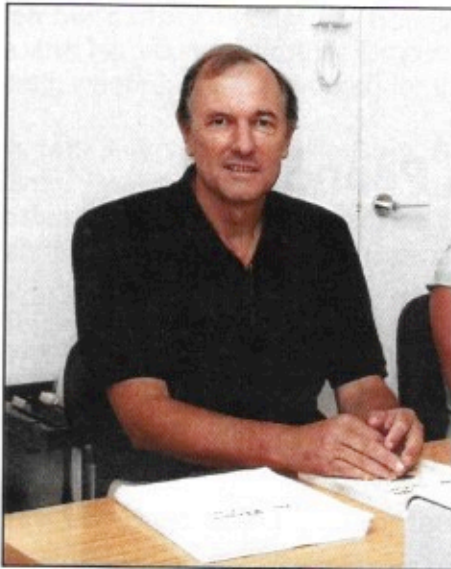




THE DOWNUNDER

news bulletin of the
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 111
Nov 2008



President's Message

Since the Biennial General Meeting in Queensland, things have been fairly quiet, with no social matters to report on.

As mentioned in the last *Downunder*, Commander Sandy McPhie flagged his intention of stepping down from the position he has held for many years. In the following pages, members will be able to note that a new Clan Commander has now been appointed. It ends an era for Clan Macfie and also for our Society here in Australia.

Sandy has done an outstanding job for Clan Macfie. He has kept members of the Clan around the world informed through a newsletter he and his wife Helen write, edit and publish. It is no mean feat to keep that up over the long period they have. Few would have the accumulated knowledge and expertise about Clan and Clan Society matters that Sandy would have. We have been fortunate to have had his guiding hand close by.

In Australia, Sandy has always been assisted by his Commissioner, Sandy McPhee and his wife Norah. Both have been involved with Sandy from the time the Society was formed and the Clan recognised. Over many years Sandy and Norah acted as ambassadors for Australia. They both represented our Society at Clan functions and made contact with people in Scotland, Sweden, New Zealand and the USA. In so doing, and at considerable cost to themselves, their work has benefited our organisation significantly. Their contribution has now been recognised with life memberships (see page 3).

Little recognised is the position of Clan Treasurer which has been held for some years by Victorian member Peter McPhee from Nunawading. Peter has quietly supported Sandy and his position will now probably go to someone in Scotland who can liaise with the new Commander there. Congratulations Peter for the commitment you made and job you did.

A few months ago, family history forms were sent out with *The Downunder*. To all those who took the time and effort to fill them in and return them - many thanks.

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



ancestral home of
Clan Macfie

Those forms are quite important in keeping historian Trevor Phee and me abreast of family relationships. They can also assist us renew contact with members who move and do not provide us with details.

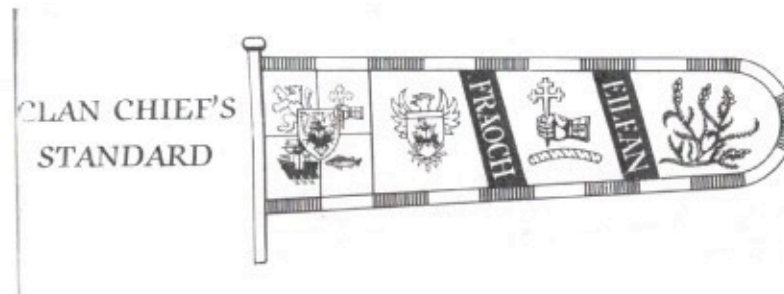
At some stage in the New Year, a decision to increase the Society's subscription rate will most likely be made. No community organisation likes to increase its membership fees, but I think we have all been fortunate in paying the same minimal amount for many years.

In the following pages members will note that the next Clan Gathering and Clan Parliament will be held in Scotland. These meetings take place every 4 years. This will be of particular interest to members who may be contemplating a trip to the UK next year. Its a great opportunity to enjoy an organised trip around Inverness and visit the island of Colonsay.

I would like to thank all members for supporting the Society again this year and especially to those who contributed to *The Downunder*. Also my appreciation to those who have assisted me through a busy year – all the State Vice Presidents, in particular Morris and his wife Robyn, Past President Bernie McPhee, fellow office bearers Sandy McPhie, Sandy McPhee, Geoff McPhee, Trevor Phee and Rosemary Szente. To all members I extend my best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas.

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Standards, Guidons & Pennons



The standard is a long narrow flag. For peers and barons the flag is split at the end, a bit like a fish tail, but for non-baronial chiefs and others, it is rounded like the one in the image above. The length of a standard varies, depending on the rank of the owner. For a king it is 8 yards (7.3 m), for a duke 7 yards (6.4 m), for a marquis 6.5 yards (6 m), for a viscount 5.5 yards (5 m), for a lord 5 yards (4.6 m), for a baronet 4.5 yards (4.1 m), for knights and barons 4 yards (3.7 m).

The standard bears the whole armorial achievement of the owner. Before the union of Scotland and England, the St. Andrew's Cross always appeared next to the flag pole (called the hoist), which identified the owner's nationality as Scottish. Since the union, it has become more usual to display the owner's coat of arms. Appearing after the coat of arms is the badge, then crest or beast. The motto or slogan appears on two or three ribands drawn diagonally across the standard.

A guidon is a flag one third shorter than a standard. The layout of a guidon is slightly different to a standard. The motto, for example, runs along into the tail of the flag. A pennon is a flag half the size of a guidon.

