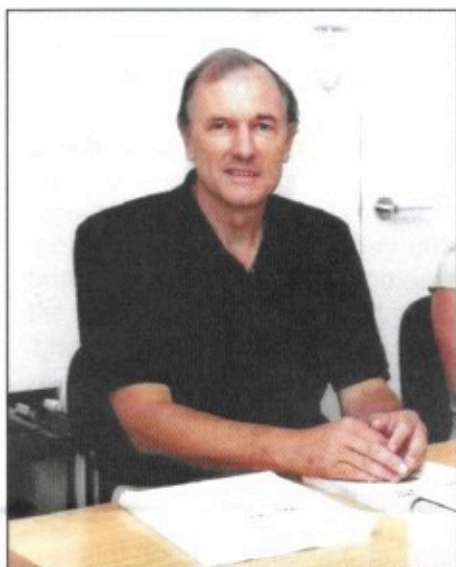




THE DOWNUNDER

news bulletin of the
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 114
Nov 2009



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



ancestral home of
Clan Macfie

President's Message

2009 has been a particularly hectic year, a year where it has been difficult to carry out some of my obligations as President of the Society.

Being absent from Australia for almost a quarter of the year on 3 separate overseas trips has caused some difficulties. I am loath to write about personal holidays and the like, but probably a brief explanation is not out of order. A fairly long trip to France with my wife Judith in the early part of the year, put a considerable hole in the yearly calendar. That was followed by the trip to Scotland in September to represent the Society at the Nethy Bridge Clan Parliament.

Not long after returning from Scotland, it was off to a pre-arranged holiday in South Africa. There, among other things, not far from the Kruger National Park, my two sons and I enjoyed a wonderful horse riding safari to view big game. Being able to see rhinos, lions, elephants and other wildlife at close quarters from horseback was a great experience. Unfortunately, I took a nasty fall from my horse while riding at pace, and returned home in early November with 2 broken wrists.

Fortunately I was able to see out the riding safari for a week, but after seeking medical attention back home, now have both my arms in splints. Any sort of physical activity is out of the question. Writing and typing is rather difficult. Consequently this issue of *The Downunder* has been hard to compile and get out on time.

Attending the 10th Clan Parliament and 17th Clan Gathering was a great experience this year. It was a privilege to join some 40 other Macfies from around the world and represent the Macfie Clan Society of Australia at Nethy Bridge in Scotland.

In 2001, 10 members from the Macfie Clan Society of Australia attended the 8th Clan Parliament at Oban on Scotland's west coast. In 2005, 12 members from Australia attended the Parliament at Inverness. At Nethy Bridge, I was the lone Aussie representative. Perhaps it was the Global Financial Crisis but more likely the fact that fewer of our longest serving members who attended in previous years were able to travel.

Clan Commander Iain McFie made us all feel at home and stressed the importance of everyone enjoying the social side of the Nethy Bridge gathering. Iain and his brother Bobby, President of the Scottish Clan Society, organised and entertained everyone brilliantly at the ceilidhs held every evening. If there was something (apart from business) to be taken away from Nethy Bridge, it was the great kinship and enjoyment that was generated from singing, reading poetry, telling stories and listening to music with other members of Clan Macfie. What a great time we had! Undoubtedly it is something it would be wonderful to do a little more of in Australia.

A personal highlight was attending the Clan Dinner and being asked to join the Clan Commander Iain, his wife Fiona, guest of honour Iain Brodie (Brodie of Bridie) and Scottish President Bobby McFie at the official table. There on behalf of the Clan it was my responsibility to propose a toast to Scotland. As someone who loves our heritage, the task was an honour. In the following pages there are reports on some of the main topics of business discussed at the Parliament. More news from the Nethy Bridge Gathering will also be provided in the next issue of *The Downunder*.

I wish all members of the Society a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. To all those who have contributed to *The Downunder* a big thank you. Many thanks to all executive members and those who have helped throughout the year, especially Rosemary Szente, Morris and Robyn McPhee, Geoff and Ruth McPhee, Past President Bernie McPhee, Bob McPhee from Deepwater, former Commander Sandy McPhie and historian Trevor Phee. Last but not least to my wife Judith, for the skill and patience she has applied in proof reading *The Downunder*.

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Heraldry Insight

The Shield

The shield is the foundation for everything. Some people only have right to a shield alone, but without the shield neither crest nor anything else can exist. The shield may be of any shape. The fourteenth century 'heater' type (as depicted below) is neatest, but every variety of outline, from a plain circle to rectangular cartouches, elaborately scalloped escutcheons, has been the fashion at different periods.

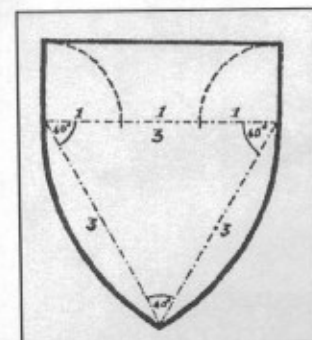
The shield consists for all practical purposes of a background called the 'field', and of objects upon this, technically called 'charges'. Both field and charges are depicted in certain bright and simple colourings.

