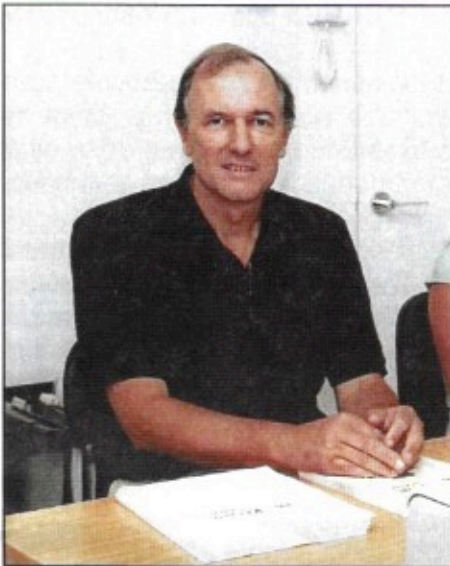




# THE DOWNUNDER

news bulletin of the  
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 109  
March 2008



## President's Message

Welcome to the new year.

The Society holds a general meeting every two years, close to 27th May, which is the day our clan was given official recognition as an active clan by the Lord Lyon. This year, our Biennial General Meeting will be held in Queensland at Toowoomba. If you live in Queensland, it is an ideal opportunity to meet some fellow clan Society members. If you can come along, I urge you to do so. BGM details are set out on page 5.

The quality of our newsletter is in many ways dependant on the willingness of members to provided articles and information. I am particularly grateful to Tasmanians Robert and Monica McPhee, Past President Bernie McPhee, Victorian John McPhee, Queensland couple Dale and Rachel McPhie and military historian Clyde Smythe for their recent contributions.

Our organisation remains active and healthy. The following is a brief update on the Society for the year ended 31/12/2007.

1. Subscriptions: The \$10.00 single and \$15.00 family subscription rates have remained the same for about 10 years. By any measure, the cost of belonging to our Society is cheap. Fortunately many members add a donation to their annual subscription which contributes significantly to our finances. It is heartening to see we have so many generous members.

Last year members aged over 75 and those classed as 'fully paid' who had been exempt from membership fees were requested to pay the annual subscription. While a number of those renewals remain unpaid, many not only paid, but expressed the view it was a change for the better and one they supported. An unforeseen benefit was the renewed contact with members and a more accurate data base.

2. Finances: Society treasurer Geoff McPhee has provided a financial report for 2006 & 2007 on page 14

continued page 2

The Macfie Clan Society  
of Australia was  
founded at Richmond NSW  
in 1974.



ancestral home of  
Clan Macfie

3. Membership: Renewing and increasing the membership is undoubtedly the main challenge facing our Society. In a complex world of competing interests this is not an easy task. Membership has been declining for many years, and regrettably, that decline continued last year with a reduction of 10 in our total membership. This can be attributed largely to the loss of some of our very elderly, long standing members. As at the 31st December 2007 our Society had the following number of members:

			%
ACT	12	=	3.7
NSW	101	=	30.8
NT	0	=	0
QLD	68	=	20.7
SA	23	=	7.0
TAS	6	=	1.8
VIC	88	=	26.8
WA	17	=	5.2
Overseas	<u>13</u>	=	<u>4.0</u>
	328		100
Single members	266	=	81.1
Family members	60	=	18.3
Life members	<u>2</u>	=	<u>0.6</u>
	328		100

4. Inventory/expenditure: At a recent meeting of the executive, it was agreed to spend a portion of the Society's funds on banners, display equipment and information literature. These items are in the process of being purchased. More is now being spent on producing and sending out our newsletter *The Downunder*. As it is probably the single most important facet of the Society, I feel the increase is well and truly justified.

5. Executive Committee: Despite my best endeavours to address the deficiency, Victoria still does not have a Vice-President to represent the state. Past-President Bernie McPhee has come to my rescue on several occasions, but we desperately need someone to take on that role. Just before Christmas, Bob McPhee from Deepwater, relinquished his position as Vice President of the Society. Among other things, Bob is devoting time to research his family tree. Thanks go to Bob for the considerable effort he has put in during his time on the executive.

Ian McPhee

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## The Gonfalon

A gonfalon is a banner suspended from a cross bar. Gonfalons are used to announce the presence of a clan at functions and gatherings and are commonly carried in parades. They come in various shapes and sizes.

In recent times there has been some controversy about the legitimacy of using the clan name with a clansman's badge displayed on a gonfalon. After being referred to the Lord Lyon, he ruled it was purely a matter of personal preference for the name to be displayed or otherwise. A clan may choose to display their name on or near the clan badge at their discretion.

The Lord Lyon pointed out that while members of a particular clan may be familiar with their clan badge, members of the general public would not necessarily make the same association. Our clan Society has a gonfalon, pictured on the right, which displays the name of the clan and the clan badge.



## MEMBERS IN PROFILE

**NSW member:** Margaret Jean Barnes (N04-990)

**Migrant ancestors:** Thomas McPhee & Janet Cameron  
**Occupation:** shepherd  
**Home in Scotland:** Strontian, Argyll  
**Emigrant ship:** Kate  
**Arrived Australia:** Sydney, NSW, October 1852  
**Pioneer ancestors:** Catherine (Kate) McPhee & James Davidson



**Member's story in brief:** Born in 1943, Margaret grew up in Drummoyne. She attended Burwood Girls High and later became a fellow of the Australian Insurance Institute.

Margaret worked in the finance sector with Legal & General, Colonial and finally the Commonwealth Bank. Her roles varied between customer service, administration management and systems development. Those roles gave her a number of opportunities to travel to the US and Europe evaluating systems. Margaret retired in 2004 and soon after caught the 'Genealogy bug'. She has always loved travelling.

