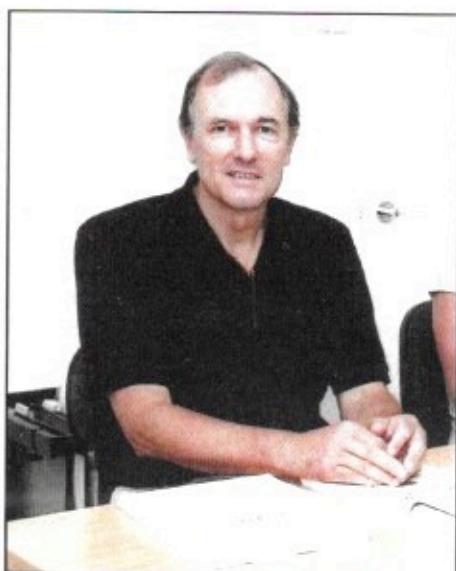




THE DOWNUNDER

news bulletin of the
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 110
July 2008



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



ancestral home of
Clan Macfie

President's Message

When it comes time to preparing an edition of *The Downunder*, it is always a concern there will not be enough editorial or interesting material. That is not the case for this issue.

In the following pages there is a summary on the successful Biennial General Meeting and social events held at Toowoomba. It was disappointing a few more members within easy travelling distance from Toowoomba, and especially those in Brisbane, did not attend.

What the BGM lacked in numbers however, was more than compensated for by the quality of the input, and the friendly goodwill of those who attended the weekends events. I think it is safe to say everyone thoroughly enjoyed the weekend's activities - the meeting, dinner on Saturday night, the delightful country church service at Oakey, and the wonderful lunch put on by Susan and John Spinks.

Living in Sydney and having to take display material and so on to Toowoomba, I decided to drive and take the tourist route travelling inland via Moree in far north western NSW, to Goondiwindi in Queensland and then on to Toowoomba. The return journey was via Brisbane, the Gold Coast and down the coast of NSW. In all it was a journey of over 2,500 km.

Along the way it was a delight to meet members whom I would otherwise probably never get the chance to become acquainted with. The hospitality provided by all those I had the privilege to meet along the way was terrific. The bond of clanship among our members is definitely alive and strong. In this and future issues, it will be a pleasure to see some of those people appear in the 'members in profile' section of *The Downunder*.

Enclosed in this issue is a family tree form. As each generation expands and becomes a little more distant from those who originally migrated here it is harder to know who is related to whom. The information requested will help our historian Trevor Phee keep track of families who belong to the Society. I would ask all members to fill it in and return it.

Recently I caught up with SA Vice President Judy Moore who was in Sydney visiting family. I enquired if she had attended the Mt. Barker Highland Gathering held in mid February. 'Alas,' she said, 'Adelaide was experiencing a heat wave with temperatures around 40°s so I didn't go'. I don't blame her. You just have to wonder about those who organise Scottish events at the height of summer where heavy woollen Highland attire is the order of the day. Which brings me to an interesting little story about a related situation in NSW.

On 12th February, 2005 as NSW Vice President I attended a meeting at Granville in Sydney. It had been called by Scottish House to canvass ideas that could reverse the declining interest in Scottish cultural affairs. At that meeting I expressed my view that holding NSW Scottish Week in the summer heat to coincide with St Andrew's Day on 30th November was simply ridiculous. I also pointed out, that the public could hardly be inspired by a handful of clanspeople marching down a deserted Sydney street accompanied by a few pipe bands. Having marched in a pipe band for that event over the years I had seen the futility of it often.

An indignant organiser of Scottish Week shot to her feet and refuted my assertions. Having made my point in no uncertain terms and receiving no support from a rather lacklustre group, I resigned myself to a lost cause. Fast forward to Scottish Week last year in November, 2007. NSW V.P Morris McPhee, his wife Robyn and I manned a tent for The Macfie Clan Society at Hyde Park in the heart of Sydney.

At that event we were able to chat with the visiting guest of honour, Lord Sempill. He was in Australia to promote his venture 'The Year of the Homecoming' which is to take place in Scotland next year. It was obvious on that hot summer day with hardly an interested member of the public to be seen, what a poor show it was. I repeated my view about the futility of holding it in summer near St Andrew's Day. The better alternative was to celebrate our cultural heritage (with a decent event) in the cool of early July, based on Tartan Day. Few Australians relate to St. Andrew's Day, everyone can relate to tartan. Lord Sempill readily agreed. While the powers that be took little notice of me as an ordinary clansman, it seems the good Lord may have had more influence; perhaps common sense simply prevailed. Scottish Week is now to be held in July. It is to be hoped it develops into a successful celebration.

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Lord Lyon King of Arms

The office of Lord Lyon King of Arms, was formally created in 1592 by an act of the Scottish Parliament. It was established 'concerning the Office of Lyon King of Armes and his brether Heraldis'. The act created the best regulated system of armorial bearing in Europe.

