



THE DOWNUNDER

news bulletin of the
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 117
Nov 2010



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



ancestral home of
Clan Macfie

President's Message

This year was a significant one as far as historical events related to Scotland go. Firstly there was the 200th anniversary for Lachlan Macquarie's arrival in Australia. A feature article about him appeared in the November 2007 issue of *The Downunder*. In this issue there is an article on page 11 about this outstanding Highlander with some pertinent information for Australians. I am indebted to a good friend of mine, Michael Cockburn, for providing some of that information when he visited the island earlier this year.

In the July 2009 issue of *The Downunder* there was an extensive article written by Past President Bernie McPhee about Mary McKillop titled 'Mary McKillop & Clan Macfie'. Since that article's appearance, Mary McKillop has been made Australia's first saint.

In the March issue of *The Downunder*, Ross McPhie from Moree was featured in the 'Members in Profile' section. It is a coincidence that this issue features Russell Mattocks, one of his distant relatives. This fact has an interesting twist.

Ross and Russell's pioneering McPhie forebears lived in the Snowy Mountains of NSW as did a family of Scottish immigrants called Robertson. Both Ross and Russell's forebears, who were brothers, married sisters from the Robertson family. It is interesting to see how different are the lives of two descendants who share a common background.

This issue contains the 6th and final article in a series titled Historical Organisations. It tells the story of the Highland & Island Emigration Society (H.I.E.S.). To many in our Society, this is particularly relevant because so many of our members had forebears who arrived in Australia through the efforts of that excellent organisation (my own being among them). For that reason the H.I.E.S. has been given more coverage than some of the more obscure organisations that have been canvassed over the past two years.

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Readers will note the two centre pages in this issue are in colour. Although this meant *The Downunder* was more expensive to print, it was done for a reason. One of those pages contains photos of 3 new 'coats of arms' awarded recently to two Clan Society members in the USA and to one in Scotland. To print those in black and white would have lessened their impact. Two aspects of those arms are worth highlighting:

1. The coats of arms on page 8 use blue and yellow extensively. While many colours are applicable to a coat of arms, blue and yellow are very commonly used by members of our clan. That fact was pointed out to me when I visited the office of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh last year. Just why this is so I am not sure.

2. All three coats of arms feature a west Highland Galley or bhirlinn in the lower section of the shield. Those sailing vessels were once used commonly for transport and warfare by the clans in the Western Isles of Scotland. They are commonly used on coats of arms to signify the bearer belongs to a clan from that part of Scotland. It is for that reason also, the Clan Macfie Society of Scotland calls its journal *The Galley*.

I wish all members of the Society a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. To all those who have sent in articles that have appeared in *The Downunder*, a big thank you. In particular I am grateful to regular contributors Past President Bernie McPhee from Melbourne, Clan Society Piper Bob McPhee from Deepwater and Rosemary Szente from Sydney and also to Russell and Jennifer Mattocks for their help with posting out the newsletter.

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.

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Arms and Armigers

The word armiger is a Latin word which literally means 'armour-bearer'. In Medieval England and Scotland, the word referred to an esquire who attended a knight of the realm, but bearing his own unique armorial device.

Today the term armiger is defined only within jurisdictions where heraldry is regulated by the state or its appointed body. Such bodies exist in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Spain. For England, Wales and Northern Island, it is the College of Arms; in Ireland, the Office of the Chief Herald, and in Scotland, the Court of the Lord Lyon.

A Scottish armiger is a person who has a coat of arms recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings of Scotland in the Court of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh. People who have a coat of arms are sometimes referred to as being 'armigerous'. Scotland's system of heraldry is the most scientific in the world today. It is governed by a series of laws which date back to 1587:

The Officers of Arms Act	of 1587
The Lyon King of Arms Act	of 1592
The Lyon King of Arms Act	of 1662
The Lyon King of Arms Act	of 1663
The Lyon King of Arms Act	of 1672
Act of the British Parliament	of 1867

The Macfie Clan Society of Australia has only two armigerous members. They are our current Clan Commissioner Sandy McPhie and former Commissioner Sandy McPhee. Having armigers within the Society is important because only those who bear arms are permitted to participate in certain Clan matters such as the appointment of a new Commander. It would be a positive thing for the Society if a few more members could obtain a coat of arms and therefore play a role in the future of Clan Macfie.

MEMBERS IN PROFILE

- SA member:** Judy Moore (S93-814)
- Migrant forebears:** Donald McPhee, his 2 daughters & mother
Occupation: military officer; farmer in Australia
Home in Scotland: Achnacore of Glen Coe
Emigrant ship: Departed Portsmouth, on the *Portsea*
Arrived Australia: Sydney Harbour NSW December 1838
Pioneer forebears: Alexander R McPhee & Mary Ann O'Brien



Member's story in brief: Judy was born in 1928 to Marjorie (nee Sawell) and Lindsay McPhee. Judy's father was an export/import timber merchant. She and her brother William were raised at East Willoughby & Judy attended school at the Presbyterian Ladies College (PLC) at Pymble.