Standards, guidons and pennons are assigned by the office of the Lord Lyon King of Arms by way of a grant or matriculation to those who from their position or feudal tenure have a 'following'. They are thus granted to peers, baronets, knights, barons and chiefs. Lairds of non-baronial tenure are only permitted guidons. Standards and guidons are regarded (in a legal sense) as an addition to armorial achievements. Standards are recorded in the Lyon Register and painted into the script.

A standard is 'sette before the pavilion or tente' and was 'not to be borne in battaile'. Standards are thus proudly flown outside chieftain's headquarters at events such as Highland Gatherings. A chieftain's banner is raised upon his arrival with a fanfare and playing of bagpipes.

Ref: Scots Heraldry by Sir Thomas Innes, Simple Heraldry by I Moncreiffe & D Pottinger

MEMBERS IN PROFILE

Two New Life Members

NSW member: Sandy McPhee (N74-012)

Migrant ancestors: Capt. Donald McPhee,
Occupation: Captain in 79th Cameron Highlanders
Home in Scotland: Achnacore of Glen Coe
Emigrant ship: Portsea
Arrived Australia: Sydney, NSW, December 1838
Pioneer ancestors: Alexander R McPhee & Mary-Anne O'Brien



Member's story in brief: Born in 1924 at Pennant Hills in Sydney where he and his younger brother David spent their early childhood. Sandy finished high school in 1941 at Inverell, where his father worked for the Prickly Pear Destruction Commission.

On 14th July 1942 (Bastille Day), Sandy joined the RAAF and trained as a pilot at Narrandera and Uranquinty. Twelve months later he sailed to the UK where he trained on larger aircraft. Eventually he was posted to 149 Squadron where he flew Stirling and Lancaster bombers. During his time as a bomber pilot, Sandy flew 30 missions over Germany. He married Norah while stationed in the UK (see below).

On his return to Australia, and after war's end, Sandy started an engineering degree, but before finishing, accepted a job in 1948 with Qantas. As a pilot he flew all over the world. After 32 years of service, he retired as a jumbo jet pilot in August 1980.

In addition to air shows & private flying, Sandy's main interest has been the Macfie Clan Society of Australia. He was the inaugural treasurer in 1975, Vice President in 1976, became an armigerous member in 1981, appointed Clan Commissioner for Australia by Clan Commander Earl McPhee in 1981 and was re-appointed Clan Commissioner in Australia by Commander Sandy McPhee in 1990.

NSW member: Norah McPhee (N75-012)

Emigrant Ship: Norah came to Australia on the Waiwera
Arrived Australia: Sydney, February 1946

Member's story in brief: Norah (nee Spalding) was born at Norwich in 1922. Her father was a master builder there until he bought a cinema at Wymondham in 1930. She and her 2 sisters, Molly & Madge, were raised there.

After finishing school at East Dereham High, Norah passed the civil service exams. She joined the service in 1939 and worked at Norwich as a clerical assistant to telecom engineers. Being a civil servant, she was not permitted to join the armed forces when war broke out. In 1941 Norah worked as a nurse in a nearby military hospital before joining the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) in early 1943 as a meteorological assistant. As a 'met girl' or 'met WAAF' she was posted to bomber command at Mildenhall and then to 149 Squadron at Lakenheath. There she met Sandy McPhee. They married at Wymondham Abbey in March 1945.



Separated for nearly a year, Norah joined her husband in Sydney after the war ended. She and Sandy settled at Pennant Hills where Norah worked as a librarian. In 1947 their daughter Barbara was born, followed by Andrew in 1949 and Sally in 1956.

Apart from family, Norah is a dedicated historian and genealogist. She embraced her husband's Scottish heritage with passion and dedication, becoming inaugural historian for our Society in 1974, a post she held for 34 years. Norah has devoted a huge amount of her time and energy to researching shipping and immigration records. In 2008, she joined her husband Sandy in becoming a life member of the Society.

GENERAL NEWS



New Members

A warm welcome to the following 2 new members:

Ian McFee (V08-1071) Rhyll VIC
Dr Ewen McPhee (Q08-1072) Emerald QLD

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:

Elizabeth Cullinan 89 Craigend St
Leura NSW
Katrina McPhee 3 Haig St
Pimlico QLD
Nigel McPhee 14 Strathmore Ave
Lockleys SA
Sheila Cogan The Village
1/49 Paas Pl
Williamstown Vic
Alex McPhee Holds PO Box 436
Geraldton WA

Outstanding Subs

The year is drawing to a close. Any member who has overlooked paying their subscription for 2008, please send it in.

Donations

Many thanks to the following 2 members for their generous donations made to the Society and the Clan. Those donations, received between the beginning of August and the end of October are an essential part of our funding and greatly appreciated.

Dr Ian R McPhee Terranora NSW
Jayne Webster Scone NSW

donations continued

Last year the Society's annual levy payment to Clan Macfie was \$295.20. This money helps finance the Clan's activities. In addition, individual members of The Society directed donations totaling \$405.00 to Clan Macfie. In total \$700.20 was forwarded to Clan Commander Sandy McPhee at Townsville mid-year. He has advised the \$405.00 provided by members was allocated as follows:

Clan General Fund	\$85.00
Clan Capital Fund	\$80.00
Clan Projects	\$80.00
Standing Stone	\$80.00
Clan Commander Travel	\$80.00

Funny Aside

One of the members listed in the last issue of *The Downunder* as missing, happened to be a policeman. A bit of detective work helped track him down!