As a member of the Society of Australian Genealogists, she participated in a tour of Ireland in 2007. Margaret is also an avid fan of the TV series 'Star Trek' and attends Star Trek conventions overseas. Margaret is a volunteer at the Powerhouse Museum one day each week, works in a casual position at NSW Parliament when the house is sitting, is secretary to the board of a church bookstore and secretary of the Owner's Corporation of the units where she lives. As a single person still living in Drummoyne, Margaret's social life revolves around the ballet, theatre, cinema and eating out.

**NSW member:** Mairi Isobel Petersen (N83-517)

**Migrant Ancestors:** Ewen McPhee (a widow) & his 5 children

**Occupation:** shepherd  
**Home in Scotland:** Banavie near Fort William, Argyllshire  
**Emigrant Ship:** Departed Gravesend on the barque Blonde  
**Arrived Australia:** Sydney, NSW 1849  
**Pioneer Ancestors:** not known



**Member's story in brief:** Born at Maclean in 1940, Mairi grew up on a dairy farm at Ulmara near Grafton. She attended Grafton High School and later Newcastle Teachers College. Mairi taught in various Sydney primary schools, married, and in 1960 had daughter Natalie.

Since 1959, Mairi has been an active member of the Australian Labor Party. During the late 60s and until 1972, she spent a great deal of her time campaigning against Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. In 1975 she married her second husband George Petersen, who was the State Labor Member for Illawarra, on the NSW south coast.

Mairi has always been interested in human rights and the less fortunate members of our society. She is the secretary of the Kiama branch of Amnesty International. About 5 years ago she commenced helping asylum seekers detained at the Villawood Detention Centre in Sydney. To assist individuals once they are released from detention, she set up the organisation 'Bridge for Asylum Seekers'. From south of Wollongong, Maire drives up one day each week to visit and help detainees at Villawood.

Mairi describes herself as a 'community activist'. She is interested in the environment and is a member of the Save Killalea Association which is trying to stop a beachfront development near Shellharbour. While not so interested in genealogy, Mairi is very keen on her family heritage and Scottish history.

# GENERAL NEWS

## New Members

A warm welcome to the following 3 new members:

Beverly Knowles	(VO8-1057)	Balwyn Vic
Greg Martin	(Q08-1058)	Victoria Point Qld
Ashley McPhee	(N08-1059)	Manly NSW

## Lost Touch

If you know how to contact any of the following members who have moved from their address listed below, kindly advise president Ian McPhee:

Noel McPhie	18 Rathlyn Ave Corinda QLD 4057
Rosemay Owens	20 Raymond St. Speers Point NSW 2284
Harvey MacPhee	202-25 Windsor Way Truro NS B2N6Z5 Canada

## Donations

Many thanks to the following 53 members for their generous donations made to the Society and the clan. Those donations, received between the beginning of November and the end of February are an essential part of our funding and greatly appreciated.

Gwen Hubert	Pearce ACT
Ian R McPhee	Scullin ACT
Margaret Barnes	Drummoyne NSW
Robyn Hancox	Wollstonecraft NSW
Russell Mattocks	Balgowlah NSW
Esma McCarthy	Goonellabah NSW
Claire McGuffie	Drummoyne NSW
Andrew McPhee	Baulkham Hills NSW
Greg McPhee	Urunga NSW
Marion McPhee	Maroubra NSW
Michael & Mary McPhee	Vaucluse NSW
Morris & Robyn McPhee	Cheltenham NSW
Nathan & Elsie McPhee	Cooranbong NSW
Robert J McPhee	Deepwater NSW
Ross & Joyce McPhee	West Pymble NSW
William D McPhee	Seaforth NSW
Beryl McPhie	Nowra NSW
Stuart McWilliam	Moree NSW
Zillah & R Scott	Yamba NSW
Marie & Graham Smith	Batemans Bay NSW
Clyde & Barbara Smythe	Turrumurra NSW
Bruce Taylor	Yagoona NSW

donations continued

Keith & Joyce Caldwell	Annerley QLD
Jenny Hutchins	Carindale QLD
Heather Knowles	Ashgrove QLD
Dorothy McPhee	Bell QLD
Neville McPhee	Caloundra QLD
Sally McPhee	Wooloowin QLD
Helen Rice	Buderim QLD
Robyn Young	Jimboomba QLD
Ann Leask	McLaren Vale SA
Dr John McPhie	North Adelaide SA
Dr Bertel & A Sundstrup	Pipers Brooke TAS
Marlena Turner	Ulverstone TAS
Nancy Collie	Bentleigh East VIC
Meg Davis	Cowes VIC
Beverly Knowles	Balwyn VIC
Dr Ian McPhee	Rosanna VIC
John W McPhee	Doncaster East VIC
Keith & Anne McPhee	Glen Waverley VIC
Peter B McPhee	Abbotsford VIC
Peter & Barbara McPhee	Nunawading VIC
R Neil McPhee	Mornington VIC
Fr M Mathew McPhee	Middle Park VIC
Ross McPhee	Rosebud VIC
John W McPhee MBE	Hawthorn East VIC
Bruce McPhie	Box Hill VIC
Haydn McPhie	Mirboo North VIC
Julie Peters	Port Melbourne VIC
Lachlan Rewell	Rosanna VIC
Fr Anscar McPhee OSB	Wyndham WA
Margaret McPhee	Nedlands WA
Suzie M McPhee	Duncraig WA

## In Memoriam

It is with sadness we report the passing of the following members:

Alexander Knowles	(Q84-545)	Ashgrove	Qld
Jim Martin	(Q95-890)	Wishart	Qld
Michael Murphy	(V04-985)	Mildura	Vic
Ian McPhee	(Q77-285)	Toowoomba	Qld

# 17th Biennial General Meeting of The Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Notice is hereby given: that the 17th Biennial General Meeting of The Macfie Clan Society of Australia will be held at the City Golf Club, 254 South St, Toowoomba QLD at 11.00am on Saturday 24th May 2008.

