douglas MacPhee our first Ceann-Cath or Commander, and Ron and Martha McPhee of the USA. Although I had been a member of the Clan Society for eight years before this, it was Nova Scotia that made me love the Society and wider family of Macfie.

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Oban and Colonsay 2001

It was while we were on the Island of Colonsay in 2001, after the Oban Parliament and Gathering, that the terrible history-changing events took place at the World Trade Centre in New York, USA. Our hearts went out to our USA Clanspeople, and to all the people of that nation.

Near to Colonsay is the Island of Iona. On Iona, there are vestiges of Macfie. We know for instance that 'Lord Dunevin (Malcolm MacDuffie) of Colonsay' was remembered there: we know that his early 16th Century graveslab was there in Iona, in that holy resting place of the ancient Lords of the Isles. We know also that 'Macfie of Colonsay' was a signatory of the famous Statutes of Iona.

So, on the 11th September 2001, the day itself, a busload of our Macfie Clan people were making a short excursion to the North Eastern tip of Colonsay, and from this vantage point we were looking and straining our eyes to see the island of Iona – Iona, symbol of tolerance and religious amity - and soon afterwards we heard the sad and horrific news of New York.

Some Macfie Photographs

I had taken some pleasant photos, firstly at Oban at the Parliament, and then while the whole Macfie group was treading our ancestral Colonsay and Oronsay soil, and I'll share some of them now with our readers, throwing in some bits of history and Macfie lore. Oban and Colonsay were very educational for me. There might not be any other experience for a Macfie more deep and spiritual and invigorating than to be on Colonsay and Oronsay.



At Oban, 2001 photo

Iain and Fiona McFie together with Clan Commander A.C. (Sandy) McPhie. Iain and Fiona McFie are also the Co-ordinators of the Inverness and Colonsay Parliament and Gathering in 2005. Iain and Fiona have set up <www.mcfie.org.uk> as the special Website.

for the 2005 Gathering.

Error.

Please note an error on the front page. President Bernie McPhee's email should read:

berniepmcpee@hotmail.com

On Colonsay, 2001



Just before the arrival of Clan Macfie members and officials to the Island of Colonsay in 2001, workmen completed a very fine stone Cairn with its information plaque in metal. This picture shows Alistair M Scouller reading and intoning Psalms appropriate to the dedication. Alistair sang in the Gaelic language. Clan Commander A.C. Sandy McPhie stands in the foreground beside the plaque for Dun Eibhinn, and Rev. Freda Marshall, minister of the local Church of Scotland, who conducted the dedication service, also listens attentively to the readings. The stone cairn's shape is in imitation of the Dun Eibhinn ancient fort visible on the skyline behind the cairn.

On Colonsay, 2001

Jim McAfee (USA), Sandy McPhie (Commander) and Iain McFie (Scotland), all helping to put in place the new signs which the Macfie Clan Society provided. The sign directs people to the Carragh Mhic a' Phi (our Clan standing stone) at Balarumin Mor. Among the several standing committees of the Macfie Clan Parliament one of them is the "Memorials and Special Projects" Committee, ably chaired by Arie van der Leest. The citizens of Colonsay consider the Macfie projects and memorials as contributing to the collective heritage of the Island.



On Colonsay, at Balarumin Mor, 2001



Bob McFie of Scotstoun Glasgow is the Clan Piper, and a teacher of the bagpipes. He acted as MC at the Clan Ceilidh in both Oban and on the Island of Colonsay, teaching Clan participants and demonstrating for us the modern and also the ancient bagpipes. Before being a bagpipe teacher, Bob was an engineer. In the accompanying photo Bob is seen at Balarumin Mor, calling our Clansfolk to the services at the Macfie standing stone.

