



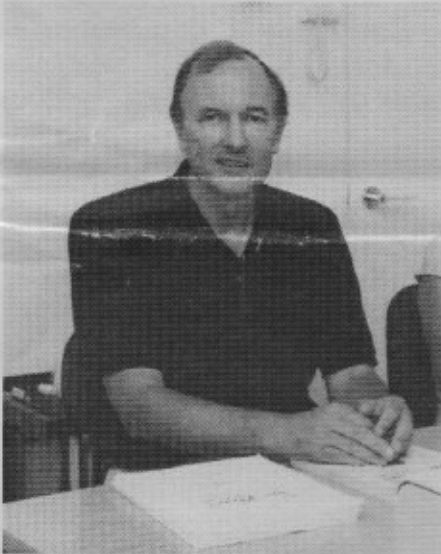
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THE DOWNUNDER

Newsbulletin of the
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 105
November 2006

From The President



It has been an eventful year for The Clan Macfie Society of Australia marked by our successful Biannual General Meeting in Melbourne. For the first time our Clan Society was asked to participate in the Scottish Act of Remembrance on Anzac Day in Sydney. This moving and interesting spectacle will hopefully be a regular event for our Society to participate in.

Clan historian Trevor Phee published a wonderfully informative book called **McPhees From Scotland to Australia**. Trevor based his information on extensive research into shipping records, to detail the arrival of many clan families and individuals. My own book **The McPhees of Argyll** I believe has also filled a gap and addressed a paucity of historical literature relevant to our clan. To those who have purchased either books a big thank you.

Over the past few months I have spent a considerable amount of time and energy trying to improve the administrative side of our Society. We live in a different world today compared to even a few years ago, let alone when the clan society was inaugurated back in 1974. Change and evolution are not only inevitable, but essential. The changes mentioned below I believe are necessary for the Society to operate more efficiently, and have also been made to take account of an anticipated increase in future expenditure.

As many of you are probably aware, members under the age of 18 and those over 75 years of age have been eligible for free membership of the Society. In addition, many years ago, a number of members paid a lump sum subscription in advance, and since that time, have also not been required to pay a membership fee. I have calculated that over 30% of members are now not paying, or not obliged to pay a subscription. From the New Year, members who fall into these categories have been asked to join with other Society members and pay an annual subscription fee.

Until recently, membership numbers have been allocated to all the individual members of a family including children, who pay for a 'family membership'. Administratively this has caused considerable confusion and served no useful purpose. To simplify matters, this practice has been discontinued. People who have joined under the family membership category have now been allocated one membership number which covers all the members of a family living at the one address.

On a more interesting note, you will see in the following pages a new feature called '**Members in Profile**'. The Society has many hard working members who regularly attend functions and represent our organisation. As a consequence they also appear frequently in *The Downunder*. There are also however many members who for reasons of health, geography or work commitments cannot participate in the Society's activities. Nevertheless they make a contribution through their interest in genealogy, family history, etc, or by just being good, loyal members. It is my desire such members be given an opportunity to also appear in *The Downunder*. 'Members in Profile' has a format which includes ancestral information that not only allows us to share in their story but provides a historical reference point that may be useful for readers in discovering an unknown relative.

From The President - continued

An issue dear to my heart is the encouragement of our children and extended family to share in, and help maintain our Scottish heritage. What better way to do this than to encourage another family member to join our Society? To this end you will see in this issue a **Christmas gift offer** to all existing members which includes two years membership of our Society. It's not only great value, but an unusual gift that no one else in the family is likely to hand out.

Before signing off, I would like to express my appreciation to all those members who have stepped up to the plate this year to support our Society. In particular I am grateful to all the state vice-presidents, past president Bernie McPhee, Clan Commander Sandy McPhie, Glen McPhee, Rosemary Szente and Geoff McPhee. My thanks also go to the many members who have contacted me by email, letter and phone for their good will.

To all members I extend my best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas.

Ian McPhee

Christmas Gift Offer

Here's an opportunity to give someone in your family an unusual gift from the heart this Christmas.

The recipient won't expect such a gift, and certainly will not receive anything like it from any other member of the family. By taking up this offer you are not only making a contribution to the Society by introducing a new member into the fold, but encouraging a loved one to participate in sharing your common heritage. It is an excellent gift to give someone.

The following package valued at \$60.00 is available as a special offer to Society members for \$30.00 posted to your door. It includes:

- A personalised gift certificate providing membership of the Society for two years

Plus

- A copy of *The McPhees of Argyll* (donated by the author) – a 300 page history book which covers clan history, Scottish history and the lives of a pioneering family of Scots in Australia.



To obtain your Christmas gift offer, either fill out the slip contained in your *Downunder* or contact president Ian McPhee, refer to page 15.

MEMBERS IN PROFILE

WA member: Jillian King (W99-994)

Migrant ancestors: Donald McPhee & wife Mary McInnes
Occupation: Crofter in Scotland, shepherd in Australia
Home in Scotland: Isle of Mull
Emigrant ship: Departed Liverpool on the *Marmion*
Arrived Australia: Portland Bay, Victoria, December 1852
Pioneer ancestors: Catherine McPhee & George Coldham.



