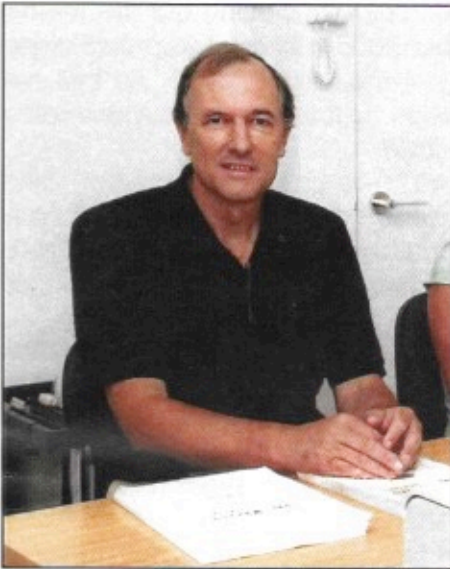




# THE DOWNUNDER

news bulletin of the  
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 112  
March 2009



## President's Message

Welcome to the new year.

The early part of this year has been a disaster for many Victorians who live in areas affected by bushfires. A significant number of our members live in the worst affected areas, some of which have been totally devastated. The loss of life has been horrendous. No details of the impact the fires may have had on any of our members are known, but I think I can say on behalf of all Society members, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

In the last issue, members were notified about the appointment of Iain McFie from Scotland as the new Clan Commander. Meet our new Commander on page 5.

One of Iain's first tasks in his new role, was to appoint an executive team which he has now done. Sandy from Townsville has been appointed Iain's representative in Australia - i.e. Clan Commissioner. Until Sandy's retirement, this post was held by Sandy McPhee from Mt. Vincent in NSW. While Sandy McPhee will no longer be the Commissioner for Australia, as an armiger, he will retain his role as executive member of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia. It's great to have both seasoned campaigners still on board.

This is the third issue of *The Downunder* with a colour layout on the front and back page. I think it has added a tremendous new dimension to our newsletter, which continues to evolve. Last year a series of articles on organisations our society supports was concluded. This year, a series on some historical societies in Scotland will commence.

Our Society continues to prosper. The following is a brief update on the Society for the year ended 31st December 2008.

1. Subscriptions: Remained unchanged at \$10.00 for a single and \$15.00 for a family. It would be hard to find a comparable organisation offering better value at such a low price. Again those low subscription rates were made possible by those generous enough to include a donation with their annual subs.

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



ancestral home of  
Clan Macfie

2. Finances: Society treasurer Geoff McPhee has had some health issues to deal with recently and has not completed the financial report for 2008. It should be available for inclusion in the next issue of *The Downunder*.

3. Membership: As mentioned in last year's report in the March 2008 edition of *The Downunder*, renewing and increasing the membership is the main challenge facing our Society. It is the same challenge faced by nearly every clan society like ours. Over the past year, the consistent decline in the membership, evident during the past 12 plus years was arrested. It is to be hoped this situation can at least be maintained.

During 2008 it was pleasing that the Society gained 17 new members. A significant number of existing members remain un-financial, but a lenient approach has been taken to those in that situation. Having said that, 7 un-financial overseas members have been removed from the membership list. Members failing to advise the Society of a change of address is an ongoing problem and depletes the membership base. Last year, contact was lost with 11 such members after their *Downunders* were returned by Australia Post.

Currently the Society has 269 single members and 64 family memberships (including our life memberships). A comparison of the Society's membership as at 31st December 2008 with the two previous years can be seen in the table below:

	2006	2007	2008
Australian Capital Territory	14	12	12
New South Wales	102	101	105
Northern Territory	0	0	0
Queensland	66	68	74
South Australia	23	23	22
Tasmania	6	6	5
Victoria	99	88	92
Western Australia	18	17	15
Overseas	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>
	338	328	333

4. Inventory/Expenditure: In 2008, NSW Vice-President Morris McPhee helped organise the purchase of 8 pull-up banners for use at Scottish gatherings and Society functions. They included 6 bearing our clan names (see back page) and 2 with a map of Scotland, which highlighted Colonsay. Excluding art work, the total cost was \$1,350.80; excellent value for which Morris can be thanked. As mentioned last year, a little more is now being spent producing *The Downunder* and sending it out in an envelope. 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 efforts to recruit a Vice-President for Victoria, the state still does not have a representative. Apart from the BGM last year in Toowoomba, the past year has been a quiet one for the executive committee.

Ian McPhee

.....

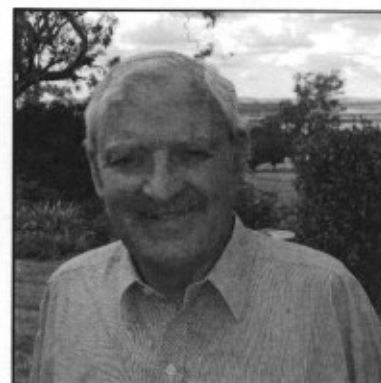
### **Macfie Bagpipe Tunes**

The following article is produced from *The Galley* (vol. 32), the quarterly journal of Clan Macfie Society (in Scotland).

"Some of the society members, particularly those interested in pipe music, are 'up-to-their-ears' in the production of a new book of bagpipe music. There are Macfie orientated pipe music books in existence, however this latest book is intended as a compendium. The content rules are simple. For inclusion, the tunes must have been composed by a Macfie, have the name Macfie in the title or, have reference to Colonsay and Oronsay in the title. A fair number of tunes have been collected which fit the criteria...."

