



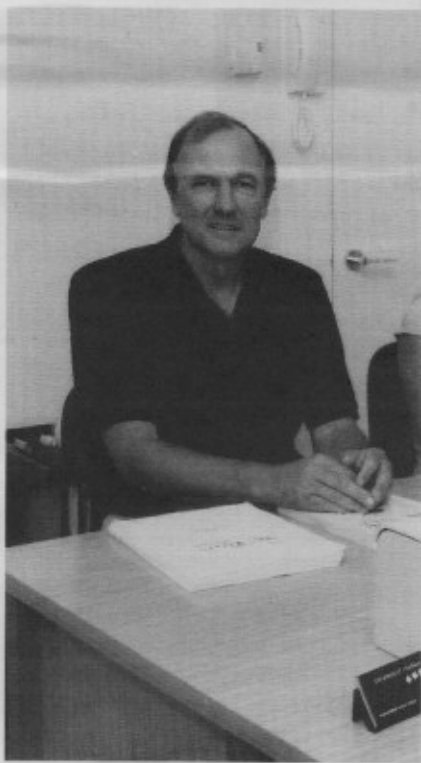
# THE DOWNUNDER

Newsbulletin of the  
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

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**Issue 104**  
**July 2006**

## From Your President



I am delighted and privileged to have the opportunity of taking over the reigns of our Society from outgoing president Bernie McPhee. These feelings are tempered with a little apprehension in the knowledge that Bernie, and indeed all the previous incumbents and their executives have done such an outstanding job in maintaining the organisation, improving it and furthering its objectives.

Around Australia there are numerous groups and incorporated bodies that represent some facet of Scotland's culture and traditions. Some, such as the Highland Society, have a long history, while others have a very recent past. Regrettably it is not uncommon for many to have low or declining memberships, a lack of relevancy, and poor leadership dominated by personality politics. Having said that it is also fair to say nearly all Scottish interest groups are affected by changing demographics and competing interests in a fast changing world.

The Macfie Clan Society of Australia stands out as a growing, vibrant organisation that provides its members around Australia with information on genealogy, family history, clan history and Scottish history. It also facilitates communication between people who have a common ancestry. Our Society is one of the strongest Scottish interest groups in the country and with the support of the membership, it is my hope this situation can be

maintained.

Regrettably I was unable to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia as it coincided with an overseas holiday. In my absence, Bernie has kindly provided 'The Downunder' with a comprehensive report of the meeting, which was not only well attended but from all accounts, organised with great aplomb. The social function held at the Celtic Club in Melbourne, the service at St. Benedict's Church and the BBQ lunch afterwards were thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. Bernie and his Melbourne team are to be congratulated on a job well done.

On a personal note, you will see an article in the following pages concerning a history book called 'The McPhees of Argyll'. I am the author of the book which has involved extensive research over a five year period both in Scotland and Australia. It brings together information from many diverse sources in order to provide easy to understand information about Scotland becoming a nation, the McPhee Clan and the story of a Highland family forced to emigrate during the Highland Clearances. Writing the book has been a labour of love and it is published solely for the benefit of those interested in Scottish heritage, history and ancestry. It is a matter of pure chance that it has been published close to the time of my election as president of our Society.

The recently elected executives of our Society all look forward to the challenges ahead. I would urge members to be forthcoming with any information or articles that can be published in 'The Downunder', as the news bulletin is the life blood of the Society and enjoyed by so many. Any positive contribution by members, be it by way of an article or otherwise, is always welcome.

**All correspondence should be sent to:**  
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Email  
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10 Rodney Road  
Mt Vincent NSW 2323  
Telephone 02 4938 0350

**Macfie web address:**  
<http://www.clanmacfiehomepage.org>

## SCOTTISH ACT OF REMEMBRANCE ON ANZAC DAY

by Brian McPhee Adelaide



As Sandy McPhee of the Hunter Valley was a bit crook and couldn't do it, NSW Vice President Ian McPhee asked me, as I was in Sydney to baptise a granddaughter at the time, to fill in for Sandy and lay a wreath on behalf of Clan Macfie on Anzac Day.

There were some 20 or so of us laying wreaths at the Cenotaph in Martin Place on behalf of Clans.

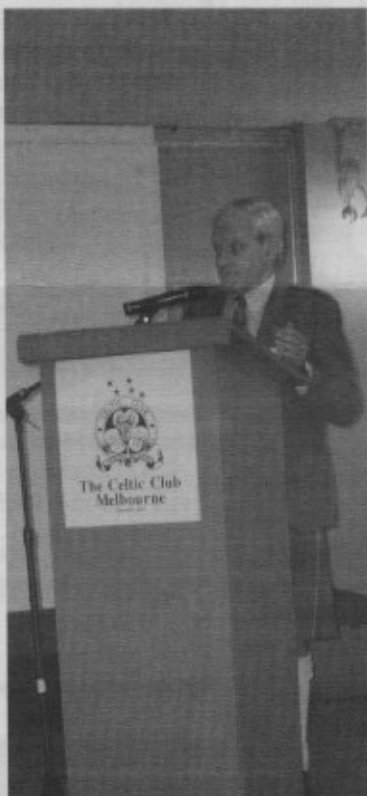
We assembled by St Andrews Cathedral in George Street with the massed band consisting of those bands which had played in the Anzac Day March.

We headed off down George Street lead by the drum majors of the 4 bands making up the massed band. It was simply magnificent as George Street has so many tall buildings from which the music of the pipers was reflected. Like no doubt everyone participating I could have marched the rest of the day to those stirring drums and pipes and Martin Place came too quickly.