Member's story in brief: Jillian King (nee Hansen) was born in 1948 in Melbourne Victoria. She was educated at St. Michael's C.E.G.S. and afterwards worked in the advertising industry. While living and working in Melbourne, Jillian married Alan King. Jillian always had a strong interest in horses and for this reason she and Alan moved to a property called Kingsleigh Downs at Woori Yallock in Victoria to breed and show quarter horses.

Genealogy has always been a subject of great interest to Jillian. She has traced various branches of her family with remarkable success. Like many Australians she has a mixed ancestry which in her case includes Scottish, English, Welsh and Norwegian ancestors. Jillian has traced her Welsh ancestors back to some dubious Princes and her Norwegian family back to the 14th century. Her Scottish forebears caused the most difficulty. Lack of marriage details in Australia, lack of information on Mull and variations in surname spelling made her Scottish research difficult. Despite those major obstacles she found Scottish ancestors back to the 1700s, and in so doing has been able to provide a wealth of material to our clan historian Trevor Phee. In addition to genealogy, Jillian's other interests include travel and scrapbooking.

About 13 years ago Jillian and Alan moved to Western Australia and they now live in a new northern suburb of Perth. Jillian works for the Education Department. Her son Evan still lives at home while her daughter Raymonda lives at Townsville in Queensland.



NSW member: Rosemary Szente (N04-997)

Migrant ancestors: Alexander Cathie, & wife Elizabeth Caithness
Occupation: Storekeeper, spirit dealer, bootmaker, bailiff
Home in Scotland: Dundee
Emigrant ship: Departed Liverpool on the *Boomerang*
Arrived Australia: Melbourne, January 1854
Pioneer ancestors: John Cathie & Kate Carter

Member's story in brief: Rosemary Szente (nee Dawes) was born in 1945 in Sydney and educated at Abbotsleigh. After working as a legal secretary for 3 years she left Australia to see the world.

Rosemary worked in London for a period, then studied German in Ebersberg, Bavaria and also at the University of Munich. In 1969 she moved to Spain where she studied Spanish while also teaching English, was an extra in a movie, an entertainer in a bar and taught tennis. Rosemary then worked and travelled in Mexico before living with her sister in Vancouver, Canada for 3 years. She initially worked there as a legal secretary before changing direction to work with a flamenco dancer at a Spanish restaurant. In 1974, Rosemary returned to Sydney where she studied and taught classical guitar for 7 years. She also met and married Andrew Szente who was on an exchange programme in Australia for a Swiss pharmaceutical company. They moved to Basel in Switzerland where they lived for 19 years.

Rosemary's many interests include genealogy, astrology, languages, playing piano and guitar, travel, theatre, dancing, reading, philosophy, hand reading, numerology, graphology and religion. She has written hundreds of poems and performed her own songs in public. Rosemary and Andrew are now retired and live on one of Sydney's northern beachside suburbs.

GENERAL NEWS

New Members

The Clan Society extends a very warm welcome to our new members:

- Anne O'Grady (N06-1027) from Engadine NSW
- Robert Lansdowne (Q06-1028) from Wishart QLD

Donations

Our treasurer, Geoff McPhee, is pleased to acknowledge and thank the following members for their donations:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • David McPhee, Traralgon, Vic | Colonsay Memorial Fund |
| • Marie Smith, Bateman's Bay, NSW | General Fund |
| • Margaret McDougal, Aberdeen, NSW | General Fund |
| • Stuart McWilliam, Moree, NSW | Commander's Travel Fund |
| • Jean Rushbrooke, Eagle Heights, QLD | General Fund |
| • Gwen Duff, Tewantin, QLD | General Fund |
| • Bonnie Bush, Sans Souci, NSW | General Fund |
| • Robert Lansdowne, Wishart QLD | General Fund |
| • Lorna Lansdowne, Wishart QLD | General Fund |
| • Patricia Chapman, Kew, Vic | General Fund |

Vale

It is with regret that we record the passing of one of our members:

Alan Cathie (N89-684) of 27 Peat Street Brooklyn NSW who passed away in March 2006.

Change of email address

1. Brian & Merylyn McPhee
North Adelaide SA.

Email: mac@bettanet.net.au

2. Sandy & Norah McPhee
Mt Vincent NSW

Email: norsandy@bigpond.net.au

SA News

SA VP, Judith Moore has been busy lately attending the Scottish Association of SA meetings. If anyone is interested please contact Judith Moore on 08 8264 1739

Brian and Cass McHaffie



Brian and Cass McHaffie now live in Tweed Heads South after moving from South Australia some 11 years ago. Brian was the SA Vice President of the Clan Society before retiring to Tweed Heads NSW.

Cass and Brian recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on July 14th

(Bastille Day). The guests included one of the bridesmaids and her husband who travelled from England and Brian's sister Brenda also a bridesmaid, who came from Sydney. Brian and Cass's son and daughter Stuart and Janice, travelled from Adelaide for the celebrations.