## Order of Business

1. Welcome
2. Apologies and greetings
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the 16th BGM
4. Business arising from those minutes
5. President's report
6. Treasurer's report and financial statement
7. \*Constitution amendments
8. Recognition of 2 new life members
9. Election of executive members for 2008-2010
10. General business
11. Address by Ceann-Cath (Clan Commander)

a. \*The Society's name be altered from 'The Macfie Clan Society of Australia' to 'Macfie Clan Society of Australia'.

b. \*An additional sub-heading to be inserted under Membership point 3 to read: 'Family membership: A family membership with a membership number that may cover several individuals of a family at the one address, has one vote i.e. one vote per family membership subscription.'

c. \*Delete that part of the note on page 2 of the constitution which states 'Members below the age of 18 years or over the age of 75 are excused from payment of membership fees.'

## Executive Committee

Nominations are now called for the following Executive positions.

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- ACT Vice-President
- Queensland Vice-President
- South Australian Vice-President
- Tasmanian Vice-President
- Victorian Vice-President
- Western Australian Vice-President

NB: Nominations are to be in writing, stating the nominee's name and intended office. They are to be signed by the nominee accepting nomination and by a proposer and seconder. Only financial members can accept nomination or propose or second a nomination. Nomination forms are available from the president and close with him on 30th April 2008.

## Weekend Programme

Saturday 24th May		Sunday 25th May	
Morning tea	10.30am	Scot Church Oakey	9.30 am
General Meeting	11.00am	BBQ hosted by Susan Spinks	12 noon
Society Lunch	T.B.A.		
Afternoon	At your leisure		
Dinner	At your leisure		

## Attendance & Information

Please refer to and complete the enclosed slip to indicate your attendance and RSVP by 10th May 2008. Members are encouraged to wear Scottish dress to the BGM and church service on Sunday. If anyone needs assistance with accommodation or bookings please contact our Queensland VP Susan Spinks:

Chertsey M/S 212  
Oakey QLD 4401  
tel: 07 46916206  
Email: [susanfaithspinks@tadust.org.au](mailto:susanfaithspinks@tadust.org.au)

## Sydney Church Service

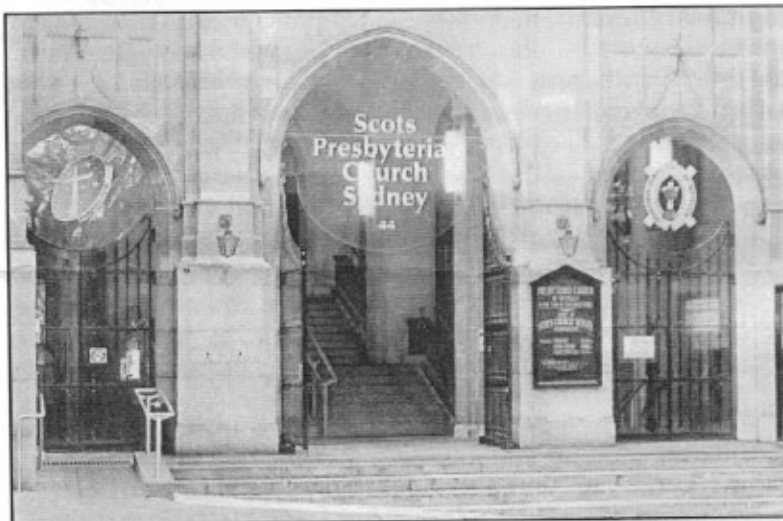
Some 4 years ago, Past-President Bernie McPhee organised a church service at Scots Church Melbourne for Victorian members of our Society. It has become an annual event for members ever since. This year a similar opportunity was arranged for New South Wales members to attend a service at Scots Church in Sydney.

The date of the service in mid-November was chosen for its proximity to St. Andrew's Day and Scottish Week in Sydney. Scots Church (Sydney) minister, Rev. Adrian Van Ash, enthusiastically embraced the idea of a service for our members, and made all those who attended most welcome.

About a dozen or so Society members listened to a service relevant to our Scottish heritage and afterwards were able to enjoy morning tea with the congregation. Our thanks go to Adrian and the Scots Church congregation for their warm hospitality. It is to be hoped such church services for our members can be continued.



L to R: Russell and Jennifer Mattocks, Rosemary Szente and Lyndsay Armstrong at Scots Church Sydney



Scots Presbyterian Church in Margaret Street Sydney

### History

Founded in 1823, Scots Presbyterian Church in Sydney, is the oldest Presbyterian Church in Australia. The present church has returned to the original place granted to the Rev. Dr. John Dunmore Lang by Sir Thomas Brisbane. A Scot like his predecessor Lachlan Macquarie, Brisbane was Governor of NSW from 1821 to 1825. The first church was built on the land in 1824. This church was demolished to make way for the approaches to the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Subsequently, the "Assembly Building" was built and opened in 1930. It later fell into disrepair. The existing church was re-opened and re-dedicated on 25th February 2006.

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## Yan Yean Cemetery

from John McPhee of Old Toolamba in Victoria:

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November, I was privileged to be a guest at the opening of a chapel costing one million dollars, donated by retired dairy farmer Gordon Clements to the Yan Yean Cemetery Trust. Yan Yean was a small cemetery north of Melbourne near Whittlesea which serviced the rural community north of Melbourne from the 1840s, but is now an outer suburb of Melbourne.

As part of the ceremony John Nolan wearing the ancient McBeth tartan, played 'Amazing Grace' on the bagpipes. He was accompanied by Ian Hunter who played the didgeridoo. Ian is a descendant of the Wurendjeri people who were the indigenous owners of the land in the Melbourne area. The bagpipe – didgeridoo combination turned out to be a truly 'amazing' one.