In 1672, the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland was founded. This meant that no individual, clan or commercial body could display armorial bearings (coats of arms) unless the right to them had been recorded in the Public Register. Unfortunately for the McPhees, the register came into existence 49 years after their last chief was murdered and the clan broken, thus no armorial arms were recorded

In Scotland, the Lord Lyon King of Arms is still the office that exercises control over the administration of heraldry. The office is held by an individual who has administrative as well as judicial functions. He is responsible for armorial matters, i.e. those pertaining to heraldry including the granting of coats of arms. In his judicial capacity he is responsible for upholding heraldic law. The Lord Lyon acts as a court, deciding such matters as the right to clan leadership and clan recognition.

A clan chief will have what is called 'undifferenced' arms. Those who are related to him in a junior capacity will have slightly differenced arms denoting their position within the family. Where the relationship to the chief is unknown, arms may be granted, and these will be based on the chiefly arms, but different to them. As a result of the requirement for 'differencing', there is no such thing as a 'family coat of arms', which may be used by a number of people at the same time. Arms are granted or established for an individual, and are succeeded to by the heir.

Today, the Lord Lyon is appointed by Her Majesty The Queen under section 3 of the Lord Lyon King of Arms (Scotland) Act 1867. The office of the Lord Lyon is situated in New Register House, Edinburgh. The post is a part time one being three days a week.

MEMBERS IN PROFILE

QLD member: Heather Knowles (Q76-222)

Migrant ancestors: Donald & Mary (nee McInnes) McPhee
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 1852
Pioneer ancestors: Angus McPhee & Margaret (nee) McPhee



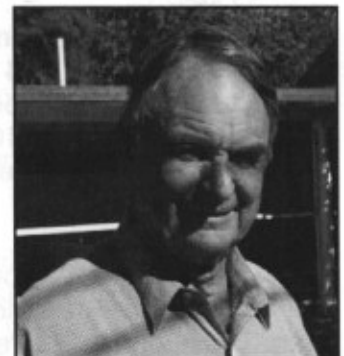
Member's story in brief: Born in 1923 at Goondiwindi in Qld, Heather is the only daughter of John McPhee and Grace (nee Cameron) McPhee. As the daughter of a grazier and outback station manager, she attended a number of small country schools including Barcaldine, Roma & Jericho in Qld. She also received part of her education through correspondence school.

As a young person, Heather wanted to be a journalist and wrote numerous short stories and poetry which were published in *Queensland Country Life* & the *North Queensland Register* newspapers. This early ambition was not realised and after finishing school, Heather became a nursing sister. During W.W. 2 she nursed T.B. patients and children with diphtheria in isolation wards. At Roma, Heather met and married (in 1947) Don Knowles, who worked with the State Government Insurance Office (SGIO) which is now the company Suncorp-Metway. They had 2 children - Beverly in 1948 and Donald in 1952.

Heather is a keen golfer, a member of the Retired Officers Association (SGIO), has been a member of her local Uniting Church's Community Care group for over 30 years and is a former Red Cross volunteer.

NSW member: Stuart McWilliam (N76-153)

Migrant Ancestors: Ann (nee McDonald) McFee & 6 children
Occupation: crofter's wife
Home in Scotland: Isle of Mull
Emigrant Ship: Departed Greenock, on the *Minerva*
Arrived Australia: Sydney, NSW 1837
Pioneer Ancestors: Neil & Mary (nee Kennedy) McPhie



Member's story in brief: Born in 1938, Stuart is the son of Andrew and Alison (nee McPhee) McWilliam. His parents owned a grazing & cropping property called 'Alfalfa' at Leyburn on the Darling Downs in Qld. Stuart attended primary school as a boarder at Toowoomba Prep, a Church of England Boys School. After finishing there he attended the Kings School in Sydney also as a boarder.

After completing high school, Stuart went jackerooing for a year after which he gained an appointment as an overseer on a property. After experience in that role, Stuart purchased his own property in 1960 called 'Oaklea', situated between Moree and Goondiwindi. The property produces crops such as wheat, barley, sorghum, chic peas and cotton, as well as running beef cattle. Stuart has also expanded his farming interests to include contract fertiliser spreading. In 1964, Stuart married Dianne King, whose parents owned a property called 'Kengoon' near Ipswich in Qld. Stuart and Dianne have three children - Edwina born 1966, Charles 1969 and James 1971.

Stuart has never let the grass grow under his feet. He has been an active member of the NSW Farmers Federation, involved with the Australian Wheat Board and always taken an active interest in rural affairs. He was a keen polo player for many years until an accident put an end to his competitive horse riding. He is also a past president of the Australian Polo Council. Over the years Stuart's main interests have included sailing, golf, travelling and reading widely.