On Colonsay, Standing Stone and Commander, 2001



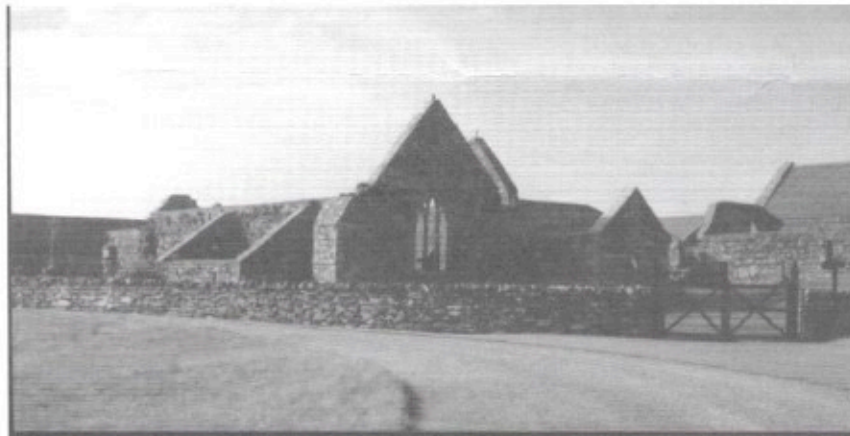
When our Macfie Clan was reformed, the Lord Lyon in 1981 appointed Earle Douglas MacPhee of Canada as our first Clan Commander, or Ceann-Cath. Sandy McPhie, his successor, has been Macfie Clan Commander since March 1990, and this picture shows Sandy as he is addressing the Clansfolk, and as he is pointing towards the Carragh Mhic a'Phi, the Macfie standing stone.

Visible on the standing stone are nuts and bolts and the metal holding together the two pieces, and for this repair and re-erecting the stone, our Clan is forever grateful to Ulf Hagman of Sweden and Charles MacPhee of

Melbourne Australia

and some people of Colonsay who helped them.

Oronsay Priory, 2001
This is my picture of the ruined Priory on Oronsay Island founded by John I, Lord of the Isles and dates from between 1325 and 1353. Found in a wall recess in

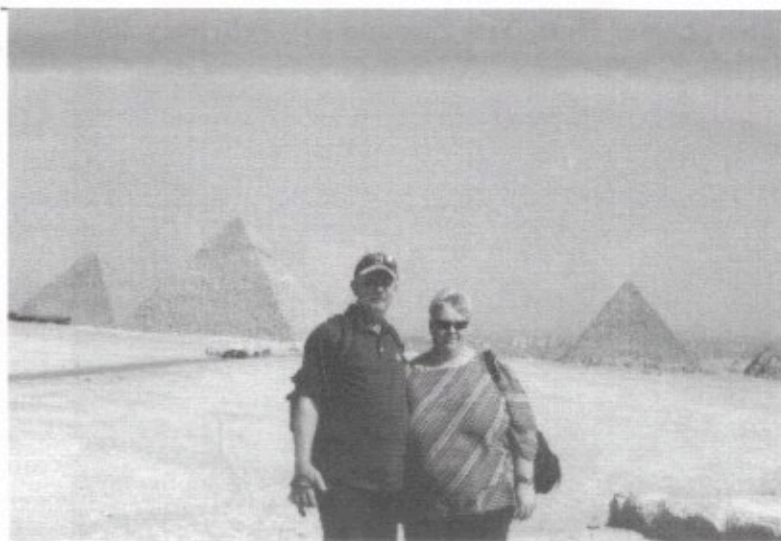


MacDuffie Chapel, which is attached to the larger chapel building at left of centre in the photo, was a tapered slab bearing the inscription: "Here lies Sir Donald MacDuffie, Conventual Prior of Oronsay, who died in the year 155-." Sir Donald is shown in his vestments: cassock, surplice and cope. His right hand is raised in blessing, his tonsured head is resting on a pillow, and in his left hand he holds his pastoral staff.

SUMMER TRAVELLERS

Trevor and Sue Phee recently had a great holiday in Egypt and provide the following summary of their 17 days in Egypt. We cruised from Luxor to Aswan on and the Helnan Shepeard Hotel in Cairo in which we stayed. The Helnan Shepeard is built on the exact sight where Napoleon had his headquarters while he was in Egypt.

Egypt was everything and more in regard to what we were expecting. The history of the country is so over powering and one can not fully understand this until you have been there.



Cairo is a city of 18 million people, and has to be seen to believe. The Egyptian people are very friendly towards Australians, the food is fantastic with the usual KFC, Pizza Hut and McDonalds as well.

We visited some eight temples on our trip down the Nile, they are all so big and so old. We stayed in Aswan overnight, this town has a population of 250,000 before flying south west to Abu Simbel to see the temple of Rameses II.

We stayed in Alexandria for two days it has a population of some four and a half million. It is a three hour drive north of Cairo. From here we drove west for about an hour and a half to El Al emain and visited the Commonwealth War Graves, a very emotional experience.

If anyone is thinking about going to Egypt, Sue and I would recommend going there by all means. We did meet some other Aussies over there and the loved the place, the food and the people as well.

Thanks to Trevor & Sue Phee for this report.