After finishing school in 1945, Judy worked as a stenographer and bookkeeper for a jewellery, china and crystal company. There she met Roland Moore whom she married in 1951 after which they settled in Pymble and later Newport on Sydney's northern beaches. While living at Newport, their daughter Joanna was born in 1955. Work opportunities saw the family move to Adelaide in 1961 where Ian was born in 1964. After meeting up with 2 ex PLC school friends in Adelaide, the 3 formed a business partnership and opened and ran an embroidery and tapestry shop. It proved to be very successful. In 1993, Judy's husband passed away and about that time her business was sold. To keep busy, Judy then worked in the showroom of a ceramic tile company.

In her mid-seventies, Judy retired from work in 2004. Judy was a keen tennis player but is now is an avid bridge player. She works as a volunteer in a Salvation Army shop which she loves. She is also active in Scottish heritage affairs and is the State Vice President of our Society for South Australia.

- NSW member:** Russell Mattocks (N84-544)
- Migrant forebears:** Archibald McPhie, wife Janet & 6 children
Occupation: ploughman
Home in Scotland: Kilhamar, Isle of Skye
Emigrant ship: *Walter Morris* from Skye & Plymouth
Arrived Australia: Sydney Harbour, February 1849
Pioneer forebears: Malcolm McPhie & Janet Robertson



Member's story in brief: Russell is a descendant of the 'Cooma McPhies'. His parents were Harry Mattocks, a carpenter, and Euphy (nee Brown), who married in 1923 at Maitland. Russell was born there in 1930, one of 6 boys who all played a musical instrument.

Russell grew up in Gosford & attended Gosford High School. While at school, he played in a local brass band & continued to do so when he left school & became a motor mechanic. After working as a mechanic for 10 years he moved to Sydney and enrolled at the Conservatorium of Music to study and play the trombone. While studying there in the mid 1950s, he worked as a storeman & packer and as a musician at the old Tivoli Theatre. In 1957 he left the Tivoli when offered a job with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. In 1958 Jennifer James joined the Orchestra as a violinist in the 1st section. They married in 1962 at St Mathew's Anglican Church in Manly. Living at Frenchs Forest their 2 children were born, Sarah in 1972 & Rodney in 1974. About 1977 the family moved to Balgowlah, next door to where Jennifer was raised.

In 1995, after 35 years with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Russell retired as Principal Trombone. Jennifer retired after playing for the Sydney Olympics in 2000, after 42 years in the Orchestra. Both Russell & Jennifer are keen genealogists & family historians. Russell is a member of the Maritime Museum, the Naval Historical Society & Society of Australian Genealogists. He is also a keen gardener.

GENERAL NEWS

Lost Touch in 2010

If you know how to contact the following member who has moved from the address listed below, kindly advise president Ian McPhee:

Dr Bertel Sundstrup 1337 Pipers Rd
Pipers Creek Rd TAS

On the Move

Former Clan Commander, and now Clan Commissioner Sandy McPhie and his wife Helen have moved from Townsville to a suburb of Toowoomba. Despite having lived there for many years previously, Sandy and Helen are missing the warm Townsville weather.

Jamie McPhee from South Australia, has moved to Glen Iris in Victoria. Congratulations go to Jamie who is now responsible for heading up ME Bank. His new role in banking no doubt keeps him fully occupied. Jamie is the son of Past President Brian McPhee from South Australia.

After 12 years living and working in Malaysia, Western Australian members Trevor and Rhonda McPhee have moved back to Perth. Trevor and Rhonda have retired to the Perth suburb of Balcatta.

Former *Downunder* editor Glen McPhee and his wife Glenda are still enjoying their new lives in New Zealand. Glen continues to play the bagpipes with a local band but is yet to become fully engaged with a clan society over there.

Travelling McPhees

In September, Clan historian Trevor Phee and his wife had a 2 week holiday in Peru.

Membership co-ordinator Rosemary Szente and her husband Andrew have just returned from their annual sojourn to Switzerland where they spend a number of weeks every year.

Bernadette ('Bernie') McPhee from Blackheath in the Blue Mountains has enjoyed a trip to Scotland. A highlight of the holiday was a visit to Colonsay.

Congratulations to Sally McPhee, of Cleveland in Queensland who is now married to Stan Mellick. Sally and her husband have not long returned from an overseas holiday.

Get Well Wishes

South Australian President Judith Moore is recovering from Legionnaires disease. Despite several visits to a doctor and blood tests Judith's illness went undetected. It took a number of weeks of worsening health and additional blood tests to finally have her illness diagnosed correctly.

Judy contracted the disease from handling potting mix. After her experience, she strongly recommends anyone using potting mix to wear gloves and a face mask.

Norah McPhee, wife of former Society Commissioner Sandy McPhee, has made a good recovery after spending a week in Maitland Hospital.

Past President Bernie McPhee has not been well of late. He is seeking treatment for his illness from the Peter McCallum Centre in Melbourne. Bernie has now moved from Oakleigh and settled into a unit next to his brother Mathew at Middle Park.

Celebrations

Many happy returns to Jack McPhee (V78-422) of Oakleigh in Melbourne who turned 90 on 20th October. His birthday was celebrated in November with a large family gathering that included his brother, Father Anscar McPhee, who travelled down from the Kalumburu Mission in Western Australia for the event.

Philip and Freya McPhee of Allambie Heights in Sydney now have a daughter, Lauren. Born on 27th August, she joins brother Lachlan. It's always a joy to welcome a new McPhee into the world.