GENERAL NEWS

New Members

A warm welcome to the following 11 new members:

Ross McPhee	(VO8-1060)	Richmond	VIC
David McAfee	(N08-1061)	Taren Point	NSW
Shirley Walker	(N08-1062)	Miranda	NSW
Murray McPhee	(Q08-1063)	Tamborine	QLD
Sally McPhee	(Q08-1064)	Tamborine	QLD
Alison Siddins	(Q08-1065)	Goondiwindi	QLD
Ailsa Rankine	(Q08-1066)	Cairns	QLD
Brenda Herd	(Q08-1067)	Randwick	NSW
Gary McPhee	(N08-1068)	Lilydale	VIC
David McPhee	(V08-1069)	Ringwood	VIC
Ian A McPhee	(V08-1070)	Collingwood	VIC

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:

Esmá McCarthy	1/2 Ravenswood Drive Goonellabah NSW
Alistair McPhee	18 Quail St Longreach QLD
Katrina McPhee	3 Haig St Pimlico QLD
Nigel McPhee	14 Strathmore Ave Lockleys SA
Sally Perry	2165 Colac Rd Gerangamete VIC

Donations

Many thanks to the following 30 members for their generous donations made to the Society and the clan. Those donations, received between the beginning of March and the end of July are an essential part of our funding and greatly appreciated.

Betty Hastings	Bella Vista	NSW
Margaret McDougall	Aberdeen	NSW
Barbara McPhee	Kurri Kurri	NSW
Donald McPhee	Bega	NSW
Joyce McPhee	Bonnells Bay	NSW
Helen McPhee	Moree	NSW
Andrew Pardoe	Wollongong	NSW
Mairi Petersen	Shellharbour	NSW
Trevor Phee	Hamilton	NSW
John Redman	Wallsend	NSW
Clyde Smythe	Turramurra	NSW
Linda Waddington	Belmore South	NSW
Gwen Duff	Tewantin	QLD
Heather Guinness	Toowoomba	QLD
Donald Knowles	Yeppoon	QLD

Donations continued

John MacPhee	Carseldine	QLD
Lorraine McPhee	Toowoomba	QLD
Helen McPhee	Eagle Heights	QLD
Dorothy Murphy	Currumbin	QLD
Shirley Dickson	Naracoorte	SA
Ian McPhee	Kidman Park	SA
Robert McPhee	Mt. Stuart	TAS
Sheila Cogan	Williamstown	VIC
C. C. Gartland	Blackburn	VIC
Maurice Gartland	Box Hill	VIC
Cherry McFee	Cowes	VIC
Donald McPhee	Warragul	VIC
Dene Rutledge	Doncaster East	VIC
Michael McPhee	W. Leederville	WA
Glen McPhee	Pukekohe	NZ
Lynette Mok	St. Marys Bay	NZ
Bruce McFee	Chiangmai Thailand	

New Arrival

It is always a pleasure to announce the birth of a baby for any of our members.

In July, Philip and Freya McPhee from Balgowlah NSW, had a son, Lachlan Ian McPhee. Congratulations not only for your first child but the choice of two wonderful Scottish Christian names.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness we report the passing of :

Reginald Neil McPhee (V74-017)

Corrections

In the last edition under the heading The story of a Tasmanian Convict: The opening sentence on page 10 should read 'One of those grandchildren was Henry Hector McFie...', i.e. Henry Hector McFie was the grandson, not the son of his name-sake Henry Hector McFie. He was the great, great grandson of convict Hector. He was the father of Robert & Monica MacFie who supplied the story. Apologies for that error.

In the last edition under the heading Bonnie Prince Charlie's Ring, the second line should read 'during the 1745 rebellion' not 1845 rebellion.

General Business:

It was particularly pleasing to see those who attended the meeting participating in all the topics raised during General Business. Positive discussion flowed freely from all parts of the room. The contributions from every person who attended more than compensated for the smaller than expected number at the meeting.

The new rollup vinyl banners were shown to the meeting. Two of these are maps of Colonsay and the nearby islands and the remaining 6 banners include a list of the acceptable Clan surnames. The banners are for each state, to be used for Clan and Highland gatherings. On the subject of Clan gatherings, the need to vary the venues for Biennial Meetings and regional gatherings was discussed. It was generally agreed BGMs should not just be confined to the major cities in the eastern states.

Clan membership is for people who need to belong to a wider family. To access that family, suggestions arose re setting up a Website, allowing us to email *The Downunder* to some members, resulting in some savings.

Maintaining a healthy cash flow to continue to manage spiralling costs was discussed. A suggestion arose that we should also seek sponsorship. At Brian McHaffie's suggestion, the meeting recommended unanimously that subscriptions be increased from \$10 to \$15 for single memberships and from \$15 to \$20 for family membership.

Address by Cean-Cath Sandy McPhee

Sandy announced to the meeting his intention to stand down as Clan leader. He advised the meeting that, as his position was appointed by the Lord Lyon, he does not have the right to hand it on. Nominations have been sought from the Armigers of the Clan (of which there are 22 to 24 worldwide), for someone to take on the role when Sandy stands down. The nominee must receive majority support and the Lord Lyon still has the right to say no to any candidate. If no-one takes on the position, Sandy has agreed to stay on as Cean Cath. (See Sandy's letter on page 5).