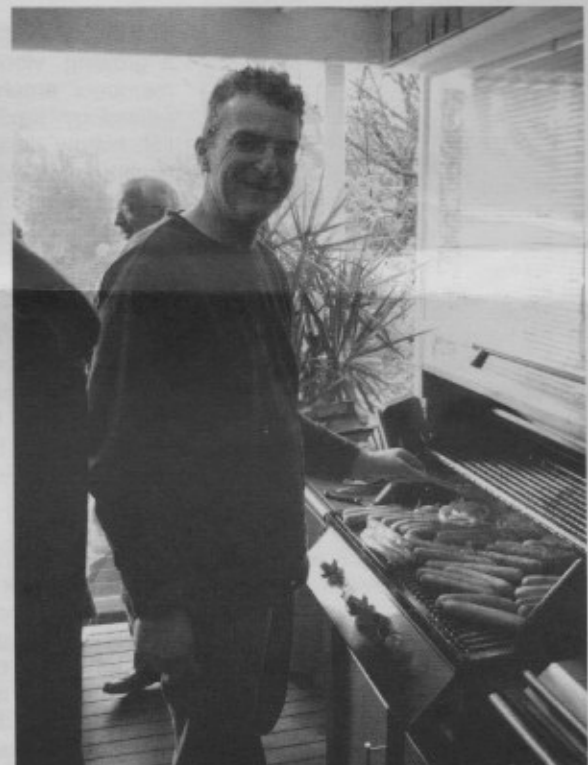
There the Wreath Laying Party placed their wreaths on the Cenotaph as the pipers played a lament and then we marched on to the pipes and were dismissed.

felt really proud to be representing the Macfie Clan Society of Australia.

**Brian McPhee**



**Clan Commander Sandy McPhee** addressing the Biennial General Meeting



Our genial host, Vin McPhee, at whose home we had the BBQ on the day following the BGM. Brian McPhee of Adelaide gave a gracious speech thanking Vin for making us welcome at his home in Burwood.

# BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING CELTIC CLUB



Matthew McPhee entertaining the members at the BGM



Margaret Booth , at the BGM with Anthony Garland, Nella Rutledge and Nella's son Dean Rutledge



Peter McPhee addressing the haggis at BGM



Scottish country Dancers enjoying the BGM and entertaining the members



Mathew McPhee at the BGM with Sheila Cogan and Michael and Barbara Carey



Judith Moore at the BGM with her brother Bill McPhee and Bill's Wife Trish

# GENERAL NEWS

## Donations 2006

Anthony Gartland, our Clan Society Treasurer up to June 2006, asks us to express his thanks on behalf of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia to the Society members who have made the following donations which he has received towards Clan funds up to the date of 27 May 2006.

Perhaps some more donations will come in during the second half of the current year, and Geoffrey McPhee our incoming Treasurer will acknowledge these in a later issue of "The Downunder".

## Donations to General Fund:

Andrew J McPhee, Baulkham Hills NSW  
Ann Leask, McLaren Vale SA  
Barbara K McPhee, Kurri Kurri NSW  
Beryl McPhie, Nowra NSW  
Betty Garrad, Palmwoods Qld  
Clyde Smythe, Turramurra NSW  
Colin C McPhee, Goolwa North SA  
Dr Ian McPhee, Rosanna Vic  
Dr John McPhie, North Adelaide SA  
Gwen Hubert, Pearce ACT  
Ian Johnston, Shell Cove NSW  
Ian R McPhee, Brookvale NSW  
Ian R McPhee, Kidman Park SA  
Ian R McPhee, Scullin ACT  
Jenny Hutchins, Carindale, NSW  
John McPhee, Doncaster East Vic  
John Redman, Wallsend NSW  
Joyce Caldwell, Corinda Qld  
Joyce McPhee, Gunnedah NSW  
Julie Peters, West Hobart Tas  
Keith R McPhee, Syndal Vic  
Laurie Liston, Horsham Vic  
Linda Waddington, Belmore South NSW  
Maggie Mulherin, Williamstown Vic  
Mairi Petersen, Shell Harbour, NSW  
Margaret Barnes, Drummoyne, NSW  
Margaret McPhee, Nedlands WA  
Marlena Turner, Ulverston Tas  
Michael McPhee, Kingsford, NSW  
Paul McPhie, Cooma NSW  
Peter McPhee, Abbotsford, Vic  
Rick McPhee, Edgeciffe NSW  
Robyn M Young, Logan Village Qld  
Ross McPhee, West Pymble NSW  
Ruth McPhee, Kew Vic  
Sally McPhee, Woolloowin Qld  
Shirley Dickson, Naracoorte SA  
William D McPhee, Seaforth NSW

## Donations to Clan Commander Travel Fund:

Greg McPhee, Urunga NSW  
Ian L McPhee, Kidman Park SA  
Ian R McPhee, Brookvale NSW  
Roderick MacDuff, Attadale, WA  
Ross McPhee, West Pymble NSW  
William D McPhee, Seaforth NSW  
Glen McPhee, Evatt ACT

## Standing Stone and Colonsay Funds:

Cheryl McFee, Cowes Vic  
Ian R McPhee, Brookvale NSW  
Julie Peters, West Hobart Tas  
Keith R McPhee, Syndal Vic  
Lorraine McPhee, Toowoomba Qld  
Morrison McPhee, Cheltenham NSW  
Robyn M Young, Logan Village Qld  
Ross McGuffie, Fremantle WA  
William D McPhee, Seaforth NSW