# MEMBERS IN PROFILE

## Tribute to Sandy McPhie



<b>QLD member:</b>	Sandy McPhie (N74-001)
<b>Migrant ancestors:</b>	Alexander McFee & Ann McDonald
<b>Occupation:</b>	Crofter
<b>Home in Scotland:</b>	Isle of Mull
<b>Emigrant ship:</b>	Departed Greenock on the Minerva
<b>Arrived Australia:</b>	Sydney, NSW, January 1838
<b>Pioneer ancestors:</b>	Neil McPhie & Mary Kennedy

**Member's story in brief:** Sandy recently retired from his position as the Cean Cath (Commander) of Clan McPhie. Sandy was born in February 1929, the son of Hector and Nellie (nee Shanasy) McPhie. Hector was a stock and station agent in the family firm 'McPhie & Co' at Toowoomba.

Sandy had early schooling at Toowoomba North State School before following in his father's footsteps going on to The Kings School, Parramatta, as a boarder. He was the School Captain in 1947. After leaving school he worked for the agricultural firm AML & F Co. Ltd., in Brisbane, at country branches and on properties. In 1955 he moved to a partly developed brigalow farm "Curyo", north of Chinchilla in Qld.

Learning to fly in 1951/52, with No 23 (F) City of Brisbane Squadron of the Auxiliary Air Force, Sandy was discharged in 1953 but maintained his civil flying licence. In 1957 he crashed a plane on an adjoining property while flying over "Curyo" and spent the next 3 years recovering. Unable to physically work the farm again on his own, or to meet his financial commitments, he was fortunate to be granted a permanent commission in the Air Force in 1962 as an Air Traffic Control Officer.

At Point Cook in 1963 Sandy met Helen Michell, a nurse at No. 3 RAAF Hospital Richmond attending a course there. By years end, Sandy had been posted to RAAF Base Darwin and Helen had accepted Sandy's proposal of marriage. They married in March 1964.

From Darwin, Sandy and Helen went to RAAF Butterworth in Malaysia and then back to Williamstown, N.S.W., another posting to Darwin for 3 years, before going to Richmond. This was followed by staff appointments at RAAF Headquarters Support Command in Melbourne and Dept of Air, Canberra, ACT. After 20 years in the RAAF, Sandy left as a Wing Commander, holding a senior Air Traffic Control appointment in the Air Force. During those years he and Helen had 4 children, Lyndal 1965, Alexander 1966, Malcolm 1968 (died one day after birth) and Katrina 1972.

Living in Toowoomba, Sandy was elected to the Queensland Parliament as the National Party member for Toowoomba North. He served two terms (1983-1989). In 1998 Sandy and Helen moved to Townsville to be with their daughter Katrina and granddaughter Mia. They have lived in Townsville ever since.

In 1973 Sandy responded to a worldwide call by Canadian Dr. Earle Douglas MacPhee for support in re-activating Clan Macfie, a broken clan since 1623. At Richmond in 1974, Sandy convened a meeting which founded The Macfie Clan Society of Australia & he became its first President, a position he held until 1998.

Clan Macfie was recognised as an active clan on 27th May, 1981, and Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee was invested as the Clan Commander on 6th November 1981. Sadly he died on 25th September 1982. After years without a leader, Sandy was appointed the second Commander on 7th September, 1989. For the past 19 years until he stepped down in 2008, he has been a forthright, hard working leader of the Clan. In that role he has always been supported wholeheartedly by his wife Helen.

We thank both Sandy and Helen, and look forward to their continued support and involvement.

# GENERAL NEWS



## New Member

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Sharron Benett	(Q08-1073)	Paddington QLD
Joyce Morris	(N09-1074)	Beverly Hills NSW
Anne Lyon	(N09-1075)	Lilyfield NSW
Norman McPhee	(VIC-1076)	Ringwood VIC

## Lost Touch in 2008

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
Rosemary Owens	20 Raymond St Speers Point NSW
Alistair McPhee	18 Quail St Longreach QLD
Nigel McPhee	14 Strathmore Ave Lockleys SA
Sheila Cogan	The Village 1/49 Paas Place Williamstown VIC
Alex Holds	PO Box 436 Geraldton WA
Gary J McPhee	64 Old Gippsland R Lilydale VIC

## 2009 Subscriptions

Don't be concerned if you have not received your annual subscription notice, as they have not yet been sent out. They will be mailed out in May.

## Donations

Many thanks to the following 6 members for their generous donation 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.

Jean Rushbrooke	Eagle Heights	QLD
Sr. Mary Barnes	Albert Park	VIC
Meg Davis	Cowes	VIC
Peter McPhee	Nunawading	VIC
Bill Smith	Narre Warren	VIC
Marion McPhee	Maroubra	NSW

## Marriage

The daughter of former Downunder editor and ACT Vice-President Glen McPhee and his wife Glenda, married recently. Kelly McPhee married Hugh Ross in the U.K. See photo page 16.

## Clan Finances

Former Commander Sandy McPhie has now handed over the Clan's finances to new Clan Commander Iain McFie in Scotland.

