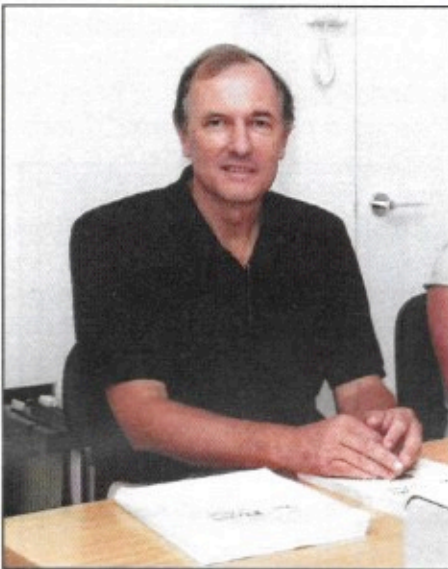




# THE DOWNUNDER

news bulletin of the  
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 113  
July 2009



## President's Message

It is a pleasure to report, that the Society now has a representative in Victoria. Ross McPhie from St. Kilda is the new Vice President. Ross is following in his father Bruce's footsteps, as he also was once the Victorian Vice-President. See Ross' profile on page 3.

Ross mentioned to me that one desire he has is to help increase the membership of our Society. He can rest assured that is something we will all be happy to help him with.

For a variety of reasons, our subscription notices were late going out this year. Fortunately many members responded promptly and returned them with their annual payment. A big thank you to all those also provided their home and mobile telephone numbers in the space provided on the remittance as requested. It is so essential these days to have the basic means of communication with members. Gradually we are fulfilling that requirement.

On the subject of subscriptions, a number of members have expressed the desire to make payments to the Society via credit card, the internet or 'Bpay'. At this stage we are not in a position to offer that service. I am mindful of the importance of making it easy to make payments in the most convenient way for all members. Hopefully we will be able to rectify that deficiency in the future.

A number of subscription remittances were accompanied by letters and notes of appreciation for the newsletter, the effort put in by various Society members and also suggestions. It is often difficult to respond personally to all those people, so I would like take this opportunity to pass on my thanks. Those notes etc are greatly appreciated.

In June, an executive meeting was held at treasurer Geoff McPhee's home in Sydney. Geoff's wife Ruth kept the hunger pangs at bay by not only providing morning tea, but a lovely lunch. One of the items discussed was the location of next year's BGM.

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



ancestral home of  
Clan Macfie

In keeping with the policy of trying to give every state and territory the opportunity of hosting a meeting, it was suggested the next one be held in Tasmania or Western Australia. If you have any thoughts on this topic, they will be taken on board by the executive at their next meeting in October.

The financial information and accounts for 2008 are still with treasurer Geoff McPhee. He has had a serious illness to contend with but assures me he will have them prepared in the near future so that they may be published for members in *The Downunder*.

Scottish Week in NSW has now come and gone. It is to be applauded that the celebrations are now being held in July rather than the heat of summer. Regrettably, few of our Society that I am aware of were able to participate, but hopefully that will be rectified next year.

In the last few Downunders, members were notified of details for the 10th Clan Parliament to be held at Nethy Bridge, Scotland, between 2nd and 9th September. At this stage, it seems I will be the only Society member attending the Parliament to represent Australia but Brian & Cass McHaffie will be there for the dinner. I look forward to being able to report on any developments from Nethy Bridge.

Ian McPhee



### The Scottish National Flag

The Scottish National Flag and Arms so defined by Act of Parliament, are *Azure, a saltire argent*, and this is recorded in the Lyon Register, pursuant to 1672, cap 47, as the "Armes or Badge" proper and peculiar to the Kingdom of Scotland.

This national badge the "Silver Cross to Scotland dear" is traditionally said to have been instituted by Achaius, King of the Picts (really Angus II, who actually did introduce the veneration of St Andrew). The cross of St Andrew is the flag which any Scotsman is entitled to fly, or wear as a badge, as evidence of his patriotism. This is also the flag to fly on Scottish churches, and corresponds to St George's Cross in England, to the Red Dragon in Wales, and St Patrick's Cross in Ireland.

Source: Scots Heraldry, Innes of Learney



### The Scottish Royal Banner

'The ruddy lion ramping in his field of treasured gold' has been the Royal Arms or "Ensigns of Dominion and Sovereignty" of the Kings of Scotland, since the days of Alexander II, and probably even of William the Lion; it indicates the authority of the Scottish Government vested in the King of Scots. It is the exclusive property of the sovereign.



## Order of Australia Award

from Helen McPhee

"In being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia OAM, in the Queen's Birthday Honours in June for services to Catholic Education and Community organisations, I am privileged to have received acknowledgement for my contribution as an educator and community member, both aspects of my life which have provided enjoyment and satisfaction for more than forty years. In accepting this Award I note the many teachers who go each day into schools committed to making a difference to the lives and futures of the children and young people whom they teach." See Helen's profile on page 3 opposite.