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.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness we report the passing of:

Lorna Whytcross (N85-554) Lake Albert NSW
Sheila Cogan (V05-1003) Altona Meadows VIC

New Robert Burns Museum

Robert Burns was born in a cottage at Alloway, Ayrshire, on 25th January, 1759. The Scottish icon's birthplace has become a drawcard for visitors from around the world.

A new state of the art museum called the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, will open soon at Alloway. Costing £21 million, the project has been undertaken by The National Trust of Scotland. It has been funded with contributions from The Heritage Lottery Fund (£8.6 million), the Scottish Government (£7.6 million), Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire (£8.6 million), South Ayrshire Council (£8.6 million), The National Trust ((£250000.00), and donations.

Two hundred and five original manuscripts housed at the National Library of Scotland for safekeeping have now been provided to the new museum. They include Burns 'Letters to Clarinda', 'Auld Lang Syne' and 'Tam o' Shanter'. It is anticipated over 5,000 historic items will be housed at the museum which will have plenty of space to showcase the collection.

As a point of interest, in recent times a rare letter penned by the wife of Robert Burns was unearthed by a Burns enthusiast in a second-hand shop in New York's Greenwich Village. She purchased the historic letter for just US \$75 which she later donated to the National Library of Scotland. The letter from the poet's wife and widow Jean Armour, to her friend Maria Riddell, was written in 1804, eight years after Burns died. Armour writes of the progress of five of the couple's children: William Nicol, Robert, Francom Wallace, James Glencarn and Maxwell. The letter refers to the death of Francom Wallace, and the couples youngest child Maxwell, nearly three years after his father's death.

A Little Scottish Levy!

One Day a Scotsman, who had been stranded on a deserted island for more than 10 years, saw a tiny speck on the horizon.

He thought to himself: 'It's certainly not a ship,' and as the speck got closer, he began to rule out the possibilities of a small boat or even a raft. Suddenly there emerged from the surf a wet-suited black clad figure. Putting aside the scuba gear and the top of the wet suit, there stood a drop dead gorgeous blonde!

The glamorous blonde strode up to the stunned Scotsman and said to him, "Tell me, how long has it been since you've had a good cigar?"

"Ten years," replied the amazed Scotsman.

With that, she reached over and unzipped a waterproof pocket on the left sleeve of her wetsuit and pulled out a fresh packet of cigars.

He took one, lit it and took a long drag. "Ach no," said the Scotsman, "that is so good I'd almost forgotten how great a smoke can be!"

"And how long has it been since you've had a drop of good Scotch whiskey?" asked the blonde.

Trembling, the castaway replied "ten years."

Hearing that, the blonde reached over to her right sleeve, unzipped a pocket there and removed a flask and handed it to him.

He opened the flask & took a long drink. "Tis nectar of the gods!" said the Scotsman. "Tis truly fantastic!!!"

At this point the gorgeous blonde started to slowly unzip the long front of her wet suit, right down the middle. She looked at the trembling man and said, "And how long has it been since you played around?"

With tears in his eyes, the Scotsman fell to his knees and sobbed, "Jesus, Mary and Joseph! Don't tell me that you've got golf clubs in there, too!"

Assisted Immigration

In some ways this article and the information it contains relates to one that appeared in the recent March issue of *The Downunder* which listed the number of individual clan names in 2009 Australian telephone directories. That information was compiled by Rosemary Szente.

When our Society was in its formative years, dedicated Society historians like Norah McPhee, Margaret Phee, Helen McPhie and a number of other members, spent countless hours in libraries etc going through shipping lists, extracting information for the Macfie Clan Society of Australia. The vast majority of that information pertained to the most popular clan surnames i.e. McPhee, McPhie and similar derivations. The sheer scale of that task precluded researching all clan names.

Nowadays, some of that information is available on the internet and just as it was years ago, can be utilised to form a base of information for our members. Hopefully, some of that material will find its way into a reprinted version of the Society's booklet *'McPhees From Scotland to Australia'* compiled by chief clan historian Trevor Phee. That publication is an excellent one and something Trevor and the Society can be proud to have produced.

Membership co-ordinator Rosemary Szente is a keen internet explorer. From the 'Index to Registers of Assisted British Immigrants 1839-1871' which is available on the internet, Rosemary has compiled a list of assisted immigrants to Australia with clan names. The full list runs to many pages so it is impossible to provide them all in one issue of *The Downunder*. Other clan names on the list will thus be featured in future issues of the newsletter. It is rather unfortunate that unlike the original shipping lists, which show family groups, this list is compiled alphabetically using the Christian name of the immigrant with a clan name.