## Can You Help?

### Family:

Andrew John McGuffie emigrated to Australia from Laureston, which is apparently near Glasgow. On 19/10/1885 he married Clara Halles Judge, at Albury in NSW. Clara was born at Ballarat in Victoria. John and Clara had 3 children: Leslie John 1887, Andrew John ('Jack') 1888 and Arthur Edmund in 1893.

### Questions:

1. On what ship and in which year did Andrew John McGuffie emigrate to Australia?
2. Where did Andrew John McGuffie live in Scotland?

Replies to: Claire McGuffie  
4/59 Wrights Rd  
Drummoyne NSW 2047

Or

Historian Trevor Phee  
Tel: 02 49380350  
Email: t.phee@bigpond.com

NB In the previous issue Malcolm Threadgold from Black Rock Victoria kicked off this *Downunder* column with a number of questions about his family. It was terrific to hear back from Malcolm that several Society members contacted him with helpful information.

## Scotland News

### Bonnie Prince Charlie's Ring

Ever wondered how Bonnie Prince Charlie communicated with his supporters (known as Jacobites) during the 1845 rebellion which ended at Culloden? One answer is below:



A ring used by Jacobite agents to identify themselves while carrying secret messages from Bonnie Prince Charlie has been sold for £12,200. The ring, set with an emerald, was carried to prove the message had originated from the exiled prince. Anyone caught with documents signed by the prince after his defeat at Culloden in 1746 faced execution.

The ring was used by Prince Charles Edward Stuart – better known as Bonnie Prince Charlie – decades after he fled to France. It is thought to be the only one of its kind to be found.

The ring bore a concealed cipher which proved the allegiance of its wearers to the Jacobite cause. Only when the receiver saw the ring, which features the inscription CRIII: Charles Rex, 1766, would he know the message was genuine. The inscription is significant as 1766 was the year Charles' father James died, leaving the Young Pretender to consider himself the rightful King of Scotland.

Source: Scottish Banner vol 31, no 9

### Historic Letter Found



A letter written by Mary Queen of Scots (left), has come to light in a private collection. It was addressed and dispatched in 1566 to Lord Bothwell.

Mary was commanding Bothwell in his official capacity as Sheriff of Berwick, Haddington and Edinburgh and Baillie of Lauderdale, to apprehend and execute a band of 8 troublemakers who had been terrorising the estates of one of her close friends, Sir William Livingston of Kilsyth. They had been setting his crops alight and threatening his wife and servants. Mary feared if they were not brought to justice it would incite others to similar action.

The letter was supposedly sent on behalf of Mary and her husband Henry, Lord Darnley, although only Mary signed it - 'be ye Grace of God King and Quene of Scottis'. Despite Mary having given birth to their only son, the future James VI of Scotland and James I of England, she had a revulsion for her estranged husband. Three months after Darnley's murder in 1567 (supposedly organised by Bothwell), Mary married the Protestant Lord Bothwell.

Sources: Scottish Banner Vol 31, no 8 & Pitkin's Mary Queen of Scots

# The Scottish Pearl

## a treasure from historical Scotland

Scotland is famous for the quality of its fresh water which produces fine whisky. It is also recognised for the quality of fish, such as salmon, that abound in its waters. Few would be aware however, that the rivers and streams of Scotland were once the source of a thriving pearl industry.

We generally associate pearls with oysters living wild, or farmed in seawater. Fresh water pearls on the other hand, are produced by mussels growing in rivers and streams. In years gone by, Scottish pearls were reputed to be the most beautiful river pearls in Europe and a highly prized item by the aristocracy. It seems as far back as 55 BC, when Julius Caesar invaded Britain, he could hardly wait to get his hands on some. In Caesar's day, pearls were sought after by every well-to-do Roman girl, just as diamonds are today.

The finding of a magnificent pearl in a tributary of the Ythan River in Aberdeenshire in 1620 was an important discovery. King James VI of Scotland had it placed in his crown. The Scottish Privy Council was so concerned pearl fishers and the commonality would start poaching pearls, they outlawed pearl fishing unless the King gave his express permission. River mussels were thus effectively protected.

By the 1760s the ban on pearl fishing had been forgotten, and pearl fishing and trading was a lucrative industry. In his book 'Tour in Scotland' published in 1769, writer Thomas Pennant noted how the wild mussel population of the Highlands had been decimated by the avarice of poachers and others, almost to the point of extinction. Little wonder it was doomed as a viable industry. Regrettably, the same scenario still occurs around the world today in numerous wild populations of fish, animals and plants.

Fresh water mussels have a symbiotic relationship with salmon and each depends on the other in the rivers they occupy. Mussels reproduce en masse every summer when the males spray semen over the females that occupy the water around them. Each female mussel produces about 200,000 young and each one must attach to the gills of a passing salmon if they are to survive. They live on the fish in a mutually beneficial relationship through the winter until spring, when they drop off the fish in a new part of the river and begin another phase of life. As filter feeders, mussels living in colonies produce effluent which attracts insects on which the salmon also feed.

Just as a wine can identify a region from which it comes, so apparently can a freshwater pearl indicate the river which grew the mussel. The River Spey for example produces pearls metallic grey in colour. It seems the bright colour of river pearls is associated with peat in the water in which they live, just as peat in the water used to produce whisky is a contributing factor to its taste or quality. The most valuable fresh water pearls are the pink coloured ones from the Oykel River north west of Inverness.

Pearl fishing came to the public's attention in 1967 when pearl fisher Bill Abernathy found a huge pearl weighing nearly 2 grams just north of Perth in the River Tay. It was supposedly later sold for £11,000, a huge sum in those days. The find started a rush that took its toll on the wild mussel population in Scottish rivers. Experienced pearl fishers did not indiscriminately open every mussel they came across, because they had a reasonable idea when a particular mussel was bearing a pearl. On the other hand, those casual fossickers lured in search of a quick reward, without knowledge, care or skill, had no such qualms and plundered mussel stocks. Wild mussel colonies became so endangered that pearl fishing in United Kingdom rivers was banned in 1998.