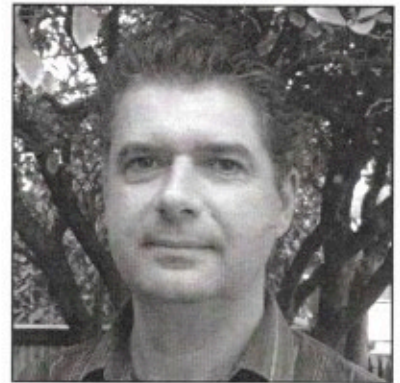
# MEMBERS IN PROFILE

**VIC member:** Ross McPhie (V08-1060)

**Migrant ancestors:** Niel McPhie  
**Home in Scotland:** Isle of Skye  
**Emigrant ship:** believed to be the Marmion  
**Pioneer ancestors:** James McPhie & Annie Elder

**Member's story in brief:**

The son of Bruce McPhie and Marion Cox Ross is the new Vice President for Victoria. He was born in Melbourne in 1961 and grew up at there with his brother Malcolm and sisters Fiona and Sally. Ross is following in his father's footsteps as he was also a former Victorian Vice President.



After going to Syndal High School, Ross attended Melbourne University and went on to become a school teacher. Currently he has a career teaching design, mostly to senior students at a private school in Melbourne. In 1982 Ross married Karen in Vancouver, British Columbia. She currently works as a marketing manager for a super fund. Ross and Karen have two adult children; Abbie Karen born in 1982, is a project analyst, and Coralie Anne, a landscape architect, born in 1984.

In addition to spending time at his holiday house in South Gippsland, Ross enjoys the cosmopolitan lifestyle of St Kilda where he lives. He also enjoys renovating his 1870 house, design, architecture and travel. Ross has travelled widely throughout the world but has only briefly visited Scotland.

**SA member:** Helen McPhee (S05-1016)

**Migrant Ancestors:** not known  
**Home in Scotland:** not known  
**Emigrant ship:** not known  
**Pioneer Ancestors:** Edward & Gertrude McPhee

**Member's story in brief:**

Helen's father, Gordon Campbell McPhee, was the youngest child of Edward and Gertrude McPhee. He was born in Kalgoorlie, WA, and shortly afterwards the family returned to Adelaide where they settled at Hilton. Her father's siblings were Duncan, Ruby (Moore), Jean, George and Angus.



After Gordon's marriage to Annie Moran (of Irish stock), Helen was born. Gordon was a manager and buyer at the Foy & Gibson department store in Adelaide and died before Helen started school. Helen was educated at St Dominic's Priory, a Catholic College for girls. She later graduated as a teacher.

Helen began teaching in 1964 at a parish school in Adelaide where she taught for several years before being appointed a Principal, a role she continued until transferring to the Education Department of SA in 1978. She was appointed an Education Consultant in a country region and joined a team that served schools as far west as Cook, to Cockburn in the east and to the NT border - a vast area. She returned to Catholic Education in 1981 to manage Commonwealth Government Special Programs in the Non Government sector in SA. She remained in that role until 1995 when she became the Professional Assistant to the Director of Catholic Education and a member of the Leadership Team of Catholic Education SA.

Now retired, Helen's interests include travel, theatre, ballet and movies. She also sits on several committees and has been involved for several years in the re-settlement of refugees, undertaking advocacy on their behalf. Prior to her retirement in 2007, Helen began to touch base with her "McPhee" background. In 2005, she participated in a 'Gathering of the Clan' at Inverness, and spent a week on Colonsay.

# GENERAL NEWS

## New Member

A warm welcome to the following new member:  
V09-1077 Barry Hopkins 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:

Charles A Cameron PO Box 157  
Leeton NSW

Elva Hamann PO Box 472  
Nanango QLD

Kerry McGrail PO Box 3378  
Norman Park QLD

Jane & Nick Smith 27 Victor St  
Mt Gambier SA 5290

Dr Bertel Sundstrup 1337 Pipers Rd  
Pipers Creek Tas

## Donations

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

Bruce Agland	Clarence Town	NSW
Margaret Barnes	Drummoyne	NSW
Russell Mattocks	Balgowlah	NSW
Esma McCarthy	Goonellabah	NSW
Margaret McDougall	Aberdeen	NSW
Claire McGuffie	Drummoyne	NSW
Colin & Helen McPhee	Leeton	NSW
Geoff & Ruth McPhee	Lugarno	NSW
Morris & Robyn McPhee	Cheltenham	NSW
Nathan McPhee	Cooranbong	NSW
Robert McPhee	Deepwater	NSW
Mrs McPhee	Seaforth	NSW
Andrew Pardoe	Wollongong	NSW
Clyde Smythe	Turrumurra	NSW
Bruce Taylor	Yagoona	NSW
Keith & Joyce Caldwell	Annerley	QLD
Jenny Hutchins	Carindale	QLD
Heather Knowles	Albany Creek	QLD
Donald Knowles	Yeppoon	QLD
Janet Mackay	Bracken Ridge	QLD
Dorothy McPhee	Bell	QLD

Kevin McPhee	Port Douglas	QLD
Lorraine McPhee	Toowoomba	QLD
Neville McPhee	Caloundra	QLD
Sally McPhee	Ascot	QLD
Helen McPhie	Eagle Heights	QLD
Murray McPhie	Tamberine	QLD
Sally McPhie	Tamberine	QLD
Dorothy Murphy	Currumbin	QLD
Alison Siddins	Goondiwindi	QLD
Robyn Young	Jimboomba	QLD
Shirley Dickson	Naracoorte	SA
Ann Leask	McLaren Vale	SA
Dr John McPhie	North Adelaide	SA
Marlena Turner	Ulverstone	TAS
Patricia Chapman	Kew	VIC
Nancy Collie	Bentleigh East	VIC
Anthony Gartland	Box Hill South	VIC
C C Gartland	Blackburn	VIC
Jan Harper	Mont Albert Nth	VIC
Beverly Knowles	Balwyn	VIC
Kim McDuffie	Mirboo North	VIC
Cherry McFee	Cowes	VIC
Nancy McHaffie	Glenferrie Sth	VIC
David McPhee	Traralgon	VIC
Dr Ian McPhee	Rosanna	VIC
John McPhee	Doncaster East	VIC
Keith & Anne McPhee	Glen Waverly	VIC
Peter McPhee	Abbotsford	VIC
Peter & Barbara McPhee	Nunawading	VIC
Fr. Mathew McPhee	Middle Park	VIC
Ross McPhee	Rosebud	VIC
John McPhee MBE	Hawthorn East	VIC
Donald McPhie	Warragul	VIC
Haydn McPhie	Mirboo North	VIC
Margaret McPhee	Nedlands	WA
Darlene Jones	Papakura	NZ
Bruce McFee	Chiangmai Thailand	
Kelly McPhee	Edinburgh	UK