A few ancient families still have shields devoid of 'charges' and merely divided in two or more colours, but practically all coats of arms consist of the shield as a background (the field) and some device drawn thereon, which is the charge, or charges if there is more than one.

To secure instant recognition for which armory exists, heralds soon discovered the simple rule (to which there are few exceptions), that if the field is of colour, the charges must be metal or vice versa. Hence the well-known heraldic rule, that one must not put 'colour on colour', or 'metal upon metal', simply because the result will lack contrast and be difficult to recognise readily. Where, however, the field is divided, the rule is to a certain extent modified. The heraldic tinctures (colours) are as follows:

Ref: *The Science of Heraldry*, T. I Leary

Heraldic term	Description	Conventional hatching, etc
	<u>Metals</u>	
Or	gold or yellow	small dots
Argent	silver or white	plain
	<u>Colours</u>	
Gules	red	vertical lines
Azure	blue	horizontal lines
Sable	black	cross hatching
Vert	green	lines in bend
Purpure	purple	lines in bend sinister
Tenny	orange	hatchings
Sanguine	blood colour	hatchings



The heater shaped shield

MEMBERS IN PROFILE

NSW member: Fiona Thompson (N78-427)

Migrant forebears: Donald McPhee & Catherine McPhee
Occupation: gardener in Scotland
Home in Scotland: Strontian, Loch Sunart, Ardnamurchan
Emigrant ship: Departed Tobermorey, on the *Brilliant*
Arrived Australia: Sydney Harbour NSW 1838
Pioneer forebears: Hugh McPhee mar. 1st cousin Mary McPhee



Member's story in brief: Fiona is the daughter of Robert & Ann Marie (nee Moran) McPhee. She was born in 1967 at Goondiwindi where her father, Society piper Bob McPhee, worked for the Qld Police force in the stock squad. Fiona spent her early childhood at Goondiwindi before going to Longreach where she attended high school.

Upon completing school, Fiona moved to Brisbane where she trained to become a nurse after which she went to Charleville for a year's nursing. While living at Longreach, Fiona had met Longreach Pastoral College student Andrew Thompson who came from a property north east of Bourke in outback NSW. After their marriage in 1991, they moved onto a property at Brewarrina called 'Glenora'. There 4 children were born – Isabella 1995, Nicholas 1997, Duncan 1999 and Madeline 2000. In 2005 'Glenora' was sold and the family spent 4 months travelling around Australia before purchasing their property near Inverell called 'Lisnagh'. The property produces winter cereals as well as running cattle and dorpa sheep.

Fiona returned to nursing on a casual basis in 2007. Apart from helping on the farm, she is involved with the local public primary school and has recently written a cook book for the school.

SA member: Shirley Ann Dickson (V83-540)

Migrant forebears: Norman MacPhie
Home in Scotland: Corpach near Fort William
Emigrant ship: not known
Arrived Australia: Geelong or Portland Victoria
Pioneer forebears: Alexander MacPhie & Frances Hill



Member's story in brief: Shirley was born in 1949, the eldest child of Robert (V83-540) and Joan (nee Neil) MacPhie. She grew up with 5 siblings, Gary, Denise, Heather, Ross and Nola on the family wool growing property at Chute, Victoria. She attended Beaufort High School and then Monash University before commencing to teach French, English and history. In 1974-75 Shirley spent a year teaching at Rennes, the capital of Brittany in the north-west of France.

After resuming teaching in Nhill, Victoria, Shirley met Graham Douglas Dickson and they married there in 1977. Their 2 daughters, Rowena Ann (1980) and Alyssa Jane (1982) were born in Nhill. Shirley's husband Graham, who works for a stock firm, was transferred to South Australia in 1983 and they have lived in various parts of that state ever since. When Alyssa started school, Shirley re-entered the work force teaching at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, with a focus on French, German and Indonesian. Graham and Shirley are both currently working in Naracoorte where they have been living since 1996.

Naracoorte has a rich Scottish history. A Caledonian Society was formed there 112 years ago. Shirley has been its secretary since 2007 and Graham was its Chief from 2001-2003. They both enjoy celebrating Tartan and St Andrew's Day each year. Shirley is an organist at the local Anglican Church and enjoys spending time with family, reading, writing poetry, doing craft work, gardening and watching Port Adelaide play football.

GENERAL NEWS

Lost Touch in 2009

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

Elva McRae	61 River St Maclean NSW 2463
Charles A Cameron	PO Box 157 Leeton NSW 2705
Lorna Whytcross	40 Jasmin Crescent Lake Albert NSW 2650
Kerry McGrail	PO Box 3378 Norman Park QLD 4170
Elva Hamann	PO Box 472 Nanango QLD 4615
Jane & Nick Smith	27 Victor St Mt Gambier SA 5290
Dr Bertel Sundstrup	1337 Pipers Rd Pipers Creek Tas
Mary Nicholson	18B Dorothy Street Ashfield WA 6054

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 July and the end of October, are an essential part of our funding and greatly appreciated.

