



THE DOWNUNDER

Journal of the
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 121
March 2012



Colonsay



*Ancestral home
of Clan Macfie*

Oronsay

The Macfie Clan Society of Australia
was founded at Richmond,
New South Wales in 1974.

www.clanmacfie.co.uk



President's Message

By now members should have received subscription notices for 2012. For the first time the Society's banking details have been included for those who wish to use the internet to credit the Society directly. It is essential any member using this method of payment provide both their name & membership number.

I have had several reservations about adapting the Society's banking to the internet. Firstly, because so many members have the same name, and a significant number also pay for other family members, identifying who is paying what could be difficult. Secondly, the Society has single and family memberships to which a donation can be added. Thirdly, donations can either be for The Society, The Clan or both. To avoid confusion over donations, a single option has now been provided for donations to the Society. Donations form an important part of our income so

it is to be hoped they do not fall away with internet payments. Any funds that cannot be identified will be treated as a donation. I suppose time and experience will tell if any of my concerns are realised. Again it is my pleasure to provide a brief update on the Society for the year ending 31st December 2011:

1. Subscriptions: The \$15.00 single and \$20.00 family subscription rates remained unchanged last year.
2. Finances: Geoff McPhee's finance report should be available for the next issue of *The Downunder*
3. Membership: Last year there was another decline in membership. Only 1 new member joined the Society compared to 6 the previous year. The overly generous approach to those who failed to pay their subscriptions has been discontinued. Any member (except life and fully paid) who was un-financial for 2 years or more was removed from the membership list. As a consequence 35 un-financial members were removed. Another 7 either passed away or relinquished their membership. In total the Society lost 42 members at the end of 2011.

	2009	2010	2011
Australian Capital Territory	10	10	9
New South Wales	99	94	78
Northern Territory	0	0	0
Queensland	65	66	57
South Australia	7	16	14
Tasmania	5	5	1
Victoria	79	73	65
Western Australia	14	13	11
Overseas	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	294	282	240

4. Inventory/ expenditure: There was no major expenditure this year. Currently, QLD VP Susan Spinks has 1 banner, SA VP Judy Moore 1 banner, Society Piper Bob McPhee 1 banner, NSW VP Morris McPhee 2 banners (1 name + 1 map) Victorian VP Ross McPhee has 2 banners (1 name + 1 map and 1 banner is with the President. We also have about 900 colour brochures titled 'A Brief History of Clan Macfie', one Scottish flag and one Royal Flag of Scotland.

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Front Cover: In a traditional Macfie tartan kilt, Commissioner Sandy McPhee on left with President Ian McPhee in Modern tartan

MEMBERS IN PROFILE

VIC member: Jennifer Robertson (V82-508)

Migrant forebears: Alexander & Sarah (nee Cameron) McPhee & children Catherine 18, Mary 17, Flora 14, Sarah 12, Elizabeth 10, Archibald 8, Christina 4 & John aged 2

Occupation: Salmon fisherman

Home in UK Corpac, Estate of Donald Campbell, Esq

Emigrant ship: S. S. Utopia

Arrived Australia: Portland Bay 25th January 1854.

Pioneer forebears: John McPhee & Jessie McVean (maiden name Beaton)



Member's story in brief: Jenny, the daughter of Alexander and Bertha (nee Petshel) McPhee, was born in 1938 in the Victorian western district town of Hamilton, where her father worked for the Lands Department. Jenny was raised in Hamilton with her 5 siblings - John 1928, Carl 1934, Graeme 1936, John 1937 and Juliet 1945

Jenny went to the local Hamilton State Primary School and then attended the Alexander College in Hamilton, a Presbyterian girls' college. She then went to Emanuel College in Adelaide as a boarder. When she returned home, she worked as a secretary for a building firm, then for the Dept. of Social Security. Living in Hamilton she met Merino farmer Lindsay Robertson and they married at the Lutheran Church in 1961. She then joined Lindsay on the farm. Jennifer and Lindsay have 4 children - Judith 1962, Heather (Jane) 1963, Susan 1966 and Stephen in 1967.

Apart from working at the local Merino Hospital for a period, Jenny has many interests. They include cake decorating, gardening, genealogy, reading and floral art. She is a volunteer in the local library, member of a book club, of the Red Cross and the Coleraine Music Club and Coleraine Probus. No wonder Lindsay says (with a chuckle) that he too often has to get his own dinner!

- thought John McPhee may have been a lock keeper or was it Donald?

VIC member: Robert MacPhie (V83-540)

Migrant forebears: Donald & Janet (nee McKinnon) McPhee & children Angus 17, Norman 15 & John

Occupation: shepherd

Home in UK Argyllshire

Emigrant ship: Runnymede

Arrived Australia: Portland Bay, Victoria 3rd June 1852

Pioneer forebears: Norman MacPhie and Euphemia MacFarlane



Member's story in brief: Robert was born in 1922 at Beaufort (between Ballarat and Ararat), the son of Alexander and Frances (nee Hill) MacPhie. He was raised on the family sheep grazing property at Chute in the Western District of Victoria with his 3 sisters - Mavis born in 1924, Margaret 1926 and Nellie in 1927.