## Congratulations

Helen McPhee of Brompton SA was awarded an Order of Australia medal (OAM) for her services to Catholic education.

Anna McPhee, formerly of Mosman in NSW is now working in a managerial capacity for the company Wesfarmers. To take up her role she has relocated to Western Australia.

## In Memoriam

It is with sadness we report the passing of: Barbara Ardell's husband R Neil McPhee (V74-017) in February 2009

# Glen Innes Festival

## from Society Piper Bob McPhee

I attended the two day Australian Celtic Festival at Glen Innes on the first Saturday and Sunday in May. I set up the Clan Macfie information site, complete with our banner 'Are you a Macfie?' etc along with table, chair, handout material etc. I did not have my own tent, but had full use of the Clan Donald tent beside where I had our site.

Most people attending considered the entry fee of \$30.00 a day or \$40.00 for the 2 days a bit excessive. The festival is in its 18th year and this is the first time our clan has had an information site at the festival. Whilst it is a long day manning such a site on your own, it was most enjoyable to meet other clan members, some of whom I knew, and discuss matters of mutual interest. There were 11 pipe bands in attendance, the largest and the one with by far the best sound was the Queensland Irish Association Pipe Band. They tuned up beside our table, and I had the chance to meet up with some of them as I had previously been a piper with this band for several years when I lived in and near Brisbane.

There was one important clan event on the Saturday at the Standing Stones which I was involved in. This was the Clan Donnachaidh (Robertsons etc) Stone Dedication Ceremony. I piped the Clan Donnachaidh and other clan members present up the slope to where the ceremony was held. The Donnachaidh Stone had already been placed in the wall, and the Mayor of Glen Innes-Severn Council splashed a glass of water taken from the local river called Beardy Waters, on the stone. At the completion of the ceremony, I then played the combined clans' members back down the slope to the clan tents. I felt rather proud as my pipes were going well and I had my beautiful Clan Macfie Banner on my pipes.

## Australian Standing Stones

In Australia's 1988 bicentennial year, the Celtic Council of Australia developed the idea of erecting a national monument to honour Australia's Celtic pioneers.

Glen Innes responded and was chosen with a submission for the Australian Standing Stones, inspired by the Ring of Brodgar in Scotland's Orkneys. The stones had to be 5.5 metres in total length and were to stand 3.7 metres from ground level. Three suitable rocks were found in the local area and the remainder had to be split from larger rock bodies. Each stone weighs about 17 tonnes.



The Australian Standing Stones overlook the northern NSW tablelands town of Glen Innes. They comprise 40 granite monoliths. Of these, there is a circle of 24 stones representing 24 hours of the day, 3 central stones, 4 cardinal stones marking true north, east, south and west, and 7 stones marking summer and winter solstices, the longest and shortest days.

The Australian Standing Stones reflect Glen Innes' heritage where the first settlers, largely Scots, arrived in 1838. The Stones are the official National Monument to Australia's Celtic pioneers and venue for the Australian Celtic Festival.

In addition to the monoliths there is a 'Wall of History Plaques'. For a fee of \$250.00 Clan Societies and others can have a fist sized stone that would come from a Celtic homeland, inserted in the wall. The organisation 'owning' the stone (ideally from a place historically connected to them), is identified by a 7cm x 12cm plaque bearing a crest and a maximum of 10 words.

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## Gatherings

Vice President of NSW Morris McPhee and his wife Robyn manned a tent at Bundanoon, the biggest Scottish Gathering in Australia to promote our Society. Morris also attended the Anzac Day March in Sydney and laid a wreath on behalf of the Society at the Cenotaph. Society treasurer Geoff McPhee and his wife Ruth carried on their annual tradition of representing the Society at Geoff's old stomping ground of Aberdeen.

## Tartan Day in Brisbane

from Brian & Cass McHaffie

Brian McHaffie was a former South Australian Society Vice President. He and his wife Cass now live on the coast at Tweed Heads near the NSW Queensland border. They both continue to actively support the Society and recently sent in the following report:

Cass and I went along to Tartan Day on the 5th July. It was a bright sunny day although a little cold. There was a large number of people around especially as there was the usual Sunday Market on and also the Da Vinci Exhibition tent alongside the Scottish event. I hope the pictures give you an idea of the people present. Unfortunately not much mention of our clan in the various tents.



Cass and I will be travelling to U.K at the end of August and after a short stopover in Dubai will be spending the rest of the time in U.K. As Cass was a London Evacuee during the war and was one of the children who had a label attached and was despatched to a safer area we will be attending the Evacuees Reunion in St Pauls Cathedral on the 1st Sept . Some of the children were lucky and finished up with nice people but many were not. Cass was fortunate in her first billet but not so fortunate in the next one so she has good memories and bad of this time.