Invitation to All Members

Members are invited to send in their views regarding any improvements they feel the Society could make. If you feel we should be doing something we are not, we would love to hear from you.

All members are also invited to inform us of family members who are about to wed, newly wed, or have become parents or grandparents. It gives *The Downunder* an opportunity to share the good news.

Everyone is busy these days with competition for time intense. If you have something to report, or want to pass on something, please feel free to pick up the telephone. All contacts and telephone numbers are listed on page 14. It would be terrific in the New Year if you could become acquainted with one of those office bearers.

We are still hoping someone in Victoria will come forward soon and offer to represent the Society in that state.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness we report the passing of :

John S McPhee Lathlain WA
William D McPhee Seaforth NSW

Clan Macfie News

New Clan Commander

In the July issue of *The Downunder*, part of a letter from Clan Commander Sandy McPhie was reproduced. In it he gave notice of his intention to relinquish his position, and detailed some of the matters to be considered in selecting his replacement.

At the end of October, Sandy was advised that Iain Morris McFie of Scotland had been appointed as the new Commander or Ceann-Cath of Clan Macfie. At the time of writing, no further details about Iain, or his appointment were available.

Clan & Society

Due to the efforts of Canadian Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee, Clan Macfie was recognised as an active clan on 27th May 1981.

Clan societies are completely different to, and separate from, a clan. In countries where there are clan societies to represent the MacPhies, the Clan Commander usually appoints a Clan Commissioner to represent him. That person is usually an armiger of The Clan. He also appoints a Clan Council, Clan Treasurer, Keeper of the Clan Records, Clan Piper and so on.

As mentioned in Sandy McPhee's profile on page 3, he was appointed the first Clan Commissioner in Australia and has continued in that role until present times. The appointment of Iain as the new Clan Commander will necessitate Sandy's re-appointment or the appointment of someone else. Like Commander Sandy McPhie, Commissioner Sandy McPhee has done an outstanding job representing not only the Clan but our Society.

Before becoming Clan Commissioner, Sandy McPhee was present as a representative from Australia when the Lyon Designate Malcolm Innes reconstituted Clan Macfie. Below he recounts events surrounding the Clan's formation.

Clan Recognition

from Commissioner Sandy McPhee

I had the privilege of being present in the Lyon Office on 27th May 1981 when Malcolm Innes said, "It is within my authority to reconstitute Clan MacPhee" and he was very impressed with the unanimity of the *MacPhee Clan* delegation (consisting of representatives from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden United States) in their desire to have Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee as our Commander. He also said he would speed up the applications of people like Sylvia (of Canada) and me so that we could be signatories to the petition. We had each applied for arms, at Dr Earle's insistence, about 18 months previously.

That petition was subsequently circulated around the world and ultimately returned to the Lyon Office, signed by the armigers of Clan Macfie. The spelling was changed to Macfie because that is the spelling of Macfie of Langhouse and Macfie of Dreghorn, the first armigers back in the 19th century. They were not necessarily the senior families. The petition from the Lyon Office initially had the spelling MacPhee but Dr Earle insisted that it be changed to Macfie; so the petition was recalled and recirculated with the spelling Macfie. Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee was duly installed as Cean Cath (Commander) Clan Macfie at a ceremony in the Lyon Office on Nov 6th 1981 - the 90th birthday of his wife, Jenny. We are fortunate to be in possession of letters and photographs relating to the above.

Sadly, Dr Earle died in September of the following year, 1982, and Clan Macfie was without a Commander for some time; years in fact, and it is to the credit of the presidents of the MacPhee/MacPhie Clan Societies that affairs ran fairly smoothly during those years. Eventually, however, a Derbhfine was convened; Sandy McPhie and I found ourselves as chairman and secretary of it! Various of our armigers put their names forward as candidates for Commander; More time passed. Sandy threw his hat in the centre and I suddenly had two hats. Argy bargy passed back and forth per international mail and eventually Sandy McPhie from Australia was appointed Clan Commander on 7th September 1989.

Armigers, Derbhines & Gilfines

An armiger of Clan Macfie is a person who has been granted a coat of arms which has been registered in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland. To the best of our knowledge there are currently 23 armigers in Clan Macfie worldwide. Two are in Australia: Sandy McPhie in Townsville who has just stepped down as Clan Commander and Sandy McPhee from Mt Vincent, our current Clan Commissioner.

A derbhine is a type of committee composed of a minimum of nine armigers of the Clan. A gilfine consists of usually seven such people. The system is basically feudal, even totalitarian, but in our modern day and age, proceedings are conducted in as democratic a manner as possible. In bygone times, each member of a derbhine represented a family under a great grandfather. Nowadays, when a derbhine is convened with the purpose of say, appointing a Commander, each armiger should convey the opinions or feelings of his or her extended family to the Lyon. Nowadays, of course, proceedings are mostly by correspondence.

On the 28th March this year the Lord Lyon gave permission for Clan Macfie to convene an ad hoc derbhine to select a suitable candidate for nomination to him by petition for appointment as a new Cean Cath (Commander). As a first step Clan Armigers were canvassed to see if any of them were willing to be considered for nomination for appointment. If more than one wished to be considered, a ballot or ballots would have been held amongst the armigers until the derbhine had one agreed candidate. Support for that candidate would then have been sought from the armigers by way of a petition to the Lord Lyon seeking the appointment. Appointment is not automatic.