In years gone by, pearl fishing was associated with Scotland's 'travelling people'. For generations, travelling people had moved around Scotland, working as tinsmiths, horse dealers and pearl fishers. They could be described in some ways as itinerant workers, but were definitely not pedlars or homeless people down on their luck. Their life style was similar to that of the gypsies, but travelling people or 'summer travellers' as they were also called, were Gaelic Scots.

Pearl fishing was an enterprise that lent itself to that hardy band of people who lived on the edge of mainstream society. Some individual Highland families were by tradition, summer travellers, and they included a number of McPhee families.

Sources: Jewels: A Secret History by Victoria Finlay & The Summer Walkers by Timothy Neat



# GENEALOGY

## Historian's Report

from Trevor Phee

Trevor reports things have been quiet on the history/genealogy front. He does however advise that the Australian Electoral Roll records from 1901 to 1936 are now on line at [Ancestry.com.au](http://Ancestry.com.au)

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## The Story of a Tasmanian Convict

**Hector MacFie** was born in 1804 at Rothesay on the Isle of Bute, Scotland. His parents were Daniel MacFie, a tailor, and Catherine Sharp, the daughter of John Sharp, also a tailor. They married in the Parish of Kingarth on 17th February, 1803.

Hector appears to have been rebellious with an attachment to alcohol. He soon found himself in trouble when he stole 'nine pounds twelve shillings from a dwelling house' at Rothesay. This offence was the second crime Hector had been tried for. In 1824 he had disappeared from Bute and went to Glasgow in suspicious circumstances, so that trial lapsed for lack of evidence.

Hector MacFie was tried at Inverary on 17 Sept 1828. Witnesses at the trial included his father Daniel, mother Catherine, and brother William. Both Hector and Daniel worked as tailors with their father. Hector was found guilty of theft and sentenced to transportation for 7 years. He went to Van Diemen's Land (later Tasmania) on the David Lyon, in August 1829. Hector's Hulk Report described him as 'Single.' He was 25 years old.

On arrival in Van Diemen's Land, Hector was assigned to James McLanachan who held a land grant near Tunbridge in the midlands of Tasmania. In 1836 he was reassigned to William Roadknight, a district constable and landowner at Hamilton. By 1837 Hector MacFie had a Ticket of Leave, which meant he could work for himself, though still not free.

Anglican Church documents for Campbell Town record the marriage of Hector MacFie to Bridget Connor on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1838. Bridget was a 20 year old girl from Manchester who had arrived in Van Diemen's Land on the Mary in June 1831. After being tried at Salford (near Manchester) on 10 Jan 1831, she was sentenced to 7 years transportation for stealing 8 shillings. Hector and Bridget had 3 children, but only Edward John, born in 1840, survived. Bridget died in 1849 after a 'long illness'. Hector MacFie remarried Ellen Sawkins in 1853, but without issue.

The death of Hector MacFie was reported in Hobart's *Mercury* newspaper on 9 June 1858. 'On Monday morning last the body of a tailor once well known in this city named Hector MacFie was found in a creek between Clarence and Muddy Plains and at about a mile from the latter. The deceased had evidently met his death by drowning whilst drunk. Constable Sime discovered his body.'

### Descendants

Hector's son Edward (Teddy) went to sea as a young 16 year old and eventually became a ship's captain in the merchant marine. In 1865 he married Susan Crisp and they had several children. Their third child, Henry Hector MacFie, was born in 1869. He was apprenticed as a tailor.

It is interesting that Henry Hector MacFie dropped the 'a' from his surname, and the family name became McFie. Hector married Hannah Chapman at Devonport in 1892 and they had 5 children.

One of those children was Henry Hector McFie, born on 28<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1919 at Queenstown. Henry went on to become a distinguished Tasmanian. After completing his education at Scotch College, he joined the Union Bank in Launceston. During WW2 he became a lieutenant and joined the 2/3 machine gun battalion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Division AIF. For service in New Guinea, Henry was awarded the Military Cross for bravery.



Henry Hector McFie

While in the army Henry married Launceston girl Lillian Archer. After army service, he joined the Hydro-Electric Commission and while working full time, obtained, an applied science diploma in structural engineering. Over 37 years in the civil engineering branch, Henry held numerous positions culminating in his appointment as Assistant to the Chief Civil Engineer. He retired in 1983.

Henry was a great contributor to community life in Tasmania. He was president & life member of both the Australian Water and Wastewater Association and the Australian Corrosion Association; chairman of the Tasmanian Committee of the Water Research Foundation and member of its Board of Trustees; a life member of the Tasmanian Historical Research Association; a member of the National Trust of Tasmania; established and was inaugural chairman of the Tasmanian Committee for Engineering Heritage and was chairman of the National Committee for Engineering

Heritage and a trustee of the Wesley Church in Hobart.

After a short period in a rest home, Henry died on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2007. He is survived by his 5 children, Peter, Robert, Andrew, Margaret and Josephine.

**Postscript:** The material for this story has been kindly provided by Robert and his wife Monica MacFie. Both are Society members. The current generation of the family has reverted to the surname spelling MacFie as originally used by their convict ancestor Hector MacFie.



## Natimuk McPhees Update

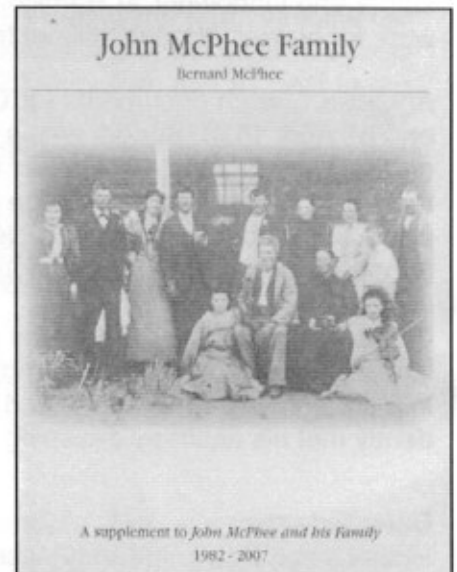
Past-President Bernie McPhee has produced a wonderful 37 page supplement (pictured right) to his original 1982 book 'John McPhee and his Family'. The following extract, taken from Bernie's introduction, provides an excellent guide to the contents:

"The new book contains material which I had prepared for the Natimuk Memorial Day in December 2002, and I have added to that Souvenir Booklet some ten pages of photos, old and new, with explanatory captions.