We hope to be heading to Scotland on Wednesday 2nd Sept and all being well will appear for the Clan Dinner in Scotland. We have attended 2 of these functions, the most memorable being in 1985 on Colonsay and the next at Aveimore. Unfortunately many of the friends made have died over the past years.

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### Story of a Clansman in Germany by Ian McPhee

After a few emails my wife and I met up with Donald McPhee in late April in the beautiful German city of Heidelberg. He arrived in his car (see picture) and took us to lunch.

As we chatted he told us he had been orphaned at age 5 and knew little of his McPhee relatives. He also said although he was a member of the Macfie Clan Society of Scotland, he was not very active. Having said that however, he told us he had taken part in DNA testing to try and learn about his ancestors.

Donald went on to explain how he had joined the army at an early age and was posted to Germany. There he met and married a local girl. Settled in Germany, he learnt to play the bagpipes as an adult and played in a pipe band. About 10 years ago he formed his own pipe band in Heidelberg and became its Pipe Major. Donald has 4 sons, two of whom are in his band - one as a bagpiper and another as a drummer. Having lived in Germany for 26 years and being married to a German lady for 25 years, he and the family support Scotland when it comes to sporting contests against Germany.



About a year ago Donald opened his company Kilts & More full time. The company has a shop outside Heidelberg which supplies everything needed by bagpipe bands from instruments to Scottish regalia. Astonishingly there are some 80 Scottish pipe bands in Germany and many French and Austrian pipe bands as well. Most of Kilts & More's business comes via his website Kilts & More.com and supplies are dispatched all over Europe by mail to fill orders mostly received by email.

Not only does the above show Donald is a credit to his ancestry with a will to succeed, but in my view makes him an 'active McPhee'. With a name like Donald Angus McPhee, how could he be anything else!

## The Deerhound's link to Colonsay

When Vice-President Morris McPhee was manning the Macfie Clan Society tent at Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands of NSW in April, he had the pleasure of meeting up with a number of fellow clansmen. He also came across a breed of dog that was once common in the Highlands of Scotland - the Scottish deerhound.

As can be seen from the photo on the back cover, the Scottish deerhound resembles a greyhound. They are however, a heavier-boned, larger dog, weighing about 40 - 50 kg with a 7 - 10 cm harsh wiry coat, a distinctive beard, moustache and mane. Although classified as a sight hound, they have a very keen sense of smell. Used in hunting either singularly or in pairs, their strength and speed means they are capable of tackling antlered deer weighing over 100 kg.

The origin of the Scottish deerhound is obscure and lost in antiquity. It is an ancient breed which has been likened to an Irish wolfdog while others have suggested it is a descendant of a hound that was bred by the Picts. Over the years, various descriptive names have been applied to the breed including Irish wolf dog, Scotch greyhound, rough greyhound and Highland greyhound.

Although the Scottish deerhound developed in tandem with the greyhound, it became a distinctive breed. It was bred as a deer hunting dog favoured by Scottish clan chiefs during the Middle Ages. Naturally only the nobility had the where-with-all to utilise the dog's natural ability. Over the centuries clan chiefs also used the dogs as companions and guards. It became so popular among them, it was known as the royal dog of Scotland. At one stage, no one ranking below an Earl was permitted to own one! A pack of deerhounds or more correctly a leash of deerhounds, was so highly prized during the Middle Ages that a noble condemned to death could buy a reprieve with them.

With the demise of the clan system and the conversion of clan chiefs to agricultural landlords, the number of deerhounds declined. Their decline continued as the open spaces of Scotland became enclosed with fences and large game became less common. In the decades following the Battle of Culloden the breed almost became extinct.

Scottish deerhounds were bought back from obscurity and possible extinction in the 1820s. Two brothers, Archibald and Duncan McNeill, owned deerhounds and helped popularise them again among the nobility. Walter Scott became an owner as did Queen Victoria. With high profile public figures like that owning them it is little wonder they became popular. Like the McPhees, the McNeills have an historic association with Colonsay and Duncan McNeill later went on to become the Lord of Colonsay.

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## Clan Macfie News

### 10th Parliament of Clan Macfie

It's not too late to make a booking and attend the International Gathering and Clan Parliament to be held at Nethy Bridge, Scotland, and on Colonsay from 2nd September to the 9th September, 2009. The Gathering & Parliament will be centred at the Hotel Nethybridge. For programme details refer to the last *Downunder*.

### Commander Iain MacFie writes:

Plans for the Gathering are proceeding apace, however while approximately fifty people have booked into the hotel, very few have confirmed with Fiona or me that they will be attending. As on previous Gatherings, we, Fiona and I, must know how many are attending. We also need to know if you will be at the Commander's reception, which tours you would like to be part of, etc.

If you visit the Clan website, [www.clanmacfie.co.uk](http://www.clanmacfie.co.uk) you will find registration and other forms, which is essential you complete and return to the co-ordinators. All our planning depends on the information you supply. If you do not and your name is not on the passenger or other lists then we cannot be responsible if you miss out. So please, if you are attending the Gathering and have not booked the hotel, do so as soon as possible and also complete the registration and other forms.