Iain McFie was the only person who nominated for the position of Cean Cath. After the derbhine ran its course, a report was forwarded to the Lord Lyon on 11th August this year recommending his appointment. He has now been duly recognised by the Lord Lyon as the new Cean Cath of Clan Macfie. While not part of the derbhine deliberations, the various Clan Societies were invited to show support for the nominee, and this was done by the president of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia.

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17th International Gathering and 10th Parliament of Clan McPhee

The 17th International Gathering and 10th Clan Parliament will be held at Nethy Bridge, Scotland, and on Colonsay from 2nd September to the 9th September, 2009. The Gathering and Parliament will be centred at the Hotel Nethybridge which can accommodate 140 guests, including 8 single rooms.

Tentative Programme

Wed.	02	a.m.	Registration		
		p.m.	Clan Commander's Reception	evening	Ceilidh
Thur	03	a.m.	Opening & 1st session of Clan Parliament		
		p.m.	Visit Culloden & Fort George	evening	Ceilidh
Fri	04	a.m.	2nd session of Clan Parliament		
		p.m.	Coach tour to be arranged	evening	Clan Dinner
Sat	05	full day	Tour of Whisky Trail & visit Braemar	evening	Ceilidh
Sun	06	a.m.	Church service		
		p.m.	Travel to Oban for ferry to Colonsay		
Mon	07		Clan activities on Colonsay		
Tues	08		Clan activities on Colonsay		
Wed	09	a.m.	Ferry to Oban		

Hotel Nethybridge: Address: Nethy Bridge, PH 3DP Scotland
Telephone: 01479 821203
Email: salesnethybridge@strathmorehotels.com
Tariff: The tariff is £52 per person per night for dinner, bed and breakfast.
Single occupancy of a double room is £104 per person per night.
Bookings are to be made direct by members attending.

Transport: There are no direct rail or bus routes from Glasgow, Edinburgh or Inverness. A limited local bus service runs from Aviemore, about 14 miles distant, which is on the Inverness rail and bus route. Inverness is some 40 miles north-west of Nethy Bridge. Co-ordinators Iain and Fiona McFie (who live near Aviemore) will assist with transport needs. Notification to them of your transport requirements is essential when called for.

Act Now:

1. This is the time to commence planning a trip to Scotland
2. Notify the co-ordinators, Iain and Fiona McFie, of your interest in attending in order to receive an information package. Email: member@coulintyre.fsnet.co.uk
3. Mark the dates on your 2009 planner.
4. Bookings are to be made direct by those members attending. When ready make your accommodation reservations at the Nethybridge Hotel - the dates are firm and will not be altered.

Historic 1849 McPhee Extract

(from Commander Sandy McPhie, Clan Macfie News No 51)

Clan Commander Sandy McPhie recently received a copy of a letter dated 28th April 1849 sent from Mrs. Jessie (Macfie) Thorburn in Sweden to her brother John Macfie in Leith, Scotland. The letter included a genealogical list of their ancestors and family as appears below. It is perhaps the earliest authentic record of this Clan line which we know today as the 'Sugar Macfies'. The earliest date of 1431 in the extract is in itself most interesting, as too, are the references to Lachlan McPhee of Adonaclach being knighted by King James I and the apparent first use by the family of the surname spelling Macfie.

Lachlan McPhee of Adonaclach, who is mentioned on the Ragmans Rolls in 1431, married Greas (Grace) 3rd daughter of Fergus Mackinnon of Ardehinge whose uncle was Abbot of Iona circa 1397. L McPhee was knighted by James I after the suppression of the rebellion of Donald Ballack kinsman of Alastair MacDonald, Lord of the Isles. His arms were a lion rampant gules etc.

His son Ian Dhu followed the fortunes of Arch Douglas, Earl of Moray and was killed in 1455 in a skirmish at Arkinholm Eskdale. His descendants settled as petty baron near Sanquhar and the best know was Robert McPhee of the Craige Knowne who was hanged for sheep stealing in 1573. After this misfortune the family seems to have fallen into poverty.

We next hear of Dougald McPhee who was either a grandson or a great grandson of this Robert and who was Parish Minister of Colonsay. He was buried at Colonsay in 1615 and his tombstone can still be deciphered. This Dougald's eldest son Hamish married Margaret McNeil in 1610, her brother was a McLeod of West. In the family bible she is described as "Beau we wife with a strong family". Her son who was known as Hamish Mahe was said to have been over seven feet high, and a grand player of the pipes.

This Hamish's great grandson, William migrated to Greenock and seems to have been the first of his family to spell the name Macfie. From this point the descent is easy to trace to the present representation now in Australia.

The well-known sugar refinery family is cadets of a younger brother. Their cadet is Col William Macfie of Airds Argyleshire and Birkdale Lances.

The McPhees were always a warlike clan and many of them, no doubt sought fame and fortune in foreign wars and among bands of Scottish mercenaries. One of them, Dougal Macfie fought in the wars of Gustavus Adolphus and is believed to have met his death in the Battle of Dimbar, when fighting under General Leslie against Cromwell.

This may be the origin of Pro Rege, the motto of an important branch of the clan.

The Treaty of Perth 1266

The Norman conquest of England at The Battle of Hastings in 1066 is probably one of the best known events and date in British history. Exactly 200 years later a treaty was signed, which every Scot or those with Scottish ancestry, should be made familiar with.

Around 890 AD the King of Norway, Harold the Fair Haired, attacked and won for himself the Northern Isles (Orkneys and Shetlands) and Western Isles of Scotland. Later, parts of mainland Scotland were also conquered. So while the Scots and others were in control of the majority of mainland Scotland, the next three hundred years saw the Norwegians control and settle in nearly all the island territories and portions of the Highlands. This occupation had a significant and enduring influence on a number of Scottish clans, including the McPhee Clan.