A new section provides information of the Scottish historical origins of the McPhee family in Lochaber, and another article places the Garrett Liston family in a Limerick context.

There has been an important development regarding photographs: following a visit to New Zealand .....we have concluded that one of the 1860 McPhee and Stewart photographs .....is definitely a photograph of Alexander McPhee (who married Agnes Elizabeth Jenkins) late of Natimuk and Bealba, and not a photograph of John McPhee as previously thought (see page 18, in the book 'John McPhee and his Family' Edited by Bernard McPhee 1982) Other than this, there seems to be no extant photograph of Alexander McPhee, brother of John McPhee of Vectis and Natimuk."

Bernie is to be congratulated on a superb job of family research and presentation of his material.



# In Search of Ancestors in Scotland

(from the diary of a family historian)

by Ian McPhee

Family research in Scotland has many pitfalls for Australians short on time or with a limited travel budget. The article below is the first in a three part series which explores the main avenues of research in Scotland for those interested in genealogy and family history.

## PART 1

I arrived in Scotland on a personal quest to research all the available historical records which might have information relevant to my forebears. I was determined to leave no stone unturned in a project begun some years beforehand.

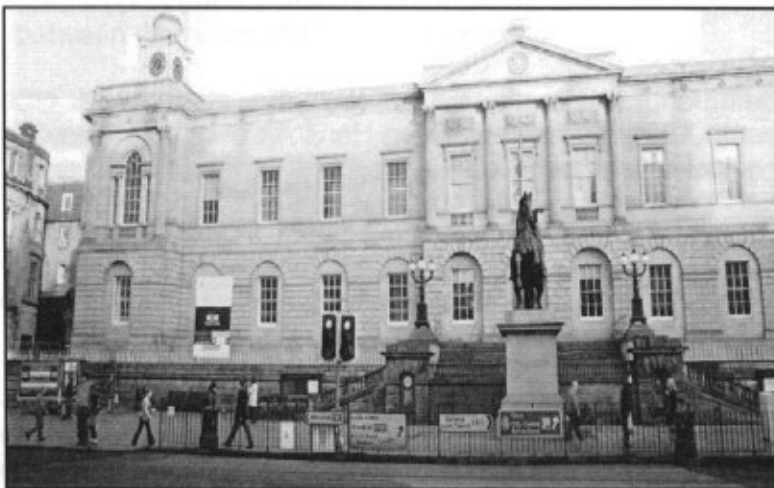
Prior to leaving Australia, I made contact with a professional archivist to help with the task. Much time can be wasted just getting to the right records let alone searching them and obtaining a copy, so with a tight travelling schedule, engaging a local researcher was one way of utilising my time as best I could. The expertise of such a person can also be invaluable, not to mention the extra pair of eyes.

On a mid-week night in June, I booked into a modest hotel in Edinburgh. The following morning at 9.00am, I met my research assistant Ruth, near the Duke of Wellington statue outside the National Archives building in the centre of Edinburgh. Rather than charge into the building as I was keen to do, Ruth suggested we go off and have a cup of tea and talk about what we were about to do.

After our little chat we commenced research in the Historical Search Room of the National Archives. Surprisingly, we were the only members of the public there among the wonderful collection of old documents and 'virtual volumes' on computer. As a bonus there was no entry charge to the building or the room. Ruth had done some preliminary work and guided me to the records which offered some potential for information. We both trawled through Kirk session records, Presbytery Acts, old wills and records of the Highland Destitution Boards. What a joy it was to have the opportunity of viewing those interesting records.

Ruth's pre-search preparation proved invaluable. A number of documents checked in various indexes had to be ordered for access the following day. To have wanted and ordered those on the last day in Edinburgh would have resulted in a major disappointment. Documents that are not readily available for viewing on the day of attendance at institutions are a real problem for people who have to travel long distances or have little time. The cost of accommodation and meals are an extra impost for international travellers.

Fortunately, before departing the Historical Search Room, we were able to order photocopies of several interesting documents. Those copies, paid for in advance, would take days to obtain and therefore had to be sent on to Australia by post. By about midday we had finished in the Historical Search Room.



General Register House Edinburgh

I was prepared to go hungry and keep researching but I judged Ruth would not appreciate that. It was agreed to break for lunch. After the break, Ruth took me back into National Archives building which is called General Register House, to where all the old parish births, deaths and marriages records are held on microfilm. In a large room people sat row after row at computer screens, often looking at blurred text for a long lost ancestor. In contrast to the National Archives, admission for a day cost £17.00 (\$43.00) and £10.00 (\$25.00) for half a day from 1.00pm. Ruth had judged it well, as a full day was not required to go through the microfilms.

The cost of copying anything at General Register House was staggering. A single photocopy, which may only be a couple lines from a microfilm, was £8.00 (\$20.00). Equipped with pencil and paper, I wrote furiously, wearing down the lead pencil recording what I wanted to take with me. Unfortunately, family research in some ways has become a money making racket. Governments in particular now charge hefty fees for access to historical information they have in their possession. Although we both made a couple of finds, I didn't locate the marriage record I was hoping for. It apparently does not exist.