# Mary MacKillop & Clan Macfie

from Bernie McPhee

Mary MacKillop (1842-1908) was born in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy in 1842. The building on the site today is named after her. "Mary of the Cross Centre" is a place of care for the families of people with drug problems. The Centre is conducted by the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Mary MacKillop's religious order

This is an appropriate time to present an article about Mary MacKillop. On August 8<sup>th</sup> this year, it is a hundred years since Mary MacKillop's death in North Sydney. I am grateful to Ian McPhee, the editor of 'The Downunder' for asking me to compose these notes. He could have asked people who know more about Mary MacKillop, but he would be hard pressed to find someone who loved her more.

This is also an appropriate time to write about Mary MacKillop in view of the publicity Mr Kevin Rudd our Australian Prime Minister has focused on her cause for canonisation by his intention of speaking to the Pope about it. I hope that this intervention does her cause no harm. Mr Rudd leaves Australia on the day I am writing this.

The main interest for readers of *The Downunder* will perhaps relate to Mary MacKillop's Scottish background. Her parents Alexander MacKillop and Flora MacDonald both came from Lochaber.

Mary MacKillop herself visited Scotland. It came about because Mary was trying to get her Rule of Life for her new religious order approved by the people in Rome, and the old gentlemen there needed time to study the draft Constitutions she had delivered to them in person in Rome. Rather than sit around in the eternal city chatting to people whom her father had known there, she went to France, England, Scotland and Ireland to drum up support in those places.



So in 1874, eight years after starting up the Sisters of Saint Joseph, Mary came to the Highlands. Mary went by steamer to the Western Highlands to visit Lady Gordon at her home in Drinnen, where she was warmly welcomed. Annie MacKillop described Lady Gordon as 'some relation of ours'. Alexander MacKillop, Mary's father, had stayed at Drinnen with Lady Gordon when he returned from Rome and before he came to Australia. They had Mass every day in her private chapel, and MacKillop would give out the Latin responses.

Then to Lochaber. Mary MacKillop visited the people and the places dear to her parents who had left there in 1838. In the Braes of Lochaber Parish, where all the people were Catholic, she said, "all the people were poor with one or two exceptions, but all gave something with a hearty goodwill," for she had come to beg there.

Mary was very moved, when in church at Roybridge, she saw John Cranochan (MacDonald), so that she felt that she was near one of her own. She said that even the MacKillops declared that she was a regular MacDonald.

Mary MacKillop stayed with her relative Father Colum MacDonald the Dean at Fort Augustus, and for the rest of her months in Scotland she visited Catholic educational establishments and looked at the way of life of other religious orders. At this time in England and Scotland she could see the beginnings of the wonderful progress of Catholicism, in numerical strength and the multiplying of Catholic schools and institutions under the great Queen Victoria. Her mind returned to the needs of the poor ordinary children of her homeland and the urgent need for schools where the poor Catholic children could be educated and her Catholic faith could be honoured in the face of the "Free, Secular and Compulsory" Legislation enacted throughout the Australian colonies. There was another side to Australian Catholic education: some Franciscan educator in Glasgow told Mary that people were in fact blessed in Australia because they were unrestrained by Government, unlike them, in Scotland.



Mary MacKillop's Scottish MacDonald relations were connected to the family of Long John Aberarder MacDonald, whose descendant was the tenant of Killiechonate, and was one of the seven major tenants of the Lord Abinger on the Inverlochy Estate. Many of her relations had been squeezed off the land by the time Mary visited these beloved glens.

Mary seems to have had a more fruitful visit with the MacDonalds than with the MacKillops while in the Braes of Lochaber Parish area. But the MacKillops had a long history in Lochaber too. The Keppoch MacDonells were descended from Alexander Carrach, on whom the Lordship of Lochaber was bestowed by his father Good John of Isla, the First Lord of the Isles.

The first MacKillop was Cranachan, a son of the 7th Chief of the Clan of Keppoch MacDonells. His mother was the daughter of MacIntosh of MacIntosh. So the MacKillop Clan was in fact a MacDonald Clan, and in particular, from that branch of Lochaber MacDonalds known as the Keppoch MacDonells.

This is of great interest to the Clan Macfie because Margaret McPhee, daughter of McPhee of Glenspean, and the mother of the 3rd and 5th Keppoch Chiefs, would therefore be the great, great grandmother of Cranachan of the MacKillops.

So where did the MacKillops live in the intervening hundreds of years until Alexander MacKillop appears on the horizon? From 1500AD onwards the Keppoch MacDonalds, and with them the MacKillops, and of course the McPhees, lived mainly as tenants and labourers in properties owned by Gordon the Marquis of Huntly, or as tenants on MacIntosh land in the north side of the Spean River, with the MacIntoshes being unable to dislodge them from their possession for 246 years. Only after Culloden in 1746 did MacIntosh rejoice in an undisputed and legal possession of these properties. One can take Keppoch House as an example of this long Keppoch intransigence and MacIntosh frustration.

Mary MacKillop did not inherit from her father that erratic judgment which marred his life and damaged relationships within his family and made unsuccessful his attempts to enter public life in the Parliament of Victoria. In her character, Mary MacKillop showed all the best qualities of Keppoch, MacDonald and MacKillop, with her keen intellect, her dignity, personality and presence, her humility, her sense of social justice, her attention to the needs of the poor, her unwillingness to be bullied, and her love of the faith into which she had been born.

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### **The Name MacKillop**

In Gaelic, the name MacKillop is Mac Fhilib meaning 'son of Philip'. Unfortunately who the first Philip was has been lost in antiquity. Philip is a Greek name (Philippos) meaning a lover of horses. The 'Fh' letters in Gaelic causes it to lose the 'F' sound and sound like MacKillop.