Norwegian control of the Western Isles did eventually come to an end. At the beginning of the 13th century, Norway was ruled by King Hakon, while Alexander III was the King of Scotland. For many years Scotland had tried without success to wrest control of the Western Isles from Norway but Scotland was not strong enough to take them by force.

Matters came to a head in 1263 AD when the Earl of Ross (one of Alexander's Scottish nobles) plundered the Isle of Skye. Under threat from the Scottish nobles, the island chiefs called on Hakon for help. Outraged, Hakon assembled his army and a huge fleet of over one hundred longboats to attack the Scots. Alexander, in turn, raised an army as best he could and positioned them on Scotland's west coast near Ayr, where it was expected Hakon's forces would land.

Alexander and the Scots did not have a fleet strong enough to tackle the Norwegians and so they concentrated on strengthening their coastal defences. Hakon's forces, which departed Norway in July 1263, were superior, so Alexander tried to avoid engaging them in order to bolster his forces and in the hope the weather would assist him. Being September and the approach of cooler weather, Atlantic storms were more prevalent and likely to disrupt a large sea fleet.

Fortunately for Alexander and the Scots, a storm at the very end of September wrecked a portion of Hakon's fleet. The Norwegians, although depleted, landed near the Scottish town of Largs on the Ayr coast, where skirmishes took place with the Scots. With little chance of a land victory, the Norwegians withdrew to their boats. Hakon and his fellow Norsemen made for home, but on the way Hakon fell ill and died.

Following the victory (of sorts) at Largs, Alexander of Scotland was able to negotiate with the new ruler of Norway, King Magnus IV. While the so called Battle of Largs was significant, the treaty signed after it was definitely more important. After envoys had journeyed back and forth between Scotland and Norway for over 2 years, a treaty was signed at Perth, on 2nd July 1266 - The Treaty of Perth.

In return for ownership of the Western Isles and Isle of Man, Scotland agreed to pay Norway 4,000 merks in four installments during 1267, 1268, 1269 and 1270. In addition, the agreement provided for 100 merks to be paid annually in perpetuity. From that point on, although other Scottish territory still belonged to Norway, the Western Isles and Isle of Man became part of Scotland and their territorial boundaries defined.

Nearly 200 years of squabbling and fighting over territory ended. Unlike an ambiguous treaty signed in 1098 between Edgar and Magnus Barelegs of Norway which referred to 'all the islands off the west coast which were separated by water navigable by a ship with rudder set', The Treaty of Perth was clear. Norway ceded the Western Isles and the Isle of Man to Scotland. The northern isles, Orkney and Shetland were not included in the agreement, as they were closer and more important to Norway. They would remain in Norwegian hands until the mid 15th century.

The Treaty of Perth was an amicable agreement entered into voluntarily between two sovereign states. It was not reached as a result of military defeat and the Norwegians did not suffer a loss of face or reputation. The Treaty of Perth heralded a warming of relations between Scotland and Norway. The peace between them led to a marriage when Eric, the King of Norway, requested the hand of Alexander III's daughter. Despite her reservation, they married in 1281. Their daughter Margaret, was the ill fated Maid of Norway.

Scotland News

Tartan Register

A National Tartan Register for Scotland is being planned. It is proposed that the new register will be supervised by the Lord Lyon and administered by the National Archives of Scotland which will use the Scottish Tartan Authority on a consultancy basis. In the early days as tartans came to the fore, clan chiefs exercised (and still do) jurisdiction over what is, and what is not, an official tartan for their respective clans.

In 1963 The Scottish Tartans Society was formed to maintain a Register of Publicly Known Tartans and by 2000 when it ceased to operate, had recorded some 2,600 tartans. The Society's place was taken by the Scottish Tartans Authority which formed in 1966 and now holds over 4,500 unique tartan designs. With this number increasing, due to unprecedented popularity of tartans worldwide, a central registry is timely - early next year is the target date for the new register. The Lyon Court incidentally does not have jurisdiction in this area as it is concerned with heraldic matters and tartan is not heraldic. However the Lord Lyon will record details of specific Clan Tartans in the Books of the Court of the Lord Lyon if requested to do so by a Clan Chief. The Clan Macfie Tartan was recorded on 29th August 1991.

Whisky

Drinks company Diageo plans to build a new whisky distillery in Speyside, the home of Scottish whisky. It will be the first new distillery to be built in Scotland for 30 years. At an estimated cost of £40 million, it will be a state of the art facility and produce labels such as Johnny Walker. It will be built at Roseisle, between Elgin and Forres.

Scottish Banner: Vol 32 No 4

Colonsay

An appeal was made this year for donations to offset the construction costs of a paved walkway to provide improved access to the Church of Scotland in Scalasaig. Clan Macfie made a small donation to this from available project funds.

Over the centuries, the main access to Colonsay has been via the sea. Caledonian McBain ferries carry people and vehicles back and forth on a regular basis. Recently scheduled flights linking the mainland and remote islands including Colonsay began after 3 airports were given operating licences. Scheduled flights can now operate for the first time between Oban on the mainland and Colonsay, Coll and Tiree.

Bridge Tolls

After more than 40 years of being charged a toll for crossing the Forth and Tay road bridges, motorists can now cross free of charge. The abolition of those bridge tolls, £1 for the Tay and 80p for the Forth, particularly benefits the communities of Fife, Tayside and the Lothians.