Ian R McPhee	Scullen	ACT
David Cooze	Blackheath	NSW
Barbara McPhee	Kurri Kurri	NSW
Ross McPhee	West Pymble	NSW
Linda Waddington	Belmore South	NSW
Gwen Duff	Tewantin	QLD
Mary Goodall	Plainland	QLD
Jean Nation	Surf. Paradise	QLD
Helen Rice	Buderim	QLD
Nancy Holds	Whyalla	SA
Helen McPhee	Brompton	SA
Ian McPhee	Kidman Park	SA
Sr. Mary Barnes	Albert Park	VIC
Iris Beavis	Bunyip	VIC
Meg Davis	Cowes	VIC

donations continued

Francis McPhee-Allan	Ballarat	VIC
Julie Peters	Port Melbourne	VIC
Trevor McPhee	Wangara	WA

Subscriptions

Year's end is almost upon us and a significant number of members have not sent in their yearly subscriptions. Reminder notices have been sent to all those who may have overlooked their membership renewals. If you are one of those, please send it in as soon as possible so it can be recorded before the New Year.

At the committee meeting held mid-year at Treasurer Geoff McPhee's home, it was agreed unanimously by those present that the Society's annual subscription rates needed to be increased. From the beginning of 2010 the new single subscription rate will be \$15.00 and the new family rate \$20.00.

No one likes an increase in costs for anything, but the Society's rates have remained unchanged for well over a decade. During that time, all the Society's expenses have increased significantly.

New Leaflet

A new leaflet titled 'A Brief History of Clan Macfie' has been produced by the Society. Members will receive a copy in the New Year when membership renewals are sent out.

Invitation to All Members

All members are invited to inform us of family members who are about to marry, newly wed, or have become parents or grandparents.

Become a contributor to *The Downunder* and let us know about developments in your family. Your information or your news can then be shared with family friends in the Society.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness we report the passing of:

Ailsa Rankine, of Cairns QLD (Q08-1066)

Lorna Smith of Arundel QLD (Q74-068). Lorna was a foundation member of the Society and strong supporter of Clan Macfie.

10th Clan Parliament & 17th International Gathering Business News

Commander Iain McFie set the scene for the first session of business with a warm welcome to all participants and a laid back approach to all things official. Discussions on both days of the Parliament were carried out in a friendly co-operative manner. Consensus was the order of the day. Being a newcomer to a Clan Parliament and with no forewarning of many of the issues raised, I was probably at a slight disadvantage to some of my fellow clansmen. The following is a summary of the most significant matters discussed at the Parliament:

Clan Incorporation

Since taking over from Past President Bernie McPhee, I have stressed the importance of having our Society in Australia recognised as a legal entity i.e. to be 'incorporated'. Regrettably, Australia's state based laws makes it difficult. To date we have not been able to achieve this goal.

This same issue is at the top of the agenda for Clan Macfie. When former Commander Sandy McPhie handed over his responsibilities to Iain McFie in Scotland, transferring the funds from Australia to Scotland caused a problem. There was no legal entity to transfer it to. For the new Commander and the Clan, establishing a bank account, receiving money from abroad, conducting business and protecting himself and executive members from public liability were major problems.

Finlay McFee, the treasurer of the Clan Macfie Society in Scotland briefed all participants on the necessity and difficulties of incorporating the Clan. Issues of cost and type of entity a clan would fall under were also canvassed. Scotland's legal system meant incorporation was not a straight forward matter, evidenced by the fact that apparently no other clan in Scotland is recognised (by virtue of being a clan) as a legal entity.

A committee was formed to make a recommendation to the Commander and the Clan Parliament. I was elected as the chairman. On the final day, on behalf of the legal committee, I put the following motion to the Parliament:

"The Clan Parliament authorises Clan Commander Iain McFie to take whatever steps are necessary so that a trust may be established as a legal entity for Clan Macfie. Further, the Parliament directs Clan Commander Iain McFie to submit an initial written progress report to Clan Commissioners and Clan Society Presidents by 31st December 2009 and thereafter progress reports every 6 months."

The motion was adopted unanimously. Finlay McFee has taken on the difficult task of establishing a trust for the Clan. He will liaise with and report his progress or otherwise to the Clan Commander.

Clan Tartan Additions

As many Australian Society members would be aware, our clan has 2 recognised tartans - a modern and an ancient. Attending the Parliament were 3 warm-hearted Americans from Tennessee, Rev. Jim McAfee and his 2 sons Keith and John. Keith displayed 3 kilts made of synthetic material, each of which varied significantly in appearance from the existing Macfie tartans.

Keith advised the Parliament that the synthetic kilts were much cheaper than those made of traditional woollen cloth and that the new weaves or colour schemes broadened the range that could be worn by clan members. He put an enthusiastic case that the new designs be accepted by the Parliament as additional 'Macfie Clan tartans'. Personally I was opposed to the concept and was the only dissenting voice when the Parliament agreed to accept the new tartans.