The name MacKillop was quite familiar around the Western Isles of Scotland where they were apparently standard bearers for the Campbells of Dunstaffnage. Others are included as branches (or septs) of MacDonald of Glencoe and of MacDonells of Keppoch. MacKillop also occurs as a surname in Arran.

Another spelling of MacKillop is an abbreviated form - Macgilp or McGilp which is found mainly in Argyllshire. A family of this name took the name Macdonald on their intermarrying with the Keppoch family.

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### **Kilts & Ties**

There are no hard and fast rules when it comes to men wearing a tie with their kilt. Over the years, many men in the clan Society have turned out in a Clan Macfie kilt with a Clan Macfie tie and given little thought to its appropriateness or otherwise.

A solid coloured tie can complement a tartan kilt beautifully. In Clan Macfie's case a plain deep red or green tie may be a preferable choice to the tartan tie. Alternatively a plain coloured tie with a small motif or even a striped tie is another suggestion. A set of plain coloured matching socks or sock garters can add a stylish dimension to the wearers outfit. Its food for thought.

# GENEALOGY

## Family Horseshoe Uncovered

from Peter McPhee

While Peter and his wife Judy are relatively new members of our Society, having joined about four years ago, they are keen on their family history. Peter is the president of the local RSL and active in local community affairs. He sent in the following article which appeared in Tuesday 28th April edition of the Shepparton News. The photo below appeared on the front page of the paper.

"A shoe from a Clydesdale horse dug up during excavation work at Victoria Park Lake was probably lost during the original construction nearly 70 years ago. The heavy shoe is rusted but intact and features cleats designed for traction.

Peter McPhee - whose grandfather Archie worked on the lake - confirmed the shoe would have come from a Clydesdale. "They had teams of four to eight draught horses, they were contractors who had built the eastern main channel," Mr McPhee said.

According to the McPhee family history, Archie was about to give up his team of horses when he was asked to turn the swamp in the centre of Shepparton into a lake.

He thought it would be a "wonderful improvement" and accepted the contract. Archie, and sons Jack, Robert and Bill, did the initial work on the lake using their Clydesdale teams to break up and reform the soil. "They'd turn in their graves if they saw this", Mr McPhee said as he surveyed the excavators working on the site yesterday.

Greater Shepparton City Council operations manager Greg Sidebottom said the shoe was uncovered during the removal of a thick layer of silt built up over decades. "We were lucky, the only other thing we've found out there are golf balls," he said.



Peter McPhee pictured on the right

One suggestion for the shoe is that it forms part of a time capsule to be buried to mark the completion of the lake refurbishment."

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## Can You Help ?

A descendant of a Catherine McPhee living in Queensland is seeking information about her ancestor. Details known about Catherine include the following:

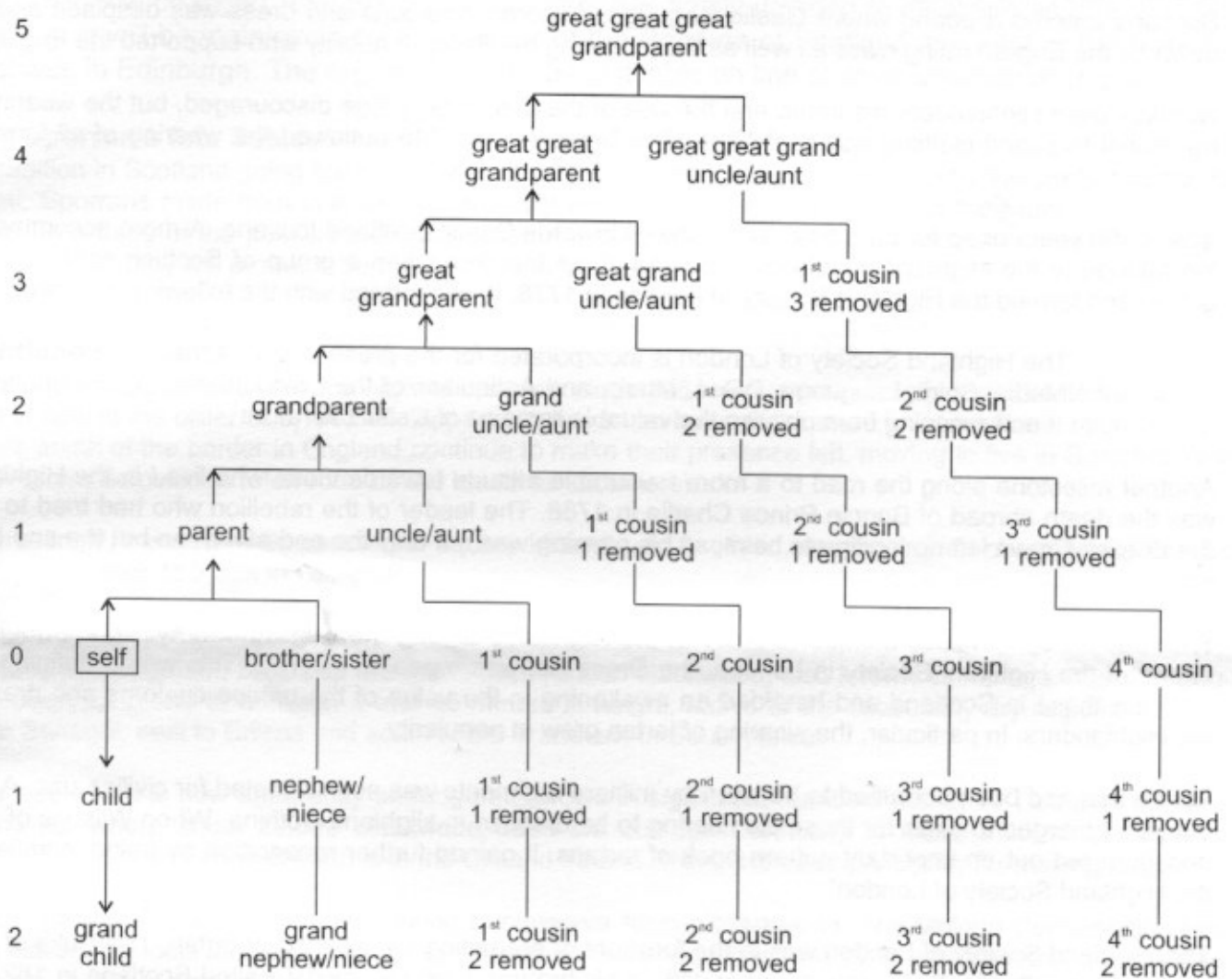
Catherine McPhee: born 1826 in Paisley, RFW  
Father: Dugald McPhee  
Mother: Catherine Duff  
Married: John McLean 8th February 1843 in Paisley, RFW  
Died: 25th March 1897 at the Poorhouse in Paisley, RFW