Cass reports that Brian is working hard on his lawn bowls

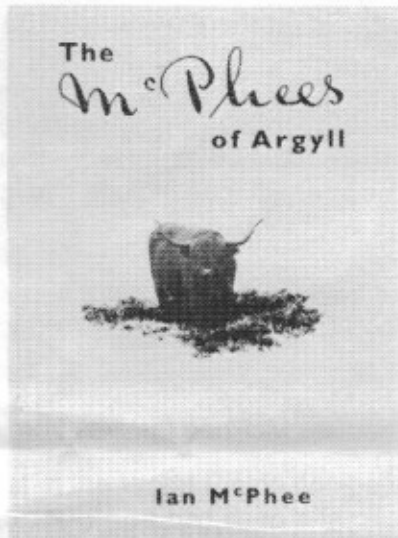
Trevor and Sue Phee's holiday in New Zealand.



The photograph shows Trevor and Sue Phee on one of the electric trams in Christchurch. There are several different designs of these trams that operate every day from 9:00am until 7:00pm. The entire trip around the city takes only a half an hour, but you can hop on and off at 11 stop's along the way, and your ticket is valid for two days.

Correction: In Issue 103 we incorrectly recorded the ages of two new members Charlotte McHaffie and Ruby McHaffie. Charlotte is now 14 years and Ruby is 13 years respectively and they are the daughters of Stuart & Nicole McHaffie of Brooklyn Park S.A. and granddaughters of Cass and Brian McHaffie of Tweed Heads.
Our apologies for the error.

Still Available: The McPhees of Argyll



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).

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, 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 20th century, is also explored.

History is intertwined with the lives of a typical Highland family and their story is followed over several generations from the earliest time that records of their 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. In the 1700s the family lived a traditional life while in the 1800s they became part of a crofting community. 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.

Copies of the book can be purchased from Ian McPhee PO Box 237 Brookvale NSW 2100. The cost is \$35.00 + \$10.00 for postage. For further details telephone: 02 99382550 or email: irmac10@bigpond.net.au

Greg McPhee— Memorial Medal



Greg McPhee (second left) winner of J. W. Dodds Memorial Medal. Greg McPhee is the son of Jack McPhee (V78-422) and nephew of Bernie McPhee of Oakleigh, Vic.

Photo: from left: Professor Lance Endersbee; general manager of Clyde-Riley Dodds, Greg McPhee, Mr Gordon Page; and chairman of Mechanical Engineering Professor Bill Melbourne.

The picture is from the Picture Australia web site and was taken in the mid 1980s. www.pictureaustralia.org/

Bernie McPhee found the web site and found around 50 photographs of McPhees

GENEALOGY

by Trevor Phee: t.phee@bigpond.com

Trevor Phee, Chief Society historian, is working on a book "The Fighting McPhees" and is asking members for their input and details on their relatives who served in the military. So far there are some 100 pages of "Fighting McPhees" documented.

Since the July 2006 *Downunder* Trevor has received several enquiries about McPhee's serving in the military and others seeking information on McPhee family trees. However, there must be many more members with family members who have served in the military and it would be interesting to include this information.

In regard to McPhee "family history". Since the Clan Society was formed back in 1974 we have been documenting McPhees' that came to Australia up to 1900. Just a couple of families have sent me updates on their families up to the early 1990's.

What needs to be done now is for all members to put together their immediate McPhee families from 1900 to 2000. This can be done as hard copy or electronically via email or CD.

This activity of putting together your family tree/history for future generations is the core of the Clan in Australia and for that matter in all countries.

Trevor holds a lot of birth, death and marriage records covering every state and as well some Scottish records. For those who would like some assistance in this regard please feel free to ask.

Trevor Phee Clan Society Historian

Looking for Craig McPhee



In the August 1986 Newsbulletin there was a photo of Craig McPhee [N77-240] of Leeton, NSW. It states that he was then with 3 RAR at Holsworthy. At the time of the photo Craig was the CO's driver - but he had hopes of returning to the Pipe Band. He was 20 on 23 July 1986.

I would like to make contact with Craig ,or a family member, to obtain details of his military background. Contact: Trevor Phee (Clan Society Historian).

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR VICTORIAN MEMBERS

You are warmly invited to attend

our

THIRD ANNUAL CHURCH SERVICE FOR THE MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY

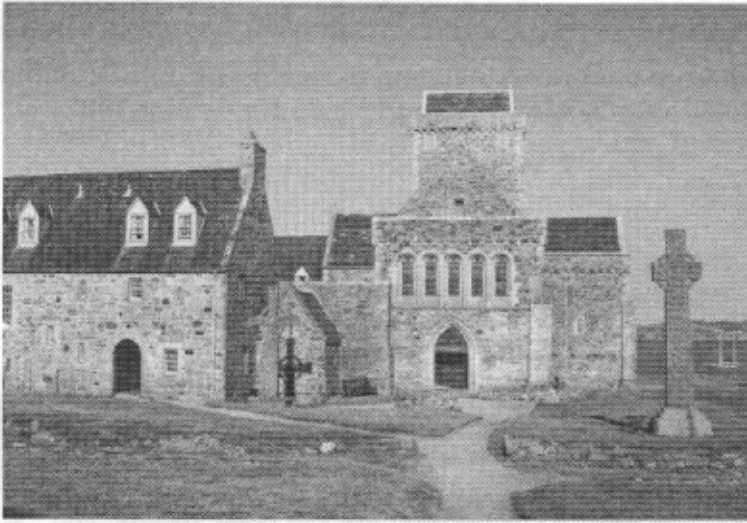
to be held this year at the College Chapel of

SCOTCH COLLEGE, 1 MORRISON ST HAWTHORN

at 11am on 19th November 2006

Contact Bernie McPhee 03 9503 9907

Summer Travellers



The Abbey on Iona

In August Glenda and Glen McPhee from Canberra travelled to Scotland and England to spend some time with daughter Kelly and for Glen to participate in several pipe band competitions. The band members and their families stayed in the University of Stirling accommodation, a beautiful setting in the shadows of the William Wallace monument and within striking distance of the Stirling Castle. The weather during the two weeks whilst at Stirling was warm and enjoyable and not a drop of rain.