Robert met Jean Neil at a dance in Lexton. They married at St. John's Church of England in Ballarat in 1948. After his marriage, Robert's parents retired and he took over his parents' property. Robert and Jean (dec) have 6 children - Shirley 1949, Garry 1951, Denise 1954, Heather 1956, Ross 1961 and Nola 1964. Ross farmed on his Chute property until 1968 when the farm was sold. He then purchased another sheep property near Ararat where he ran fine wool merinos for the next 40 years. He continued to run the property until he was 80 years of age. In 2008 his son Ross took over the farm and Robert retired to live in Ararat.

For 40 years Robert was the timekeeper for the local AFL football club and always took an active interest in promoting junior football. He is now a keen lawn bowler and interested in improving his computer skills

GENERAL NEWS



New Members

A warm welcome to new member:

N12-1083 John L Phee Woodford Island NSW

Donations

Many thanks to the following members for their generous donation made to the Society and the Clan. Those donations, banked between the end of December and the end of March 2012, are an essential part of our funding and greatly appreciated.

Ian R McPhee	Scullen	ACT
WM & RL McVie	Woden	ACT
Nathan & Elsie McPhee	Cooranbong	NSW
Martyn F Roberts	Moree	NSW
Alison Siddins	Goondiwindi	NSW
Clyde & Barbara Smythe	Turrumurra	NSW
Neville J McPhee	Victoria Point	QLD
Helen E Rice	Buderim	QLD
Dr Ian McPhee	Rosanna	VIC
Peter B McPhee	Abbotsford	VIC
Ross & Karen McPhie	St Kilda	VIC
Margaret E McPhee	Nedlands	WA

Historian Trevor Phee and his wife Sue are having their second trip to Borneo in April, where they will stay in the state of Sabah for 10 days. In September they plan to visit mainland China and Hong Kong. As Trevor chuckled, 'its a tough life'!

Commissioner Sandy McPhee at Toowoomba had a nasty experience recently when he had a bout of ill-health. He was prescribed medication to fix the problem, but instead of improving, became progressively worse and ended up in Toowoomba Hospital. In a serious condition, medical staff eventually worked out Sandy was allergic to his medication. After the treatment was discontinued and some new treatment started, Sandy returned to good health.

Bob McPhee from Deepwater NSW has continued his membership of the Scottish Clans Congress of Queensland where he represents the Macfie Clan Society of Australia. Bob reports that after their recent AGM, the Congress has a new president, Mr Ernest Thompson and new secretary Mr George Leslie. The new executive are hoping to conduct their first ever highland gathering in South East QLD around mid 2012.

Has anyone got a spare base drum lying about? Bob sent in a note recently to say he is on the lookout for a base drum. If anyone can help, Bob's contact details are on the list of office bearers on page 15. Bob is the Macfie Clan Society's official piper and is currently forming a mini-pipe band at Deepwater.

Former Clan Historian Norah McPhee celebrated her 90th birthday recently. Norah and her husband Sandy celebrated the day at their Mt. Vincent home with family and friends. Norah is a truly wonderful woman with a remarkable memory - a handy attribute for any historian.

SA Vice President Judy Moore continues to represent our Society as a member of the Scottish Associations of South Australia Inc. Each year the Association publishes a Scottish datebook and Directory. The booklet is an excellent publication, not only useful for its calendar, but as a reference for pipe bands, Scottish dancing and other Scottish organisations.

VIC Vice President Ross McPhie has sent out a note to all clan members in Victoria in order to gauge the level of active interest in the clan, as well as updating the list of Victorian members.

Ross is trying to organise a social gathering during 2012. Ross writes: 'I amvery conscious of the fact our clan is made up of real people. Information dissemination of clan news locally and internationally is, of course, of vital importance to the survival of the clan but nothing beats connecting with people and sharing news of the clan.'

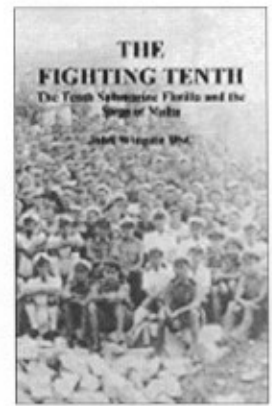
It is to be hoped that members in Victoria will support Ross because what he is proposing is such a positive step for the Society.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness we report the death of John Phee (N74-043) in September last year at Tea Gardens.

From David McPhee, Traralgon Vic

'At a recent book sale of surplus library books I purchased 'The Fighting Tenth', by John Wingate, a history of the Tenth Submarine Flotilla operations, and the Siege of Malta, during WW2.'



The Fighting Tenth was published in 2003. In the words of the Tenth Submarine Flotilla's second commander, Captain George Phillips, between 1940 and 1944, the Tenth "fought the most concentrated submarine battle in history, from the beleaguered island of Malta". It is a story of drama and tragedy but it does have its lighter side. Much of the tale of the Tenth is told in the survivors' own words as well as by those British and Maltese civilians who obstinately fought the battle on shore. Importantly, the Flotilla's commanding officers also contributed to this book. The author was one of the survivors. Few could be better placed to write of "the smell of diesel" in the "underwater coffins": the claustrophobia, foul atmosphere; the guts of the British submariner under sub-human conditions; the shattering explosions which plunge the boat into blackness; the makeshift meals - and the comradeship which lasts a lifetime. Above all it was the rock-like tenacity and staunch courage of the Maltese which assured the Tenth Flotilla of a base from which to operate. Without the age-old partnership between Malta's people and the Royal Navy, British and Allied submarines would never have cut Rommel's lifeline.