When Sandy closed the Clan's bank account in Australia on 27th February 2009, the final balance was \$9,110.99. This converted to £4,052.57 at the exchange rate that day of .4448. The individual amounts of the transfer were:

	\$	£
Working Fund	139.04	61.85
Capital Fund	8354.82	3716.22
Scotland Projects	93.13	41.42
Commander Travel	<u>524.00</u>	<u>233.08</u>
	\$9110.99	£4052.57

The above balance took account of exceptional expenditure of \$738.47 for the ad hoc derbhfine process to elect the new commander. It included Lyon Court fees of \$431.05, printing \$42.22 and postage \$265.20.

It is a requirement of clan societies to make an annual financial contribution to sustain the Clan office. According to Sandy, of the 9 clan societies world wide, only Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the Coffee/Coffees in America have been regular and reliable contributors to the Clan's finances.

# Clan Macfie News

## Our New Commander

On the 12th October 2008, Iain MacFie was appointed Clan Macfie's new Ceann Cath (Commander).

The MacFie Clan Society of Australia extends a hearty congratulation and welcome to Iain in his new role. Iain is no stranger to Clan affairs. He participated in the formation of the Clan Macfie Society in Scotland back in 1977 and has participated in Clan activities for some years. He and his wife Fiona are known to many through their work as co-ordinators for the Clan Gathering and Parliament held in Scotland every 4 years.

In March 1998 Iain received a grant of arms and later that year Commander Sandy McPhie appointed him the Commissioner for Clan Macfie in Scotland. On his continuing involvement in the Clan Iain writes:

"When I first became interested in the Clan and its affairs I had no thought or desire to hold any office, but very quickly became involved. 1985 was the first Gathering Fiona and I attended followed by Nova Scotia in '87 and thereafter as Co-ordinators of the four yearly Parliament and Gatherings.



The surge that Dr Earle had injected into the Clan through his research, his becoming The Commander and the Clan being recognised as honourable again, was slowed by his untimely death. The protracted business leading to the election of our second Commander, Sandy McPhie added to the slowdown.

I want to reignite the fire, Dr Earle lit, however to do that I will need everyone's help and support. Over the next few months I will begin to work on a strategy to allow the Clan to move forward. The Olympics use the motto Citius (Faster) Altius (Higher) Fortius (Stronger). Perhaps we should copy this. Our aim for the Clan should be higher (more expansive) and we should work faster to attain our aims while working together makes us stronger.

So I need everyone's help. Please do not wait to be asked. If you have a skill or ability that you think can help the Clan and me, let me know..... Together we can make things happen."

## Iain's Highland Home

Iain and Fiona live near Kingussie, Scotland, which in Gaelic is Ceann-a-Ghuibhsaich, meaning the head of the pinewood. The town is located south-east of Inverness (20 km south of Aviemore) at the foothills of the Cairgorn and Monadhliath Mountains and is the traditional capital of Badenoch, the area of the upper Spey Valley in the heart of the Highlands. Kingussie was founded in the late 18th Century by the Duke of Gordon and at that time was a small hamlet surrounded by vast pine forests. On the opposite side of the River Spey are the ruins of the Ruthven Barracks, which have connections to the 1715 and 1745 Jacobite Rebellions.

Kingussie is within Scotland's largest National Park. Officially opened in September 2003 and covering an area of 3,800 square kilometres, the Cairngorms National Park contains a quarter of Scotland's native woodlands and is a refuge for many rare species of flora and fauna. The television series 'Monarch of the Glen' was filmed entirely in the upper Spey Valley and many scenes were shot in Kingussie.

Iain works two days a week in the Visitors' Centre at the Highland Wild Life Park which is located 8 kilometres north of Kingussie at Kincaig. The park is only a five-minute walk from Iain and Fiona's home.

## The Declaration of Arbroath

In the last issue of *The Downunder*, there was an article about Tartan Day in the United States. It mentioned that the United States Declaration of Independence was modelled on the Declaration of Arbroath. In recent times, Mel Gibson's film 'Braveheart' also drew on some of the most passionate wording used in the Declaration of Arbroath. You may recognise it from the quotation further down the page.

Following on from the death of William Wallace at the hands of the English in 1305, Scottish noble Robert Bruce (1306 –1329) claimed the throne and had himself crowned King of Scotland. He was however the king in name only, as the English king, Edward I, ruled Scotland. It took Bruce many years to unite the country to his cause and muster the strength required to meet the English head-on. His task was made a little easier with the death of Edward I and the succession to the English throne of a weaker Edward II.

In June 1314, the Scots met the English just south of Stirling Castle and fought what afterwards would be regarded as one of Scotland's greatest ever victories in battle. It was one of the worst defeats suffered by an English army. Despite being lightly armed and outnumbered three to one by the English, the Scots defeated the best army in Europe. The victorious Bruce and his army gained independence for Scotland, which was to last until 1603. This decisive conflict was The Battle of Bannockburn, named after the tributary of the River Forth around which the battle was fought.

Robert the Bruce was acknowledged as the King of Scotland. However neither Scotland's independence from England, nor Bruce's position as king, were recognised by the church in Rome. Pope John XXII continued to support England's right to rule Scotland and excommunicated Bruce.