## NEW MEMBERS

The Society extends a very warm welcome to the following members:

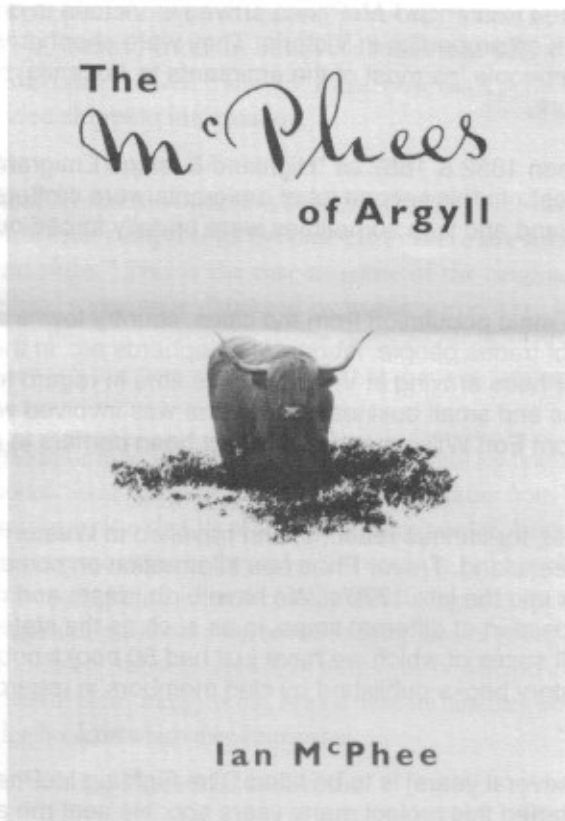
- **Freya McPhee** (N06-1026)Balgowlah NSW.
- **Matthew MacPhee Ainsworth** (N06 - 1025)Wollstonecraft NSW.
- **Bernie G McPhee** (V06-1024)
- Beaumaris VIC.

## Searching

I am looking for information on my grandfather, **John Alexander Alfred McPhee**, he was born in New Zealand (1920's/30's) and moved over to Australia, then married Elizabeth Muriel Gosbell, and had 4 children, 2 sons and 2 daughters, one of them my mother Glenda Anne (born 1952), I am trying to trace what area of Scotland my family came from in order to uncover any Spanish influences. Any information would be greatly appreciated. Email: <http://genforum.genealogy.com/mcphee/messages/530.html>

# NEW BOOK RELEASE: THE MCPHEES OF ARGYLL

A new book written by Ian McPhee, titled *The McPhees of Argyll*, has just been published. This history book, which could also be described as an historical novel, is the culmination of over 5 years extensive research that utilised a wide variety of sources both in Scotland and Australia.



The book begins with an explanation of how Scotland came into being as a nation. It provides historical information that had an impact on the people of Scotland with particular reference to those in the Highlands. Topics covered include the Norwegian occupation, the Lord of the Isles, the Highland Line, Presbyterianism, The Statutes of Iona, the Battle of Culloden and the Dress Act.

A full chapter is devoted to a history of the McPhee clan. The author has sought to address the lack of a comprehensive, easy to read, concise history of the clan. Clan structure, clan customs, and the clan name are all discussed in detail. The story of the McPhee clan on its ancestral island home of Colonsay, how it became a 'broken clan' and was finally re-established in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is also explored.

The book is focused on the Western Isles of Scotland where many Highland clansmen lived. It follows the lives of a typical Highland family over several generations from the earliest time that records of its existence can be found. In doing so it endeavours to give those unfamiliar with bygone Gaelic Scotland an insight into how people lived and worked. On the Isle of Mull the family lived a traditional life in the 1700s and became part of a crofting community in the 1800s.

Like tens of thousands of other Scottish Highlanders, the subjects mentioned in this book were caught up in the infamous Highland Clearances. Eventually they were forced to migrate to Australia. Their journey as pioneers in the outback of their adopted home comes to an end in the early years of the 1900s.

The *McPhees of Argyll* is an easy to read, high quality publication comprising over 300 pages with 81 photos, maps and sketches. It is fully indexed and referenced, with a comprehensive bibliography. Four appendixes include a chronology of events in Scotland, the sovereigns of Scotland, McPhee genealogical chart and a list of the chiefs of Clan MacDhubhsith (McPhee).

Copies of the book can be purchased from Ian McPhee PO Box 237 Brookvale NSW 2100. The cost is \$35.00 + postage. For further details telephone: 02 99382550 or email: [irmac10@bigpond.net.au](mailto:irmac10@bigpond.net.au)

## MCPHEES INTO VICTORIA

In the 19th century over a quarter of a million Scots emigrated to Australia. Shipping records show us that there were 4,910 McPhees that arrived in Victoria during this period. These early McPhees consisted of clan chiefs, wealthy merchants, weavers labourers, farmers and many other occupations.

The earlier shipping records for Victoria start in 1841. From 1841 until 1851 McPhees arrived in Victoria in dribs & drabs and for the most part had signed up in Scotland to work on properties in Victoria. They were shepherds, blacksmiths, farm servants, labourers & domestic servants. These people [as most of the emigrants to Australia] had their passage paid for, but had to pay it back once they started work.

The second lot of McPhees to arrive in Victoria arrived between 1852 & 1857 as "Highland & Island Emigrants" This period is more commonly known as "The Highland Clearances". In this second lot of emigrants were crofters [farmers] who were most often reluctant to leave their home land and who sometimes were brutally forced out [cleared] by their wealthy landlord.