Genealogy

Is anyone out there related to the following.

Edward McPhee born circa 1852 died 8 November 1937 and married Elizabeth Lucas at Paisley in Victoria [4834] in 1878.

Elizabeth was born circa 1856 and died 28 December 1914. They had six children of which Daisy Martha McPhee was the 5th. Daisy was born in South Australia on 15 May 1883 and died 24 June 1960. She married William Mitchell on 31 October 1907. William was born circa 1866 and died on 25 May 1942.

After the death of his wife Elizabeth, Edward married Margaret Maud Kirk Miller on 21 December 1916. Margaret was born on 26 November 1870 and died ??.

In regard to the above, please get in touch with;

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Clan Macfie News

FROM: CLAN COMMANDER A. C. (SANDY) MCPHIE

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ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND

Clan Macfie Dinner, Lower Hutt, New Zealand 19th February 2005



The McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand held a special weekend of celebrations on the 19th and 20th February this year to mark the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the first McPhee settlers in New Zealand and the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Clan McPhee Society there. Centred on Frederic Wallis House in Lower Hutt, the celebrations included an informal get-together on the Friday night at President Eric Wadsworth's home, followed by a bus tour on Saturday of significant settler sites, a visit to the Museum of Wellington City & Sea and a reception at the Maori Meeting House of Goodwill To All Men, ending with the enjoyable Clan Macfie Dinner. A well attended Descendants Church Service was held on Sunday morning before a barbeque lunch at the Petone home of Eric and Carolyn.

The original McPhee settlers in New Zealand came from Morven. In June 1851 Duncan McPhee (son of Hugh McPhee and Anne Cameron) and wife Mary (McLachlan) came to Australia on the "Marmion". In 1854 Anne (now a widow) and teenage children Donald, Mary and Hugh followed on the "Edward Johnson", landing at Portland Bay in Victoria. On 6th February 1855 Duncan and Mary joined with Anne, Mary and Hugh to sail to New Zealand on the "Grafton" arriving in time to experience after shocks of a massive earthquake which had remodelled Wellington town, as it was then, and large areas of the foreshore. Donald McPhee followed from Australia in due course.

Those attending the Anniversary Celebrations (the majority are descended from these early settlers) visited the original "Wellington" landing site in what is now Petone and, at the museum, were given a most interesting account of the earthquake's devastation and resulting land reclamation for the present day site of the City of Wellington, New Zealand's capital. To mark this significant anniversary occasion the McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand produced an excellent booklet "Speed Bonnie Boat" telling the story of these McPhee settlers and their immediate descendants.

Clan Macfie News

CLAN MACFIE DAY – 27th MAY

The 27th May was chosen for Clan Macfie Day by the members attending the 10th International Gathering and 6th Parliament of Clan Macfie on Colonsay in 1993. The suggestion for a Clan Macfie Day was brought forward by the Clan Commander, Sandy McPhie of Australia. It was to be a day on which Clan members worldwide would celebrate belonging to our ancient and honourable Clan.

Several dates were considered by those at the Gathering on Colonsay. Among these were the date of the death of Dr. Earle Douglas MacPhee of Canada, the man responsible for the reactivation of our Clan, his birth date and the date in 1623 when Malcolm, our last Chief, was murdered and the Clan became a “broken” Clan. The clearly preferred date, however, was 27th May, the date in 1981 on which the Lord Lyon King of Arms recognised Clan Macfie as again being “an honourable community” or active Clan.

The record of that meeting of the Clan shows that Rev. Jim McAfee (U.S.A.) moved, and Sylvia McPhee (Canada) seconded that we have a Clan Macfie Day. Bruce McDuffie (U.S.A.) then moved, and Bob McFie (Scotland) seconded, that 27th May be the date of Clan Macfie Day to commemorate the reactivation of Clan Macfie on that date in 1981. Both motions were carried. Since 1993 Clan Members have celebrated and exchanged greetings around the world each year on this significant and honoured day.

(Thanks to Newsbeat [Spring

THE DNA PROJECT

The McDuffie DNA surname Project is steadily gaining momentum. When the Project Homepage at www.mcduffiedna.com was last checked the site had been brought up to date as at 16th February. At that time 15 Clan members had participated in the project and seven distinct lines had been identified. Although the Clan Commander did not bring the project onboard as a Clan Project, he has commended it to all Clan members and participated in it himself. Interestingly, he scored a firm match almost immediately with another participant from Prince Edward Island, Canada. They were, however, aware of the connection with their respective lines going back to Mull in the late 1700s/early 1800s, but it's satisfying to have it confirmed.