Facebook

Two quietly spoken tech savvy American brothers attending the Parliament were Wayne and Glen Cathey. Being a bit behind the times when it comes to technology, it was interesting to hear of the potential that 'Facebook' may hold for our members around the world to communicate with one another. Undoubtedly our Clan and all the Clan Societies must adapt to our changing world. Glen and Wayne are going to get this organised for the Clan which should benefit all internet users.

Colonsay Standing Stone

For many years now members of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia have been making donations for the upkeep of the Macfie Standing Stone on Colonsay. The Standing Stone is on an acre of land donated to the Clan years ago by Lord Strathcona, the owner of most of the island of Colonsay.

Because the Clan has never been a legal entity and thus could not accept the land offered by Lord Strathcona, a company was formed to hold it on the Clan's behalf. The company was called Clan Macfie Associates Ltd. Since taking ownership of the land, the company has been solely responsible for looking after the Macfie Standing Stone and the small parcel of land on which it is located.

The Clan Commander advised Clan Parliament participants that no report from Clan Macfie Associates Ltd had been received, and the company's current Chairman (apparently a sole director), wanted to relinquish his responsibilities. When I sought information about funds forwarded by the Macfie Clan Society of Australia for the upkeep of the Macfie Standing Stone, the Commander was at a loss for an answer. He advised me information would be sought from former Commander Sandy McPhie and passed on when received. At this stage I am awaiting his advice.

Things became a little clearer with regard to the Macfie Standing Stone when I had the opportunity to see it while staying with other Clan members on Colonsay. The pasture which covered the access track had been given a rough cut, but it appeared not much else had been done for quite a while. Some of the writing on the memorial's plaque had deteriorated and was not legible. It was in need of attention.



The Macfie Standing Stone on Colonsay

The MacDuffie DNA Surname Project

Tabled at the Clan Parliament, the bulk of the final report for this project which has been running for 5 years, is reproduced on pages 10 and 11.

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Australia's Report to the 10th Parliament of Clan Macfie

On behalf of all members of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia, I congratulate Iain McFie on his appointment as the new Commander of Clan Macfie. I am sure the office will be enhanced with a new outlook, different ideas, and renewed enthusiasm.

Overview

Founded in 1974, the Macfie Clan Society of Australia has 330 subscribers (members) spread across a vast continent. Each state is represented on a national executive by a State Vice-President. The organisation is financially sound with a solid base of long term members. Whilst the Society participates in a number of Scottish social events, the main focus for the majority of members is information about family history, genealogy, their heritage and Scottish culture. This is disseminated through our national newsletter *The Downunder* which is produced 3 times a year. It is a great asset which plays a vital role in all facets of the Society.

Recent Changes

While not throwing 'the baby out with the bathwater', a Society like ours must continually evolve to meet changes in community standards and expectations. Progress and improvement are essential.

Last year, several modest changes were made to our constitution. Our Society's name was changed from The Macfie Clan Society of Australia to simply Macfie Clan Society of Australia. Members over 75 years of age and those under 18 no longer receive free membership. That situation, which contributed to roughly 1/3 of our members not paying an annual subscription, was perhaps appropriate 35 years ago, but inappropriate today. Voting rights were also clarified.

More significant changes have involved the Society's management. Considerable progress has been made by simplifying our record keeping, updating our data base and improving communication with our members. The quality of our newsletter, *The Downunder*, has been improved with colour used on the front and back cover. The cost for that improvement was minimal. Changes have also been made to the magazine's format, to the way articles are presented and even to the way the newsletter is delivered to members, so that it arrives in the best possible condition. As has been the case in the past, content, originality and interest continue to be paramount considerations. Of course, no matter how good an article, if it is poorly presented or hard to read, its value can be lost.

For any organisation dependant on the strength of its membership, it is crucial to have a transparent and accurate picture of member composition, level of activity, and numbers. To address this, an annual report separate from the financial statement is now published in *The Downunder*. It highlights the increase, decrease or otherwise in our membership on a state by state basis. It lets all members know how their Society is going.

Finances

Thanks to the good management by previous executive committees, our Society's income adequately covers current annual expenditure. Subscription rates have remained unchanged for over 12 years and by any measure are low. The cost for a family is \$15.00 while the single rate is \$10.00. In addition to subscriptions, donations by members typically account for over 35% of the Society's total revenue. To recover increased costs and an anticipated increase in future expenditure, subscription rates will need to be increased in the near future.

For many years now, there has been a steady decline in the number of people who belong to our organisation. I believe this is typical of other similar groups in Australia. Stemming the decline in membership and renewing our membership with fresh blood is not an easy task; it's a real challenge.

In our highly competitive, rather fickle world, people today have precious little spare time, and have to contend with a vast array of competing interests. Younger people especially are demanding and discerning. Despite all the difficulties, I believe there is potential in Australia to improve the Macfie Clan Society of Australia and hopefully increase its membership.