The president, Ian McPhee, addressed our Clan Commander and described the wonderful contribution he had made to the Clan Society since it was formed in those early days in the RAAF base at Richmond. Glasses were raised as the meeting toasted Sandy & Helen McPhee upon his planned resignation as Cean-Cath. To mark his forthcoming retirement, Sandy was presented with a barometer and temperature gauge which he and Helen can use in their Townsville home.

Congratulations to all office bearers who were re-elected, also to the election of Margaret Barnes as Vice President of the Society, to Lyndsay Armstrong as Society Secretary and to Rosemary Szente in her new role as Membership Coordinator.

A Big Thank You to all those who attended the Toowoomba Gathering, in particular to our hosts Susan & John Spinks, and to Robyn McPhee who took the minutes.

Ian McPhee

Church Service & Lunch

The service, held at Scots Church, Oakey, was an absolute delight to attend. All our members were welcomed enthusiastically and treated to a memorable occasion. The Very Reverend (and very elderly) Dr. K. Gardner delivered a stirring sermon befitting a traditionalist Presbyterian minister of the old school. It was titled 'Without Love, I am nothing'. An accomplished singer with a guitar sang beautifully and a Korean quartet also entertained the congregation. Whenever it was time for a hymn, the congregation raised the roof of the little church, singing with great gusto. After the service our members joined the congregation for a generous morning tea.

At midday on Sunday, overlooking the lovely countryside which surrounds their home, Susan and John Spinks put on a magnificent lunch for everyone. John and Susan are both to be congratulated on the great job they did hosting our members on the Sunday. It capped off an enjoyable and successful weekend.

Scotland News

Exhibition for Ancient Documents

Three historic Gaelic documents, the Fernaig Manuscript, the Islay Charter and the Statutes of Iona may be put on display for the general public in the not too distant future. Lottery funding to the tune of £9,455 will be provided to assist in developing an exhibition for the documents.

The plan for the exhibition is based on matching the documents with their significant anniversary years, and for each exhibit to be mounted in a place to which it is relevant. It is anticipated that the exhibitions will offer special insights into Gaelic culture over the centuries, with special reference to Islay, Iona and Wester Ross. It should encourage Scottish awareness of the importance of the documents to Gaelic heritage.

The Islay Charter (1408) records a grant of lands by the Lord of the Isles and is the only MacDonald land charter to be written in Gaelic. The Statutes of Iona (1609), among other things, directs Highland chiefs to send their heirs to be educated at Lowland schools. The Fernaig Manuscript, composed between 1688 and 1693, comprises 4,200 lines of verse on mainly political and religious themes, by Donnchadh MacRath in Wester Ross, and has never been adequately translated or interpreted.

Ref: The Scottish Australian Heritage Council April newsletter

New Lord Lyon

David Sellar has been appointed the new Lord Lyon to replace Robin Blair who has retired. Being a solicitor, 67 year old David has an ideal background for the job. He worked for two years with the Scottish Land Court and then taught in the Faculty of Law at Edinburgh University. He is now a Fellow of the Faculty.

David is a joint author of the Saltire Society's Scottish Legal Tradition (1991), and has written on the history of various branches of Scots law, including marriage, divorce, incest, homicide and unjust enrichment. He has published on the Lordship of the Isles and on the origins of many Highland families, including the Campbells, MacDonalds, MacDougalls, MacLeods, Lamonts, MacNeills and Nicolsons. He has also served on the Council of Scottish Genealogy Society and of the Heraldry of Scotland.

Ref: The Scottish Banner, vol 31, no 11

Beavers Return to Scotland

The European beaver will be reintroduced to Scotland for the first time in more than 400 years. They once inhabited Scotland, but were hunted to extinction in the 16th century. The Environment Minister has given the go ahead for up to 4 beaver families to be released in Knapdale, Argyll, in the spring of 2009, on a trial basis. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) will monitor the progress of the new residents over the next 5 years.

Scottish Independence

These days famous Scottish actor Sean Connery lives in the Bahamas. The long time supporter of the Scottish independence and the Scottish National Party (SNP) believes Scotland will regain its independence in the not too distant future. A poll released in July however, indicated 48% of those questioned did not favour a break away from the United Kingdom. In 2010, the ruling SNP plans to hold a referendum to see if a majority of Scots want their country to negotiate independence from London.

New Culloden Visitor Centre

The new £9 million visitor centre at Culloden Battlefield is now in operation. The largest ever construction project undertaken by the National Trust for Scotland, the new centre combines state-of-the-art technology with a fresh look at events leading up to and following the Battle of Culloden.

Visitors are taken to the very heart of the conflict in a 360° immersion film and follow the progress of real-life characters through the years leading up to and after the Jacobite Rebellion. The film is the culmination of an interactive exhibition that follows the progress of the Jacobite army on their campaign and offers a unique insight into what life was like in Scotland at the time of the Battle.