Rosemary's work is presented here, starting with the clan name Cathie and Coffee. It is a coincidence the name Cathie is the first cab off the rank and also Rosemary's connection to Clan Macfie, being her mother's maiden name. It is one of the more unusual clan names. Rosemary's relatives came to Australia as a family of 9 on the Boomerang in 1854. Her descendant listed in the chart below is great grandfather John Cathie who married Kate Carter:

Family Name ^	Given Name ^	Age ^	Month ^	Year ^	Ship ^
CATHIE	ALEXANDER	38	JAN	1854	BOOMERANG
CATHIE	ANN	5	JAN	1854	BOOMERANG
CATHIE	ELIZABETH	38	JAN	1854	BOOMERANG
CATHIE	ELIZABETH	12	JAN	1854	BOOMERANG
CATHIE	ELLEN	19	JAN	1854	BOOMERANG
CATHIE	GEORGE	1	JAN	1854	BOOMERANG
CATHIE	JAMES	13	JAN	1854	BOOMERANG
CATHIE	JESSIE	17	JAN	1854	BOOMERANG
CATHIE	JOHN	2	JAN	1854	BOOMERANG

Apart from the above family, Margaret Cathie, who arrived as an assisted British immigrant in Victoria on the Maria Hay in July 1854, is the only other Cathie who came to Australia with an assisted passage. One 'Athey', 4 'Catheys' and 32 'Cathies' are listed on the index of Inward Passenger Lists for British, Foreign and New Zealand Ports 1852-1923.

The chart following lists the clan name Coffee. According to Rosemary, 59 people with the name Coffee arrived in Australia unassisted and 24 people with the surname Coffee arrived in Victoria as assisted migrants.

Family Name ^	Given Name ^	Age ^	Month ^	Year ^	Ship ^
COFFEE	ANN	30	MAR	1852	CAMBODIA
COFFEE	ANN	26	MAR	1852	CAMBODIA
COFFEE	BIDDY	26	NOV	1841	ALLAN KER
COFFEE	BRIDGET	18	FEB	1854	BLENHEIM
COFFEE	BRIDGET	19	JUN	1840	ANDROMACHE
COFFEE	BRIDGET	25	MAR	1850	RELIANCE
COFFEE	CATHERINE	26	FEB	1854	BLENHEIM
COFFEE	CATHERINE	3	NOV	1853	NEW ZEALANDER
COFFEE	DANIEL	30	DEC	1858	ROYAL CHARTER
COFFEE	ELIZTH	30	MAR	1862	SHACKAMAXON
COFFEE	ELIZTH	-	SEP	1869	ZENOBIA
COFFEE	ELIZTH	18	SEP	1869	ZENOBIA
COFFEE	HENRIETTA	19	MAY	1860	ATALANTA
COFFEE	HENRIETTA	19	MAY	1860	ATALANTA
COFFEE	JOHN	21	FEB	1858	CARACTACUS
COFFEE	MARY	25	NOV	1853	NEW ZEALANDER
COFFEE	MARY	1	NOV	1853	NEW ZEALANDER
COFFEE	MARY	28	JUL	1863	CADUCEUS
COFFEE	MARY A	25	APR	1868	VIMIERA
COFFEE	MICHAEL	25	NOV	1853	NEW ZEALANDER
COFFEE	PATRICK	31	MAR	1852	CAMBODIA
COFFEE	PATRICK	30	MAR	1852	CAMBODIA
COFFEE	THOMAS	5	NOV	1841	ALLAN KER
COFFEE	WILLIAM	28	NOV	1841	ALLAN KER

Colonsay Gaelic etc

Alistair Scouller is the Vice President, Keeper of the Records and Historian for the Clan Macfie Society. He played a significant part at the Gathering and Parliament of Clan Macfie held at Nethy Bridge in Scotland last year. Among other things, he was the man who addressed the haggis at the official dinner.

Alistair has a home on Colonsay which affords him the opportunity to spend time on the island when he so desires. Alistair has an interest in various aspects of Scottish culture including Gaelic. He has now completed his MSc degree on 'Glottalisation' (no, its not a spelling error) in the 'Gaelic Dialect of Colonsay' and was awarded an overall mark of 80%. Anything over 70% is a distinction, so he did pretty well.

According to Alistair, Glottalisation is the very characteristic feature of Colonsay Gaelic which involves a slight 'catch' in the voice in words like 'ceidhe' (pier) or 'baile' (farm). He has been investigating the precise circumstances in which it does not occur. Alistair will now move on to a more comprehensive study of Colonsay Gaelic, which he hopes will earn him a PhD in a few years.

In addition to the above, on 4th November Alistair was 'set apart' as a reader of the Church of Scotland. A reader is a lay person who is authorised to conduct services in the Church, but not to administer the sacraments (Communion & Baptism) or conduct weddings. He is however allowed to bury people.

Clan Macfie News No 57

from Ceann Cath Iain McFie

New Amigers

"The Clan Macfie is fortunate in having a number of Armigers, (people who have there own Coat of Arms) who are active in the Clan. Dr. Earle McPhee, in his determination to have the Clan once more in its rightful place, encouraged folk all over the world to petition the Lyon Court in Edinburgh to seek permission to matriculate their personal arms. I am pleased to announce that there have been three recent additions to the Clan list.



The Rev. Dr. James McAfee FSA
Clan Commissioner for the USA,
received his grant of arms on 24th
November 2009



Frances Mary Duffy
Secretary to the Clan Macfie
Society, received her grant of
arms on 18th February 2010



Matriculated the 12th day of March, 2010
Extracted forth of the 4th page of the 13th Volume of the Public Register
of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland the 15th day of March, 2010.

Michael McAfee, the son of Rev.
James McAfee, received his grant
of arms on 12th March 2010

The above three clan members have had their respective arms entered into the Clan Book of Arms.