David forwarded a copy of page 240 of the book which describes how the submarine 'P212 managed to recover sixty-one survivors' from a ship called the Scillin which had sailed from Tripoli with 810 British prisoners of war and 200 Italian troops, bound for Sicily. The ship had been torpedoed by the P212. In a rather humorous reference to the Scots, the page describes 'the exemplary behaviour' of the British POW survivors:

Whilst in the water, unlike the Italians, they patiently took their turn to be rescued, though weak from wounds and lack of food; and it was typical that in response to a call from a casing, 'Are there any Englishmen in the water?' 'The reply from the last man should come back, No, but there's a Scotsman!'

The last part of David's letter went on to state: 'Following what has been described as 'the most concentrated submarine battle in history, many former Maltese residents ended up residing in the Latrobe Valley, with Scots neighbours! My late wife worked on submarines at Scots of Greenock and she too would perish rather than be described as 'English'.

Thanks David for sharing this story with the readers of *The Downunder*.

.....

A Scottish Sinner:

There was a Scottish painter named Jock MacGregor, who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, until his local Presbyterian Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of their large building. Jock put in a bid, and because his price was so low, he got the job. So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks and buying the paint and yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with water. Well, Jock was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened up and the rain poured down, washing the thinned paint from all over the church, and knocking Jock clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Jock was no fool. He knew this was a judgement from the almighty, so he got down on his hands and knees and cried 'Oh God, Oh God, forgive me; What should I do?'

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke. 'Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more'

The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs

The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs (SCSC) was formed on 25th March 1952, by the then Lord High Constable of Scotland, the late Diana Denyse Hay, 23rd Countess of Erroll, on the advice and recommendation of the late Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, Lord Lyon King of Arms. The SCSC is the definitive and authoritative body for information on the Scottish Clan System. It is a non political and non sectarian body. Today, out of a total of about 150 clan chiefs on the Standing Council there are 100 active members.

Main Objectives

1. To represent Scottish Chiefs and to assert their rights in relation to their Clansmen and others.
2. To promote awareness among the general public and other relevant bodies of the rights, functions and historical position of Scottish Chiefs together with the Clans and Families which they represent.
3. To be aware of and, where appropriate, to contribute to, to oppose, or to seek modification of, the activities of any organisation, public or private, likely to have an impact on the rights and traditions of Scottish Chiefs, together with the Clans and Families which they represent, and to take appropriate action.
4. To consider legislation, from whatever source, likely to affect the traditional rights and functions of Chiefs and to make representations on such legislation and take appropriate action.
5. To protect the titles, armorial bearings or other insignia of Chiefs from misuse and to control the commercial exploitation of the same to ensure proper standards of accuracy and quality of design.
6. To seek such legal status for the Council which may be beneficial or necessary in furtherance of its objects including Incorporation whether by Royal Charter, Act of Parliament or any other lawful manner.
7. To initiate and support educational, cultural or charitable projects to advance the objects of the Council.

Membership

Full Membership

- (a) Hereditary Chiefs or Heads of considerable Scottish names bearing the absolute undifferenced Arms of their noble stock and stem provided such Arms include the right to hereditary supporters.
- (b) Hereditary Chiefs or Heads of Scottish names bearing the absolute undifferenced Arms of their stock and stem but without the right to hereditary supporters.
- (c) In exceptional cases, to persons whom the Lord Lyon King of Arms certifies to be Head of a considerable House, or Branch, of a Scottish name.

Associate Membership

Duly recognised Commanders of Clans without a Chief or other recognised leader shall, at the sole discretion of the Council, be admitted to associate membership and shall have the right to vote at meetings or by postal ballot.

Editor's Note

As Clan Macfie has no recognised hereditary Clan Chief, it does not have the right to full membership of The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. Clan Macfie is led by Clan Commander (Cean Cath) Iain McFie, who is permitted to join the Council as an 'associate member'. It seems the Council is a little reflective of the old class system in Britain. Clan Commanders, if not at the bottom of the Council pecking order, are close to it. On my last trip to Scotland, I did hear that some of the Clan Chiefs on the Council, had an attitude of indifference and superiority to their less well connected colleagues who didn't have an hereditary title. The Council's membership structure, and the apparent attitude of some of its elite, are a little hard to understand considering it is an undisputed fact that Clan Macfie is an ancient Scottish Clan whose members possess one of the oldest Gaelic names in existence. Going way back in Gaelic culture, a Chief was accepted as the best man to lead his Clan, and did not, as was the case for the European nobility, automatically inherit his position. I would rather have a competent Clan Commander any day than an incompetent Chief whose office was achieved simply through some chance of birth.

A New Chief

Last year, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, 7th Baronet and 24th Chief of Clan MacGregor took over as the new convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. Sir Malcolm is the Hereditary Patron of The Clan Gregor Society. As a point of interest, in addition to the clan names Gregor and MacGregor, the Society recognises more than 100 other names as being eligible to clan members. A former army major, Sir Malcolm is now an international landscape photographer who works not only in Scotland, but in various locations around the world.

Current Goals

In an extensive article in a newspaper late last year, Sir Malcolm, pictured at right said : "What we want to do is promote Scotland and that means having some influence in the field of education and tourism at a national level. We already have representation on Ancestral Tourism groups and the Homecoming 2014 strategy group. In 2013 we are planning a commemorative event in connection with the 500th anniversary of Flodden.