Ancestry Website

To some poor misguided souls history is boring and only about names and dates. Family history and genealogy are exploding in popularity driven in part by a number of television shows that trace the lineage of high profile individuals or discuss their families. Heritage as a tangible and personal arm of history is part of the story.

In the last issue of *The Downunder*, Trevor Phee mentioned the website ancestry.com.au. It is a website that helps people research their family history by providing access to records online, which has helped the creation of 150,000 member trees since it was launched. The site averages 15 million page views a month. At a cost of \$29.95 per month for access, this is serious business. Apparently the site is owned by a large American organisation.

researchers can get the information free by visiting public institutions, or organisations who subscribe to the site. One of those is the Society of Australian Genealogists where access to the website is free for members. Unfortunately the site can only be accessed from the Society's Sydney headquarters.

Ref: SMH 28/4/08 & Society of Australian Genealogists

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Irish Settler, Robert Mahaffey

Robert Mahaffey was born on 14th August, 1834, at Drumsallagh, near Loughbrickland, parish of Aghad-erg, County Down in Northern Ireland. He was the youngest child of Isaac Mahaffey, a farmer, and his wife Sarah (nee Haywood). It appears Isaac's ancestors may have moved from Scotland and settled in Ireland during the Ulster Plantation which took place in the early 1600s.

The village of Loughbrickland takes its name from the adjoining lough (loch) and it was the site of the Danes' defeat by the Irish in 1187. The area was granted to Sir Marmaduke Whitchurch by Queen Elizabeth in 1585. He built a castle on the shore of the loch but Cromwell's army partly destroyed it. During King William III's march to the Boyne in 1690, he camped at Loughbrickland for 11 days.

In 1881, Loughbrickland had a population of 336. The main crops grown in the area were potatoes, oats and flax. It is close to the larger centres of Newry and Banbridge. Banbridge is famous for its linen manufacture.

Robert Mahaffey's sisters, Agnes b 1826 and Mary b 1831, migrated to Australia on the *Kate*, arriving in Australia in December, 1855. They paid £1 each. Robert followed his sisters in the 1850s and obtained work as a storekeeper on 'New Freugh' estate near Singleton, in the Hunter Valley of NSW.

Robert married Mary Ann Mansfield in the Church of England Church at Singleton in August 1861. Mary was only 16 at the time. Their first 6 children, William John b 1862, Isaac Charles 1864-1865, Malvina b 1866, George b 1867, Robert James b 1869 and George Henry b 1871 were all born at Singleton. The family moved to Tamworth where their last 2 children were born, Mary Ann in 1873 and Sarah in 1875.

Sadly Robert's wife and baby Sarah died in 1875. With the exception of his son Robert James, who stayed in Tamworth, Robert senior moved to Moree in 1882 with his 5 children.

He resided at 1 Balo Street Moree. At that time the coaches and horses used on the Mungindi run were stabled and serviced on his block. Moree had only been gazetted as a town in 1862 and had a population of about 100 when Robert settled there.

Robert had a van and engaged in the trade of a hawker. He carried stores to outlying properties in the Moree and Narrabri district and brought back hides and skins on his return journey. Robert's occupation was still listed as a hawker on the 1910 electoral roll.

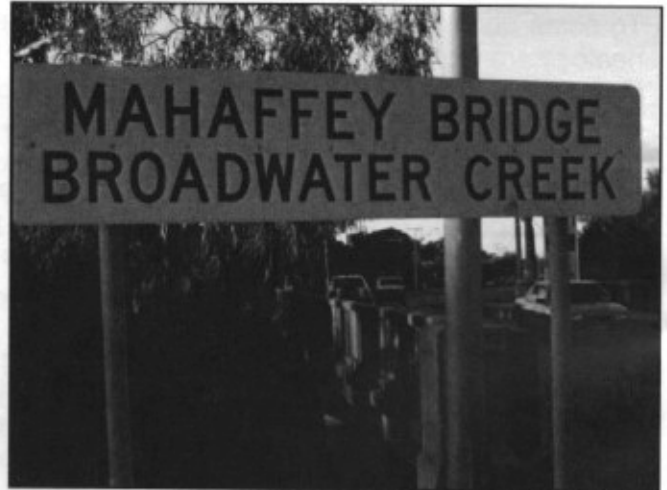
Robert was apparently a devout member of the Church of Christ in Moree and a lay preacher. Like many during that era, he always set aside the Sabbath to fulfil his religious obligations. In later years Robert made his home at Gunnedah with his daughter Malvina. He was residing there when he died in November 1922 and is buried in the Church of England Cemetery at Gunnedah.

Descendants

Robert's 3 sons William, Isaac and George all lived and worked in Moree. George never married.

William married Catherine Emily Brown in 1883. He worked at Wade's Brewery, was a caretaker at the showground and also a hawker like his father. He had to work hard to support his 10 children. One of his children was Mary Ann Mahaffey a descendant of whom is Society member Marie Tattam.