Achieving your Arms can be expensive in time and money. Much research has to be carried out. You can do this yourself or you can hire someone to act on your behalf. Information on how to proceed can be obtained from the following website: info@heraldry-scotland.co.uk "

Colonsay Working Party – June 2010

Lorraine McFee

"Midsummer found a "gang" of Macfies making their way to Colonsay with a very serious objective – the Standing Stone Revitalisation Project. Armed with provisions and tools of various kinds, Iain, Fiona, my husband Finlay and I arrived on the Island on a calm Sunday evening. Monday saw us up at the Stone evaluating the task ahead. Alastair Scouller, a member of the Clan who has a home on Colonsay, had provided us with some valuable input before our trip, but he was unfortunately he was unable to join us. Discovering we were short a few things, an emergency call was placed to Andrew and Vanessa Duffy so they could pop in to Homebase (a do-it-yourself store) before they caught the ferry that afternoon to join us.

"Starting Work"

The next couple of days were spent cutting bracken and cleaning the plaque at the base of the Stone. The other plaque was eventually removed from its mountings and has been taken off the Island for refurbishment by David Russell. We hope to have it back in place by the end of the year. The "gang," plus Rennie, Andrew and Vanessa's black Lab, had a great time. We chatted about this and that, generally putting the world to rights. We met people curious to know what we were up to and a few Macfies holidaying on the island. The weather was kind to us, only raining when we had finished the work and were enjoying some leisure time on Kiloran Beach flying kites. We also enjoyed a lovely meal at The Colonsay Hotel on our

last evening. We were sorry to leave the tranquillity of Colonsay and are already planning a possible return working party in September – anyone interested?”



The working bee in progress at the Macfie Standing Stone on Colonsay

Mini Clan Gathering

from Ceann Cath Iain McFie

“At the Clan Gathering (at Nethy Bridge, Scotland in 2009), I asked for a Society to host a Mini-Gathering in 2011. Clan members John Rosser and Jim McAfee have spoken to various people and, as a consequence of this, the Clan has received invitations to be the Honoured Clan at the Scotland County Highland Games to be held in Laurinberg, North Carolina, as well as the Charleston Highland Games in South Carolina in September 2011. Both these invitations have been accepted.... These events take place two weeks apart.

I have written to the organising committee of the Scotland County Games accepting the invitation to attend as the Honoured Clan. In an earlier letter to the Organising Chairman I wrote to him, *“From my own experience arranging Clan Gatherings, I know that arranging an event such as the Highland Games requires a lot of advance planning. The uncertainty of my position may cause you to have second thoughts. Therefore, I will understand if you decide to withdraw the offer to Clan Macfie to be the Honoured Clan in 2011.”*

It has been suggested by Sandy McPhie, our former Clan Commander living in Australia, that the Mini-Gathering could be shared between both Games. Would that encourage enough of you to turn out at both events? It is a wonderful thing to be asked to be the Honoured Clan at both of these Games and I hope it will encourage you to turn out and support the Games and the Clan.”

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Colonsay Insulation Bats

Home Energy Assessors will be visiting Colonsay during November to make sure that every house that is entitled to free insulation measures is identified. They have been sent on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish Government, working with the Energy Saving Trust. The Home Insulation scheme is a new scheme for Argyll Islands providing an energy audit, a home energy report and energy efficiency advice and is available to people who own their own home or rent privately. Measures identified will be completed in a cluster basis to reduce the costs of getting installers to visit the islands.

GENEALOGY

Death Records Part 2

In the last issue of *The Downunder*, death certificates, cemeteries and burials were discussed. There are however other sources of information pertaining to a persons death. Included in those are newspaper death notices, newspaper memorial notices, wills and deceased estate files.

One source which Society members may not be aware of is the 'Ryerson Index'. This index was started in 1998 by 'The Sydney Dead Persons' Society' because information about recent deaths was difficult to obtain. The NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages for example has various cut off dates after which it does not release information. This can make family research quite difficult.

The Ryerson Index does not publish family information and is not a full transcrip. It is an index that utilises information from death notices, funeral notices and probate notices in Sydney and country newspapers. It aims to provide a person's name, date of death, age and location details. In providing those details, it directs a researcher to a relevant death notice in a particular newspaper.

Initially it was intended to commence indexing from 1998 but one of the members of The Dead Persons' Society changed that. Joyce Ryerson had kept all the death notices from the Sydney Morning Herald from 1985 onwards and offered them to the Society. Back indexing then took off with a life of its own. The evolving index was named after Joyce. Currently the index contains over 2 million entries and is growing at the rate of about 900 entries per day. The index can be found at www.ryersonindex.org on the world wide web. (Source: Vol 39 no 3, Journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists)

A will is an intensely personal matter, and while the person that makes one is alive, a private document. After death that changes. A will eventually becomes a public document accessible to anyone. It is a valuable source of information for family research.

In years gone by, when a person died, their estate was assessed so the government of the day could collect a tax called a death duty. It could be a pernicious tax. In the United Kingdom death duties have devastated many families who owned large estates that generated little in the way of wealth. Fortunately the states in Australia no longer collect the tax. A vast collection of records pertaining to individuals (but not everyone) who died some years ago, hold a wealth of information. Those documents are held in various state archives and are accessible to the public. They are a must for anyone compiling a family history.