We want to concern ourselves with clan and family matters and, again, the key areas are history and culture, education and tourism. We are developing relations with the Scottish Government and global Scots, through clan societies and organisations like the Council of Scottish Clans and the Australian Heritage Society.....We are not a commercial organisation, so we will not organise large-scale events, but we are happy to give advice....., we would help people set up clan societies. Indeed one of the things we are proud of is the contribution that clans and societies make to local economies of Scotland,.....' (sources: internet and vol 35, no 3 Scottish Banner)



The Scottish Thistle

The Legend

Why is the thistle so synonymous with Scotland? Legend has it the Scottish thistle attained its significance to Scotland over a thousand years ago as a result of an attack by Vikings. During those times it was considered unwarlike to attack an enemy at night, however a party of Viking invaders decided to attack in the early morning under cover of darkness. To cloak their approach, they moved on the unsuspecting Scots in their bare feet. One Viking warrior stepped on a thistle and cried out in pain which alerted the Scots to the surprise attack. In the ensuing battle the Vikings were defeated. The grateful Scots thereafter adopted the thistle as a potent emblem.

The Most Noble Order of the Thistle

This is Scotland's own order of knighthood with Scotland's national flower, the thistle as its primary emblem. The Order is Scotland's highest and most ancient honour. Although the exact date of its foundation is unknown it apparently dates to the 9th Century. After lapsing for a period the current version of the order was established in 1687 by King James VII of Scotland (James II of England). The order consists of the Sovereign and 16 knights and ladies, as well as certain 'extra' knights who are drawn from the British Royal Family and foreign monarchs. The Sovereign alone grants membership of the order.

The Order has five officers: the Dean - a minister of the Church of Scotland; the Chancellor - who keeps the seal of the order, the Usher of the Green Rod; the Secretary and the King of Arms. The patron saint of the order is St. Andrew and its motto is Nemo me impune lacessit (No one provokes me with impunity).

The Order of the Thistle is one of 3 orders of chivalry in Britain that can be identified with a single nation rather than the United Kingdom as a whole. The oldest is The Most Notable Order of the Garter, being founded in England in the middle of the 14th Century. The Order of The Thistle is the second most senior order of chivalry in Britain. It is followed by its Irish equivalent called The Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick founded in 1783. The Irish order has now fallen dormant.

The Thistle Chapel

The nave of Holyrood Abbey was adapted as the chapel for the order, but in 1688 the Abbey was ransacked by an Edinburgh mob, furious at King James' Roman Catholic allegiance. After that, the Knights of the Thistle had no chapel of their own for over 200 years.

The current Chapel of the Knights of the Thistle is at St. Giles High Kirk in Edinburgh. Set in the southeast corner of the church, it is a popular tourist attraction. It was designed by Robert Lorimer and finished in 1911. The chapel contains stalls for the 16 knights, the Sovereign's stall and two Royal stalls. It is decorated with shields and crested helmets of the Knights of the Thistle and the window bears a portrait of St. Andrew in a blue mantle. The chapel contains a wealth of detail, both religious and heraldic, and much of it is peculiarly Scottish, including angels playing bagpipes.

Boer War Anniversary

Background

The war in South Africa broke out when the descendants of Dutch immigrants, called Boers, tried to form an independent country. They wanted to renounce Britain as the colonial power. The Australian colonies supported the mother country's fight by sending troops to join their British counterparts.

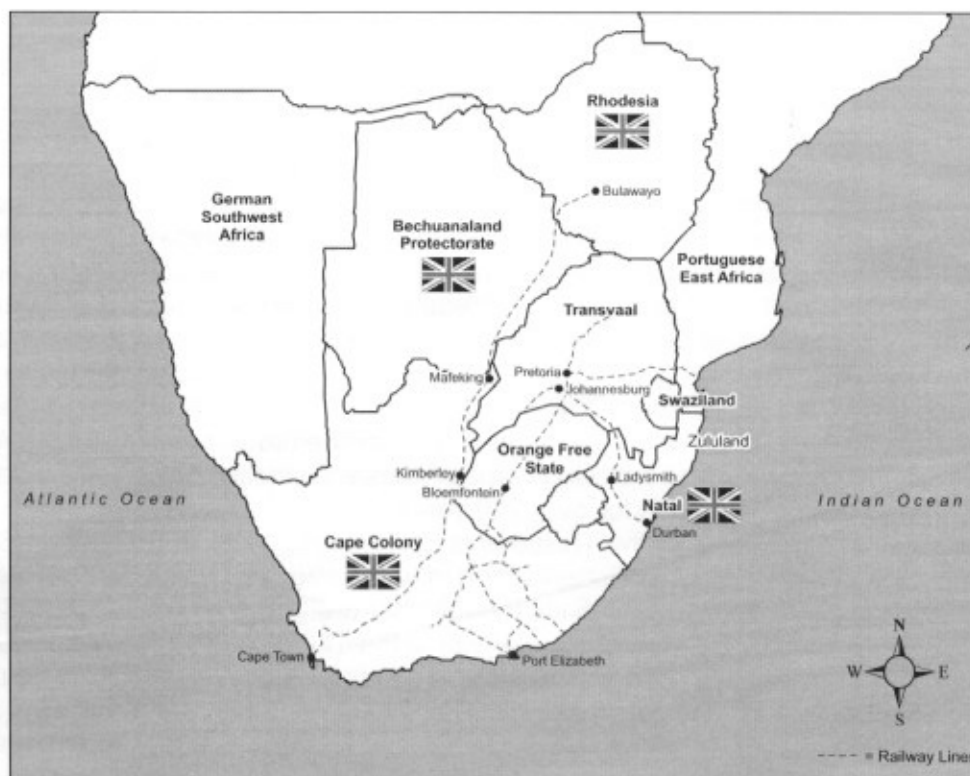
From 10th October 1899 to the end of May 1902, a bitter conflict raged across the South African veldt between Britain and her Empire and the two largely self governing Boer Republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The 6 Australian colonies were quick to make troops available to Britain. When a Boer ultimatum to the British expired, Boer commandos streamed across the borders into the British colonies of the Cape of Good Hope and Natal. In 1899, Britain called upon the colonies of the British Empire to send troops to support their imperial armies in South Africa to fight the Boers who had declared war.