Source: Scottish Banner Vol 32 No 4

The Gathering 2009

Next year is the 'Year of the Homecoming' to Scotland. This is a tourism project aimed at the 50 million or so people around the world who have Scottish heritage. They are being encouraged to visit Scotland to enjoy a gathering centred on Edinburgh where the main focus will be events on the weekend of the 25th-26th July. The weekend features the World Heavy Events Championship, to be held in Holyrood Park over the 2 days. On Saturday, a huge Clan Parade will proceed from the park up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle, where a Clan Pageant will be enacted.

Representatives from each of Scotland's 120 Clans are expected to participate in the biggest ever Highland games to be staged in Scotland. More information can be obtained from 'The Gathering 2009' website,

www.clangathering.org

Highland House Prices

From 1997 to 2007, the average cost of a house in the north of Scotland trebled from £75,991 to £228,05. The Scottish Highlands is the fastest growing area in the country as far as house prices are concerned, with Edinburgh in second place. The Western Isles is more affordable with the average price of a house £124,067.

Source: Scottish Banner Vol 32 No 4

GENEALOGY

Fish Wrappers? Not Quite

We all know about yesterday's newspaper being today's waste paper or fish wrapper. To genealogists and historians, old newspapers, especially very old newspapers, are an incredibly valuable resource. An interesting article in the July 30th edition of the Australian Financial Review provided information about digitising old newspapers so they may be accessed on the internet. Part of the article is reproduced below:

"..... historians may soon have access to decades worth of information locked up in old newspapers as a mammoth project to digitise the Australian National Library's newsprint archives gathers pace.

The library has this week committed 50,000 newspaper pages to the new search facility for the public to text, a fraction of the estimated 3.6 million pages the institution hopes to have available on the internet by the end of 2010.

One of the largest scanning projects in the world, the online search facility will allow users to sift through text from 16 newspapers dated 1803 to 1954.

.....the National Library received \$1 million from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation to allow it to digitise out-of-copyright editions of The Sydney Morning Herald from its inception in 1831 to 1954. The trial search facilities can be accessed at <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>.

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Arthurs Creek McPhees

John and Bev McPhee from Old Toolamba in Victoria sent in the following article from a small book by James T Murphy called 'Early Settlers of Arthurs Creek, Victoria'. The book was published in 1971. Although John knew James Murphy, who died about 30 years ago, he does not know anything of the 'Whisky McPhee' mentioned in the article below. Regardless, he thought it was a good story to share with readers of *The Downunder*.



Another McPhee

'An old identity known as "Whisky" McPhee had an illicit still on a creek beyond Strathewen. He was taking a keg to Whittlesea one night and reached a very bad part of the road on Deep Creek, about a quarter of a mile above Morrisons Bridge at the crossroads. The creek ran very near the road and it was a difficult stretch to negotiate. The cart overturned, rolled into the creek with the horse, and McPhee was killed. Someone coming home from Whittlesea found him and called several of the locals. It was decided that Mr. M. Brennan ride to Whittlesea for the police while the rest kept watch. The night was very cold and the keg was finally irresistible. When the police arrived the watchers were all singing heartily around the barrel, so McPhee departed this life with a good wake.'

Can You Help ?

Mary Durack's book, *Kings in Grass Castles* refers to a Jock McPhee. He was apparently a pioneer of the Kimberley area of Western Australia in the pre 1885 era. His name appears on pages 265, 287, 293 and 309. If anyone has any knowledge about this outback McPhee bushman, please contact John & Bev McPhee, 1455 River Road Old Toolamba, Vic 3614. *The Downunder* would also like to pass on any stories about this McPhee.

Scots Incensed at Census

The 2001 Australian Census gave people a number of ancestry options: English, Irish, Italian, German, Greek, Chinese, Australian and other. As there was no option specifically for those of Scottish heritage, 540,056 respondents filled out the 'other' option and gave their ancestry as Scottish.

It seems all those Australians of Scottish descent did not appreciate the implied discrimination of having their country of origin left off the form, or worse, expected to be lumped in with the English and Welsh. In the 2006 census, Scotland was included as one of the ancestry options and Greece was left out.

What a change; 1,501,201 (1.5 million) people in Australia gave their ancestry as Scottish - a 300% increase on the 2001 census. The 2006 census showed there were still more people of Irish descent however, as 1.8 claimed Irish ancestry.

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Stuart or Stewart?

Stewart is an Old English name. It is a surname which originally described an occupation. It denoted a person who cared for domestic animals and supplied some of those animals as food for their master. By the 11th century it was applied to a person who was in charge of someone else's household affairs - steward of the household. It was an honourable position.

In Scotland, a steward was in charge of the royal household which included looking after the crown's income. He also dispensed justice and was literally the king's right hand man when he went into battle. The name became royal in 1315 when King Robert the Bruce's daughter Marjorie, married Walter, 6th Hereditary High Steward of Scotland. Walter fought at Bannockburn (1314) and helped defend Berwick against the English led by Edward III. From this union sprang the Royal House of Stewart.

As a surname it can be spelt 4 ways: Stewart, Steuart, Stuart and Steward. The name in Scotland was always spelt Stewart. The change to Stuart occurred during the reign of Mary Queen of Scots. Mary spent many years of her childhood being educated in France. On her return to Scotland, she spelt her name in the French manner Stuart, as the French language has no 'w'. Stuart therefore is the French spelling.

As a matter of interest, the Gaelic form of the name Stewart is Stiubhard, a name like many other Gaelic words that almost defies pronunciation by anyone other than a Gaelic speaker.