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Origin of the name Donald

Dating from ancient times, Donald is one of the oldest Gaelic personal names in existence. The early forms of the name point to a Celtic origin involving the words world-mighty or world-wielder. Sometimes the meaning of the name is expressed as 'ruler of the world' . The old Gaelic pronunciation was something like Dawn-ald.

The name Donald is synonymous with Scotland and in particular the Scottish Highlands. MacDonald means son of Donald, and it is in that context the name was applied to one of the greatest clans in Scotland, the MacDonald Clan. Based in the Western Isles near the McPhees ancestral home of Colonsay, it is the clan the McPhees paid homage to and fought alongside, down through the ages. Anyone delving into Scottish history books may come across the name spelt Domhnall which is the modern Gaelic spelling of Donald. It may also be found in the early Gaelic form of Domnall. The early Welsh form is Dumnagual, later expressed in Welsh as Dyfynwal and Dyfnwal.

Surprisingly the first record of the name is not found anywhere in the British Isles. A Latin inscription was discovered by a Dutch scholar in 1554 and a Greek translation a little later at Angor or Ankor which was once part of the Roman Empire. They were probably engraved about the year 20 A.D., from Roman

records that had once appeared on tablets that were later lost in the downfall of the imperial city. The inscriptions refer to a king from the British Isles called 'Dumnobellaunus' (Donald) who apparently gave allegiance to the Roman Emperor Augustus. Dumnobellaunus is described as a ruler over the people of the Cantii or the people of Kent, and later over the Trinobantes, a people who inhabited what later became known as Essex. Coins of Dumnobellaunus have been found in Kent and Essex.

With such a long history and being so popular in Scotland, Donald is often thought of as the pre-eminent Scottish Christian name. That title however goes to John, which has generally been one step ahead of Donald in the popularity stakes.

Donald has been a common Christian name in Australia but probably reached a peak in popularity between 1900 and 1950. Interestingly, despite a more Scottish centric population in New Zealand, the name has never been as popular there as in Australia. (ref: The Surnames of Scotland by G Black; et al)

Macquarie's Mausoleum

Lachlan Macquarie was the 5th Governor of New South Wales. His 12 year tenure began on the 1st January 1810 and this year marked the bicentenary of his arrival in Australia. Governor Macquarie was featured in the November 2007 issue of *The Downunder*.

Lachlan Macquarie was born on the Isle of Mull on 31st January 1761. There is a substantial mausoleum on the island to commemorate Major General Lachlan Macquarie. It was erected by his family after his death in London on 1st July 1824. The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) owns the land on which it is situated. It is managed on their behalf by the National Trust of Scotland (NTS).

The mausoleum is a significant site and a focal point for Australian tourists and others who visit the Isle of Mull. Bearing that fact in mind, it is rather sad the access road to such an important Australian monument has fallen into disrepair, forcing its closure. That situation has existed since

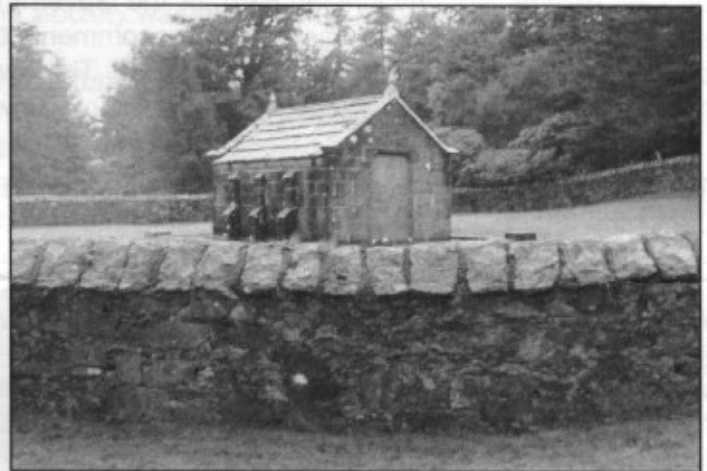
2002 and has not been rectified. It certainly reflects poorly on Australia as a nation, not to mention The National Trust of Australia. Perhaps it is about time Australians tried to have this situation rectified.

A notice under the sign post to the monument titled 'Repairs to Macquarie Mausoleum Access Road' states the following:

The National Trust of Scotland has received a number of calls from local people concerned about access restrictions to the Macquarie Mausoleum at Gruline. In 2002 Pete McHugh, the then NTS area manager responsible for the Mausoleum, explained the situation:

"The condition of the road to the Mausoleum has become very poor over the past few years. The cost of carrying out repair work to an acceptable standard will be over £12,000 and a full resurfacing repair will cost £40,000. This is a huge financial burden on both the residents and the National Trust of New South Wales in Australia who own the Mausoleum. While the funding for a project of this scale is being sought a temporary repair by infilling the potholes with gravel has been carried out. As with any temporary repair the surface is quite fragile so we are asking that visitors leave their cars at the end of the road and walk to the Mausoleum until we are able to carry out the resurfacing work, hopefully in the near future.

People with disabilities or who are unable to walk to the Mausoleum can still drive but we ask that you keep your speed to a minimum in order to help conserve the repairs. Once permanent road repairs are complete, access will revert back to normal."