If you have any information about this family please contact President Ian McPhee, PO Box 237 Brookvale NSW 2100. Email [irmac10@bigpond.net.au](mailto:irmac10@bigpond.net.au). Tel: 0419 382555

# Genealogical Table

Anyone who has researched their family in depth will have come upon the problem of working out their relationship with distant relatives. When asked the question "how are you related to me?", it is often difficult to answer. The following chart could help you answer the question.

Generations



## Family History Records

When the Office of Register General for Scotland was created in 1855, every parish in Scotland was required by law to deliver to the Register General all its registers of births, baptisms, banns and marriages, and deaths and burials up to and including those for 1855.

New records of famous Scots, including Adam Smith and Sir Walter Scott, have now been made available on line. The digital images, on [www.scotlandpeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandpeople.gov.uk) the official government source of genealogical data for Scotland, are of deaths and burials contained in the Old Parish Registers of Scotland (OPRs). These are the records which the Church of Scotland kept of births, baptisms and marriages for 300 years before the start of the civil registration system in 1855.

Source: Scottish Banner Vol 32, No 12

# HISTORICAL ORGANISATIONS

by Ian McPhee

## Highland Society of London

In 1746, Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army was overwhelmed at the Battle of Culloden by Royalist forces led by King George II's brother the Duke of Cumberland. Following the Jacobite rebellion, Gaelic Scotland entered a period where Gaelic language, customs, traditions and dress was despised and put down by the English ruling class as well as those among the Scottish nobility who supported the English.

Not only were Highlanders disarmed and the use of the Gaelic language discouraged, but the wearing of traditional Highland clothing was prohibited. The Dress Act of 1746 outlawed the wearing of all forms of Highland attire.

It took 100 years or so for the negative sentiment towards Gaelic Scotland to wane. A more accommodating attitude to the Highland population emerged about the time when a group of Scottish nobles got together and formed the Highland Society of London in 1778. It was formed with the following objective:

'The Highland Society of London is incorporated for the preservation of the Martial Spirit, Language, Dress, Music, and Antiquities of the Caledonians, and rescuing from oblivion the valuable remains of Celtic Literature'.

Another milestone along the road to a more favourable attitude towards those who lived in the Highlands was the death abroad of Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1788. The leader of the rebellion who had tried to take the English Crown left no legitimate heirs, so his passing was not only the end of his line but the end of an era.

With a more sympathetic attitude to those in the Highlands among the English nobility, and through the efforts of the Highland Society in London, the Dress Act was repealed in 1782. This was a defining moment for those in Scotland and heralded an awakening in the value of the unique customs and dress of the Highlanders. In particular, the wearing of tartan grew in popularity.

Tartan that had been permitted to be worn by military regiments was soon adapted for civilian use. A new industry emerged to cater for those clambering to be dressed in Highland clothing. When Wilsons of Bannockburn put out an important pattern book of tartans, it gained further recognition by being 'certified by the Highland Society of London'.

The Highland Society of London was in the forefront of promoting the wearing of tartan. The Duke of Sussex was an enthusiastic Society member. When his brother, King George IV visited Scotland in 1822 the occasion was stage managed by Sir Walter Scott. All things Scottish grew in popularity, especially wearing tartan.

A wonderful reference book that Scottish descendants are so fortunate to have today, can in large part be attributed to the Highland Society of London. In 1845, 'The Clans of the Scottish Highlands' was first published. The Macfie Clan is one of those featured in the book. This wonderful publication illustrates the 'dress, tartans, arms, armorial insignia and social occupations' of the Highland Clans. The images are by R.R. Mclan and the text by Scotsman James Logan. It is a must for any Scottish history buff.

The contribution made by The Highland Society of London is recognised at the front of the book 'By Society's most obedient and obliged servants, Ackermann & Co' the book's publisher. It reads:

'In accordance with these desirable objects, the Society has afforded to this work, the peculiar advantage of its patronage, and as a mark of the great respect which the proprietors entertain for so patriotic a body, and as an indication of their high sense of the honour done them. This acknowledgement is offered to the Comumn-Ghaelach'.