As the afternoon drew to a close, we departed General Register House and headed off on foot to Edinburgh Library, located in George IV Street. Although there was to be little in the way of personal information there, it is an important source of historical information relevant to Scotland. Ruth was in her element, as she worked at the library part time, so not only knew her way around, but knew some of the staff as well. She was able to quickly locate publications of interest to me. Some of those related to the Highland and Island Emigration Society which was responsible for many McPhees ending up in Australia. In addition, Ruth was able to facilitate photocopying. Yes, even that simple task can take time and be a drama.

By 7.30pm it was time to call it a day. Arrangements had been made from Australia for at least two days of joint research in Edinburgh (i.e. 4 man days), with provision for an extension if required. Unfortunately, earlier in the day Ruth advised me she could not continue the following day or the day after as arranged. Something else had come up for her. From the next day I was researching in Edinburgh on my own.

After a brief farewell to Ruth, I found a great little pub in Rose Street Edinburgh called 'Dirty Dicks'. There, among a throng of young people, I enjoyed a lovely meal and cold ale. It had been a long day researching the records for those dead McPhees.

## Obituaries

### James (Jim) Ivan Martin (Q95-890) 1928 - 2008

Born at Bellingen NSW, the son of James & Elizabeth (nee McPhee) Martin. Jim's first job was in an office with BHP at Newcastle with a wage of 17 shillings and 6 pence (\$1.75). He moved to Dorrigo, where despite not having a licence, bought a second-hand truck to cart timber, railway sleepers and potatoes. At 19 he accepted a position as storeman with White Trucks P/L at Erskineville in Sydney, commencing a lifetime's work in the heavy truck industry.



In 1955 Jim married Janna Johanna (Jo) Bik - the start of a 53 year Dutch/Australian union. Living at Taren Point in Sydney they had 2 children - Greg, 1957 and Janna 1958. A family man, Jim was involved with his children & awarded life membership of the Taren Point Junior Rugby League Football Club.

During the early 1970's White Trucks went into liquidation, and employees lost their entitlements. Jim bounced back & joined Canadian company Western Star Trucks in Brisbane. The family then moved to their existing home at Wishart in 1973. Jim remained a manager with Western Star until he retired in 1993.

### Ian (Bill) McPhee (Q77-285) 1929 - 2008

Born near Mildura Vic, to Horace & Pearl McPhee, Ian had 4 brothers & 3 sisters. He started work on a neighbour's orchard and then did labouring jobs. In 1951 he married Aileen Hancock and they moved to Mildura where Ian began night school at the technical college to become a mechanic.

At Mildura, Lorraine was born in 1952, and then 2 sons, both of whom died in infancy. In 1969 their daughter won a scholarship for a Medical Laboratory Course at the Qld Institute of Technology & the family moved to Toowoomba. In 1979 Ian & Aileen purchased & successfully operated a motor repair workshop in Toowoomba. Ian was forced to retire when he contracted a severe form of Parkinson's disease.

Ian was a dedicated member of several Masonic Lodges including the Grand Lodge of Qld & was a foundation member of Daylight Lodge. He remained an active Mason until his death. Ian & family joined the Macfie Clan Society soon after its formation. They enjoyed 2 memorable trips to Scotland for Macfie Clan gatherings which included visits to Colonsay. With Aileen, Ian attended whisky tastings with Commander Sandy McPhie & his wife Helen when they also lived in Toowoomba.

# OTHER ORGANISATIONS: NO 5

by Ian McPhee



## Australian Scottish Cultural & Information Centre Incorporated (Scottish House)

In 1994, when two major Scottish events were held in Sydney at the same time, it presented a dilemma for those who wanted to attend both functions. Malcolm Broun, Stuart Henderson, Greg MacLennan and David Scotland decided to call a meeting of senior officers of Scottish organisations to address the issue of duplication of events.

The initial meeting and others that followed resolved that all those involved in Scottish activities be asked to participate in meetings to determine the best course of action. Those meetings were called 'Days of Inquiry' and were held in the Bankstown Scottish Hall. From one of those meetings came the idea for Scottish House.

The purpose of Scottish House was not to take over the function of any existing New South Wales organisation. It was to provide a meeting place for the Scottish/Australian community and function as a centre to pass on information between groups and to the general public. In addition, it was to be a repository for various archives, reference materials, and artefacts relating to the Scots of Australia.

Fund raising started and the Scottish Cultural and Information Centre became an incorporated association on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1995. The new organisation is known generally as Scottish House. For a time the organisation had no premises so David Scotland and his wife Moyna, provided their home phone number as a contact point. It was listed under 'Scottish Advice and Information'. Among the clan groups that supported Scottish House, Clan Donald was notable for its generosity and hard work. An American member of the clan also made a significant financial contribution. In addition to financial contributions, many individuals donated reference books and other material to the fledgling group.

It took until 2002 for Scottish House to secure premises at a 'community rental rate' in Sydney's north west at Hornsby. After outgrowing the premises at Hornsby, Scottish House relocated to their current position in a section of the Soldiers' Memorial School of Arts, on the corner of Calliope Street and Military Road, Guildford. Here, Scottish House has a reference/research library with a meeting area. For a nominal charge, clan societies can hold meetings there, and also family research can be undertaken. The office is open each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, when volunteers are able to assist with enquiries between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm.

Since its inception, Scottish House has continued to prosper. It does not receive any cash grants from the government although it does receive the support of the NSW government through the Community Relations Commission. It has been able to purchase a computer and printer with government assistance. To facilitate one of Scottish House's main objectives of disseminating information, it publishes 'The Scots Connection'. This booklet is put out 3 times a year and provides general information for those interested in Scottish Heritage plus a calendar of upcoming events.

Scottish House now has about 140 members made up of 93 individuals and families, plus 47 organisations, many of whom are clan societies. Membership is \$15.00 for individuals, \$20.00 for a family and \$25.00 for organisations. The Macfie Clan Society of Australia is a member of Scottish House and has supported the organisation for many years.