In many ways the Boers were like Australians. They were relatively small in number and part of an emerging country which had strong rural communities. Many young men in those communities were excellent horsemen and crack shots, making ideal soldiers and militiamen. Although it was a David and Goliath struggle, the guerrilla tactics employed by the Boers completely flummoxed the cumbersome British forces for some time. Eventually the British realised that new strategies were required. Soldiers more suited to the type of tactics employed by the Boers were then recruited, especially from places like Australia.

The first formed unit of troops from Australia, a squadron of the New South Wales Lancers landed in Capetown on 2 November 1899, less that one month after hostilities began. In the beginning there was a preference for infantry units but the value of Australian horsemen was quickly recognised as mounted infantry were able to match the Boers' own tactics. With the exception of one field artillery battery and some medical groups, the Australian forces in South Africa comprised mounted infantry. Along with the New Zealanders, Australian horsemen were unsurpassed as scouts and were greatly valued by column commanders. After Federation, the mounted troops which were sent to South Africa included the various Australian Commonwealth Horse units

Australia's contribution went in five waves – the first mostly from militias, the second from bushmen, the third as Imperial Bushmen, then the draft contingents, and finally the Commonwealth Horse contingents. The Boer War was thus the first war in which the Commonwealth of Australia fought as a nation. A total of some 16,000 men, 60 nurses and 43,000 horses were sent in formed units and some 7,000 additional Australians served with irregular units or the British army. In total, some 23,000 Australians served in the Boer War.

An 1899 map of Southern Africa.



South Africa Boer War casualties are particularly significant because apart from World Wars I and II, the nation lost more soldiers than the total of all conflicts, including Korea, the Malay Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation, Vietnam, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. Australians and New Zealanders frequently fought alongside each other during the Boer War and thus can be considered the first ANZACS.

The Boer War concluded with the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging at Melrose House, Pretoria on 31st May 1902. During the conflict 6 Australians and 1 New Zealander were awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for exceptional valour. There is expected to be an increased interest in those who served in this conflict as the 110th anniversary of the end of hostilities approaches in May this year.

National Boer War Memorial

A memorial to honour and commemorate the Australian soldiers and nurses who served in South Africa between 1899 and 1902 is to be built on a dedicated site on Anzac Parade in our national capital, Canberra. This memorial will fill a missing link in the chain for many Australians who have served in conflicts since Australia became a nation state in 1901. It is the only major war that is not already commemorated on Anzac Parade.

In December 2011, after a national competition, the Federal Government approved the design which can be seen on the back page of *The Downunder*. As the image illustrates, the memorial will be a regimental section of 4 Australian troopers mounted on 4 warhorses on patrol in the South African veldt depicted as 1.5 times life size bronze statues.

Sculptor, Louis Laumen, pays tribute to both the men and horses that suffered the privations of war. The front wall will have stories and provides a space for wreath and poppy tributes and there is space for commemoration ceremonies. Its six parts signifies that Federation united the six colonies into the nation of Australia whilst the Boer War was being fought in South Africa. As befits a modern memorial, visitors are able to walk among the statues to obtain something of the sensation of being there, sharing the hardships of operating in a hostile environment. This magnificent design suits its purpose, the site, and complements the others along Anzac Parade. It is a fitting memorial to the predecessors of today's troopers serving in Afghanistan and other foreign lands.

An estimated \$4 million is needed to complete the memorial in its landscape setting. Funds have also to be set aside to maintain the memorial into the future.

Descendants

Boer War Day is celebrated throughout Australia on 31st May each year. Each state and territory has a branch of the National Boer War Memorial Association to organise ceremonies and provide information to the community.

Numerous names that are recognised as belonging to Clan Macfie can be found among those from Australia who fought in South Africa. Descendants of those who served can have their names and interests added to a Descendant Database that now appears on the Boer War Memorial website at www.bwm.org.au

Among the eleven men with the Clan surname McPhee who fought in South Africa, were two brothers with a wealth of riding experience. Hector McPhee was a member of the 3rd NSW Mounted Rifles and his brother Duncan, the First Battalion Commonwealth Horse. They were two of the 10 sons of Angus McPhee who owned 'Bonnie Doon' at Tarago near Goulburn in New South Wales. Both their names are listed on the magnificent memorial in Belmore Park, Goulburn, erected to commemorate those who served in the Boer War. Hector and Duncan are two of the editor's grand uncles.