Just where this Project will eventually take participants is open to question. The Project Co-ordinator, Rod Macduff of Perth, W.A. , Australia, will be at the Clan Gathering and Parliament in Inverness in September to present a paper on this and to answer questions in regard to the project. Whether it could lead to the identification of descendants from our last Chief, Malcolm, murdered on Colonsay in 1623 is doubtful, not the least problem being able to identify the base DNA for Malcolm and his kin.....but one never knows. Certainly the more participants in the project, the broader **the data base of Clan lines.**
Why not join now?

GENTLEMEN - THE TARTAN

Here's to it!
The fighting sheen of it,
The yellow, the green of it,
The white, the blue of it,
The swing, the hue of it,
The dark, the red of it,
Every thread of it!
The fair have sighed for it,
The brave have died for it,
Men have sought for it,
Honour the name of it,
Drink to the fame of it,
The Tartan!
By Murdoch Maclean

Clan Macfie News

FROM: CLAN COMMANDER A. C. (SANDY) MCPHIE

THE ST. KILDA MAILBOATS

Until the last residents relocated in 1930, St. Kilda was Britain's most remote inhabited island group lying some 85 km west of Harris in Scotland's Outer Hebrides. The island inhabitants were considered most gifted musically and this is reflected in an album of historically important songs performed by distinguished Gaelic singer Anne Lorne Gillies, daughter of the late Mary Cathie Gillies. Her songs are "clearly vigorous, hardy, full of human follies and foibles, laughter and sorrow, and unmistakably Gaelic. (They are) without doubt exceptional in the sweetness and uniqueness of their music."

St. Kilda belonged to MacLeod of Dunvegan in Skye but was purchased in 1931 by the Marquess of Bute who bequeathed the islands to The National Trust for Scotland for a bird sanctuary. The original St. Kilda Mailboats were messages floated off from these remote islands by the inhabitants to be washed ashore in Scotland – or even Scandinavia – as the ocean currents carried them, for until comparatively recent times only one boat called at the islands each year – to collect the rent for MacLeod!

Anne Gillies is a noted Gaelic singer, broadcaster and writer and was recently named Speaker of the Year 2005 by the Association of Speakers Clubs in Britain, thus joining a select band which includes Peter Ustinov, Patricia Routledge and Falklands war veteran, Simon Weston. Her St. Kilda songs are on a CD "An long Hirteach/St. Kilda Mailboat" with a cover painting by Frances Walker, one of Scotland's leading artists, entitled "Leaving St. Kilda".

OF MANY THINGS

On Colonsay. The Hotel has been purchased by a group headed by the Laird, Hon Alexander Howard. While they are not yet in a position to re-open the Hotel, they hope the Bar will resume trading within about two months. An upgrade of the Colonsay aerodrome (aka The Golf Course) is in the wind with possible services from Oban (also being upgraded) and Glasgow being mentioned. Charter flights to Colonsay or Oronsay can already be arranged by contacting Loch Lomond Seaplanes. Former Hotel licensee, Christine Bailey, and Colonsay farmer, Seumas McNeill, were married at the Baptist Church, Kilchattan, on 20th November last year. We wish them well.

Burns Cottage. A petition to save the cottage in Alloway, Ayrshire, where Scotland's National Poet, Robert Burns, was born has been launched by the community council in Alloway, to exhort the Scottish Executive to assume responsibility for this historically significant building. To sign the petition go to <http://epetitions.scottish.parliament.uk/viewtopic.asp?TopicID=46>

Tartan Register. Mr. Jamie McGrigor, Member for Highlands and Islands in The Scottish Parliament, is putting together a Members Bill to create a Register of Tartan in Scotland. The intent is for this Official Register to record all tartans and classify them accordingly, not to control their manufacture or use. The Register will become the most authoritative and complete Register of Tartans in the world and help significantly in eliminating confusion and varying degrees of accuracy and completeness found with many of the internet accessed databases in existence to-day, all of which can tend to undermine the status of tartan. Existing tartans, correctly recorded, will be automatically entered into the new register.

STATE NEWS

Queensland News

Bob McPhee, Vice President

Bob McPhee, Australian Vice President writes to say that he has retired from his job and has moved from his Queensland Laidley address. Bob is now at 7 Harvest-view Place, Fairy Hill, New South Wales, 2470. Fairy Hill is on the Summerland Highway between Kyogle and Casino. We offer sincere sympathy to Bob and to the family members on the death of Bob's father Leonard Duncan McPhee who died in April, 2005 at age 90 years. Bob writes about his father: "He was a wonderful man, a hard worker all his life, and he never drank, smoked or gambled. A big quiet man, but helped many people in his neighborhoods."