At this time in Victoria, gold was discovered, and most of the male population from the cities, country towns and from farms all headed for the gold fields, thus leaving a shortage of trades people, labourers, shepherds etc. in the cities, country town and on farms. This proved beneficial to McPhees arriving in Victoria at this time in regard to finding employment. A lot of McPhees ended up with their own farms and small businesses and one was involved with the Cobb & Co stagecoach line. This particular family was from Fort William and had in fact been carriers in and around Fort William.

There were some Victorian McPhee families who left the state, for various reasons, and travelled to Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales and to Queensland. Trevor Phee has information on some Scottish birth, death and marriage records, with some going back into the late 1770's. We have birth, death and marriage records from each state in Australia. These Australian records start at different times, in as such as the states were started up at different times. And also shipping records for all states of which we have just had 50 books published in this regard. Also in our Archives we have some 12 family history books published by clan members in regard to their own family and who donated a copy of their book to the clan.

My next project [even though I have been working on it for several years] is to be titled "The Fighting McPhees from Culloden to Vietnam". Our military historian Clyde Smythe started this project many years ago. He sent me all of his records several years back and I started putting it together in to a book and hope to have it published some time next year.

In regard to myself. I have had published three family history books, held three family reunions all of which were attended by over 100 family members, with some family members coming from overseas. I have also made contact with family members in England, Ireland, Scotland, Canada and New Zealand. I have been able to track down one family as far back as 1751 and have documented 11 generations in regard to this particular family and to date I have just over 650 typed pages with more to come on this family.

**Korean War** The following is a list of McPhees served in Korea. I am hoping that some members may be related to them and that they could give me some more information and hopefully a photo of servicemen. I will add this information in my next project "The Fighting McPhees, from Culloden to Vietnam".

**Donald McPhee** Army service number 31007, born Bridge of Weir, Scotland 8 March 1930

**Douglas William McPhee** Navy, service number R36011. Born Ulmarra, NSW on 5 January 1929

**Neil Raymond McPhee** Army, service number 335016. Born Taree, NSW on 25 November 1925.

**Robert McPhie** Army, service number 3300024. Born Glasgow, Scotland on 4 March 1926.

**Harvey Hilton Phie** Army, service number 11346. Born Ipswich, Queensland on 16 February 1932

## Call for Assistance

Trevor Phee's (Chief Historian) next project will be the "**The Fighting McPhees from Culloden to Vietnam**".

Many years ago Clyde Smythe collected lots military history on clan members and passed this information on to Trevor Phee

Trevor has commenced putting it together in a book and he hopes to have it published some time next year. He will also include a section on non-combatant service members such as Reservists

**Trevor would welcome information on any family member that served in Vietnam as the normal list for these personnel has not yet been released.**

Trevor Phee : Telephone 02 4962 2672

# MCPHEES' FROM SCOTLAND TO AUSTRALIA

This book has taken many years to compile and in the introduction numerous people have been mentioned for their assistance in the gathering of shipping lists for this book. I would like to name three other people who assisted in this painstaking task Bernie McPhee in Victoria, Judith Moore in South Australia and Jillian King in Western Australia. As well there are some non Clan people who have provided shipping information.

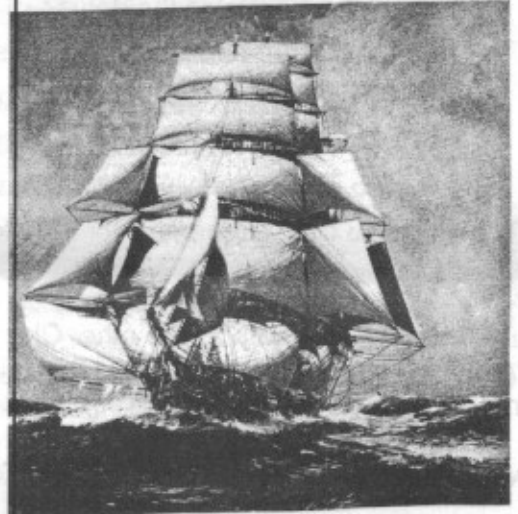
As stated in the Introduction by A. C. (Sandy) McPhie *"this book is probably not complete as in some cases there are no records for certain ships."* This is the case as some of the original log books were lost, some were damaged by water, some were lost to fire and some to this day are held by descendants of captains of certain ships, but they will not part with them so that they can be copied.

All of the information in this book is from the original log books of the ships mentioned. Some ages listed in the log books may differ from family records. This can be explained. A lot of adults that immigrated to Australia put their age down by a year or more as they thought it would be easier to obtain work if they were younger than what they really were. In regard to the ages of children. Their ages were put down a year or two so as the price of paying full passage could be eluded. Also some spelling of names may be different in the records than those held by family members but, I repeat these are how they were spelt in the ships log book on which they immigrated.