GENEALOGY

From Beryl McPhie, Nowra, NSW

As the President of our Society I try and meet as many of our members as I can. On a trip down the south coast of NSW late last year, I dropped in to see Society member Beryl McPhie at Nowra. Beryl is the daughter of Stewart Livingston McPhee/Phie and Edith Alma White. Her grandparents were James Ross McPhee/Phie and Annie Elder. Just before sending out this issue of *The Downunder*, I received the following letter from Beryl:

'I was so pleased to have met you in person when you called last year to discuss family trees. What a revelation! My niece had thoroughly researched your family tree and not our own, being led astray with the original spelling, which in our case was 'ie' and not 'ee'. I've since verified that our branch came from Skye, migrating on the *Marmion*, but in the early days in Aust. spelling of the name by recording registrars was quite haphazard to say the least, resulting in half our family being 'ees' & the other 'ies' - all very confusing! I hope someone among our relatives can undertake further research into our own branch of the family tree when they have the time.'

It is so easy to make a mistake like that described above. Beryl's information has been passed on to historian Trevor Phee who would love to hear from anyone who has any knowledge of Beryl's family.

.....

Kelly's PhD

Kelly Ross (nee McPhee, member no A-93-793) was awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in January 2012 from the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom. Kelly is the daughter of Glen and Glenda McPhee who now reside in New Zealand. As many members would be aware, Glen was the former Vice President for the ACT and editor of *The Downunder*.

Kelly's PhD was titled 'A preliminary investigation into the association between Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and oropharyngeal dysphagia (swallowing difficulties), and its impact on health'. COPD is the term for conditions such as emphysema, bronchiolitis and chronic bronchitis and causes progressive difficulties with breathing. It is most commonly caused by smoking, but can also be caused by occupational exposure such as seen in the steel or coal industry.



As a Speech Pathologist, Kelly's specialism was to assess patients in hospital for difficulties with eating and drinking; that is whether food or drink was going the right way (past the throat and down to the stomach) or the wrong way (down into the lungs). If food and drink goes the wrong way, a Speech Pathologist assessment may help in making the swallow safer and more efficient, reducing the risk of chest infections. Whilst working in Sheffield, UK (a steel and mining community) Kelly noticed people with COPD were admitted into hospital with recurrent chest infections. This was considered to be as a result of their condition (also known as acute exacerbation of COPD), however Kelly wondered how many of the chest infections may be due to difficulties with swallowing or difficulties co-ordinating breathing and swallowing. As there was little evidence in the literature, Kelly developed a research strategy to see if swallowing difficulties actually did impact on the rate of chest infections in the COPD population.

Seven years later (with the help of supervisors and colleagues and financial aid from multiple grants and awards), results found that people with COPD did exhibit an 'altered' breathing-swallowing pattern and their quality of life was negatively impacted as a direct cause of their swallowing difficulties. Kelly's research is considered to be a pilot study, therefore further research with a larger sample size is required to confirm these preliminary findings. Since completing her studies, Kelly has relocated back to Australia and currently works for Queensland Health.

Scotland News

Aussie Tourists

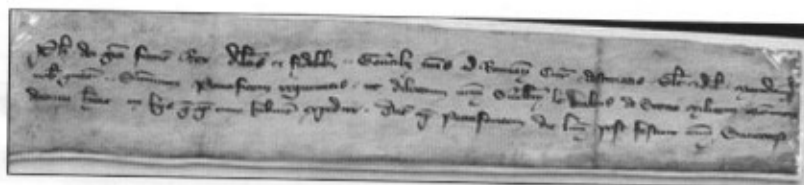
Tourism is one of Scotland's largest business sectors, providing direct employment for 200,000 people and generating visitor spending of more than £4 billion a year.

Research from VisitScotland shows that compared to previous years, thousands more Australians had a holiday in Scotland last year. The number of visitors to Scotland from Australia jumped by 35% from 110,000 to 148,000 and the money spent by Australians rose by £25 million. In terms of international tourists visiting Scotland, Australia now ranks fifth behind the United States, Germany, France and Canada. It is hardly surprising that many of those who visit the country have a link to Scotland. According to statistics from 2006, 15% of Australians have Scottish ancestry and more than 130,000 people living in Australia were born there. (source: Scottish Banner Vol 35, No 6 & internet)

The William Wallace Letter

A 700-year-old letter thought to have been in the possession of William Wallace has returned to Scotland. The fragile document was held in England after it came to light in the Tower of London in the 1830s. It is now on long-term loan to the National Records of Scotland following an agreement with the National Archives in Kew. The letter will go on display to the public between 10th and 31st August at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. The letter, which was from King Philip of France to his officials at the Vatican, mentions Wallace by name. It will be exhibited alongside the famous Lubeck letter, sent by Wallace shortly after the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297.

The letter from Philip IV dated November 7, 1300, and written in Latin, corroborates reports of Wallace's mission to France seeking the French King's support for the Scots against England's King Edward. In the note the King asks his agents in Rome to help Wallace in business with Pope Boniface VIII. It also strongly suggests Wallace intended to travel to Rome, although it is not known if he reached his destination. The paperwork has puzzled historians and aroused speculation about its origins and precise link to Wallace.



Last year, an international team of medieval experts concluded the letter was French, was issued on 7 November, 1300, and was likely to have been in Wallace's possession. George MacKenzie, head of National Records of Scotland, said: "This document is an enigma. It's a letter from the French King to his officials at the Vatican mentioning Wallace, but we don't know what his business was with the Pope. What we do know is that the document still fascinates, 700 years after it was written."