Victoria

Maggie Mulherin Vic President

Maggie Mulherin has just returned from her overseas trip, which included two weeks in Italy, and a week in France. She traveled around on a British barge for a week, and then in a campervan for a month in Britain. And in Scotland she visited Fort William, Glasgow and Inverness. She went on to New York in the USA and then to Vancouver Island in Canada. Welcome home Maggie.

South Australia News

Judy Moore Vice President

Judy Moore SA VP attended a Clan Campbell function representing the Macfie Clan.

The luncheon was a success and Judy was made most welcome.

The visiting Clans were asked to display their Clan Society banners. Unfortunately our Clan Society does not have a recognised banner.

Judy throws out the challenge for the Clan Society to come up with a design for a banner to be displayed at suitable functions.

ACT News

Glen McPhee Vice President

Canberra residents Ian and Judy McPhee welcomed their 14th grandchild with the arrival of granddaughter Erin. Congratulations to James and Kerry.

Macfie Day in the ACT

The ACT Clan Society members enjoyed a pleasant afternoon at the Hellenic Club to celebrate Macfie Day.

Pictured here L to R; Gwen Hubert, Angus and Helen Cameron., Ruby and Bill McVie, Judy Smythe, Colin McPhee, David and Heather Grove, Glenda McPhee

New Members:

The Clan Society warmly welcomes new members, and looks forward to their enjoyment and involvement in the Society:

Eve Ann Morgan-Payler, East Burwood, Vic (V05-1006)

Peter and Judy McPhee, Shepparton, Vic (V05-1007)

Barbara and Michael Carey, Shepparton, Vic (V05-1008)

Sr. Mary M Barnes, Albert Park, Vic (V05-1009)

Elizabeth and Mark Miller, Fern Tree Gully, Vic (V05-1010)

Barbara and Cam Burian, Mount Waverley, Vic (V05-1011)

Vicki Horkings, Mooroopna, Vic (V05-1012)

Helen and John Edwards, Heathmont, Vic (V05-1013)

Matt and Mayumi McPhee, Inverloch, Vic (V05-1014)

John McCaffrey 32 Clamp Place Greenway ACT 2900 (A05-1015)

The following were new members in July, 2004 but have

not yet been welcomed in these columns:

Margaret Booth, Wantirna, Vic (V04-987) (Margaret is daughter of Jack McPhee, Oakleigh, V78-422)

Anthony Gartland, Box Hill South, Vic (V04-988)

(Anthony is son of Cath McPhee Gartland, formerly member number V76-219)



All things Tartan (Kilt Makers & Highland Wear Specialists)



All Things Tartan provide the Scone Pipe Band with their Macfie Tartan kilts and they hold stocks of Macfie Tartan in modern colours in a 13 oz weight.

Kilts A 13 oz hand sewn 8 yard kilt in modern or ancient tartan is \$595.00. plus other items of Macfie Clan products.

Other Macfie products are

- Kilt pins \$35, Cap badges \$35
- Crested belt buckle \$77 Crested Sgian Dubh \$144
- Crested sporrans \$99 Crested Quaiche \$110

166 Glebe Road Booval QLD 4304

Phone 07 328 20031

Fax 07 381 609413

The Family of Robert and Mary McPhee C 1908 at Terang Victoria.

Robert was born at Lamplough 1860 and Mary born at Dunolly 1861.

Robert the 2nd son of Alexander and Anne McPhee who migrated to Victoria in 1853 from Paisley Scotland.

Back row; Mary b 1890, Alexander b 1885, Ann b 1893,

Centre row; Charles b 1887, Gpa Robert, Rosab 1902, Gma Mary, Arch b 1888.

Front row; Roy b 1899, Jack b 1896



Ceann-Cath Sandy McPhie with Rev Dr Jim McAfee. Jim McAfee is President of the MacFie Clan Society of America. He comes from Tennessee. In this photo Jim is chair of one of the sessions of the Gathering's deliberations. On the last day of the Oban Gathering, Jim conducted an ecumenical religious service, bringing together the Macfies in worship. It will be great to meet him again in September.