In 1320, Scottish nobles with the support of their churchmen wrote a letter to the Pope asserting their country's right to independence and rejecting his or anyone else's interference in the country's affairs. The letter was a passionate attempt to dissuade the Pope from supporting the English Crown's claims of sovereignty over Scotland, pledging allegiance to Robert and to the cause of Scottish independence. The letter, sealed by 8 earls and 31 barons, was written at Arbroath Abbey by its abbot, Bernard of Linton who was also the Chancellor of Scotland. The letter became known as the 'Declaration of Arbroath'.

"But after all, if this prince shall leave these principles as have so nobly pursued and consent that we our kingdom be subjected to the King of people of England, we will immediately endeavour to expel him as our enemy and a subverter of his own and our rights, and make some other man who was well able to defend us our King, who will defend our liberties: for so long as there shall be but 100 of us remain alive, never will we, under any condition be brought under English rule. For it is truth, not for glory, nor riches, neither is it for honours, that we are fighting, but for freedom - for that alone, which no good man surrenders but with his life".

The Scots had long been sidelined by English agents who held the ear of the Pope. So the Declaration ended with a pointed warning about the consequences of its rejection:

"But if your Holiness puts too much faith in the tales the English tell and will not give sincere belief to all this, nor refrain from favouring them to our prejudice, then the slaughter of bodies, the perdition of souls, and all the other misfortunes that will follow, inflicted by them on us and by us on them, we believe, be surely laid by the Most High to your charge."

The Declaration of Arbroath had an impact. The Pope altered his position and rescinded punitive measures he had taken against the Scots. He encouraged England's Edward II to make peace with Scotland and recognise the country's right to nationhood. To see what the Document looks like turn to the back page.

# Scotland News

## Edinburgh Study Centre

The University of Edinburgh has launched a centre of study which is aimed at shedding new light on the role of Scots throughout the world. The centre was established through a donation of £1 million from Alan MacFarland, managing director of equity investment firm Walter Scott and Partners, and his wife Anne.

From the 1850s to the Second World War, Scotland was one of the top three nations in Europe in terms of emigration. Because Scotland in the 18th and 19th centuries had a disproportionate number of semi-skilled, skilled and professional emigrants, they tended to have a disproportionate impact on the countries of settlement.

The Centre for Diaspora has been billed as the first centre in the world for the advanced research of Scottish emigration, and university chiefs have expressed hopes that it will become the eminent school for analysis of the impact of Scots worldwide. The project will be headed by Scottish history Professor Tom Devine, formerly of Aberdeen University, who was appointed Sir William Fraser Chair of Scottish History at the University of Edinburgh in January 2006. Tom is a well known author. His books include *The Scottish Nation*, a best seller and *Clanship to Crofters' War*.

## Red Squirrel Project

Red squirrels (see photograph on back page,) are native to Britain, but have been displaced from nearly all areas of England and some areas of Scotland by the introduced grey squirrel. The presence of grey squirrels causes the decline of red squirrels as they outcompete the natives for food and habitat, as well as carrying squirrelpox virus - a virus lethal to red squirrels which does not harm grey squirrels. Only about 121,000 red squirrels are thought to remain in Scotland, accounting for 75% of Britain's red squirrel population.

Scottish Wildlife Trust has joined with Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland and The Scottish Rural Property and Business Association in endeavouring to reverse the decline of the red squirrel population. To do this, the project 'Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels' will encourage landowners to develop woodland habitat for red squirrels and undertake grey squirrel control. It will concentrate on stopping the march of the grey squirrel into northern Scotland.

(NB image, page 16 courtesy Scottish Banner Vol 32, no 10)

## William Wallace: Lubeck Letter

After their success at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297, William Wallace and Andrew Moray were made Guardians of Scotland. They wanted to tell the cities of Europe that Scotland was again able to trade.

What is now known as the '*Lubeck Letter*' dated October 1297, tells the merchants of Lubeck, in Germany, they can come safely to Scotland "....because the kingdom of Scotland, thanks be to God, has been recovered by war from the power of the English." It shows a side of Wallace as a leader that is often overlooked - his attention to the importance of commerce to his nation.

During the Second World War Lubeck was bombed, and its archives moved to a saltmine for safekeeping. After the war, documents were taken east by the Russian army. They were later returned to Germany, but the medieval documents - including the *Lubeck Letter* - were missing, presumed lost. Amazingly, in 1970, Lubeck's medieval manuscripts turned up in a Soviet archive and in 1990 were returned to their home city.

The *Lubeck Letter* is the only surviving original document issued by William Wallace, and bears his seal. This says 'William, son of Alan Wallace', casting doubt on the traditional story of his family and birthplace. The inscription points to his birthplace at Ellerslie near Kilmarnock, rather than the traditional Ellerslie in Renfrewshire. The seal also shows a bow and arrow, perhaps reflecting Wallace's expertise as a hunter or outlaw.

Scottish Member of Parliament Murdo Fraser has requested the letter be returned to Scotland. He believes the letter is a 'pivotal point in Scotland's history'. He realises Scotland has no claim to the ownership of the document, and if not returned, would like to see it back on 'permanent loan'. To see what the document looks like, turn to the back page.

# GENEALOGY

## 15th Century Lochaber McPhees

from Bernie McPhee

I have long been interested in the McPhees of Lochaber. Before 1622, the part of Scotland known as Lochaber in the Western Highlands of Scotland was an area which encompassed those districts or parishes which are today known as "Kilmonivaig" and "Kilmallie". After 1622 Lochaber was coextensive with "Kilmonivaig" alone.