Isaac married Elizabeth Jane Haley and had 4 children. Isaac worked for Moree Council as a messenger, health inspector, common ranger, building inspector and town lamp-lighter. As a messenger he rode a horse or drove a sulky around town delivering rate notices. Duties as health inspector involved tracking down the source of disease outbreaks such as typhoid and enteric fever and fumigating the house using a hand pump and formalin. His job as a building inspector was easier, as the requirements were simple in those days. A minor duty was that of lamp-lighter, which entailed visiting the few street lamps (about a dozen) late in the afternoon, fuelling them with carbide and water, turning them on and returning in the morning to turn them off. As common ranger, Isaac had the responsibility for the two common areas in Moree where horses and cows were agisted. The bridge over Broadwater Creek at Moree is named after Isaac Mahaffey.



The bridge at Moree named after Isaac Mahaffey

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Can You Help?

Family:

Robert Mahaffey, as mentioned in the story above, migrated from Ireland in the 1850s.

Question: Would any member know in what year and on what ship he arrived in Australia?

Replies to: Marie Tattam (tel 02 67548647)
'Tuncooey'
Moree NSW 2400

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New Family History

Clan Commander Sandy McPhie and his wife Helen have produced a booklet which traces Sandy's family line from 1687 until the present day. Background information has been provided which explains the early origins of his family. In addition to birth, death and marriage information, Sandy tells the story of his family in Australia.

The following is from the opening paragraph of the preface:

'Helen and I commenced family research in 1968 and this book contains a summary of our efforts to date. Many cousins also contributed to the information contained in this book, a lot of it resulting from painstaking research over a number of years. Without their contributions it would have been somewhat less in content a record of our McPhie ancestors and their descendants in Australia...'

My Lot
Tracing Sandy McPhie's
Family Tree
From Mull, Scotland, in 1687
To Queensland, Australia, to-day



In Search of Ancestors in Scotland

(from the diary of a family historian)

by Ian McPhee

Part 2

In the last issue of *The Downunder*, researching in Edinburgh at the National Archives, General Register House and the Edinburgh Library were covered. Continuing with the second of this 3 part series, is the second day spent on family research in Edinburgh.

Nothing serves a long day of activity better than a hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs. After rising early again, I was set for another intense day poring over old documents in various institutions. Having lost my local assistant, it was to be a day of researching on my own.

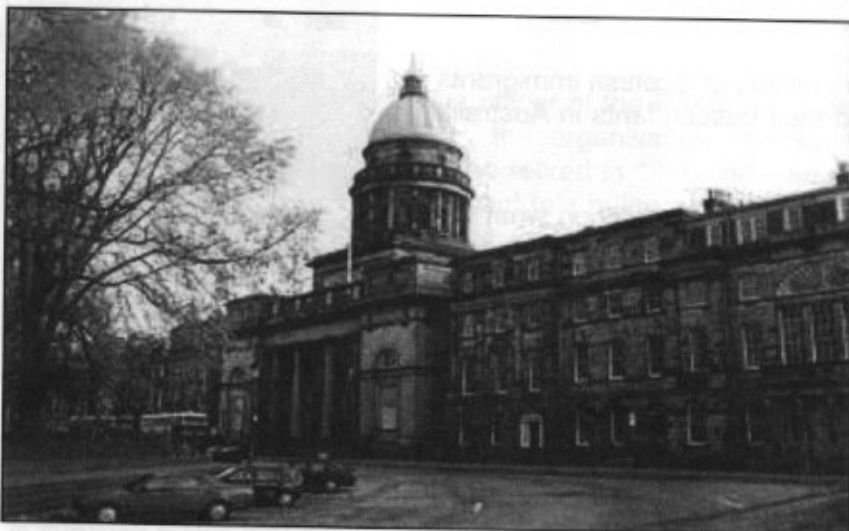
After a short bus ride, it was back to the centre of Edinburgh. Returning to the Historical Search Room of the National Archives to view documents which had been ordered up the previous day, I sat down at a large table with great anticipation. Being the sole member of the public in the room, it was tranquil and easy to concentrate on the documents from the Sheriff records for Tobermory on the Isle of Mull.

The first was for meal distribution between 1848 and 1853. This beautifully bound book with lovely handwritten entries showed the type and quantity of meal (i.e. food) distributed to those affected by famine on Mull. Regrettably, or perhaps fortunately, there was not one entry with the surname McPhee. The second document was a 'Roll of Paupers relieved from 14th May 1850 to 14 May 1851'. This was another wonderful document but again did not reveal anything specific for me. At least it was good to know my ancestors were not listed as paupers. Despite no obvious reference to anyone related to me, I ordered copies of a number of interesting entries. Like the copies ordered the previous day, they had to be paid for in advance and sent on to Australia. I judged the £15.00 for only 12 photocopies worth the fairly hefty charge.

By late morning I had completed research in the Historical Search Room at the National Archives so I made my way on foot to another building which holds historical records in Edinburgh at Charlotte Square. Many fascinating old documents are stored at West Register House, and I began searching there at 11.30am so there was going to be no time for a lunch break.