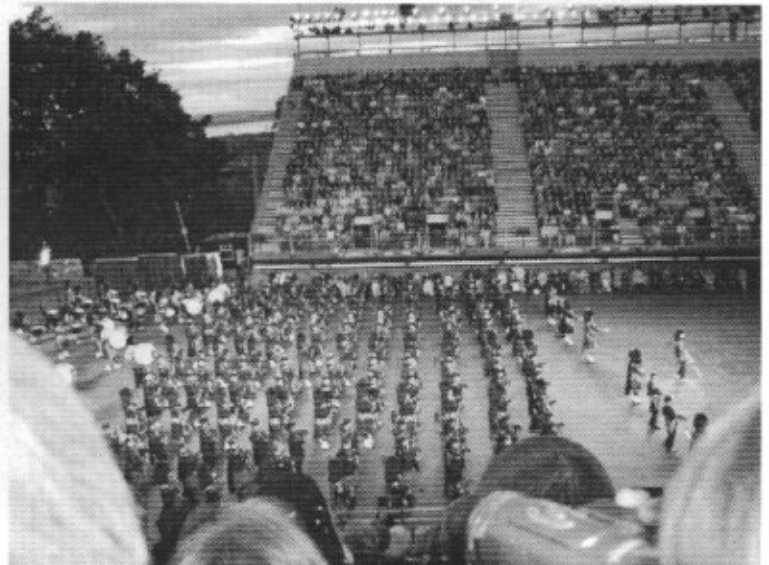
The pipe band participated in four band competitions at Bridge of Allan, Pitlochry, Newtonmore, (home of 'Monarch of the Glen') and the World Pipe Band Competitions in Glasgow.

Whilst at the World Piping competitions in Glasgow amid some 8,000 bandspeople and 60,000 spectators Glen thought he had seen a familiar face in the crowd. It was none other than our Bob McFie, President Macfie of the Macfie Clan Society of Scotland. It was great to catch up with Bob as it had been some nine years since they had met at the Aviemore Clan Gathering and Parliament.

There was also a couple of opportunities for some sight seeing including a couple of days on Iona and to attend the Edinburgh Tattoo.

The visit to Iona was a wonderful experience and the weather on the west coast reminded them of the windy wet conditions that avail on the west coast.

Over the centuries the Abbey buildings have been considerably altered. St Columba and his followers built a small monastery from wood, wattle and daub. Numerous additions were made to the building until the mid 16th Century.



Massed Bands at the Edinburgh Tattoo



The Royal Mile leading to the Edinburgh Tattoo

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo was as usual a great spectacular with many pipe bands and a huge crowd of some 6,000 people and many from Australia. The massed bands and other events were well worth the crush walking up the Royal Mile to get into the Tattoo.

BLAST FROM THE PAST THE FOLLOWING

The following articles have been reproduced from past Newsbulletins to remind us of interesting and newsworthy information. Newsbulletin No 22 May 1979 and No 35 November 1982



Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee

Born: Lower Millstream New Brunswick Canada 19 July 1894

Died: 25 September 1982, Vancouver BC Canada.

largest industrial firms in Canada. At a time when many businesses were suffering from the effects of the Great Depression, he did pioneer work in management consulting, a new area of enterprise which took him, in 1937, to England as Chief Executive of the famous glove firm, Dent Allcroft Ltd.

Wartime in England was, understandably, no picnic. He quickly became involved in the production of the Sunderland Flying Boats and the Stirling Bombers. In a later venture he established Alginate Industries Ltd., organizing research into the possible uses of alginic acid extracted from seaweed harvested on the coasts of Scotland - a project that brought much satisfaction to Earle Douglas as it also provided much needed employment for the Scottish crofters. - And who indeed could resist the tale of the intriguing properties of alginic acid which enabled it to be used in the manufacture of products as disparate as beer, camouflage nets, transparent paper, fine worsted cloth, and cold puddings.

Looking down from the eminence of age and experience, Dr. MacPhee comments on things seen in retrospect. He views them with the impartial eye of the trained observer, yet always one senses the ghostly presences of those pioneer forebears, transmitting their Protestant ethic down the years.

Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee was born in 1894. His autobiography begins with the description of life in the little village of Lower Millstream in New Brunswick, Canada. His parents were of pioneer stock. His father, a sawmiller, was a man of high intelligence and firm ethical principles inherited from his Scottish forebears. Earle Douglas grew up in a close-knit village community where friendliness and mutual support characterized personal relationships, and the churches set the standards of social life. These were influences that were to last a life time.