# Scotland News

## Tartan Register

The colourful red and green tartan worn by members of Clan Macfie was believed to have originated from Robert Macfie of Langhouse and Robert Andrew Macfie of Dreghorn. The clan tartan was recorded in the books of the Court of the Lord Lyon as the official Macfie Clan Tartan on 29th August 1991. That recording however was not an official registration as there was nothing to officially recognise what was an authentic part of Scotland's heritage.

That has now changed. The Scottish Parliament has finally decided to establish an official tartan register. It will be maintained by the Keeper of the Records of Scotland and kept at the National Archives in Edinburgh. The register will also be available on line at [www.tartanregister.gov.uk](http://www.tartanregister.gov.uk)

## The Sporrans' fate Sealed!

A tradition in Scotland going back hundreds of years has been brought to an end by the European Parliament. Sporrans made from seal skin traditionally worn by Highlanders as part of their national dress will soon be a thing of the past as their production and sale will be illegal from October. In future there is a good chance they will probably be made in China from some synthetic imitation.

source: Scottish Banner Vol 32, no 12

## Scotland's Population:

Scotland's population is now the highest it's been since 1981. Government statistics indicate the population is now in the order of 5,168,500. Apparently there has been a decrease in international migration, but those south of the border in England continue to make their presence felt, moving to live in Scotland. Non natives are sometimes referred to by the locals as 'incomers'.

Interestingly, there were 66 people per square kilometre in Scotland, ranging from 9 per square kilometre in the Highlands to 3,329 in Glasgow.

## Sustainable Bagpipes

Good quality Highland bagpipes are made from African blackwood, also known as Mpingo. It is a deciduous tree that grows to between 4 and 15 metres in height, native to the seasonally dry regions of Africa from Senegal, east to Eritrea and south to the Transvaal in South Africa.

The tree which is now apparently endangered, grows in significant numbers mainly in Tanzania and Mozambique where about 20,000 blackwood trees are cut down annually to make musical instruments. About 10% of world consumption is in the UK and Ireland where it is used principally for making bagpipes.

Two organisations are now endeavouring to conserve African blackwood. The Mpingo Conservation Project assists the local Mpingo community in Tanzania to manage their forests on a sustainable basis. Villagers are taking control of local forests from international logging companies and selling responsibly harvested timber. A certification programme seeks to maintain their industry in the long term and provide them with a higher income. The African Blackwood Conservation Project works around Mt Kilimanjaro, replanting African trees, and in conservation and education.

## Nelson's Monument

Edinburgh is a great city with plenty to see for any person interested in Scottish history. There is, however, one monument which is possibly overlooked by tourists. Nelson's Monument built between 1807 & 1815, is a commemorative tower to Vice Admiral Viscount Horatio Nelson, situated on top of Carlton Hill in Edinburgh. It is a great place to take in a panoramic view of the city.

The tower was designed to look like an upturned telescope. The base to the tower was added between 1814 & 1816. A time ball was added in 1852 and the 1 o'clock time ball became an institution in Edinburgh

In March restoration work estimated to cost £250,000.00 began on the tower. The work will see the time ball restored to full working order.



# SOCIETY OFFICE BEARERS

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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 submitted for publication are subject to alteration and editing.

# SCOTTISH EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Date	Event	Location	Contact
<b>ACT &amp; NSW</b>			
26/7/09	Kirkin o Tartan	St Lukes Presbyt. Roseville	Nicola Sinclair 0402026261
17/8/09	Sydney Scty for Scottish History	Greenwich	92206100
29/8/09	Toukley Highland Gathering	Harry Moore Oval	Glenn Cannard 43993755
19/9/09	Clans on the Coast	Port Stephens	Morris McPhee 98681521
17/10/09	Wollongong Highland Games	Vikings Football Oval	James Bennis 42843429
6/11/09	Castle Hill Pipe Band Contest	Castle Hill Showground	Glenda Mason 98239450
29/11/09	St Andrew's Day Gathering	Hyde Park	Morris McPhee 98681521
<b>Queensland</b>			
19/9/09	Redlands Highland Gathering		32574527
25/10/09	Helidon Celtic Festival		Rebecca 0403434623
<b>South Australia</b>			
11-13/9	Kapunda Celtic Festival		Andrew Philpott 0417817566
<b>Tasmania &amp; Victoria</b>			
6-8/11	Beechworth Celtic Festival	Ford St Beechworth	1300 366321
<b>Western Australia</b>			
19/9/09	Spring Ceilidh	Osborne Park Bowling Club	www.saintandrew.org.au

## 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

Act of Union of English and Scottish Parliaments proclaimed	1/5/1707
John Knox began the Scottish Reformation	3/5/1557
Adam Smith, author of 'The Wealth of Nations' born Kirkcaldy	5/6/1723
King Edward III orders the capture of the Isle of Man from Scotland	8/6/1333
Treaty of Perth, Norway renounces claim on Hebrides	2/7/1266



Morris McPhee at the Bundanoon Highland Gathering with a Scottish deerhound. See story page 7



Couldn't resist this photo taken a few years ago: On the right, Walter William, the owner of the croft on Colonsay on which is situated McPhees Cave. Downunder editor on the left.



One of the Society's new pull up banners used at gatherings etc

NSW member Anna McPhee formerly of Mosman now resides in Western Australia where she works in a high profile position for Wesfarmers.



Victorian member Bev Knowles recently made a trip to Scotland where her son is studying. She took the opportunity to visit Mull where her ancestors came from.