Some of the old records had been put 'online' and could only be viewed on one of West Register House's own computer terminals. It was disappointing to learn that many original hard copy records could no longer be ordered up for searching.

One lot of the records available 'on line' relevant to many members of our Society, are those for the Highland and Island Emigration Society (H.I.E.S.). Many of our clan's people who came to live in Australia were sponsored by H.I.E.S. With considerable assistance from the staff I eventually located my family.



West Register House in Edinburgh

I must say I was taken aback. I have seen a number of photocopies of the original entry in the shipping records concerning my family. What appeared 'online' was in part different to the hard copies. The entries I had read previously stated 'Man looks old but is healthy is employed as a day labourer' whereas the online entry read 'Man looks fine and healthy and employed as a day coalman.'

There is a huge difference between a day labourer and a day coalman. It would appear whoever transcribed the original entry had erred.

I have always been wary of the accuracy of material sourced from the internet, especially when it comes to history. Likewise I am cautious when it comes to secondary sources of family history material. There is nothing like the real thing, the actual document or knowledge gained first hand. The experience at West Register House confirmed my views. I notified the staff of the inaccuracy (or discrepancy) of their data, but they merely suggested I walk back to the National Archives in Princes Street and take the matter up with them. With time in short supply, I had to pass up the chance to tackle the Scottish bureaucracy.

Some of the other records searched at West Register House included Sheriff Court Records, Register of Protests and also Criminal Complaints. Some of the criminal complaints were indeed fascinating and there were a few McPhees among them. Fortunately none were related to me. Many of the old files looked as if they had not seen the light of day for over one hundred years. It was a shame to see that some of them were in a bad state, possibly the result of neglect or poor storage conditions. By closing time at 5.00 pm I was well satisfied at having made one significant discovery and confirming other information.

I then headed off to the National Library which fortunately stays open until late in the evening. My research assistant who had been such a great help the day before had arranged for a number of micro-films that hold the records of old newspapers to be on hand for me. So for the next 3 hours I sat in front of the machines that expose the micro-film. Fortunately there were some interesting articles that could be copied on the spot and taken away.

By 8.00 pm fatigue, blood-shot eyes and pangs of hunger signalled it was time to call it a day. Like the evening before, I walked to Dirty Dicks Pub in Rose St., where they served a good meal with a cold beer for about £10.00. Well after 9.00 pm I hopped on a bus in Princes Street for the 10 minute journey back to my hotel accommodation. More research lay ahead tomorrow.

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Book Review

The Scots in Australia

by Malcolm Prentis

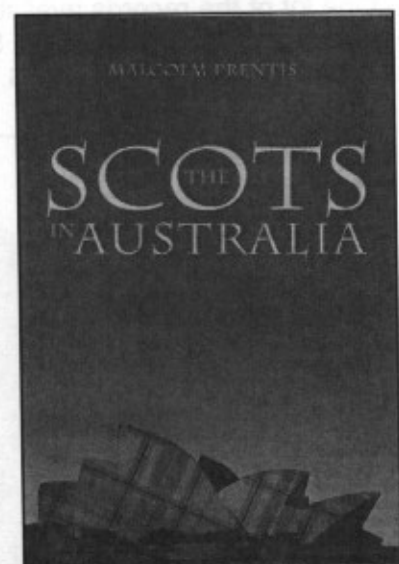
Malcolm Prentis is a 5th generation Australian who has delved into Scottish Australian history over a period of many years. In the 1970s he did a PhD thesis on Scottish immigration to Australia which included researching the Highland and Island Emigration Society (H.I.E.S).

Born in Auchenflower, Brisbane, Malcolm was educated at schools in three states, including at Brisbane Boy's College. He studied at Queensland, Sydney, Macquarie and New England universities. He is Associate Professor of History at Australian Catholic University. He has served on the Executive of the Australian Historical Association and is Vice-President of the Uniting Historical Society in New South Wales.

The Scots in Australia is a 'comprehensive history of Scottish immigrants - including convicts and free settlers - and their descendants in Australia from 1788 to the present.'

The opening paragraph of the Preface gives a good indication what the book is about - "This book attempts the impossible: a general survey of a large, complex, varied, highly dispersed and highly assimilated group within Australian society for over 200 years. It is not primarily and academic work, though I hope it is academically respectable, it aims to be useful not only to Australians of Scottish descent and to curious Scots, but also to those interested in Australian history, because it asserts that Australian history needs to take account Scottish influences into account."

The Scots in Australia has only just been released. It sells as a paperback for \$39.95. Like many such books, it is not in all the bookshops. Most major retailers however can order a copy in if requested.