Its return to Scotland follows a campaign by the Society of William Wallace. National Records of Scotland has agreed to borrow the letter from 2012 to 2014, and it will go on display in both years. Officials are discussing means of allowing the document to be housed in Scotland in the longer term.

Scottish Independence Referendum

British Prime Minister David Cameron (what a lovely Scottish name!) is offering the people of Scotland a referendum on Scottish independence provided it is held within the next 18 months. If he doesn't get his way, he is indicating any referendum result will only be taken as advisory. He is also seeking to prohibit a third question on the ballot paper involving a form of limited independence, whereby Scotland would have more autonomy but stay within the British Union.

As Cameron is opposed to Scottish independence, he wants to dictate the timing of the referendum for his own political advantage. The offer flies in the face of the Scottish election result, where the Scottish National Party was elected with a mandate to hold a referendum in the second half of the parliamentary term. The Scottish National Party want to hold the referendum to coincide with the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn (1314). That was the famous battle for Scottish independence, where William Wallace led the Scots to a great victory over the English.

Assisted Immigration

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 our 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 our journal.

In the fifth of this series of shipping tables, Rosemary's work is presented here detailing the clan names Fee, Haffey, Macafee, McCaffrey, McCathie, McCuish and McDuffie. 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.

Family Name	Given Name	Age	Month	Year	Ship
FEE	MARY	23	FEB	1854	BLENHEIM
HAFHEY	ELIZABETH	30	AUG	1857	TALBOT
HAFHEY	ELLEN	2	AUG	1857	TALBOT
HAFHEY	JAMES	1	AUG	1857	TALBOT
HAFHEY	JOHN	26	AUG	1857	TALBOT
MACAFEE	KNOX	30	MAY	1884	ORIENT
MCAFFEE	--- MISS	1	OCT	1913	MOLDAVIA
MCAFFEE	--- MR	32	OCT	1913	MOLDAVIA
MCAFFEE	--- MRS	23	OCT	1913	MOLDAVIA
MCAFFEE	--- MRS	34	OCT	1886	GARONNE
MCAFFEE	ARTHUR	28	SEP	1852	BANGALORE
MCAFFEE	CHAS J	36	OCT	1886	GARONNE
MCAFFEE	ERNEST	6	OCT	1886	GARONNE
MCAFFEE	JOHN	35	FEB	1867	ELLEN STUART
MCAFFEE	R MR	32	JAN	1905	BRITANNIA
MCAFFEE	RUTH	2	OCT	1886	GARONNE
MCAFFEE	WM J	32	APR	1888	OROYA
MCCAFFER	J MR	30	DEC	1906	EVERTON GRANGE
MCCAFFREY	--- MR	22	MAY	1914	OTWAY
MCCAFFREY	--- MR	19	JUN	1903	MOKOIA
MCCAFFREY	--- MR	24	MAR	1913	MACEDONIA
MCCAFFREY	A M	28	JAN	1856	BLACK SEA
MCCAFFREY	A MR	36	JAN	1890	OROYA
MCCAFFREY	ANN	2	JUL	1864	SOUTHERN EMPIRE
MCCAFFREY	ANN	22	JUL	1859	DONALD MACKAY
MCCAFFREY	ANNIE MISS	40	NOV	1910	BREMEN
MCCAFFREY	ARCHD	16	MAR	1884	HAVERTON
MCCAFFREY	B A MR	37	DEC	1911	MALWA
MCCAFFREY	CATHARINE	30	JAN	1856	BLACK SEA
MCCAFFREY	CHRIS	20	NOV	1852	HOPE
MCCAFFREY	DORCAS	37	FEB	1852	BRIDE
MCCAFFREY	E MR	19	MAY	1923	BARRABOOL
MCCAFFREY	ELIZTH	28	JUL	1864	SOUTHERN EMPIRE
MCCAFFREY	ELLEN	21	AUG	1857	TITAN
MCCAFFREY	FRANCIS	15	FEB	1852	BRIDE
MCCAFFREY	G MR	35	JAN	1890	OROYA