We sometimes hear people say that McPhees went to Lochaber after 1623, because that's when Malcolm the Chief of McPhees was killed on Colonsay Island. The Clan was "broken", they say. Well, that probably happened, as people say, but in fact the McPhees were well established in Lochaber at least two hundred years before that date of 1623. The refugees from Colonsay don't seem to have added to the McPhee numbers in Lochaber. I suppose that these Colonsay refugees would not have been called "McPhee".

Earle Douglas MacPhee noticed that Neil, the 13th Chief of McPhee (1420 to 1450), was a Lochaber man, and that Angus McPhee fought at Inverlochy in 1431. These two McPhees, Neil and Angus, are a key to the schema which I have prepared for presentation to the readers of *The Downunder*. So, the following chart identifies four significant 15th Century Lochaber McPhees.

The following chart (on page 9) entitled "McPhee of Lochaber: down to today by DNA", attempts to explore the McPhee relationship with the great families of:

- MacDonalds Lords of the Isles, who were beginning their decline in the 15th Century.
- Keppoch MacDonells of Lochaber, an offshoot of the MacDonalds.
- Camerons, in the 15th Century still reaching towards their greatness.

We can say with certainty that the McPhee people in the 15th Century had aristocratic leaders and were long established in Lochaber.

After 1500 AD, the McPhee people who stayed in Lochaber were reliant on the good will of the Camerons, Keppochs, MacDonalds and the newly arrived and highly influential Gordon Huntly. To the first three of these the McPhees were related. Once they had even been noted for a while as being in 'sword service' to the McIntoshes, on the North side of the Spean, probably related to them, here and there, over the years.

So then, after 1500, the McPhees were partners in the vicissitudes, politics, religion and traumas of Lochaber and Scottish Clan history. The McPhees were too involved and too connected with the dominant Clans to be swallowed up by them. Anyway, it looks as though their McPhee DNA has come down to us. How wonderful.

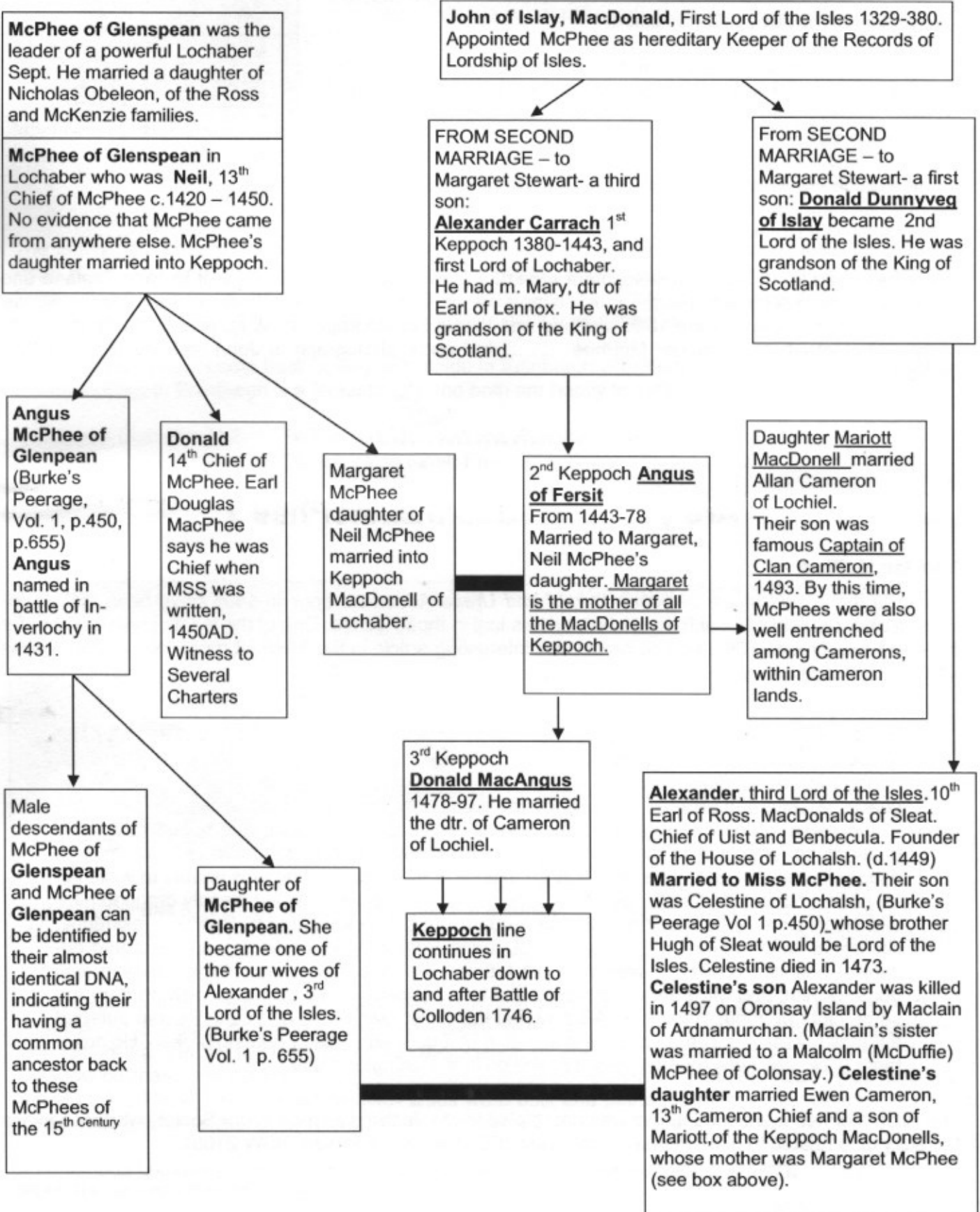
**Editor's note:** Bernie has done an outstanding job compiling the genealogical chart on the Lochaber McPhees. Research like his, which sheds new light on our clan's history, seems to be a rare activity these days. It will be interesting to see if it draws any comment or perhaps a contrary view.