It seems the use of Stewart as a Christian name began in the 1800s and was nearly always spelt in the traditional English/Scottish way as Stewart. It has always been a popular name in Australia and New Zealand. In the 20th century, for some inexplicable reason, the French spelling Stuart became popular and this trend has continued into the 21st century.

Tartan Day in the US

In modern times Tartan Day has become an increasingly popular day to celebrate one's Scottish heritage. In most countries it is celebrated on 1st July, but in North America it is celebrated on 6th April.

Why 6th April? On 6th April 1320, six years after the Battle of Bannockburn, the Declaration of Arbroath was signed by 100 men, including 8 earls and 45 barons stating their loyalty to Scotland and seeking its independence. Some eight years later, King Edward III of England signed the Treaty of Northampton, acknowledging Scotland as an independent nation with Robert the Bruce as its king.

The United States Declaration of Independence is modelled on the Declaration of Arbroath. The 6th April was thus chosen by those in North America as the most appropriate date to celebrate Tartan Day. On the 20th March 1998, the US Senate unanimously carried special resolution 155 to that effect.

On 6th April this year, US President George W. Bush signed a document proclaiming that date as National Tartan Day in America. This proclamation upgraded the US Senate Resolution in 1998 and US House of Representatives Resolution 41 in 2005 recognising 'Tartan Day' and makes the US National Tartan Day a National Holiday observance each year on the official United States of America calendar.

In Search of Ancestors in Scotland

(from the diary of a family historian, by Ian McPhee)

Part 3

In the first 2 parts of this 3 part series, the main research institutions in Edinburgh were the focus of attention. In this the final instalment, research options farther afield will be explored.

Another fine day, another early start and another full breakfast were good omens for the day ahead. My first task was to finish looking over some old newspapers on micro-film at the Edinburgh National Library. Those old papers are fascinating for anyone who loves to look back at life as it may have been over one hundred years ago. For a dedicated family researcher these articles can help put 'meat on the bone'.

By late morning I had to wind up at the National Library and head off on the next leg of my journey. So it was back to the hotel to collect my luggage, a taxi to Murrayfield to pick up a hire car & off by road across country to Oban on Scotland's west coast. After an overnight stay in a rather dodgy pub, it was over to Mull for a few days to re-visit the ruins of the family croft and hopefully interview some local people.

Having been to Mull before, I had a reasonable grasp of the local history and knowledge of where my ancestors once lived. The local historical centre (of which I had become a life member) had been most helpful and I now sought to expand on information gathered previously. I was hoping to meet one or two older local residents who might have some oral history they could share with me.

Through local contacts on Mull I was able to meet and talk to a couple of elderly residents about the local crofting community. They were in fact crofters themselves, and could recall some of the stories about the hard times endured by the local crofters in years gone by. This sort of information and knowledge cannot be found in any archive.

By chance the following day, I was fortunate to meet an amateur local historian who happened to be staying just down the road from my B & B accommodation. Tom was a descendant of one of the residents of the small village on Mull called Kintra, a village where members of my family once lived for a time. He was a university lecturer at Glasgow and had retained his father's waterfront cottage at Kintra as a retreat where he could escape the hum-drum of everyday life in the city.

Tom had a wonderful knowledge and considerable documentation about the local area. He was able to pass on to me exactly which house at Kintra my forebears once occupied. It just goes to show how important local knowledge can be when it comes to family history. Of course, there is no doubt about it; a little luck can be a marvellous thing as well. What a joy it was to have morning tea with someone like Tom.

Eventually my time on Mull came to an end. The next morning I was up at 5.00am for an early start to catch the first ferry back to Oban. From there it was about an hour's drive to visit my final research stop, the Argyll and Bute Council at Lochgilpead. Local councils in Scotland hold important local records not available elsewhere. For me, the council at the small town of Lochgilpead held copies of some records originating from the Duke of Argyll, who owned the estate on Mull where my forebears once lived.

Just as I had done in Edinburgh, I had made arrangements in Australia for a family researcher to help me. In this case John was a professional family researcher/historian, who would drive up from Glasgow to assist me for the day. Fortunately John had done some preparation in the hour or so before I arrived to meet him at 11.00am.

No amount of preparation however was to prepare either of us for what we were about to encounter. The small room that housed the council's historical archives was a shambles. It was in disarray, with records in cardboard boxes, old volumes spilling over shelves and some piled on the floor. What a disgrace. It was hard to believe such valuable records could be neglected and treated with such disregard. I found it hard not to vent my anger. John had never seen anything like it either and was embarrassed to say the least.

In that setting, John and I went to work as best we could. Fortunately the council had a typed sheet of the records in their archives for us to consult as an index. Despite the difficulties we both made important finds.

In particular a 'list of Tenants & Cottars warned to remove on his Grace's Estates of Tiree and Ross of Mull' was particularly important. This detailed the crofters and cottars who were behind in their rents during the famine years and thus subject to eviction by the Duke of Argyll. One of those was my crofter ancestor, Donald McPhee.

It was here an issue arose which sent my blood pressure soaring. Certain files from the Duke of Argyll had been provided with the proviso they were not to be copied. We are talking here about historical material, in some cases, hundreds of years old but still I was not to copy them. Regrettably I had come across a similar situation before at the Ross of Mull Historical Centre. Fortunately, this sort of mean spirited negativity is something you don't generally come across in Australia. Needless to say I will leave it your imagination how that restriction was treated.