Family Name	First Name	Age	Month	Year	Ship
MCCAFFREY	HUGH	17	FEB	1852	BRIDE
MCCAFFREY	J E MR	42	JUL	1897	VALETTA
MCCAFFREY	J MR	30	JAN	1901	PERSIC
MCCAFFREY	JAMES	27	OCT	1862	ALDINGA II
MCCAFFREY	JAMES	23	AUG	1857	BEN NEVIS
MCCAFFREY	JAS	25	JUL	1859	DONALD MACKAY
MCCAFFREY	JAS	34	DEC	1911	WILCANNIA
MCCAFFREY	JOHN	20	AUG	1857	TITAN
MCCAFFREY	JOHN	36	JUL	1864	SOUTHERN EMPIRE
MCCAFFREY	JOHN	45	OCT	1888	AUSTRAL
MCCAFFREY	JOSEPH	18	FEB	1852	BRIDE
MCCAFFREY	MARGT	20	JUN	1859	HERALD
MCCAFFREY	MARY	25	NOV	1852	HOPE
MCCAFFREY	MARY	6	JUL	1864	SOUTHERN EMPIRE
MCCAFFREY	MATILDA	2	FEB	1852	BRIDE
MCCAFFREY	P	31	MAR	1869	ALHAMBRA
MCCAFFREY	PATK	24	AUG	1868	WHITE STAR
MCCAFFREY	THOMAS	38	FEB	1852	BRIDE
MCCAFFREY	THOMAS	8	FEB	1852	BRIDE
MCCAFFREY	THOMAS MR	21	FEB	1923	DIOGENES
MCCAFFREY	THOS	25	AUG	1857	BEN NEVIS
MCCAFFREY	THOS	24	JUL	1862	CITY OF MELBOURNE
MCCAFFREY	WILLIAM	5	FEB	1852	BRIDE
MCCAFFREY	WILLIAM	4	JUL	1864	SOUTHERN EMPIRE
MCCATHIE	--- MISS	24	FEB	1907	MOOLTAN
MCCATHIE	--- MRS	55	FEB	1907	MOOLTAN
MCCATHIE	--- MRS	31	DEC	1908	OMRAH
MCCATHIE	AGNES	9	SEP	1853	SOPHIA BURBIDGE
MCCATHIE	C	23	MAR	1895	AUSTRALASIAN
MCCATHIE	D S LIEUT	-	OCT	1918	SUFFOLK
MCCATHIE	EUPHEMIA	7	SEP	1853	SOPHIA BURBIDGE
MCCATHIE	HELEN MRS	35	SEP	1853	SOPHIA BURBIDGE
MCCATHIE	JAMES	35	SEP	1853	SOPHIA BURBIDGE
MCCATHIE	JAMES	5	SEP	1853	SOPHIA BURBIDGE
MCCATHIE	L MRS	40	APR	1922	PALOONA I
MCCATHIE	THOS	22	OCT	1852	WANATA
MCCUISH	--- MRS	35	AUG	1913	PERSIC
MCCUISH	ALEXR	26	OCT	1894	AUSTRAL
MCCUISH	JAS M	35	AUG	1913	PERSIC
MCDUFFIE	P J	33	JUL	1917	CHINDWARA

Obituary

John Bruce Phee (N74-043) 1928-2011

John was the only child of Archibald Squire Phee and Dorothy Lillian Williams. He was born on 20th September 1928 at Cessnock.



John attended Aberdare Primary and Cessnock High schools. After leaving school he worked at the Aberdare Shaft coal mine. The Aberdare Shaft mine had an historical connection with his family, as his grandfather had come to Australia from Scotland to work as the underground manager of the mine. While working at the Aberdare Shaft coal mine John attended night classes at the Cessnock Technical College where he qualified as an electrician. He later worked as an electrician at an open cut coal mine near Cessnock.

In September 1952 John married Margaret Lewis at Cessnock. Their son John Lewis Phee was born in 1953. In the early 1960s the family moved to Curl Curl in Sydney, where John was employed by the Maritime Services Board. For a number of years he worked for the Board, supervising the electrical work on coal loaders that were under construction in Sydney and Newcastle. He was then based in the Board's Sydney office where he worked as an inspector. His duties in that role included checking navigation ('lead') lights in Sydney Harbour and other waterways on the NSW coast.

John had heart surgery in 1981 which led to his retirement in 1985. By that time he and Margaret had been living a little further up Sydney's northern beaches at Clareville for 2 years. It was an ideal spot for John as he was a keen fisherman and small boat owner. He also taught himself to sail and was a member of the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club at Newport. In addition to those pursuits John was a keen snooker player and member of the Macfie Clan Society. John was among the early members who joined our Society in 1974.

In 2008 John and Margaret moved to Tea Gardens near Port Stephens. John passed away on 19th September. After a service at the Tea Gardens Uniting Church he was laid to rest in the Aberdare Lawn Cemetery, Cessnock. He is survived by his wife Margaret, son John and his wife Christine and grandchildren Nathan 25 and Sarah 21.

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EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

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| April 21 | Bundanoon Highland Gathering, Bundanoon NSW |
| April 21 | Combined Clans of WA Annual Picnic, 11am Kings Park, Perth behind the Light Horse Memorial Contact: Shirley Oliver 08 94571945 |
| April 22 | Ormiston House Highland Celtic Celebration, Ormiston QLD |
| April 25 | Scottish Act of Remembrance, Martin Place, Sydney NSW |
| April 25 | Anzac Day March, North Terrace, Adelaide, SA |
| May 3-6 | Glen Innes Celtic Festival, Glen Innes, NSW |
| May 26 | Berry Celtic Festival, Berry Showground NSW, street parade commences 9.30am |
| May 31 | Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival, Wingham NSW |
| July 1 | Kirkin O' the Tartan, Scots Church, Cnr Collins & Russell Streets, Melbourne VIC |
| July 7 | Tartan Day celebrations at King George Square, Brisbane QLD. |
| July 7 | Aberdeen Highland Games, Aberdeen NSW |
| TBA | The Macfie Clan Society of Australia's 2012 BGM |

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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.



A memorial to honour and commemorate the Australian soldiers and nurses who served in South Africa between 1899 and 1902 is to be built on a dedicated site on Anzac Parade Canberra. The Federal Government has approved the design which is illustrated above. For the story see page 8 & 9.



This photo, taken some years ago at a Macfie Clan Society Gathering, was held at Sandy and Norah McPhee's Mt. Vincent home. In a kilt on the far right is John Phee (dec). On the left at the front is then Clan Commissioner Sandy McPhee next to his wife Norah, the former Clan Historian. Current Clan Commissioner and former Clan Commander Sandy McPhie wearing the grey bonnet is next to his wife and former Clan Historian Helen.