In the fullness of time, and by his own unswerving efforts, Earle Douglas became a teacher, and was already, at the age of twenty, a High School Principal. After a traumatic period of service in France during the First World War (in which he was decorated for bravery), and having obtained his degree at the University of Edinburgh, he returned in 1920 to Canada to become a university lecturer. Psychology was his chosen field, teaching his natural inclination: he joined them both. He followed this path for the next ten years of hard work, rapid promotion, invigorating contacts, widening experience.

At this point he made what was, in the circumstances, a surprising, even courageous, decision: he changed direction and entered the world of business. By 1931 he was Controller of one of the

ARTICLES FROM PAST NEWSBULLETINS

Continued from Newsbulletin No 22 May 1979

Without bias, he balances the profit and loss of modern developments in education. He welcomes the increase in freedom of the individual (if only it is tempered with self-discipline); he regrets the diminishing of family influences and parental guidance. In the Depression of the 1930s, he notes, inadequate provision was made for the unemployed; nowadays the individual too easily divests himself of personal responsibility and makes excessive demands on society. "He considers the role of the University Professor; he speaks of student disaffection, and hopes that universities may engender 'breadth of cultivation and liberality of mind'.

In 1950, with the great expansion of tertiary institutions, Earle Douglas is invited to develop a School of Commerce at the university of British Columbia. Thus the two paths converge at last: the university professor and the business administrator meet in happy conjunction. Having passed from Director of the School to Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, and thence to Dean of Financial and Administrative affairs, Dr MacPhee is now in retirement, Emeritus Dean. 'Retirement' however, is hardly an appropriate term. He has simply continued to be immersed in a variety of commitments of national importance. Since the age of seventy-six he has devoted himself to research and writings on clan and family history.

It may be in this exclusive concentration on work that the key to his success lies. The world of the arts seems to have passed him by. The ordinary social pastimes are not for him. He preferred to direct his considerable energies to determined goals. His single-mindedness did not prevent his involvement in a multitude of social matters outside his immediate programme. His experience and direction were constantly sought, and freely given, in such areas as High School curricula, programmes for the mentally retarded, the Maritime Provinces Trade Commission, the Tree Fruit Industry, the manning of tugboats, the problem of Quebec and national unity. From this record of a crowded life, Earle Douglas himself emerges as a man of outstanding competence and wide achievement; a man of genial temperament, a lasting friend and an affectionate family man; a man of courage in the face of personal vicissitudes; a man of loyalty and integrity. To quote from the citation delivered at the conferring of one of his degrees, *honoris cause*: 'a man of preternatural energy and warm human quality'.

Kaye H McPhee (V74 006)

From Newsbulletin No 35 November 1982

With great sorrow I record the death of Clan Macfie Commander Dr. Earle Douglas MacPhee of Vancouver Canada. We all know something of Earle's selfless and untiring efforts in leading our Clan back a broken clan (in 1623) to official recognition in May 1981 as an active Clan once again. Some of our members have had the privilege of meeting this great man; all will look on him as a true friend.

Earle was a sawmiller and a teacher early on, he served in the First World War and won a Military Medal, attended University in Edinburgh after the war and held various University posts in Canada from 1921 to 1929. Earle entered the business world in 1929 and worked at executive level with a number of firms, statutory bodies, and government instrumentalities. In World War II he held an important post with Short Bros. aircraft manufacturers in England. He returned to the academic life in 1950, holding a number of chairs in commercial disciplines at various Universities. His interest in and service with semi-government bodies continued throughout this time as did his prolific writing.

According to Earle's autobiography he retired in 1963, but really there's no evidence of this. He was honoured by the academic world in 1981 when the Senate of the University of British Columbia established a Chair of Management in the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration and named it The Earle Douglas Chair.

Alex (Sandy) McPhie

From Bob McPhee Vice President



Bob writes: I retired last year, and moved to Fairy Hill near Casino, for 8 months, and moved again to Torrington, a small village, 28 kms west of Deepwater, northern New England, NSW, south west of Tenterfield and north west of Glen Innes. Torrington is a quiet little village, where cattle are allowed to roam the streets. It was a booming tin/wolfram mining area around 100 years or so ago, with 900 European and 2000 Chinese people living here. There are about 60-70 people living here at present, no shops, one caravan park. The village adjoins 30,000 hectares of National Parks. Fossickers come here from all over Australia and overseas, to fossick for numerous gems and minerals, including emeralds, giant topaz, etc.

My partner and I acquired the former Tablelands Hotel, at Torrington, a beautiful old building built in 1917. Clan Macfie members and their families are welcome to stay over as our guests. The weather is beautiful all year round, although winters are quite cold. It snows here some years. This winter the temperature has gone down to minus 8 on some nights. Most of the main towns in the region have pipe bands, Scottish orientated. The Tenterfield Pipe Band is more or less in recess, so after making some inquiries and to keep my interest in piping going, I decided to start up an Irish Association, my mother's forebears being Irish, from Co. Carlow and also Galway, including one transported from Carlow Town in 1838, and eventually to Morton Bay Penal Settlement, on what many considered at the time was a trumped up charge.