Too soon it was lunch time. Unbelievably the whole council closed down for an hour. Having been in touch with them a number of times about my visit and travelled half way around the world, you would think a small local body could accommodate research in one of their rooms during lunch time. It was not to be. John and I had to vacate the premises. After lunch we continued. Despite some records either missing or unable to be located, it was a fruitful and rewarding visit. Without John's assistance my task would have been most difficult. Certainly I could not have searched the council's records in the time allowed there.

The visit to the Argyll and Bute Council at Lochgilpead concluded my research in Scotland. At day's end I bade farewell to John who headed back to Glasgow. I departed soon after, returning to London.

In summary, researching one's family in Scotland can be interesting and rewarding. Allowing enough time is perhaps one of the most important issues to keep in mind. Anyone taking on this challenge should consider the following major sources of information: The National Archives, General Register House, West Register House, The National Library, local council records, local historical centre and local residents

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Sandy McPhee's Coat of Arms

On the back page is a picture of Commissioner Sandy McPhee's arms. They are described as follows:

"Per fess Azure and Or in chief a sword Argent point downwards, hilted and pommelled of the Second between two wings conjoined of the Third, in base a galley Sable under sail of the Third, flags and pennants flying Gules, Above the shield is placed an Helm befitting his degree, with a Mantling Azure doubled Or, and a Wreath of the Liveries is set for Crest a demillion rampant Sable grasping in its forepaws a chevron coupled Argent, and Escrol over the same this motto FORTITER PRO REGE"

Explanations:

- NB 'Azure' = blue, 'or' = gold, 'argent' = silver, 'sable' = black, gules = red
1. 'Per fess azure and or': The shield is divided in this case by a horizontal straight line. The part of the shield above the line is in chief and below the line is in base. The description put simply is, the upper part of the shield is blue.
 2. 'In chief a sword argent': means a silver sword in the upper part of the shield
 3. 'hilted and pommelled of the second': Any colour is usually never spelled out more than once, so as 'or' (gold) is the second colour mentioned, this description just means the sword has a golden handle.
 4. 'two wings conjoined of the Third': Third in this case simply means silver.
 5. 'In base a galley Sable under sail of the Third': In the lower part of the shield is a black ship with 'silver' sails.
 6. 'flags and pennants flying Gules': flags and pennants being flown are red
 7. 'Above the shield is placed an Helm befitting his degree' helmets in heraldry come in various shapes depending on the status of the person. Sandy's 'degree' is that of a gentleman.
 8. 'Mantling azure doubled or': means the blue mantle is folded back to reveal the gold lining.
 9. 'The wreath of the liveries': liveries in this case, is part of the mantle & its colours i.e. blue & gold
 10. 'a demillion rampant' : demi means half and rampant standing up.
 11. 'coupled argent' cut off cleanly in silver
 12. 'escrol' is the scroll
 13. 'motto Fortiter Pro Rege' : the motto is 'Strongly for the King'

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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			
30/11/08	Scottish Week Celebrations	St Stephens Uniting Church	Morris McPhee 98681521
30/11/08	Scottish Week Celebrations	Hyde Park	Morris McPhee 98681521
23/1/09	Scottish Heritage's Burns Night	66 Goulburn St Sydney	David Campbell 95223631
26/1/09	Celtic Festival	Bradfield Pk. Milsons Point	Gordon Connon 99681854
30/1/09	Governor Macquarie Dinner	Scottish Aust Heritage	David Campbell 95223631
15/2/09	Pipe Band Contest/Gathering	Mittagong	Charlie Johns 0408 211267
4/4/09	Bundanoon Highland Gathering	Bundanoon	Morris McPhee 98681521
Queensland			
1/1/09	Scottish Gathering	Nambour	F. Logan 54414238
South Australia			
1/1/09	'A Taste of Scotland'	Pooraka	Web: poorakaf@arcom.com.au
15/2/09	Highland Gathering	Mt Barker	Judith Moore 82641739
Tasmania & Victoria			
6/12/09	Highland Gathering	Daylesford	Chris Sinclair 53487867
1/1/09	Highland Gathering	Maryborough	54611480
8/2/09	Highland Gathering	Berwick	97031161 or A.H. 97072093
8/3/09	Highland Gathering	Geelong	52749193
Western Australia			

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.

Historical Events & Anniversaries

Wallace defeated Edward I, Battle of Stirling Bridge	11/9/1297
Bank of Scotland founded by Scottish Parliament	Nov 1695
St Andrews Day	30/11/2008
Hogmanay	31/12/2008
Robert Burns birthday	25/1/2009



Commissioner Sandy McPhee's coat of arms, described as:

"Per fess Azure and Or in chief a sword Argent point downwards, hilted and pommel of the Second between two wings conjoined of the Third, in base a galley Sable under sail of the Third, flags and pennants flying Gules, Above the shield is placed an Helm befitting his degree, with a Mantling Azure doubled Or, and a Wreath of the Liveries is set for Crest a demilion rampant Sable grasping in its forepaws a chevron coupled Argent, and Escrol over the same this motto FORTITER PRO REGE". (See page 13 for the explanation)



Anzac Day Sydney: Morris McPhee carries a wreath to Lay at the Cenotaph on behalf of the Society



Scottish Week: Ian & Morris McPhee



Society members Murray McPhee with his parents Phyllis and Ross McPhee on the family property 'Noondoo' at Biniguy near Moree NSW.



Bundanoon: The Macfie Clan Society tent with the gonfalon and 'Scotty' out the front