In my view, our Society is a bit like a business or a company. It must be relevant and competitive. Sometimes it needs rejuvenation, new ideas, new emphasis, and investment. The last point is crucial. One of my aims is to foster the concept of investing in the Society - put out a better quality magazine, provide relevant information, produce quality brochures, offer products (e.g. tartan), have modern display material for gatherings, and conduct membership drives.

Naturally, to achieve the above objectives depends upon the involvement of dedicated bright people with a positive outlook. It also, however, requires appropriate funding and regular cash flow, which is a major part of the challenge ahead.

Ian McPhee
President
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Scotland News

Progressive Edinburgh

In September the city was a buzz with the Edinburgh Festival in full swing. Large numbers of people were there to attend the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Adding to the atmosphere was the frenzied construction activity in the main street which had been cordoned off to all traffic. The entire length of the shopping strip along Princes Street was in the process of having tram tracks installed. Trams are going to replace buses, and if all goes according to plan, will run all the way to the docks at Leith.

The Edinburgh Military Tattoo is to get a boost, with £16 million to be spent on improving spectator facilities and the arena that hosts the event. New stands will be faster to erect and include corporate hospitality boxes. It is anticipated that the new facilities will be in place by 2011.

Edinburgh is indeed a lovely city. In a recent study, it was voted the most desirable United Kingdom city in which to live. After London, it is the most popular place for Australian and American tourists to visit. That being the case, it is hardly surprising that BAA, Edinburgh Airport's private operator, has committed to spending £200 million on improving airport facilities over the next 10 years. Included in the expenditure will be a £40 million extension to the departure lounge.

Boost for Gaelic

On a visit to the studios of Stornoway-based Gaelic broadcaster MG Alba some months ago, the Minister for Gaelic, Michael Russell, and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Fiona Hyslop, stated immediate action to create a new generation of Gaelic speakers was the only way to save the language. The Minister for Gaelic said:

"There is legitimate concern about the condition of Gaelic in Scotland. This Government shares that concern and is committed to tackling it head-on. But there is not the luxury of time. We must take action and we will take it now. Despite strong advocacy, much innovation and strengthened structures over recent years, the fact is that there has not been a corresponding increase in the number of people using the Gaelic language. The Government wants to see a secure and sustainable future for Gaelic in Scotland. The only way we can deliver this is to increase the number of people using Gaelic in everyday life...."

Recently it was announced an extra £800,000 has been allocated for Gaelic education. This brings the Scottish Government's investment in the Gaelic Schools Fund to £2.5 million this year. First Minister Alex Salmond made the announcement at Sabhal Mor Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

Ref. Scottish Banner

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Mary McKillop follow up

From Brian Mchaffie

I found the story about Mary MacKillop in the last issue of *The Downunder* very interesting.

There was a coastal brigantine built in South Australia called the One And All after its Cornish ancestry which was a copy of the early coastal trading vessels. It was built at North Haven, South Australia, a mere 200 metres from where we lived. When the opportunity arose to travel on this vessel as a paying crew member for the 50th anniversary of the Sydney to Hobart, I was happy to do so.

The vessel joined with the Young Endeavour as radio contacts for the very large fleet, with us at the rear and the Young Endeavour at the front. It was an interesting trip with a few members of the Cameron Clan on board and a set of bagpipes.

On the way back from Hobart to South Australia we called in to Robe and collected Mary MacKillop's cross which was made from timbers from the school in South Australia at which she taught for a period. We delivered the cross to a collection of senior churchmen from the Catholic church who met us at the wharf with all due ceremony and well attended by press etc. We were all warned by the rather large mate on the ship that we had to be on our best behaviour, otherwise we would be thrown into the harbour. Needless to say no word out of place was uttered!!

Hints on Wearing Tartan

The wearing of sashes by ladies in evening dress

In the last issue of *The Downunder*, a few suggestions were given regarding the wearing of men's tartan ties. Unlike tartan ties, there is a protocol for women wearing tartan sashes. The manner of wearing tartan sashes or light scarves had custom and significance even two centuries ago, and whilst wearing of sashes in any particular manner has so far no legal significance, a due respect for tradition suggests that uniform practice and implication consistent with custom is desirable. The various methods under-mentioned to wearing such, are appropriate to ladies in different circumstances. All these suggestions are based upon careful study of old portraits, prints and traditional practice and bear the authoritative approval of the Lord Lyon King of Arms.

1. Style worn by clanswomen

The sash is worn over the right shoulder across the breast and is secured by a pin or small brooch on the right shoulder.



2. Style worn by chieftain's wife

Wives of the clan chiefs (and presumably the wives of clan commanders) or of a colonel of a Scottish regiment: The sash which may be rather fuller in size is worn over the left shoulder and secured with a brooch on the left shoulder.



3. Style for ladies who marry out of their clan

Such ladies who still wish to use their original clan tartan may use the following style. The sash usually longer than the No 1 style is worn over the right shoulder secured there with a pin and fastened in a large bow on the left hip.