Macquarie's Mausoleum at Gruline, Isle of Mull

HISTORICAL ORGANISATIONS

by Ian McPhee

Highland & Island Emigration Society (H.I.E.S.)

This Society grew out of the poverty, overpopulation and famines that plagued the Highlands of Scotland in the 1840s and 1850s. Many of our members live in Australia as a result of the efforts of those who organised and funded this outstanding organisation. By 1851, the situation in a number of Highland areas was reaching crisis point, with continuing hunger and poverty bedeviling the people.

Sir John McNeil was chairman of The Board of Supervision which administered the 'Poor Law' in Scotland. Sir John originally came from Colonsay, the ancestral homeland of the McPhees. To try and find a solution to the 'Highland problem', the British Home Secretary wrote to Sir John McNeil in Edinburgh and instructed him to visit the affected areas and make a report on his findings. This he did in 1851. As a result of his report, the Board of Supervision strongly recommended Government assisted emigration as the only solution to the problems of overcrowding, hunger and poverty in Highland areas.

Landlords naturally didn't like being responsible for an ever increasing number of poverty stricken people on their estates, so they lobbied hard for the Government to solve the problem by promoting and funding emigration. In response to this and the recommendations of the Board of Supervision, the Government passed the Emigration Advances Act in 1851. The owners of Highland estates could use public funds to take up low interest loans to assist them to remove unwanted cottars, crofters and others from their lands.

To foster emigration under the new policy, the Skye Emigration Society was formed in September 1851 under the chairmanship of the Sheriff-Substitute (magistrate or judge) of Skye, Mr. Thomas Fraser. Skye was chosen, as it was one of the most destitute areas in Scotland.

After conferring with Fraser on Skye, Sir John McNeil organised a meeting with the Assistant Secretary to the Treasury, Sir Charles Trevelyan, in London, where it was decided a larger, more effective organisation was required to tackle the problem. From this meeting was formed a committee to facilitate emigration from the Highlands and Islands to Australia, with Sir Charles Trevelyan as the chairman. The committee then evolved into the Highland and Island Emigration Society (H.I.E.S.), which incorporated all the rules previously incorporated in the Skye Emigration Society.

The gold rush in Australia in the 1850s had caused a serious shortage of pastoral labour, so shepherds and other agricultural workers were desperately needed. It was for this reason Australia was chosen by the H.I.E.S. as the most suitable destination rather than Canada.

The rules adopted by the Highland and Island Emigration Society were practical and effective. Just as John Dunmore Lang years earlier had advocated, emigrants were to be chosen according to their occupations and their suitability for the Australian colonies.

The Society's success was dependant on the co-operation of all the key participants: the British Government, the landlords who wanted to be rid of their destitute tenants and the destitute Highlanders themselves. The other essential component was the raising of funds to make the scheme possible.

To handle Government emigration, public servants called Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners were appointed. Their task was to receive applications from people desirous of emigrating with Government assistance. They examined the character of the applicants and decided upon the amount each should contribute. This usually varied between £1 and £5, depending on things like age and occupation. The Commissioners also organised the shipping. They advertised for tenders, and officers were employed to examine and survey the ships, and upon their report, vessels were either accepted or rejected. Contracts or charters were then signed and the ship would proceed to be outfitted, take on stores and other necessities as provided in the charter-party.

The Society's emigrants were given similar assistance to other Government emigrants. As the cost of a fare to Australia was £14, this was a necessity. The Commissioners also agreed to waive some of the usual strict conditions for assistance by allowing children and older family members to be eligible. Many Highlanders simply refused to emigrate unless they did so as a family unit. A big hurdle for the Society and the Highlanders was thus overcome.

Sir Thomas Murdoch was the chairman of Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners. He was very forthcoming in his willingness to help Sir Charles Trevelyan overcome some of the difficulties faced by the Society. An immediate problem was the selection of suitable emigrants. Trevelyan requested that an Emigration Commissioner's agent be sent to the Highlands to undertake this task. It took only a few days for Murdoch to respond by sending the Commissioner's agent in Glasgow to select and approve applicants that conformed to the Society's guidelines.

The Highland and Island Emigration Society had strict guidelines for people it was prepared to help. Family groups were preferred, but elderly relatives would not be encouraged. Under no circumstances would the H.I.E.S. countenance the separation of husbands and wives or parents from children under 18 in order to emigrate. Single women, widows or widowers with young children were not accepted under the scheme.

Because passages were provided by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commission, the H.I.E.S. emigrants had to conform to the Commission's rules. A deposit of £1 to £2 for adults and 10 shillings for children had to be paid. For persons exceeding a specified age, a larger deposit was required. The rules for accepting children and the elderly were relaxed but the Society was responsible for the cost of their fares.

With the fares paid, the role of the Society was to raise funds for all the other costs. Money had to be found for each emigrant's deposit and the clothing mentioned above. It was a huge logistical exercise transporting thousands of people over such a long distance. As the people were mostly destitute, everything had to be provided. There was considerable expense in just transporting people to emigration ports, not to mention supplying them with adequate food, eating utensils and bedding.

The Society was active in raising funds and was assisted in this endeavour when His Royal Highness Prince Albert became its patron. In cities like London, various banks received money on the Society's behalf and donations were received from a number of quarters. The British public was sympathetic to the cause and made numerous contributions, as did members of the aristocracy including the Royal Family. Queen Victoria gave £300, while the South Australian Parliament allocated the impressive sum of £3,000 to the Society. Such a large donation was a good indicator as to how desperate the colonies were for new immigrants.