**Trevor Bailey Phee Historian for  
Macfie Clan Society of Australia**

## *McPhees From Scotland To Australia*

*In The 1800's*



*The Lightning*

Copies of the book can be purchased from  
Trevor Phee 24 Bibby Street Hamilton NSW  
2303.  
Telephone 02 4962 2672  
Email: t.phee@bigpond.com.  
The cost of the book is \$15.00 (Incl postage in  
Australia)



Our new NSW Vice President **Morrison McPhee** is seen on the left at the Bundanoon Highland Gathering with wife Robin, Geoff and Ruth McPhee and Glenda McPhee

## THINK ABOUT JOINING THE MCDUFFIE DNA SURNAME PROJECT

[HTTP://WWW.MCDUFFIEDNA.COM/INDEX.HTML](http://www.mcduffiedna.com/index.html)

The McDuffie DNA Surname Project seeks to emulate the success obtained by some other clans in applying the relatively new and accurate Male Y-Chromosome DNA Test in order to establish the Clan's genetic roots

### Objective:

1. To determine the degree of relatedness among those with surnames of the great McDuffie diaspora and establish links with the ancestral homeland.
2. To establish how closely associated surnames are linked
3. To assist with paper genealogical research in breaking through "brick walls"
4. To determine which McDuffs were McDuffies

The McDuffie DNA Surname Project is for those who have:

A love of clan fellowship - regardless of "what line" you are - if your name is MacFie etc you are one of us. A confraternity with all the other Clans - Feuding is in the past - so many Clans exhibit a large "Atlantic Modal Haplogroup HG1" that it is clear that our similarities are more than our differences. An inquiring mind - Scots are forever engineers doctors and scientists!

NEWS - NOW UP TO 63 PARTICIPANTS - 8 GROUPS HAVE MATCHES

From the Clan MacFie News July 2005 (Clan Commander)

**The DNA Project.** The DNA Project being conducted for the Clan by Rod McDuff of Perth, Australia, continues to gather momentum. The 17<sup>th</sup> July update of the Project website reports 26 DNA readings completed with 7 pending. Of 32 participants, 5 groups have DNA matches. The first group identified continues to produce interesting data from its 6 matches. This is the group that linked Clan Commander Sandy McPhie with an already known cousin on Prince Edward Island, Canada, and both of them to Colonsay resident, Angus MacPhee. Now they have a match with a John McDuffie in Georgia, U.S.A., and a McAfee there who traces paper records back to a McDuffie ancestor in Ireland. This surname flexibility is also evident in Commander Sandy's ancestral tree which includes MacPhie, McPhee and McFee spellings over the generations and goes back to a Neil McDuffie (MacDuffie?) b/c Argyle 1687.

The 26 (+7 pending) submissions are a small sample and more participants are required to develop patterns both new and confirming existing ones. Rod Macduff will, by the way, be attending the Clan Gathering in Inverness in September and will be making a special presentation to Clan Parliament on this on the Saturday morning. For further information on the DNA Project check its website at [www.mcduffiedna.com](http://www.mcduffiedna.com) and contact Rod to participate.

## Saint Andrew 30 November 2006

Saint Andrew is the Patron Saint of Scotland, and St. Andrew's Day is celebrated by Scots around the world on the 30th November. The flag of Scotland is the Cross of St. Andrew, and this is widely displayed as a symbol of national identity.



The "Order of Saint Andrew" or the "Most Ancient Order of the Thistle" is an order of Knighthood which is restricted to the King or Queen and sixteen others. It was established by James VII of Scotland in 1687.



## PIONEERING DAYS

From the Journal of George Everard  
1830 – 1925 Pages 3 to 5

"1851 I tumbled on the right shop, at a very rough boarding house in Flinders Street. For a room mate there was a man from Phillip Island, which with French Island, was then in the hands of Messrs. McHaffie and Gardner. Two of the latter and one of the McHaffies were off to the diggings, and the old man who had accompanied them thus far was returning to Phillip Island and was wanting a cook. I grabbed the job."

"To resume, about 10 o'clock, Tom McHaffie and a nephew, about my own age (sixteen years or so) arrived with the whale boat, and we put our saddles and bridles in the boat and pulled over to Phillip Island."

"I put in four months on the Island, and it was many years before I spent so long in any other one place. Looking back after so many years I think it did me good. I learned a lot then that stood to me in after days. I should have had to put in six months but for a ship with emigrants putting in to Westernport Bay through stress of weather. McHaffie went on board and engaged two men – one as cook, the other to knock about. The next day he put me across the water on to the main land at 'Drew's Station'. At parting he acted as a real gentleman. He gave me my cheque for nine pounds, telling me not to cash it, and putting his hand in his pocket, he gave me a sovereign, saying: 'I am giving you this to take you to Geelong, where you had better go to your uncle, and, for Heaven's sake, stop there, for, with the exception of my nephew, you are the most useless object I have ever met'. I thanked him for his kind gift and his outspoken opinions of myself and his nephew. I never saw him again, but still think of him as a kind and good man."

Submitted by Bernie McPhee

## BUNDANOON 2006

### A Great Day at Bundanoon

Another fabulous day at Bundanoon in April 2006. The weather was superb with temperatures around the 20 degree mark. This year we had some 50 people either members or those just interested in Scottish culture visiting the tent.

The Macfie Clan tent was ably looked after by Geoff and Ruth McPhee and Glenda and Glen McPhee. There were many interested patrons stopping in to discuss matters Scottish.

The Society Members who regularly attend called in to register their interest and to catch up with other Society Members.

We were very pleased to meet up with relatively new member **Linda Waddington** from Belmore and to receive a Membership Application from **Matthew MacPhee- Ainsworth**

Bundanoon is only one of the many Highland Gatherings around the country with a Macfie presence.



Linda Waddington \*(N04-992)  
visiting the tent at Bundanoon.