So, I called a public meeting at Deepwater School of Arts, on 17 June and a Steering Committee was formed, of which I am the Chairman. Eventually we hope to have a pipe band, and we have weekly piping practice at Deepwater. Both the Vice Chairman Robert Rowe, and I are former Grade I pipers. We have generated a fair bit of interest in the region.

Bridget McPhee & the Aborigines - 1865



In this short extract from the book: "A STORY OF HORSHAM" A Municipal Centenary, 278 pp. by Brian Brooke and Alan Finch Published by the City of Horsham 1982, the authors recount the experiences of the early Horsham area settlers with the local aborigines.

There is a quotation from John McPhee, who worked for the Wilson Brothers of Vectis Station, west of Horsham, and who, after his marriage in 1864 was at Nurrabiel at the southern end of the run, as a boundary rider.

"My wife Bridget had no fear of the Blacks, in fact they were always most kind and enjoyed helping with the woodchopping and digging in the garden, where we grew beautiful vegetables. Payment would be made in the form of a little flour, sugar or tea, for which they were grateful. Only on one occasion did my wife become afraid of the Black men. On this particular day I was absent from home riding around the sheep to harbour them for the night. A poor black Gin came running from the camp and rushed crying into our home, imploring my wife to hide her from the angry blacks. Between them they barricaded up all doors with pieces of furniture, tables, chairs etc., however the blacks soon forced open the doors and two big black men dragged out the

unfortunate Gin. At this stage my wife was terrified they would commence to attack her and she rushed to rescue her baby John who was asleep in the cradle. She was greatly relieved when one black fellow assured her: 'they not hurt her - or her baby. You good wife, not run away from your husband.' They then beat the Gin most cruelly taking her back to their camp beside the swamp. That same evening we were pleased to sight them apparently all happily talking together." (Thanks to Bernie McPhee for this article)

An introduction to the new NSW Vice President Morrison McPhee



I have just purchased a copy of the book "The Crofter & The Laird" by John McPhee written in 1969 and have only just begun to read it. The first two lines are "The Scottish Clan that I belong to-or would belong to if it **were now anything more than a sentimental myth**". I can only hope that as I read the book he comes to realise the error of this statement.

Both my parents were born in Scotland, my father in Ayr and my mother in Fife. I was born in Sydney and have lived all my life here.

My wife Robyn and I joined the Clan Society about fifteen years ago and the following year our two children Lachlan & Joanne were joined as individual members. Up to this time I had not taken a great interest in family or clan history although Robyn was interested in genealogy. My one ongoing link with Scotland in Australia has been attending the Highland Games in "Brigadoon" (Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales) as often as possible and commend this day to all of you.

Since joining the Clan Society I have been slowly taking more interest, and last year was lucky enough to be able to visit Colonsay, albeit only for two days, and spend my birthday 'At Home' wandering around the island.

I eagerly took up the offer to become the NSW Vice President and see this as another step in my journey of increasing interest in Clan & Family History. This was probably pre-ordained as my birthday is the 27th May.

As NSW Vice President, as well as just another member of the Clan, I encourage all members to keep in contact with each other through "*The Downunder*" and will be happy to receive any and all correspondence from NSW members. I can be reached by mail at 24 Cobran Rd. Cheltenham 2119 or email to colonsay@bigpond.net.au

If anyone knows of someone who is entitled to be a member and has not yet joined please get them to contact me or let me know so that I can make contact with them.

Bougainville



Bougainville, Solomon Islands. c. 1944-02. Group portrait of Coastwatchers and native police, some of whom are armed with rifles. **Fourth back row**, left to right: two native policemen; Flight Lieutenant J. A. Corrigan, RAAF; Lieutenant (Lt) J. R. Keenan, RAN; Lt J. H. Mackie, AIF; Captain R. C. Cambridge, AIF; **Sergeant (Sgt) G. McPhee, AIF (circled)**; Corporal (Cpl) N. D. Thompson, AIF; Sgt T. R. Aitkin, AIF; Corporal (Cpl) E. D. Otton, AIF. (Naval Historical Collection)

Found this photograph in the Picture Australia web site. Note that Sergeant G McPhee is identified in the photograph. (Thanks to Bernie McPhee)

Behind the Name " Picts and Pits"

OUR knowledge of the language of the Picts is extremely limited. Apart from a small number of personal names, and various inscriptions which are partly or, wholly meaningless to us, we have to rely almost entirely on place-names for information with regard to both the vocabulary of the Pictish language and the area in which the Pictish-speaking people dwelt.

In particular that group of place-names which contain the prefix "*Pit*" as the first element - names like, Pitlochry, Pitcaple, Pittenweem, Pitgavenv, etc.

There are about 300 of these, and they are found from the Firth of Forth northwards, through Fife, Angus, Kincardineshire, Aberdeen-shire, the Counties along the Moray Firth, into Easter Ross and the southern tip of Easter Sutherland.

Westwards, they stretch up the fertile valley into Perthshire, and as far as Bedenoch.

The area they cover practically coincides with that of the so-called Pictish symbol stones, and therefore, scholars have logically assumed that the people carving and erecting these symbol stones were the same who created place-names with "*Pit*" as a first element, and that the people were the historical Picts, some time between 200 and 800 A.D.