WORLD WAR II



Chief Petty Officer Charles Robert MacPhee, RAN

Charles Robert MacPhee joined the RAN at 22 years of age in 1924 as an electrical officer.

The heavy cruisers HMAS Australia and HMAS Canberra were being built at John Browne's Shipyard, Clydebank, Glasgow in 1926 when electrical officer Charles MacPhee was posted to supervise the electrical installations on these ships. He remained at the shipyard until the launch of the ships in 1928.

The HMAS Australia and HMAS Canberra were commissioned into the RAN in 1928 and with promotion to Electrical Chief Petty Officer, Charles MacPhee served on both ships training the crew in the operation and maintenance of the electrical systems.

Charles MacPhee served on numerous ships passing his expert electrical knowledge on to subordinate crew members until 1938 when he was transferred to the civilian branch of the Navy.

During World War II he was first transferred to the shipyards of Whyalla, South Australia, to supervise construction and repairs to allied ships, and later to Garden Island, Sydney, the major allied ship repair base, where as Senior Electrical Engineer, he was responsible for the refitting and repair of war damaged allied shipping. One of the damaged ships to limp into Garden Island for repairs was HMAS Australia, she had been struck by four kamikaze aircraft while supporting the US forces in the Philippines on 21st October 1944, [the Canberra had been sunk off Guadalcanal in August 1942].

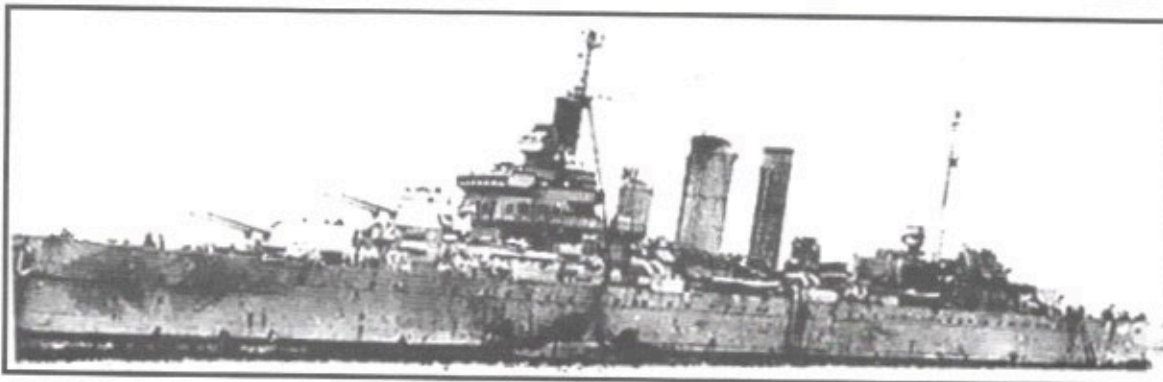
Charles MacPhee stayed on at Garden Island in the civilian branch of the Navy after the war, supervising the repair and conversion of ships to meet the demands of peacetime.

He retired in 1967 and lived on to reach 85 years of age, at his death in 1987.

References:

Kaye MacPhee [V74-023], letter 1994 and Ian Grant, *Australian Military History*, 1992

Many Thanks to Clyde Smythe for collecting and formatting the stories about members who served in the Australian Armed Services



HMAS Australia returns from Philippines Campaign missing a forward funnel..

Highlights of Bunadoon Highland Games 2005



John McCaffrey ACT- New Member



Angus & Helen Cameron ACT



Bill & Ruby McVie- ACT



Bruce McPhee VIC Ex Vic VP



Geoff & Ruth McPhee NSW Ex NSW VP
Heather & Robert McKee VIC



Gwen Hubert ACT

Colonsay Island

Even today the island of Colonsay is pretty remote—a good two and a half hours by ferry from the major West Highland port of Oban but in 1944 it was even more so.

In his evocative memoir, *A Life in Movies*, the film director Michael Powell recounts his four-day journey there from Glasgow, by way of Greenock, Tarbert, Crinan and Jura. Powell was already a passionate aficionado of islands: he had made *The Edge of the World* in -1938 about the forbiddingly isolated island of Foula in Shetland. But Colonsay was something else:

"The island had no jetty, and sent a boat out to meet the steamer. There was a comfortable little hotel, and we soon scrambled to a *high* point of the island, which was only 300 feet above sea level.

From there the whole glorious panorama from Iona to Kintyre lay before us, and I shouted out that this wonderful land and seascape could be the only setting for our story. If I could only get a film unit up here, and somehow feed and lodge them, I knew that we would bring back a wonderful film. It wasn't just the scenery, it was the feel of the place!