4. Style worn by country dancers

Worn where the lady desires to keep the front of her dress clear of the sash (as for example when wearing the ribband or a chivalric order or any orders or decoration). This style is similar to the belted plaid and is really a small arisaid. It is buttoned on the back of the waist or is held on by a small belt and is secured at the right shoulder by a pin or brooch, so that the ends of it fall backwards from the right shoulder and swing at the back of the right arm.



GENEALOGY

The DNA Surname Project

The MacDuffie DNA Surname Project now has sufficient data to draw firm conclusions and issue a final report. The following (edited) report was provided to participants at the Nethy Bridge Parliament:

Background:

The McDuffie DNA Surname Project was started over 5 years ago by Rod Macduff, an Australian radio engineer who wished to trace his ancestry. He has organised and funded this independently of Clan Macfie but has co-operated closely with the clan and is a member.

Using paper records such as birth, death and marriage certificates, there is a limit to how far back we can trace our ancestors. However Y –chromosome DNA testing will accurately identify male bloodlines. Using a simple cheek swab, living males can have their DNA tested. From the Y chromosome marker results produced, they will find that their results will match almost exactly all males with the same surnames as themselves who are descended from a common male ancestor as many as 10 generations ago and beyond. The DNA project was set up in 2004 and in 5 years has had 136 people join the project. The project was set up with the following objectives:

- To determine if the clan is of Celtic or Norse origin
- To determine how many separate bloodlines there are
- To determine if McDuffies, MacFies, McPhees and McAfees have a common ancestor
- To determine if the MacFies etc have their origins in Argyllshire.

Main Bloodline Group 1

This is the dominant bloodline, containing a total of 33 members. Fascinatingly, it contains all main surname spelling variants, namely: McDuffie, McDuffee, McAfee, McPhee, McFee, and McFie and all the Mac of variants thereof, thus absolutely and conclusively proving that all were once the same name. One Duffie and three Catheys have matched Group 1.

This Group 1 bloodline is that of the immediate past Clan Commander Sandy McPhie and new Clan Commander Iain McFie. It also contains the line of the last McPhee on Colonsay, the ancestral home of the McDuffies. There are also those in this line, descended from ancestors on Mull and Skye, thus confirming the history that MacPhies were dispersed all over the Inner Hebrides. The history linking McDuffies with Antrim is also confirmed, as there are those in Group 1 who can trace their ancestry to Londonderry.

Finally in Group 1 (and in others), the spelling McAfee is invariably connected with clan members who are Scots Irish who arrived in the New World from Ireland where the name McDuffie took on the spelling McAfee. By the same token, MacDonald is rendered as McDonnell in Ireland. In earlier times movement back and forth between the Inner Hebrides and Antrim was commonplace. The McDuffie common ancestor in group 1 may go back as much as 1000 years to the advent of surnames. It seems likely that the clan chiefs would have been of this line.

Other Bloodlines

Now in common with all other DNA Surname projects, there are many different bloodlines bearing the family name. This can arise for various reasons. At the time of origin of the surname, about 1000 years ago, the surname would be a mark of affiliation to a group or clan living in close proximity with a common destiny. There would have been a clan chief and a number of other males in the group. Not all these males would necessarily have shared the same male ancestor at the time of surname adoption. Absorption of non-genetic groups, adoption of orphaned offspring, and infidelity also led to many genetically separate lines with a common surname.

Some of the other Groups have clear evidence that they have had the McFie name for many hundreds of years. Having more than one member and surname spelling diversity points to this. In particular, Groups 3, 4, 5, 5a, 9, 10, 14, 20, 24 and 34 show this.

Group 9 is interesting, as these are the "Glen Urquart McFees". This group of 14 members has almost identical DNA and all hail from Lochaber, Glen Urquart and in some cases can trace ancestors back to the early 1700s. In all probability all these members have a common ancestor within the last 400 years. This is supported by less spelling diversity, being confined to McPhee with two McPhies.

Group 3 has McPhees and McAfees in it, indicating that one group were Scots Irish at one point

Group 5 contains most of the McDuffs and Duffs. This is the Clan MacDuff bloodline. There is now sufficient data to show quite clearly that McDuffs and McDuffies are not the same bloodline. Earle Douglas MacPhie asserted this in his genealogies and has proved to be quite correct. McDuff Group 5 is a very "old" line too, again radiating from a common ancestor. Group 5a should be entirely independent from Group 5 as it contains McAfees, a Duffy and a McDuffey.

Group 15 contains McFee and McAfee surnames, Group 20 has four McAfees whose descendents are all in USA; Group 24 has two McAfees; Group 34 contains four McHaffeyes.

Celtic & Viking Origins

Of the 40 separate bloodlines most are R1b Haplogroup, which in layman's terms means Celtic origin. Other McPhees of I Haplogroup are of Norse origin. In common with most other Scottish clans, the Celtic bloodlines are very strong.

Conclusion

The project has been able to answer all questions set at its instigation and in doing so confirmed much of which is in the history books regarding clan origins. There is probably not much more to be learned historically from the project, however individuals who have not yet joined will be able to establish their bloodline by joining.