# RECORD OF THE 16<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING:

**Present:** Bernie McPhee, Clan Commander Sandy and Helen McPhie, Peter and Barbara McPhee, Andrew McPhee, Glen and Glenda McPhee, Brian and Marilyn McPhee, Maggie Mulherin, Judy Moore, Bill and Patricia McPhee, Anthony Gartland, Marg Booth, Sheila Cogan, Michael and Barbara Carey, Rev Michael McPhee, Clyde Smythe, Barbara Smythe, Dene Rutledge, Nella Rutledge, Michael and Jenny McPhee, Paul McPhee, Leo McPhee, Jim and Barbara Knowles, Jan Harper, Pauline Flynn, Geoff and Ruth McPhee, Sally McPhee, Bernie (Bernadette) McPhee, Elizabeth Miller, and other non members: Edna McCallum, Clare Perkins.

**Apologies:** Ian McPhee, Morrison McPhee, Rosemary Szente, Trevor Phee, Susan Spinks, Nora and Sandy McPhee, Bob McPhee, Neil McPhee, Helen McPhee, Robbie McPhee, Jack McPhee, Julie Peters, Bruce McPhee, Anne McPhee, Barbara and Kamil Burian, Eve-Ann Morgan-Payler.

Retiring President Bernie McPhee welcomed everyone and gave a brief outline of the day's proceedings, commencing with his report, of which the following is a summary:

**His Report**, he said, covers the past two years; the time since the Biennial General Meeting in Canberra in 2004.

**Issue** Number 100 of the Clan Society's Australian Newsbulletin called "The Downunder" – this milestone was achieved under the guidance of Glen McPhee of the ACT. Bernie McPhee expressed sincere thanks to Glen McPhee for his editing and arranging the printing, wrapping and posting out of the Society's magazine. Glen has maintained a good mixture of items of; a) local interest, b) historical sketches as sent in by contributors, c) stories about McPhees in the Services, as contributed by Clyde Smythe, d) the Clan Commander Sandy McPhie's updating on international Macfie scene, e) listing the new members and making note of bereavements and losses to the Society, and f) listing the donations made by members to the various funds established by the Society.

**Other functions** attended and organized by the Australian Macfies: Each year the Clan Society is represented at various Highland Games, e.g. Bundanoon, Aberdeen, and Ringwood, and these have attracted our constant and usual faithful Macfie staff.

In Melbourne, for the Victorian members, Maggie Mulherin arranged the First and Second Annual Church Service for the Macfie Clan Society in the Scots Church Melbourne, each time attracting twenty Macfie Society members, with the encouragement and help of the Rev David Robertson of the Scots Church.

**Membership:** Some of our longest standing and most faithful and regular members are now getting old. In the two last years there have been quite a few new members, and we hope that from them will come the next generation of leadership. Some members failed to renew membership, and some letters have been returned by the Post Office. I suppose that this has always been the way.

**Subscriptions:** No change to the family rate of \$15 and the single rate annually of \$10. It is the donations which enable things to happen over and above the subscription fees.

**Two new books** published: Bernie said that this was a most significant achievement of members in the past two years, Trevor Phee's booklet entitled: "McPhees from Scotland to Australia in the 1800's", and Ian McPhee's book: "The McPhees of Argyll". Bernie said that later in the day, he would devote a large part of his keynote speech at the BGM to introducing these two landmark achievements.

**Bernie McPhee** expressed thanks to Clan Commander Sandy McPhie and to Helen McPhie on behalf of the Australian Macfie Clan Society, for their continuing generous work on behalf of the Macfie Clan and Society, and especially for Sandy, his key role in the recent International Gathering and 9th Clan Parliament of the worldwide Macfie Clan Society.



**Bernie McPhee** in his report expressed thanks to all the Executive and Office bearers of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia, and wished them well under the new administration, both the officials staying on in office and the new officials coming into their duties from after the BGM today. He expressed special thanks to Peter McPhee and his wife Barbara for always keeping the pot of activities boiling for the Victorian Society, and for his role as Treasurer of the International Macfie Organization, and for his role as Chairman at the dinner and function today at the BGM. And he expressed gratitude to Maggie Mulherin for her role as Victorian Vice President. He knew that Maggie was not standing for office again today, and so he thanked her for her excellent work over the past number of years, for her thoughtful and kindly management of the Victorian members affairs.

**Another feature** of the events of the last two years has been the continuing work of Australian member Mr Roderick MacDuff of Western Australia on his DNA Project involving Clan Society members. Bernie McPhee said how Roderick reported at the last International Gathering in Inverness Scotland, and how Roderick's study could see certain patterns emerging as to family groupings of Macfie DNA. The Australian Macfie Society was very proud of the achievements in such a sophisticated scientific field of its West Australian member, and Bernie McPhee encouraged mem-

bers to avail themselves of Roderick MacDuff's expertise.

**Bernie McPhee** as President offered his special thanks to Anthony Gartland, Treasurer and to Margaret Booth, Secretary, for their great help to the Presidency and to the Australian members over the last two years, and he praised the two people for the measure of talent and grace which they had brought to the roles.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2004 AND 2006**

Anthony Gartland presented the following documents to the Meeting, and gave a short introduction, outlining the satisfactory condition of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia finances for the period of his ministration:

At the end of Anthony Gartland's presentation, the financial documents were ratified by the meeting by acclamation, the executive having already approved them, and the documents having already been published in different editions of "The Downunder".

#### **ELECTIONS**

Bernie McPhee conducted the elections.