Although a non-government organisation, the Highland and Island Emigration Society was dependant on the expertise and good will of public servants. Undoubtedly the three people central to its success were its Chairman, Sir Charles Trevelyan, the Emigration Commission Chairman, Sir Thomas Murdoch and the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the New Poor Law in Scotland, Sir John McNeil. All three bureaucrats played key roles, but Sir Charles Trevelyan stood head and shoulders above everyone as the main architect and driving force behind the Society.

The Highland and Island Emigration Society was a practical response to alleviate hunger and poverty which helped 4,910 Scottish Highlanders come to Australia between 1852 and 1857. Originally it was thought 30,000 to 40,000 people would be assisted to emigrate, this being the estimated number of redundant people in the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

One hundred emigrants from 21 families with the surname McPhee migrated to Australia with the assistance of the Highland and Island Emigration Society. They sailed in 10 ships that included the *Araminta*, *Marmion*, *Allison*, *Priscilla*, *Hercules*, *New Zealander*, *Sir Allan McNab*, *Utopia*, *Arabian* and *Edward Johnston*. With the exception of the *Hercules* which sailed from Campbeltown, all the ships departed a dock at Liverpool. (ref: The McPhees of Argyll by Ian McPhee)

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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			
26/1/11	Australia Day Celtic Festival	Bradfield Park Milsons Pt	Morris McPhee 98681521
11-13/2	Multicultural Festival City Walk	Canberra	Gwen Hubert 02 62861058
2/4/11	Highland Gathering	Bundanoon	Morris McPhee 98681521
28/4/11	Glen Innes Celtic Festival	Glen Innes	Morris McPhee 98681521
Queensland			
16/1/11	Sausage sizzle	Toowong Comm. Hall	38551072
22/1/11	Burns Night Supper	Greythorn RSL, Mitchelton	Kaye 33692232
South Australia			
23/1/11	Mt Barker Burns Night	Port Adelaide	Judith Moore 08 83650220
25/1/11	Robert Burns Picnic	Port Lincoln	Judith Moore 08 83650220
20/2/11	Highland Gathering	Mt Barker	Judith Moore 08 83650220
Tasmania & Victoria			
1/1/11	Highland Gathering	Princes Pk. Maryborough	
26/1/11	Australia Day March	Burke/Swanston St	William Schrank 83610282
15/1/11	Scottish Power - Lords of the Isles	Devonport Tasmania	
12/2/11	Highland Gathering	Berwick Vic	Ross McPhie 0421 048207
20/2/11	St Andrews Richmond H. Games	Richmond Village Green	03 62725926
20/3/11	Geelong Highland Gathering	Fyansford Common	Ross McPhie 0421 048207
Western Australia			

Websites

Colonsay home page: <http://www.colonsay.org.uk>

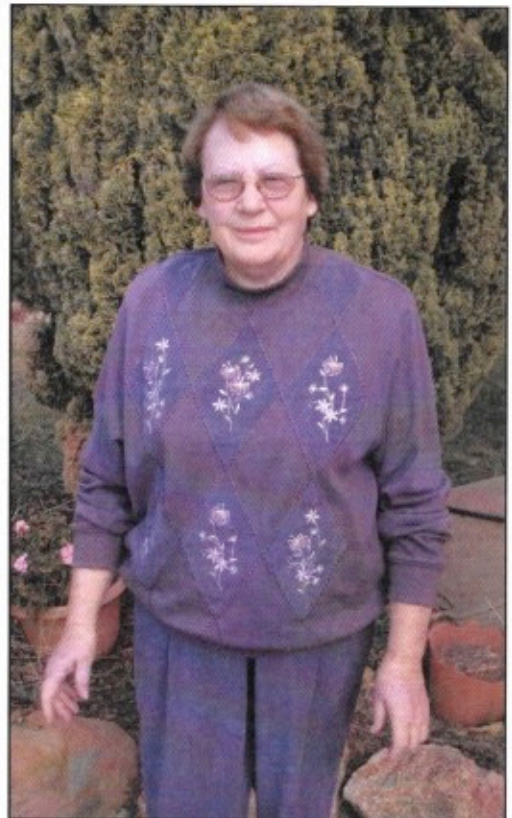
DNA website: www.mcduffiedna.com

Thanks to Glen Cathy from the USA, you can now get in touch with other Macfies via a [facebook website](#):

<http://www.facebook.com/home-php?#pages/The-Official-Macfie-Page/177565770680?ref=ts>



Treasurer of Clan Macfie Society (Scotland) Finlay McFee at left, & Clan Commander Iain McFie on Colonsay. See page 9 for the story



Society member Marie Tattam on 'Tuncooey' at Moree in far western NSW



The sign to Macquarie's Mausoleum at Gruline on the Isle of Mull. See page 11 for the story behind the 'pedestrians only' sign



Alastair Scouller addressing the haggis at the Nethy Bridge Clan Dinner in Scotland. See page 7 for a story about Alastair & Colonsay



Macfie Clan Society piper Bob McPhee's grandson Angus has also become a piper