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Origin of Alexander, Sandy & Alastair

Alexander is a Greek name meaning 'defender of men'. Like many Greek names, it has an origin prior to the birth of Christ (BC). Named after his uncle, Alexander the Great succeeded his father as the King of Macedon in 336 BC.

The answer to why a Greek name should become so popular in Scotland lies in the Scottish monarchy. In 1070, Malcolm III, known as Malcolm Canmore (from the Gaelic ceann mor, meaning big head) married Margaret, an Anglo Saxon princess. Queen Margaret was an activist for change, and did not view Gaelic Scotland favourably. She started the decline of the Gaelic language by introducing English.

Queen Margaret also changed the use of names in Scotland. She had been raised in the Hungarian Court and became familiar there with the Greek name Alexander. She took the name to Scotland and gave it to her third son. Several monarchs with the name Alexander were afterwards to rule Scotland and the name's popularity grew as a result.

As a Christian name, Alexander has always been used widely in both Greece and Scotland. In Scotland, it spawned two derivatives – Alastair and Sandy. It is rather amazing that the name Sandy became so popular in Scotland that it rivalled the Gaelic name Donald, the Christian name traditionally synonymous with the country.

Alexander is also a Scottish surname. It is believed descendants of the Norse ruler Godfrey (Isle of Man), the 2nd son of Alastair Mor, adopted it. Some of those descendants settled on the Scottish mainland in Ayrshire, and for that reason, it is a name found on Scotland's west coast. The name apparently had strong links to Clan Donald and in that bygone era, was recorded as Macalexander. About the end of the 1600s the prefix Mac (son of) was dropped, and the surname became what it is today.

In addition to English, the name was absorbed into Gaelic many centuries ago. It is recorded in a 1467 Gaelic genealogical manuscript as Alaxandair from which Alastair is derived. Gaelic speakers commonly used patronyms or names derived from an ancestor, and in Alexander's case it was MacAlastair (i.e. son of Alastair). From that name came Macalister and a number of other similar surnames.

HISTORICAL ORGANISATIONS

by Ian McPhee

Scottish Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge (SSPCK)

On 8th March 1698 a group of 5 friends met at a London inn to prepare for the departure of one of their number for America. Thomas Bray, an Anglican priest, was to visit the colony of Maryland on behalf of the Bishop of London. Not knowing how long their friend would be away, they formed a society to ensure that the many good works with which he was involved could continue in his absence.

The Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge (SPCK) aimed to 'counteract the growth of vice and immorality', which they put down to 'gross ignorance of the principles of the Christian religion'. They would achieve their aims through encouraging education and with the distribution of Christian literature.

Thomas Bray believed passionately in the power of the printed word and from its earliest days the SPCK commissioned tracts and pamphlets. It is the third oldest publishing house in England after Oxford and Cambridge University Presses.

The Scottish wing, the Scottish Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge (SSPCK), was formed by royal charter in 1709 as a separate organisation with the purpose of founding schools 'where religion and virtue might be taught to young and old' in the Scottish Highlands and other 'uncivilised' areas of the country. The SSPCK charters stated aim was also to 'eradicate error and to sow truth, to teach true religion and loyalty and to strengthen the British Empire by the addition of useful subjects and firm Protestants'. Thus the SSPCK would counter the threat of Roman Catholic missionaries and growing Highland Jacobitism. Their schools added to the Church of Scotland programme of education which operated with the support of a tax on landowners to provide a school in every parish.

In the early years, unless it was essential to translate something to English, SSPCK school pupils were forbidden to use their native Gaelic. The insistence on English and outright rejection of Gaelic meant children were forced to learn by rote learning, and thus did not even understand what they were reading. During the 1700s English was associated by the Scottish elite (the 'improvers') with progress and Gaelic a barrier to economic growth. Many among the Highland gentry actively sought to discourage their children from acquiring their native tongue.

SSPCK schools flourished throughout Scotland. By 1711 it had 5 schools, by 1715, 25 schools, by 1758, 176 schools and by 1808, 189 schools. Eventually it was recognised that something had to be done to overcome the language barrier encountered by Gaelic speakers. In 1741 the SSPCK introduced a Gaelic - English vocabulary.

The 1745 Jacobite uprising which ended at the Battle of Culloden, strengthened the resolve of the SSPCK (and many others) to displace the Gaelic language with English. Highland culture was assaulted on numerous fronts - by the elites, educators, economists and politicians. The SSPCK schoolmasters appointed 'censors', who noted down pupils who could speak English but were caught speaking Gaelic and reported the hapless young wrong-doers to the schoolmaster for punishment.

About 20 years after the Battle of Culloden, the General Committee of the SSPCK recognised the inherent failure in their approach, and changed their teaching methods. It accepted Gaelic was a necessary reality in their schools. In 1767 it introduced a New Testament with facing pages of Gaelic and English texts for both languages to be read alongside one another. In 1801 a Gaelic Bible was also introduced. In 1825 the SSPCK did a complete about face and recognised Gaelic as an educational language.