He introduced with a brief biography the names of those members nominated for offices, mentioning the names of proposer and seconder in each instance, and there being no more than one nomination for the positions available, these following people were elected with a unanimous show of hands:

President of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia - Ian McPhee of Brookvale, NSW  
Vice President Macfie Clan Society of Australia - Bob McPhee of Torrington, NSW  
Vice President—NSW - Morrison McPhee of Cheltenham, NSW  
Vice President—ACT - Glen McPhee of Evatt, ACT  
Vice President—South Australia - Judith Moore  
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# CLAN MACFIE NEWS

From: Clan Commander A. C. (Sandy) McPhie  
Clan Macfie Secretariat  
76 Lindeman Avenue, Heatley, Townsville. Q. 4814 Australia

## 16<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF CLAN MACFIE IN CONJUNCTION WITH TRIENNIAL REUNION OF THORBURN-MACFIE FAMILY SOCIETY MEMBERS, SWEDEN, 5<sup>th</sup> TO 8<sup>th</sup> JULY 2007

Clan Commander Sandy McPhie has agreed to the Thorburn-Macfie Family Society in Sweden hosting the 16<sup>th</sup> International Gathering of Clan Macfie in Sweden in July next year. The Thorburn-Macfie Society will hold the Gathering in conjunction with its Triennial Family Reunion over the extended weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July. A comprehensive programme is being developed and will be available shortly on the Clan Society's homepage at [www.thorburn-macfie.se](http://www.thorburn-macfie.se), together with contact details for those interested in attending.

Formed in 1937, The Thorburn-Macfie Family Society is the oldest clan society of Clan Macfie. The original family came to Sweden from Scotland in July 1823 when William Thorburn and his wife Jessy (nee Macfie) settled with their five children at "Kasen" near Uddevalla on Sweden's west coast. The Thorburns were tea merchants in Leith while Jessy Macfie was a member of the "sugar" Macfie family – her father, Robert Macfie of Langhouse, was the first member of Clan Macfie to receive a Grant of Arms (1864). In 1923 descendants gathered at the estate "Kasen" to commemorate their ancestors arrival in Sweden one hundred years earlier. This was followed in 1937 when some Thorburn and Macfie descendants decided to form a Family Society. The first Reunion was held in 1938 with subsequent reunions being held on the first Saturday in July every three years. The success of the reunions (and the society) may be judged by the group photo below taken at the 2004 Gathering.



Yes, that's the Clan Commander and Helen preparing to Swim with the dolphins on the Gold Coast (Qld) when returning home from the Australia Clan Society meeting in Melbourne on Clan Macfie Day. They're in the water in the second photo – that's one of the dolphins in the front



## WORLD WAR I

### No. 2169 Corporal William Henry Phee, 10th Battalion, A.I.F.

William Henry Phee was the seventh of 10 children and was born on 19th October 1891 to William and Betrice Phee at Blackstone in Queensland. (Blackstone is a suburb of Ipswich). The family moved around somewhat, so that his father could gain employment as a coalminer. The family finally settled at Cessnock in 1904.

William Henry, along with his young brother Albert Alexander (Abbie), enlisted in the AIF at Maitland on 6th March 1916. At this time William Henry was married and had a daughter. The brothers signed up with the 34th Battalion and both were assigned to the 3rd Rifles who in turn were attached to the 1st Australian Pioneer Battalion.

The two brothers left Sydney on the S.S. Clan McGillivray on 13th June 1916 and arrived in North Africa at the Australian 1st Division HQ at Tel-El-Kebir on 5th July 1916. After a couple of weeks at HQ the brothers went overland to Alexandria and from there they sailed to England on the S.S. Arcadia, arriving in London. After a couple of weeks training they were sent to France to take part in the horrors of the Somme Battle around Pozieres and Moquet Farm.

William Henry was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 31st March 1917, then on 26th May that year he was demoted to Corporal. Then not long after he was demoted to Private, until on 30th August 1917 he was promoted to the rank of Corporal again.

On 12th January 1918 the two brothers were separated when William Henry was transferred to the 5th Battalion until the 30th August that year when he was again transferred to the 10th Battalion. In June 1918 William Henry was gassed during the battle for Morlancourt. (The German counter measure against the slowly advancing Anzacs was to saturate the front with gas shells to force the wearing of gas masks, then to machine gun the blindly groping soldiers while they advanced.). As a result, William Henry was hospitalised for a short time, suffering also from inflammation of the knee joint.

During World War II William Henry volunteered for active service but was rejected due to his age. However he was accepted by the army with the rank of Sergeant Major and was put in charge of recruiting and training. He was living at Casino in NSW at the time.

#### References:

C.E.W. Bean, *History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918*, A.I.F. Records, Letter and Notes, Trevor Phee, 1994

Thanks to Clyde Smythe for collecting and formatting the valuable information of the Macfie Clan people who served in the Australian Defence Forces

### Budding Pipers

Left;

**Geoff McPhee** (Our Treasurer)

Having fun at Bundanoon Highland Gathering in April 2006.

Right

**Andrew MacLeod** a visitor to the Macfie tent.

#### Aberdeen Highland Games

The Aberdeen Highland Games are held each year on the first weekend in July.

**Geoff and Ruth McPhee** ventured up to Aberdeen and set up the Macfie tent. This couple have been attending Bundanoon and Aberdeen for many years— well done.

There were about 7,000 people in attendance at Aberdeen and the weather had a hint of Scotland in the afternoon.