Have you researched and written your family's story? If you have, *The Downunder* is always happy to let our members know about it.



# McPhee of Lochaber: down to today by DNA.

The McPhees have lived in Lochaber for centuries. Now that the DNA study for the Macfie Clan Society is progressing we can pull together a few threads from earlier times. This chart below is my suggested genealogy for **Lochaber** McPhees; for **Glen Spean, Glen Pean, Glen Urquhart, Glendessary** – where ever they lived. Bernie McPhee



## Natimuk McPhees

In the March 2008 edition of *The Downunder*, attention was drawn to Past President Bernie McPhee's 37 page publication entitled *John McPhee Family*, which complemented his 1982 book called *John McPhee and his family*.

Bernie has produced a second edition of *John McPhee Family* and expanded the publication to 60 pages. The following is from Bernie's introduction to the new, second edition:

"The new booklet 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 and following conversations with Margaret Johnston from near Dunedin, and with Bob Stewart in Levin, we have concluded that one of the 1860 McPhee and Stewart photographs in Margaret's possession is definitely a photograph of Alexander McPhee ..... and not a photograph of John McPhee as previously thought. ...."



## Are you related to this McPhee ?

from Ian McPhee

Nearly all the issues of the *Jerilderie Herald and Urana Advertiser* prior to 1898 have been lost or destroyed. A great deal of local Riverina history was lost in those issues. One of the few to survive is that for Friday 11th February, 1898. I came across this interesting article in the State Library of New South Wales when undertaking family research.

"On Sunday morning last a very serious accident happened to Mr. Allan McPhee, proprietor of the Darlington Point mail. He went from here the same morning with the mail, and when nearing Mr. John Pearse's place he had to open a gate. Having two restive brutes in the coach, Mr. McPhee alighted and pushed the gates from him without letting go the reins. One of the gates fell down and startled the horses, which swerved round and bolted back. The driver clung for a time to the reins, but was pulled down and dragged. On endeavouring to rise, he found that one of his legs was so injured at the ankle that he was unable to walk. After cooing himself hoarse for assistance, he got a stick, and with its aid wearily dragged himself along under a boiling sun for about a quarter of a mile towards Mr. Pearse's residence. His cry at length attracted the attention of young Pearse, who, on finding out what had occurred, had him quickly conveyed to his father's residence. Here everything possible was done for him, and Mr. Pearse conveyed him into Jerilderie in his own trap, arriving here the same night at about 10 o'clock. After seeing the driver taken care of, young Pearse pursued the mail horses and came up to them standing at a gate with little or nothing broken. He drove them back, and subsequently took the mail on in to Darlington Point."

The Allan McPhee mentioned above was not related to me. Is there anyone in our Society who recognises the story or is related to him? Please let me know (PO Box 237 Brookvale NSW 2100).

# Life over the Ditch

## News from Glen & Glenda in NZ

It was great to hear news from former *Downunder* editor and ACT Vice-President Glen McPhee.

Glenda and Glen McPhee moved from Canberra to the North Island of New Zealand some 18 months ago. The main reason was to be near their daughter (Darlene Jones and her family). They say the change in their life has been a positive one as New Zealand is beautiful country with a mild climate, spectacular views and the country is always green.

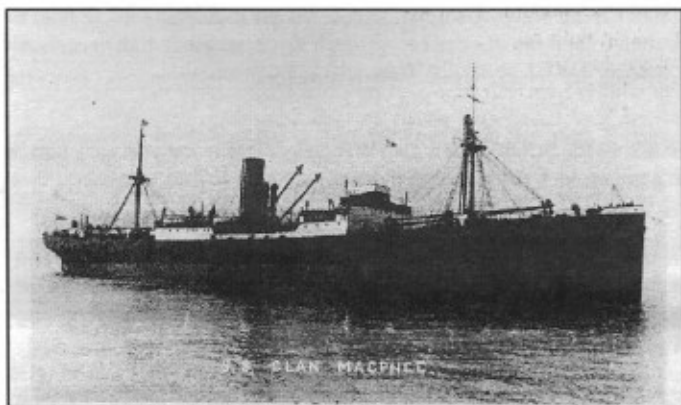
The move was smooth and worked out very well. There were challenges such as buying a house, car, establishing a home and settling into a new job. Glen works at the Auckland University of Technology in as a health and safety advisor. This involves a daily 50 km train trip each way, which provides time to read and listen to the radio. Glenda has been busy settling into the home and helping out with the grandchildren at times. They have joined the local Cosmopolitan Club, RSA and Glen plays bagpipes in the Pukekohe Pipe Band.