The word "*Pit*" itself has been compared to the Low Latin word "*Petia*" - "a piece of land", which the Romans borrowed from the Celtic language of Gaul and which, via Latin and French, gave us the modern English word "*piece*".

In Pictland, to, it meant - "a share of land", and this existence in Pictish has shown us a close relationship with Pictish Celtic and Gaulish Celtic.

Some of the names belonging to this category are:-

Pitcaple - Horse Share.

Pitcastle - Castle Share.

Pitfour - Meadow Share.

Pitlochry - Stony Share.

Pitmedden - Middle Share.

Pittencrieff - Share of the Trees.

And, Pittenweem - Share of the Cave.



Hilton of Cadboll Stone

Even a superficial look at these names shows that, whatever the Linguistic origin of the element "*Pit*", practically all the other parts of the word are of a Gaelic derivation - like "capon" - "horse". "Caisteal" - Castle and so on, and so on.

Some of these Gaelic elements may of course be translations from Pictish, but the number is too large to be the only explanation.

It is much more likely that the Pictish word "*Pit*" was borrowed by the incoming Gaelic population from the ninth century onwards, and that consequently, it would be wrong to describe most names in Pit..... as Pictish, because they probably belong to a period when Pictish and Gaelic were spoken side by side in the area.

The word element Pit was used and borrowed by the Gaels only in those parts of Scotland in which they superseded a Pictish-speaking population.

Therefore we must cease to think of Pitlochry, Pitcaple etc as survivors from the times of the historic Picts between the third and ninth centuries and rather ascribe them to let's say, the ninth to the eleventh centuries, when Gaelic gradually established itself in North-East Scotland, and the unification of Pictland and Dalriada took place.

Article from: *Raising the Standard* July -August 2005

WORLD WAR II

No. NX67544, Lieutenant Mervyn Dudley McPhee, 19th Battalion, AIF



Lieutenant Mervyn Dudley McPhee, a son of Patrick Norman and Lily Carrington McPhee, was born at Armidale, NSW, on 13th May 1916. Soon after the 1st World War the family moved to Sydney where Mervyn received his education and later became a permanent officer of the Sydney Water Board.

In 1940 he enlisted as a trainee pilot in the RAAF as part of the Empire Air Training Scheme. During training in Queensland he was deemed at one stage to have flown recklessly and was 'grounded'. While awaiting disciplinary action he left the base without permission and enlisted in the 19th Australian Battalion of the AIF on 20th January 1941.

After training in a machine gun company he embarked on 2nd September 1941 for service in the Middle East where he was promoted first to the rank of Corporal and then to Sergeant, prior to the battle of El Alamein.

Sergeant McPhee was one of Montgomery's army of 150,000 allied soldiers that attacked Rommel's German desert Panzers at 8pm 23rd October 1942, under the cover of one of the most concentrated artillery barrages of the War.

The El Alamein attack was a complete surprise to the Germans. The allies had decoded secret German 'Enigma' radio messages and were able to direct artillery and RAF bombers on to German forces and supply depots, but the battle was won by the troops on the ground. Montgomery's method of attack - the infantry moving forward to knock out anti-tank guns to open a path for the tanks - was most effective and resulted in a major victory, claimed to be the turning point of the War.

On returning to Australia Sgt McPhee served for a period on Thursday Island before being posted to a signals course in Adelaide. He subsequently entered an Officers' Training School and finally received his commission as Lieutenant effective from 26th June 1943. He saw action in Papua New Guinea against the Japanese in 1944.

The 19th Battalion landed at Jacquinot Bay in October 1944 to take part in the drive to contain 50,000 Japanese in their base at Rabaul, New Britain. The troops pressed along the coast until Japanese defensive positions were located at Waitaroto Plantation. The enemy bunkers were built of logs buried under a thick cover of earth and jungle growth, with narrow firing slots through which the defenders raked the attacking 19th Battalion with machine gun fire, pinning them down. After days of remorseless fighting, the Japanese were overwhelmed by the use of flame throwers directed into slits of the bunkers under the cover of Bren gun fire. None of the Japanese defenders even attempted to surrender, and none survived, such was the bitter ferocity of the fighting.

New Britain was effectively cleared of Japanese by this successful military operation. The main Japanese force was now virtually prisoners of war in Rabaul, where they remained until after the end of the War.

Mervyn Dudley McPhee was discharged from the AIF on 30th August 1945. After a long illness he died in a Sydney hospital on 20th March 1994, aged 77.

References:

Norman McPhee, Notes and Letter, 1994
Martin Gilbert, *Second World War*, 1989

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

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

by Ian McPhee



The Scottish Australian Heritage Council (SAHC) was founded in 1981 and this year celebrates its 25th anniversary. The organisation was conceived to try and ensure that the contribution made by people of Scottish ancestry in Australia was not ignored. It was inaugurated in the era when multiculturalism became not only a catch cry of the media but government policy.

The SAHC is based in New South Wales and has about 250 individual members and 75 affiliate organisations. The Clan Macfie Society of Australia is one of those affiliate members which over the years has supported the council. In fact one of the earliest memories I have of our clan, is seeing Commander Sandy McPhee leading the Macfies on a parade in Sydney during Scottish Week. I was a member of a pipe band that was playing for those participating in the street march.