# HISTORICAL BOOKS ON MORVERN, ARGYLL

BY SALLY MCPHEE

Morvern is located on the mainland in Argyll, opposite the Isle of Mull. Mull is a very pretty Island that is famous to Australians as being the home of Lachlan Macquarie. If you can trace any members of your family back to Morvern, there is a good chance they had family links with the Isle of Mull. Morvern is not particularly accessible and saw its greatest reduction of population during the 1800s because of the lack of agricultural future for the local indigenous population - the clansmen. Clan leadership in the area of Mull and Morvern had been provided by the Jacobite supporting MacLeans and Camerons, both of whom struggled to survive following Culloden. Morvern did not feature the opposed evictions by clansmen from the land of their historical roots described in popular reading today. It is more likely that the prospect of grinding poverty made emigration a more feasible option for the people of Morvern. Emigrations in the early 1800s were mostly to the Americas and by the middle of the 19th century, Australasia became a popular destination, particularly with the support of assisted passages.

**Philip Gaskell, *Morvern Transformed*, Cambridge University Press, 1968, 3rd reprint 1996, 272p.**

Together with births, deaths and marriages, family locations are a critical part of identifying where your ancestors were, and what they might have been doing. Having said that, most clansmen were listed as Agricultural labourers in censuses. Philip Gaskell has limited his study to 19th Century Morvern and has painstakingly identified all the farms in the parish of Morvern. The accompanying maps may help locate places that no longer are relevant in today's maps of the area. As many of the clansmen migrated during this period, the listings of rentals is a potential source for placing your forebears in a particular locality.

Phillip Gaskell traces changes in land ownership and thus highlights the impact of economic forces on the local people. Through emigration of continuous numbers of clansmen, he shows that by the end of the 19th Century, one way of life had been supplanted by another. A variety of primary sources, especially land records and rentals, are used to plot the transformation of Morvern. There are a sprinkling of McPhee names here and there, so well worth a look if you know your family came from this area.

**Iain Thornber Ed, *Norman MacLeod Morvern - A Highland Parish*, Birlinn, 2002, 258p**

The book centres on life in a Highland parish through the eyes of Norman MacLeod (1812-1872) whose grandfather had been Minister of the Parish of Morvern. The extended family continued close ties to the Morvern area, and witnessed changes in the area with depopulation that essentially saw the end of the Gaelic clan life that had been the norm for hundreds of years. The core of the book is a number of essays on life in Morvern written by Norman MacLeod.

The essays bring the character of the people to life with gentle humour and a great appreciation of what was important in clan life. Norman MacLeod also brings to life the Gael's love of the land and the great loss the emigrants felt as they said farewell to their homeland. Iain Thornber's knowledge of the area and its history helps take the reader back to a greater understanding of 19th Century Morvern. The inclusion of the data from the Duke of Argyll's 1779 census of his property, as well as the 1841 census provide reference material for those interested in family history. While the listings are still open to transcription error, there was a McPhee presence in Morvern in both 1779 and 1841.

Sally McPhee  
[sallymac@bigpond.net.au](mailto:sallymac@bigpond.net.au)

## Macfie Clan Society of Australia Office Bearers

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<b>SA VP*</b>	Judith Moore	34 Lakeside Cres Highbury SA 5089	08 8264 1739
<b>TAS VP*</b>	Bertul Sundstrup	1337 Pipers Brook Rd Pipers Brook TAS 7254	03 6382 7222
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<b>Armigerous Member</b>	A.L. (Sandy) McPhee	10 Rodney Rd Mt Vincent NSW 2323	02 4938 0350
<b>Historian (Military)</b>	Clyde Smythe	80 Avoca Rd Turramurra NSW 2074	02 9144 7486
<b>Historian</b>	Jan Harper	62 Relowe Cres Box Hill VIC 3129	02 9890 5834
<b>Historian</b>	Helen McPhie	76 Lindeman Ave Heatley QLD 4814	07 4779 6328
<b>Society Piper</b>	Bob McPhee	PO box 31 Deepwater NSW 2371	02 6663 3112

### \* Macfie Clan Society of Australia Executive

<b>President</b>	Ian McPhee PO Box 237 Brookvale, NSW 2100
<b>Vice President</b>	Bob McPhee PO Box 31 Deepwater, NSW 2371
<b>Clan Commander</b>	A.C (Sandy) McPhie 76 Lindeman Ave Heatley, QLD 4814
<b>Armigerous Member</b>	A.L (Sandy) McPhee 10 Rodney Rd Mt Vincent, NSW 2323
<b>State Vice Presidents</b>	See above
<b>Treasurer</b>	Geoff McPhee 43 Cedar St Lugarno, NSW 2210

## SCOTTISH EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Date	Event	Location	Contact
24/7/06	Highland Games	Morningside QLD	07 3397 4512
26/8/06	Gathering of the Clans	Harry Moore Oval Toukley NSW	02 4397 1711
2/9/06	Ceilidh	Woombye School of Arts Sunshine Coast	07 5441 4238
9/9/06	Pipe Band Social	Macgregor State School QLD	0419 903 036
24/9/06	Highland Gathering	Manly Oval Manly NSW	Vicky 02 9969 0418
23/9/06	Highland Games	Toodyay West WA	09 5744060
14/10/06	Highland Games	Dapto Showground NSW	R.Webber 02 4296 2715
22/10/06	Highland Games	Glenbarr Highland Games Strathablyn SA	08 8536 3948
9/11/06	Celtic Festival	Beechworth VIC	
24/11/06	Scottish Week March of the Clans	Sydney	Scottish Australian Heritage Council
30/11/2006	St Andrew's Day	TBA	TBA
1/12/06	Highland Games	Daylesford Victoria	03 5348 2001

**THE MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA**

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Ian McPhee  
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