There's a jetty now for the steamer, but otherwise not a great deal has changed. I first came across the island 20 years ago when my brother, then a builder in Edinburgh, put a new roof on the still comfortable little hotel. He loved it immediately and began his regular annual or twice-annual visits which continue today.

The island is about 10 miles long by two miles wide, including the satellite island of Oransay in the south, which is accessible across the sea bed at low tide. Its permanent population is less than a hundred, easily outnumbered by the wildlife. There are almost 200 species of bird, and 400 species of flora.

There's a population of feral goats, a thriving seal colony and otters in almost every bay. There are numerous sandy coves including the gorgeous wide sands of Kiloran Bay - and beautiful lochs for fishing the native brown trout.

The woodand gardens of 'the big house' Colonsay House, are stocked with a wonderful range of trees and shrubs, including a famous rhododendron collection. There's an 18-hole links golf course reputedly over 200 years old. The climate is generally mild with low rainfall and long hours of sunshine in the summer. Even the winters are, mild, with frost and snow almost unknown.

Walking, climbing, fishing, bathing, golfing, birdwatching: Colonsay naturally lend itself to traditional outdoorsy family holidays. Children can mostly be safely left to their own devices. There's only one road round the island and traffic is to say the least infrequent. In addition, to the hotel there are several guest houses and bed and breakfasts, but most of the accommodation is in 40 or so self-catering houses and cottages. The majority belong to the Colonsay Estate, including the largest on the island, Machrins, which sleeps 12, a handsome and comfortable farmhouse with fine views out to sea.

The island shop caters well for basic needs, but Colonsay also offers its own beef and lamb, as well as honey and oysters. And if you go down at low tide to The Strand, which separates Colonsay and Oransay, you can gather your own mussels.

Oransay is tiny but worth a visit for the beautiful ruins of the priory founded in the eighth century when St Columba brought Christianity to Scotland - though most of what you can see is medieval. They also contain the grave of Colonel Sir John McNeill, born in 1831 at Colonsay House. He was a great imperial soldier, who fought in the Indian Mutiny, won the VC in the Maori wars in New Zealand, and later served in Canada and the Sudan.



Bernie McPhee at Machrins

For competitive visitors, mention must be made of the island's equivalent of the mainland's Munro-bagging: McPhie-bagging. A McPhie is defined as any eminence in excess of 300 feet, and there are 22 peaks on the official list. The aim is to climb all the peaks in the course of a connected walk. The distance is around 20 miles and the current remarkable record is just under four hours. I look forward to trying it next time. I think I might just manage seven.

Article from 'The Independent Magazine'

CLAN MACFIE HISTORY

Although its origins are obscure, Clan Macfie is acknowledged as one of the oldest Scottish Clans. It has been claimed that the Clan originated in Ireland before becoming established in Scotland and this may well be the case. Traditionally though, it's homeland is held to be the islands of Colonsay and Oronsay off the west coast of Scotland. A Clan presence in Lochaber, Galloway and on several other Hebridean islands is also evident from the earliest times.

The Gaelic spelling of the Clan name was MacDhubhsith. This became anglicised to MacDuffie or MacPhee which names appear interchangeable in some early manuscripts. The Clan name to-day is Macfie, the spelling recognised by the Lyon Court in Scotland and used by many of the Clan's clan societies around the world.

In keeping with the times, the early years of Clan history had their turbulent periods as well as those of stability and honour. The islands of Colonsay and Oronsay were visited by the Vikings during their domination of the Western Isles and used as a base for raids to the south. There was Macfie contact with Iona in 1164 which no doubt led to the building of the Augustinian priory on Oronsay some 160 years later with a MacDuffie traditionally the Prior.

Macfie of Colonsay was present at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 when Robert the Bruce defeated the English under Edward II. The Macfie Chief was the hereditary Custodian of the Records of the MacDonald Lords of the Isles. In 1463 Macfie of Colonsay appears as a member of the Council of the Isles and in 1549 a successor is recorded as holding lands on Jura in addition to those on Colonsay.

In 1531 Macfie of Colonsay was cited for treason, still being a supporter of the forfeited Lordship of the Isles. Clan clashes with the Macleans of Durat on Mull were frequent in the latter part of that century. In 1609 Macfie of Colonsay was one of a number of Hebridean Chiefs forced to sign the Statutes of Iona. But in 1615 Malcolm, the last Macfie Chief, supported the uprising of Sir James MacDonald and thus started a chain of events which culminated in his murder in 1623 by his former colleague Col Kitto MacDonald. With the death of Malcolm, the Clan was dispossessed of its lands and dispersed as a broken clan. No line of succession from Chief Malcolm has been established.