The main activity each year for the SAHC is Scottish Week, which commences the Saturday before St. Andrew's Day on 30th November, and finishes on the Sunday after it. In Sydney, a variety of events help celebrate Scottish culture. The Kirkin' o the Tartan at Stephen's Church in Macquarie Street followed by a march of clansmen accompanied by pipe bands which end up at Hyde Park is the key event each year. There, a traditional Scottish gathering is held with a massed band display. The Grand Scottish Ball signals an end to the week of festivities.

Of special significance for all those whose ancestors were Highland clansmen, is Tartan Day in July. Following the Battle of Culloden in 1746, the British Government banned the wearing of all forms of 'Highland garb'. Tartan Day celebrates the repeal of the law that banned the wearing of Highland clothing, which the King gave agreement to, on the 1st July 1782. The Scottish Australian Heritage Council facilitates marking this event with clans invited to wear their tartan, along with Highland dance displays and lots of pipe band music. In Sydney it is celebrated in Martin Place, while in Brisbane, Clan Campbell organises and stages the event on the South Bank of the Brisbane River where the expo was held some years ago. Being at a more appropriate time of the year for a hot Southern Hemisphere country like Australia, this is undoubtedly my choice of event around which to celebrate our heritage.

In more recent times attention has been paid to a great Scottish achiever who has not been given the recognition by Australians he so rightly deserves. Lachlan Macquarie (1762-1824) was the longest serving Colonial Governor of New South Wales. He was instrumental during his term between 1809 and 1821 in turning an outpost gaol into a thriving colony. His birthday on 31st January is now being marked by the SAHC with a ceremony in front of his statue within the bounds of NSW Parliament House. As a point of interest Lachlan Macquarie is buried in a mausoleum on the Isle of Mull not far from his birthplace. It is a beautiful and tranquil place. I'm sure many Australian tourists who go across to Mull in order to visit the ancient monastery on the island of Iona, fail to realise such a site is so close to their path.

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council is active in highlighting a cultural heritage we can be proud to be associated with. The Macfie Clan Society of Australia congratulates them on their achievements and wishes them every success in their silver jubilee year.



Scottish Australian Heritage Council— Scottish Heritage Week—26 November—2 December 2006

If you are interested in attending with some Macfies please contact Morris McPhee (refer to page 15) who will be representing the clan at the event.

Macfie Clan Society of Australia Office Bearers

President*	Ian McPhee	PO Box 237 Brookvale NSW 2100	02 9938 2550
Vice President*	Bob McPhee	PO Box Deepwater NSW 2371	02 6734 6202
QLD VP*	Susan Spinks	Chertsey N/S 212 Oakey QLD 4401	07 4691 6206
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Armigerous Member	A.L. (Sandy) McPhee	49 Rodney Rd Mt Vincent NSW 2323	02 4938 0350
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Historian	Jan Harper	62 Relowe Cres Box Hill VIC 3129	03 9890 5834
Historian	Helen McPhee	76 Lindeman Ave Heatley QLD 4814	07 4779 6328
Society Piper	Bob McPhee	PO Box 31 Deepwater NSW 2371	02 6734 6202

*Macfie Clan Society of Australia Executive

President	Ian McPhee PO Box 237 Brookvale, NSW 2100
Vice President	Bob McPhee PO Box 31 Deepwater, NSW 2371
Clan Commander	A.C (Sandy) McPhee 76 Lindeman Ave Heatley, QLD 4814
Clan Commissioner	A.L (Sandy) McPhee 49 Rodney Rd Mt Vincent, NSW 2323
State Vice Presidents	See above
Treasurer	Geoff McPhee 43 Cedar St Lugarno, NSW 2210

All correspondence should be sent to:

The President, Macfie Clan Society of Australia

PO Box 237 Brookvale NSW 2100

Telephone: 02 9938 2550

Email irmac10@bigpond.net.au

SCOTTISH EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Date	Event	Location	Contact
19/11/06	Annual Church Service	Scotch College 1 Morrison St Hawthorn VIC	Bernie McPhee 03 9503 9907
24/11/06	Highland Games	Ringwood Vic	03 9876 4140
26/11/06	Scottish Heritage Week	Hyde Park Sydney	Morrison McPhee 02 9868 1521
30/11/06	St Andrew's Day		
1/12/06	Cairn Inspection	Rawson Park Mosman	Sarah Jackson 02 9978 4000
2/12/06	Highland Games	Daylesford VIC, Victoria Park	03 5348 7867
2/12/06	Pipe Band Social	Sutherland NSW Sutherland Police & Community Club	02 9528 8294
3/12/06	Kirkin O the Tartan	Presbyterian Church Nambour QLD	07 5441 4238
15/12/06	Christmas Social	St Paul's Church Burwood NSW	02 9684 2491
16/12/06	Christmas Party	Danish Club Newstead QLD	07 3359 8159
25/12/06	Merry Christmas to all		
31/12/06	Hogmanay Best Wishes		
1/1/07	Scottish Gathering	Nambour QLD Petrie Park	07 5441 4238
26/1/07	Celtic Australia Day Festival	Bradfield Park North Sydney	02 9150 6765

THE MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

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President Macfie Society of Australia
PO Box 237
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