The family had a trip to Scotland in January to celebrate the marriage of their younger daughter Kelly to Hugh Ross. The wedding was held in the Napier University and all went extremely well with guests from Europe, USA, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Being January, it was cold as to be expected, and snow carpeted Edinburgh and the Highlands for a couple of days during their visit.

Kelly and Hugh (see photo back cover), will reside in Edinburgh with Kelly working in a local hospital as a speech therapist. Edinburgh is a fantastic city and both are happy to settle there.

NB Glen & Glenda in N.Z.: 14 Thomas Moore Place, Pukekohe, New Zealand.  
Tel. 64 9 238 8254; Email: glenmcphee@xtrta.co.nz

.....



## The story of the S.S. Clan MacPhee

The following edited extract comes from an article written by Ginger McAfee, a member of the Macfie Clan Society of America.

"While looking on e-bay for items related to Clan Macfie, I ran across a postcard entitled "SS Clan MacPhee" that was at auction. I made the winning bid and was soon in possession of this postcard picture. Written under the picture in pencil is the date 1911. With my interest peeked, I began looking on the internet for any information about this ship. I found that it was

built in 1911, was 5,177 tons and was torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic in 1940, with the loss of 67 lives. Elsewhere it was reported that 55 of the crew survived and part of the crew went to Galloway with the Norwegian SS Wareg, another part went to Gibraltar with the SS Wellington.

I also found that the Clan Line was founded in 1877 in Liverpool as C. W. Cayzer & Company, trading from the UK to India. The company became Cayzer, Irvine & Company in 1878 when Captain William Irvine joined the firm. In 1881 the Clan Line Association of Steamers was formed and, with an influential Glasgow businessman joining the firm, the company moved to Glasgow. Clan Line head office was established at 109 Hope Street, Glasgow. New ships were built and managed for the Association by Cayzer Irvine, with Cayzer retaining ownership of the original six Clan ships. ...."

After various takeovers and ownership changes, the Clan Line ceased trading in 1981.

Source: The Newsbeat, Volume XXIII, issue 1

# HISTORICAL ORGANISATIONS

by Ian McPhee

## British Fisheries Society

In times past it was not uncommon for some societies to have the blessing or encouragement of government if the society's objective was to achieve a desirable social outcome. In the late 1700s and early 1800s, the Highlands had a growing population but relatively few employment opportunities. This was the era of the infamous Highland Clearances, when many of our forebears, for reasons of famine, poverty, overpopulation, landlord greed and a changed society, were forced to leave Scotland and emigrate.

As one way of trying to improve things in the Highlands and islands of Scotland, a number of notables put forward the idea of establishing fishing villages around Scotland's coast. Fishing for herring that could be salted down and therefore remain edible during the winter was thought to be an untapped resource around the coast and in the lochs. The proponents advanced the concept as a philanthropic scheme, and not surprisingly, it gained public support and government favour.

The Scottish nobility took up the idea and the British Society for Extending the Fisheries (British Fisheries Society) was incorporated in 1786 with a healthy capital of £35,000 to commence operations. Influential figures such as William Wilberforce (1759-1833), Henry Dundas (1742-1811) and David Dale (1739-1806), subscribed to the Society. The first governor was the cream of the Scottish aristocracy and enthusiastic improver, John Campbell, the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyll.

The object of the British Fisheries Society was to establish planned villages to accommodate Highlanders. The inhabitants of the villages would primarily support themselves by fishing and supplement their fishing activities with other jobs. There was considerable optimism about the whole idea. At that time, some among the Scottish nobility wanted to stem the loss of cheap labour from their estates so this improvement was naturally welcomed by them. Some landlords also saw it as a way of supporting demobilised servicemen, especially those from the navy.

Land was purchased initially on Scotland's west coast at locations deemed suitable. The first planned villages were established at Ullapool in Ross Shire, Lochbeg in Inverness Shire and at Tobermory on the Isle of Mull in Argyllshire. The Society not only purchased the land but built some houses and tried to attract newcomers by offering incentives such as low rents and boats on favourable terms. Although there were some takers at Ullapool, the other towns failed to attract would be inhabitants.

Many Highlanders used to agriculture, had an aversion to fishing and saw it only as a means of supplementing their farming production. Profitability due to oversupply and availability to markets were other problems for the fishermen in planned villages. The cost and availability to supplies of salt was another issue for outlying towns.

The Society was more successful on Scotland's east coast. In 1803 it purchased land at Wick, where a fishing fleet of about 400 small boats already existed. The Society's development was called Pulteneytown and it grew, aided by funds from the Society. Land and building speculation rather than fishing provided a profit for the Society.

After the 1830s the British Fishing Society went into decline. It eventually sold off all its assets and was wound up in the 1890s. Despite losing money and its failure to reward those who subscribed to it, the Society had remained in existence for over 100 years. It was responsible for establishing the towns of Ullapool on Loch Broom, Tobermorey on the Isle of Mull, Lochbay on the Isle of Skye and Pulteneytown in Caithness.

.....

## 10th Parliament of Clan Macfie

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. All Society members are invited to attend. The Gathering and Parliament will be centred at the Hotel Nethybridge which can accommodate 140 guests, including 8 single rooms. The tentative programme is as follows:

Wed.	02	a.m. Registration; p.m. Clan Commander's Reception; ceilidh in the evening
Thur	03	a.m. 1st session of Clan Parliament; p.m. Visit Culloden & Fort George; ceilidh in evening
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; ceilidh in the evening
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.  
Bookings are to be made direct by members attending.