The Clan heartland then moved to Lochaber where many Macfies lived beside the Camerons. A Macfie was one of two pipers at Glenfinnan when Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his banner there in 1745. The following year many Clan members died on the right flank at Culloden fighting alongside the Camerons. They share a common grave on that desolate moor.

Clan fortunes waned and many members in Scotland and Ireland became caught up, either voluntarily or through compulsion, in the dispersal of the Scots to North America and later Australia and New Zealand.

In 1864 Grants of Arms were made to Robert Macfie of Langhouse and Airds and to Robert Andrew Macfie of Dreghorn, the first Clan members to be so honoured in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland. This Register had come into being in 1677, 54 years after the Clan's last Chief was murdered. These Macfies were highly successful businessmen in the sugar industry and R. A. Macfie was elected Member of Parliament for Leith for a number of years.

The strap and buckle badge commonly depicted to-day as being that of Clan Macfie actually belongs to the Macfie of Dreghorn. The red and green Macfie tartan was probably originally designed at that time but it was not until 29th August 1991 that this tartan was formally recorded in the Books of the Court of the Lord Lyon as being the official Tartan of Clan Macfie.

In 1968 Dr. Earle Douglas MacPhee of Vancouver, BC, Canada, initiated a worldwide movement to have Clan Macfie recognised once again as an active clan and to have a new Chief appointed. Dr. MacPhee wrote a definitive history of the Clan and encouraged the formation of Clan Macfie Societies in all centres of major Clan population around the world. His efforts were highly successful with Clan Macfie being formally recognised by the Lord Lyon as an active clan on 27th May 1981. Dr. MacPhee was appointed the Clan's first Ceann-Cath, or Clan Commander, on 6th November 1981, but sadly he died on 25th September the following year. To-day the 27th May is celebrated by Clan members worldwide as CLAN MACFIE DAY.

Wording on the Macfie Standing Stone, Colonsay

CARRAGH MHIC A PHI

IN 1623 MALCOLM, LAST CHIEF OF OUR CLAN WAS MURDERED AT THIS STONE BY A RENEGADE MACDONALD.

DAMAGED OVER THE CENTURIES IT WAS REPAIRED BY ULF MACFIE HAGMAN, SWEDEN, CHARLES MACPHEE, AUSTRALIA AND DUNCAN MACPHEE, SCOTLAND.

THE PLOT OF GROUND WAS GIVEN TO THE CLAN MACFIE BY LORD STRATHCONA AND FENCED BY GIFTS FROM CLAN FOLK. ON 10TH MAY 1977 ULF HAGMAN AND DR. EARLE MACPHEE, CANADA, A CLAN HISTORIAN, DEDICATED THE MEMORIAL TO OUR CLAN.

COLONSAY MEN HUGH MCDUGALL, ANGUS CLARK, DUNCAN MCDUGALL, PETER MACALLISTER, DION ALEXANDER ASSISTED IN THE PROJECT.



THE MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

EXECUTIVE AND OFFICE BEARERS - from May 29, 2004

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SCOTTISH EVENTS

Date	Event	Location	Contact
13 August 2005	World Pipe Band Championships	Glasgow Scotland	
14 August 2005	Scottish Day	Linnwood Guildford NSW	
27 August 2005	Toukley Gathering	Toukley NSW	02 4397 1711
6-14 September 2005	Clan Macfie Parliament and International Gathering	Inverness Scotland	Iain & Fiona McFie iain@mcfie.org.uk http://www.colonsay.org.uk
11 September 2005	Scottish Pride Concert	Pennant NSW	
25 September 2005	Society of St Andrew of Scotland Picnic	Footo Sanctuary Buderim QLD	Fred Logan 07 5441 4238
8 October 2005	Scottish House AGM	Guilford NSW	
15 October 2005	City of Wollongong Pipe Band contest	Dapto NSW	
30 October 2005	Highland Games	Castle Hill Showgrounds NSW	02 9580 7532
20 November 2005	Macfie Clan Society Church Service	Scots Church Melbourne	Maggie Mulherin 03 93998283
19-30 November 2005	Scottish Week	Sydney NSW	02 9522 3631 www.pip.com.au/~sahc

THE MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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