By the early 1800s however the SSPCK's activities declined and their work was taken over by others. As Gaelic culture began a revival, education in the Highlands was supported by Gaelic School Societies of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness. Those organisations saw the Gaelic language as integral to their religious aspirations for the Highlands.

Macfie Clan Society of Australia 2008 Financial Report

from honorary treasurer Geoff McPhee

Rationalisation of the Clan Society functioning and financing has continued. We have spent aggressively on promotional material to better present the Clan "face" at gatherings and functions where we are represented by various Clan Society members. This approach has resulted in a greater interest being expressed, which we hope will lead to increased membership.

<u>Income</u>	<u>2006 - 2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Subscriptions	\$8,068.77	\$2,260.00
Subscriptions in Advance	\$350.00	\$420.00
B G M	\$1,665.00	0.00
Society Donations		1,892.50
Clan Donations		582.50
Sundry Income	\$251.47	345.00
	\$10,335.24	\$5,500.00
<u>Expenditure</u>		
	\$8,381.73	\$6,861.93
<u>Surplus/(Deficit)</u>		
	\$1,953.51	\$1,361.93
Opening Cash at Bank		
	\$14,800.68	\$16,754.19
Closing Cash at Bank		
	\$16,754.19	\$15,392.26

Obituary

Ailsa Dawn Rankine (Q08-1066) 1924-2009

Ailsa was born in the central western NSW country town of Narromine, the daughter of William and Ivy (nee Johnston) McPhee.

As a young girl Ailsa grew up in Sydney where her father had become a newsagent proprietor. Like her 2 younger brothers Donald and Malcolm, she often helped in the family business. It was during the time when her father had a newsagency at Bondi Junction that Ailsa finished her training to become a school teacher and took a job at Bega on the NSW south coast. Later she transferred to Young where her parents had purchased a newsagency.

On a holiday visit to Narromine, Ailsa went to a dance at the local golf club where she met Trevor Rankine. Being war time, he was training there with the Australian Air Force. Trevor was from a well known north Queensland pioneering family. Two years after the war, Ailsa and Trevor were married in Sydney after which they moved to the Cairns hinterland. Trevor went on to establish a large sawmilling and timber supply business and in so doing, became a successful Queensland businessman. Ailsa supported him and together they had 6 children - Heather, Douglas, Jillian, Jacquelyn, Fiona and Bruce.



Over the years Ailsa was always there to raise and help her 6 children. Away from the usual town conveniences and when the family was becoming established, she cooked, sewed and knitted clothes for her children. Living in Cairns she was an active member of the Cairns Inner Wheel Club and maintained an active involvement with her family.

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
ACT & NSW			
21/11/09	Highland Gathering	Minnawarra Park, Armidale	93990187
29/11/09	St Andrew's Day Kirkin 'o Tartan	St. Stephen's Church	Morris McPhee 98681521
29/11/09	St Andrew's Day Gathering	Hyde Park	Morris McPhee 98681521
26/1/10	Celtic Australia Day Festival	Bradfield Park, Milsons Pt.	Morris McPhee 98681521
4,5,6/2/10	Edinburgh Military Tattoo	Sydney Football Stadium	
17/4/10	Highland Gathering	Bundanoon	Morris McPhee 98681521
Queensland			
1/1/09	Scottish Gathering	Nambour	
South Australia			
22/11/09	Combined Clans Kirkin 'o Tartan	St Augustine's Ch. Unley	84491847
4-6/12/09	Celtica Festival	The Port, Adelaide	Judith Moore 82641739
20/2/10	Highland Gathering	Mt Barker	Judith Moore 82641739
Victoria & Tasmania			
5/12/10	Highland Gathering	Victoria Park, Daylesford	Cameron Telfer 0437 659148
1/1/10	Highland Gathering	Princes Park, Maryborough	54611904
13/2/10	Highland Gathering	Berwick	Simon Hall 0400 010686
14/3/10	Highland Gathering	Queens Park, Geelong	52749193
April	Highland Gathering	Ringwood	
Western Australia			

Diary

Biennial General Meeting of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia: May 2010 date & place TBA

Historical Events & Anniversaries

King Malcolm III (Canmore), killed at the Battle of Alnwick	13/11/1093
Start of the 'Auld Alliance': treaty between Scotland & France	23/10/1295
St Andrew's Day	30/11/2009
Hogmanay	31/12/2009
Robert Burns, birthday anniversary	5/1/2010



L to R: Rev. Jim McAfee (USA), Ian McPhee, Keith & John McAfee at the Clan Gathering Dinner, held at the Nethy Bridge Hotel



Macfie Clan Society President & Clan Piper Bobby McFie Entertains at Colonsay Hotel



Clan Commander Iain McFie and his wife Fiona at the Clan Gathering Dinner



South Australian member Stuart McHaffie and his daughter Charlotte at the Mercedes College Springfield graduation formal on 20th November

At a business session of the Clan Parliament, L to R: Linda McFee Gilcrest (USA), Bobby McFie, Clan Commander Iain McFie addressing the meeting, Sheila Knowles (UK) and Mary McPhee, wife of New Zealand Commissioner James McPhee.