# The Macfie Clan Society of Australia

## Financial Report

from honorary Treasurer Geoff McPhee

Under the stewardship of Ian McPhee, the Clan Society in Australia has seen a major rationalisation in its approach to financing, membership and publicity. In keeping with this I have treated all monies as Clan Society Funds and have not attempted to segregate. The following combined summary of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet is designed to eliminate reams of detail when a person's interest is in the overall picture. Detailed audited accounts will be available at the BGM for those who need to delve.

		<u>2004 - 2005</u>	<u>2006 - 2007</u>
<b>Income</b>	Subscriptions		\$8,068.77
	Subscriptions in Advance		\$350.00
	B G M		\$1,665.00
	Interest		\$251.47
			<b>\$10,335.24</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	DownUnder Print/Post		\$4,028.27
	Sundry Office		\$1,846.01
	B G M		\$1,445.85
	Clan Levy		\$1,061.60
			<b>\$8,381.73</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>			<b>\$1,953.51</b>
Opening Cash Book			\$1,295.14
Closing Cash Book		\$1,295.14	\$3,248.65
Add Term Deposits Cashed		\$13,335.29	\$13,505.54
Total Cash at Bank		\$14,630.43	\$16,754.19
Shipping Booklet		\$467.50	
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$15,097.93</b>	<b>\$16,754.19</b>
<b>Represented by</b>	Trust Fund	\$6,330.19	\$6,337.17
	Fully Paid Subscriptions	\$124.23	
	Subscriptions in Advance	\$180.00	\$350.00
		\$6,634.42	\$6,687.17
	Society Travel Fund	\$90.00	\$90.00
	Standing Stone Account	\$20.00	\$20.00
	Projects Account		
	Commanders Travel Account		
		\$110.00	\$110.00
		\$6,744.42	\$6,797.17
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>\$8,353.51</b>	<b>\$9,957.02</b>
<b>Members Funds</b>	Balance 01 January	\$7,331.44	\$8,353.51
	Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	\$1,022.07	\$1,953.51
	Subscriptions received in Advance		(\$350.00)
	Balance 31 December	<b>\$8,353.51</b>	<b>\$9,957.02</b>

# SOCIETY OFFICE BEARERS

<b>President*</b>	Ian McPhee	PO Box 237 Brookvale NSW 2100	02 9938 2550
<b>Vice President*</b>	vacant		
<b>QLD VP*</b>	Susan Spinks	Chertsey M/S 212 Oakey QLD 4401	07 4691 6206
<b>NSW VP*</b>	Morris McPhee	24 Cobran Road Cheltenham NSW 2119	02 9868 1521
<b>ACT VP*</b>	Gwen Hubert	8 Trumble St Pearce ACT 2607	02 62861058
<b>VIC VP*</b>	Vacant		
<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
<b>WA VP*</b>	Jillian King	PO Box 3320 Joondalup WA 6027	08 94054884
<b>Treasurer*</b>	Geoff McPhee	43 Cedar Street Lugarno NSW 2210	02 95334195
<b>Clan Commander*</b>	A (Sandy) McPhie	76 Lindeman Ave Heatley QLD 4814	07 47796328
<b>Clan Commissioner*</b>	A (Sandy) McPhee	49 Rodney Rd Mt Vincent NSW 2323	02 49380350
<b>Secretary</b>	Rosemary Szente	3/26 Seaview Ave Newport NSW 2106	02 9997 6082
<b>Chief Historian</b>	Trevor Phee	24 Bibby Street Hamilton NSW 2303 t.phee@bigpond.com	02 4962 2672
<b>Historian</b>	Norah McPhee	49 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	03 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 6734 6202

\* Denotes Macfie Clan Society of Australia Executive  
Clan Macfie web site: [www.clanmacfiehomepage.org](http://www.clanmacfiehomepage.org)

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## Disclaimer & Note

As the newsletter of The Macfie Clan Society of Australia, The Downunder is produced solely for the information and enjoyment of the Society's members. It has been compiled with due care and in good faith from a variety of sources. Any views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the executive or members of the Society. All contributions for publication are subject to alteration and editing.

# SCOTTISH EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Date	Event	Location	Contact
<b>ACT &amp; NSW</b>			
5/4/08	Bundanoon Highland Gathering	Bundanoon	Morris McPhee 98681521
13/4/08	Culloden Service	Campbell St Balmain	Scottish House 96817705
25/4/08	Scottish Act of Remembrance	Martin Place, Sydney	Morris McPhee 98681521
3-4/5/08	Maclean Pipe Band Contest	Maclean	Bob MacPherson 66452887
4/5/08	The Australian Celtic Festival	Glen Innes	67302410
17/5/08	Clans on the Coast	Port Stephens	49844751
1/6/08	Scottish Heritage Festival	Wingham	Wingham Museum 65535823
29/6/08	Macfie Clan Society Church Service	Scots Church Sydney	Morris McPhee 98681521
5/7/08	Aberdeen Highland Gathering	Aberdeen	Geoff McPhee 95334195
<b>Queensland</b>			
24/5/08	Macfie Clan Society BGM	Toowoomba	Susan Spinks 07 46916206
6/7/08	Tartan Day	South Bank Cultural F/court	Susan Spinks 07 46916206
<b>South Australia</b>			
<b>Tasmania &amp; Victoria</b>			
16/3/08	Highland Gathering	Geelong	02 53434276
23/3/08	Pipe Band Contest & Gathering	Jubilee Park Ringwood	Sue McLeod 98764140
<b>Western Australia</b>			

## Diary

\*\*\* The Macfie Clan Society of Australia Biennial Meeting: Toowoomba Qld, 24-25/5/2008

### Historical Anniversaries

Union of English & Scottish Crowns (1603)	Monday	24/3/2008
Battle of Culloden (1746)	Wednesday	16/4/2008
Repeal of Dress Act (Tartan Day) 1782	Tuesday	1/7/2008