.....

## Obituary

### **William Donald McPhee (N80-474) 1933-2008**

William, known as Bill, was the son of Lindsay McPhee and Marjorie Sawell. He grew up with his sister Judith at Willoughby and on the family dairy farm at Unanderra during the war.

Lindsay was a member of the United Australia Party and Liberal Party when it was formed, and Bill followed in his father footsteps. He worked actively for the Liberal Party throughout his life in support of his ideals. He believed strongly in opportunity for the individual, the importance of small business and the need for a strong defence force.

Leaving Sydney Grammar aged 18, Bill joined the 30th Battalion NSW Scottish Regiment. He was later in the first call up for National Service. After military service, a friend introduced Bill to ocean racing, a sport he relished. He joined the Janzoon crew and raced 5 Sydney to Hobarts. It was through sailing that Bill met his wife Patricia Morton. Over their 45 year marriage they would work side by side through both the good and toughest of times raising a family, working for the community and running a business.

Timber was in the family's blood. Bill's father worked at Arthur H Hasel prior to joining the 1st AIF and returned to the firm after the war. In 1946 he formed AHH and Co. In 1949 Bill joined the firm and bought the business in the 60s, later forming Australian Heavy Hardwoods. Supplying power poles and cross arms for overhead power lines helped support 4 generations of the family. Timber took Bill all over Australia and many parts of the world as he built the export business. He retired from the timber industry 2 years ago when he turned the business over to his son-in-law.

Family was incredibly important to Bill. With 4 daughters he believed they had a role beyond the family business, politics and community. He encouraged them to excel in non-traditional studies, just as he encouraged women in the community to run for elected office. For some 37 years Bill fought many medical challenges that tested his strength time and time again. He will be fondly remembered by his family, friends and many in the Macfie Clan Society.

# SOCIETY OFFICE BEARERS

<b>President*</b>	Ian McPhee	PO Box 237 Brookvale NSW 2100	02 9938 2550
<b>Vice President*</b>	Margaret Barnes	201/5 Cary St Drummoyne NSW 2047	91811689
<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 Commissioner*</b>	A (Sandy) McPhie	76 Lindeman Ave Heatley QLD 4814	07 47796328
<b>Clan armiger*</b>	A (Sandy) McPhee	49 Rodney Rd Mt Vincent NSW 2323	02 49380350
<b>Secretary</b>	Lyndsay Armstrong	3 Beaumont St Rose Bay NSW 2029	93716117
<b>M/ship Coordinator</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, 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)

All correspondence should be sent to:

The President, Macfie Clan Society of Australia

PO Box 237 Brookvale NSW 2100

Telephone: 02 9938 2550

Email: [irmac10@bigpond.net.au](mailto:irmac10@bigpond.net.au)

## 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 submitted for publication are subject to alteration and editing.

# SCOTTISH EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Date	Event	Location	Contact
<b>ACT &amp; NSW</b>			
4/4/09	Bundanoon Highland Gathering	Bundanoon	Morris McPhee 98681521
11-12/4	Macleay Highland Gathering	Macleay	66452887
25/4/09	Scottish Act of Remembrance	Martin Place, Sydney	Morris McPhee 98681521
2-3/5/09	The Australian Celtic Festival	Glen Innes	Bob McPhee 67346202
23/5/09	Berry Celtic Festival	Berry Showground	Col Hanbridge 42341346
30-31/5	Scottish Heritage Festival	Wingham	
1/7/09	Tartan Day	Martin Place, Sydney	David Campbell 95223631
4/7/09	Aberdeen Highland Gathering	Jefferson Park, Aberdeen	Geoff McPhee 95334195
<b>Queensland</b>			
25-26/4	International Tattoo Tunes	Ipswich Civic Hall	Susan Spinks 46916206
5/7/09	Tartan Day	South Bank Cultural F/court	Susan Spinks 46916206
<b>South Australia</b>			
25/4/09	Anzac Day March	North Terrace	Judy Moore 82641739
4/7/09	Tartan Week	Burnside Library, Adelaide	Judy Moore 82641739
9/7/09	Kirkin 'o' the Tartan Service	St Andrews North Adelaide	Judy Moore 82641739
<b>Tasmania &amp; Victoria</b>			
4/4/09	Ringwood Highland Gathering	Russell Lucas Oval	
<b>Western Australia</b>			
8/5/09	Scottish Film Night	RAAF Association complex	Internet contact

## 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

Scotland annexed Orkney and Shetland from Norway	20/2/1472
Mary Queen of Scots beheaded at Fotheringay Castle	8/2/1587
Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of England, Scotland & Wales	16/12/1653
The first Scottish newspaper called 'Mercurius Caledonius' published	8/1/1661



Society member Greg McPhee lives in the beautiful seaside town of Urunga, on the north coast of NSW. He is pictured here outside his 'Thrifty Link Hardware' store in Bonville Street Urunga.



The wedding of U.K. member Kelly McPhee to Hugh Ross. Kelly is the daughter of Glen & Glenda McPhee formerly from Canberra, ACT.



The famous Declaration of Arbroath. See page 6 for its history



Scotland's red squirrel. See story, page 7



Historian Helen McPhie and former Commander Sandy McPhie at last year's BGM, Toowoomba



William Wallace's 'Lubeck Letter' See page 7 for details