OTHER ORGANISATIONS: NO 6

by Ian McPhee

Summary

In March 2006 this series of articles covering Scottish organisations our Society supports or belongs to began. The idea was to explain what these state based organisations did, and inform members of their existence. Regrettably, no Scottish cultural umbrella group appeared to operate or was known for either Western Australia or Tasmania. The series was concluded in the last issue of *The Downunder* and the following is a summary of the groups covered:

New South Wales	Scottish Australian Heritage Council Scottish House	The Downunder March 2006 The Downunder March 2008
Queensland:	The Australian Scottish Community (Qld)	The Downunder November 2007
South Australia:	The Scottish Associations of SA	The Downunder July 2007
Victoria:	The Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group	The Downunder March 2007

Obituaries

Reginald Neil McPhee (V74-017) 1915-2008

Known as Neil, he was born at Northcote Victoria, the son of Reginald and Louise McPhee.

Neil was a member of the RAAF and during World War 2 fought in The Battle of Britain as a fighter pilot. He also flew missions over Europe. After the war he suffered from lung problems as a result of his war service.

Neil married Sylvia Grace Lawrence in 1946 and they had three children, Robert, Susan and Donald. As an accountant Neil initially worked for Australian Paper Manufactures at Fairfield in Melbourne. From there he worked for the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV).

As the manager or chief executive officer of the RACV, he presided over a period of rapid growth in the organisation. It grew from 160,000 in 1953 to 670,000 when he retired in 1976. He oversaw the introduction of many ground breaking initiatives that still play a significant role in the organisation today. They include insurance and finance companies and a traffic engineering department. During his tenure, the RACV established a landmark head office in Queen Street, plus a vast expansion of branches in suburban and regional centres. He also laid the groundwork for RACV's current service headquarters in Noble Park and a major upgrade of the Healesville club complex.

Neil was one of the original members of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia. He was not only a strong supporter but a Clan Society Trustee for over 20 years.

Upon retirement Neil moved to the Mornington Peninsula. His wife and son Robert predeceased him. He is survived by his daughter Susan (Wright) and son Don.



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Historian	Helen McPhie	76 Lindeman Ave Heatley QLD 4814	07 4779 6328
Society Piper	Bob McPhee	PO Box 31 Deepwater NSW 2371	02 6734 6202

* Denotes Macfie Clan Society of Australia Executive
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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
ACT & NSW			
23/8/08	*Genealogy talk	Scots Presbyterian Church	Morris McPhee 98681521
30/8/08	Toukley Highland Gathering	Harry Moore Oval	43971711
6/9/08	Sydney History Week Open Day	The Garrison Church	Morris McPhee 98681521
18/10/08	Wollongong Highland Gathering	Oval cnr Swan/Corrimal Sts	James Bennis 42843429
2/11/08	Castle Hill Pipe Band Contest	Castle Hill Showground	Glenda Mason 98239450
30/11/08	St Andrew's Day Gathering	Hyde Park North	Morris McPhee 98681521
Queensland			
30/8/08	Gathering of the Clans Ipswich	Limestone Park	0414 776361
20/9/08	Redlands Highland Gathering	Multi-Sports Club, Birkdale	
South Australia			
Tasmania & Victoria			
7-9/11/08	Beechworth Celtic Festival	Ford St, Beechworth	Pheona Donaldson 03 57282225
Western Australia			

NB. * The title of the genealogical talk at Scots Presbyterian Church, 44 Margaret St Sydney is 'Where has my Heilan Laddie gone?'. In addition genealogy is covered under the heading 'DNA in Genealogy'. The lecture is by Professor Richard McGregor on Saturday 23rd August from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Diary

The 17th International Gathering and 10th Parliament of Clan Macfie are to be held at Nethy Bridge, south east of Inverness, and on the Island of Colonsay, from 2nd to 9th September, 2009.

Homecoming Scotland 2009 - For Scottish descendants from around the world returning to Scotland, will be marked with a Highland Gathering in Holyrood Park in Edinburgh on 25th and 26th July 2009.

Historical Events

Battle of Dunnichen (or Nectansmere)	20/5/685
Declaration of Arbroath	6/4/1320
Union flag adopted for England, Scotland & Wales	12/4/1606



Aberdeen Gathering: Geoff McPhee, Lord Sempill, Ruth McPhee and Duncan McIntyre holding the flag

Anzac Day in Sydney:
Robyn and Morris McPhee



Back: Cass & Brian McHaffie, Trevor Phee, Ian McPhee, Helen & Sandy McPhie, Morris McPhee
Front: Susan Spinks, Brenda Herd & Robyn McPhee. Taken at John & Susan Spinks' home at Oakey



Background: Heather Guinness & John Spinks
Foreground: Gwen Hubert, Trevor Phee and Brenda Herd at the BGM



Toowoomba BGM: Morris & Ian McPhee, Sandy McPhie

Member's Family Tree

(please print all details)

1. Personal Family

Name & DOB:

Your address:

..... Tel. No:

Partner/spouse:

Children:
& DOB

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.....
.....
.....
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2. Family Born Into

Grandfather's name:

Grandmother's name:

Father's name:

Mother's maiden name:

Brothers:
& sisters

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3. Historical

If you know the following about your forebears:

Migrant ancestors:

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Home in UK:

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Immigrant ship:

.....

Port & Yr of arrival:

.....

1st Generation Australians:

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