



# THE DOWNUNDER

Journal of the  
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 123  
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BGM Meeting Perth, L to R: Geoff McPhee, Morris McPhee, Joanne McPhee, Ruth McPhee, Robyn McPhee, Judy Moore, Trevor McPhee, Bruce McPhie, Rhonda McPhee, Marilyn & Brian McPhee

Colonsay



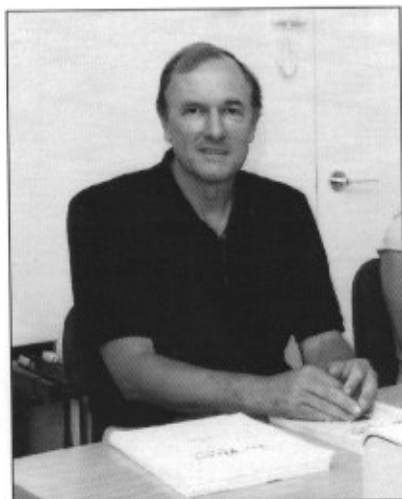
Ancestral home  
of Clan Macfie

Oronsay

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

[www.clanmacfie.co.uk](http://www.clanmacfie.co.uk)

## President's Message



It is hard to believe another year is nearly over. There was terrific enthusiasm and bonhomie shown by all those, especially the Western Australians, who participated in the BGM weekend's activities. I am quietly confident that will translate into an increased membership in the state, and renewed interest in our Society. To Trevor and Rhonda McPhee in Western Australia who organised and hosted the weekend's activities, I say thank you for the hard work and great job you both did. Going beyond the call of duty, Trevor and Rhonda provided a wonderful evening meal at their home on the Friday night before the BGM for all those Society members who could attend. A big thank you also goes to Society member Father Anscar (alias Pat McPhee) who shared the best part of a full day hosting our members to a personalised tour of the Benedictine Monastery at New Norcia. Father Anscar's tour was a major contributor to a very special and memorable 2012 BGM.

I wish all members of the Society a safe and enjoyable festive season. Thanks to those who have helped with the Society, in particular Bernie McPhee, Sandy McPhee, Trevor Phee, Morris &, Robyn McPhee, Geoff and Ruth McPhee, Rosemary Szente and Glenn McPhee in far away New Zealand. Many thanks also to all the executive members and those unnamed who have helped throughout the year.

## Hogmanay

New Year's Eve is observed on December 31<sup>st</sup>, the final day of the Gregorian calendar, the day before New Year's Day. In modern practice fireworks, music, fun activities, parties and social gatherings span the transition of the year at midnight.

The roots of Hogmanay perhaps reach back to the celebration of the Winter Solstice among the Norse, as well as incorporating customs from the Gaelic New Year's celebration of 'Samhain'. The Vikings celebrated 'Yule', which later contributed to the 'Twelve Days of Christmas', or the 'Daft Days' (frivolously merry days) as they were sometimes called in Scotland. The Winter Festival went underground with the Protestant Reformation and ensuing years, but re-emerged near the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In Scotland there are many customs, both national and local, associated with Hogmanay. The most widespread national custom is the practice of "First Footing" which starts immediately after midnight. This involves being the first person to cross the threshold of a friend or neighbour and often involves the giving of symbolic gifts such as salt (less common today), coal, shortbread, whisky and black bun (a rich fruit cake); all intended to bring different kinds of luck to the householder. Food and drink (as the gifts) are then given to the guests. This may go on throughout the early hours of the morning and well into the next day (although modern days see people visiting houses well into the middle of January). The first foot is supposed to set the luck for the rest of the year. Traditionally, tall dark men are preferred as the first foot.

Each area of Scotland often developed its own particular Hogmanay ritual. As an example, the Moray town of Burghead 'sticks' with the old calendar and celebrates the change of year on 11<sup>th</sup> January with the burning of the 'clavie' – a tar barrel, packed with tar-soaked sticks mixed with peat before being set alight. The parade finishes at the Doorie Hill on the ramparts of the ancient Pictish Fort, from where the blazing clavie is rolled down the hill, in the hope that good luck for the New Year will follow, including a good year's fishing. (ref. The Scots of Vic. Newsletter Nov-Dec 2012)

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Front Cover: Members who attended the BGM in Perth (NB a few are missing)



## MEMBERS IN PROFILE

**WA member:** Suzie M McPhee N84-547  
**Migrant forebears:** unknown  
**Pioneer forebears:** g/parents Ernest A McPhee & Florence McGowan

**Member's story in brief:** Suzanne is the daughter of Ronald & Barbara (nee Atkins) McPhee. Her father was a farmer who took over a 1200 acre soldier settlement block at Lake Camm, a wheat and sheep farming area north of Ravensthorpe in Western Australia. Born in 1949, Suzie has 7 siblings - Pamela born 1947, Veronica 1951, Aubrey 1953, Andrew 1954, Robyn 1957, Jacqueline 1951 and Christopher 1963.



Suzie attended Lake King Primary School and then boarded in Albany where she attended Albany High School, leaving after 4<sup>th</sup> year. Seventeen year old Suzie soon after moved to Perth where she was employed as a secretary by Custom Credit Finance Co. There she progressed to become the manager's secretary. Aged about 24 she became an airline hostess with MMA - McRobertson Miller Airlines who operated mainly in W.A. It was at this time she met a Qantas employee whom she married in 1973. About 7 years later Suzie was again single, living in Melbourne and continuing to work as an airline hostess. It was on a Sydney to Brisbane flight working for Ansett Airlines that she met founding Macfie Clan Society President Sandy McPhie who promptly joined her up as a member of the Society. On 29th December 1985, her son Zac was born and about that time she returned with him to live in Perth.

After working as an airline hostess for over 23 years, Suzie was forced to relinquish her career in 1997 when she contracted rheumatoid arthritis. That condition meant her employment was restricted to part time work. Suzie's main interests are in home renovation and decoration, walking, and until recently caring for her elderly mother. She is an active member of her local Anglican Church and interested in genealogy.

**VIC member:** John C McPhee, V77-308  
**Migrant forebears:** Archibald & Christina McLeod with children Christina 13, Mary 10, Norman 8, infant died at sea  
**Home in Scotland:** Isle of Skye  
**Emigrant ship:** Priscilla, from Liverpool  
**Arrived Australia:** Melbourne, 24/2/1853  
**Pioneer forebears:** g/parents, Norman McPhee and Catherine Morrison



**Member's story in brief:** John is the son of Kenneth and Elsie (nee Andrew) McPhee. His father worked at Yan Yean with his brother doing bridge construction before moving to Whittlesea where he became a dairy farmer. John, born in 1938, was the last McPhee born at Yan Yean and grew up with siblings Gordon, born 1925, and sister Joyce, 1932, on the family dairy farm at Whittlesea.

John went to school at Whittlesea and then to a technical school at Prestons in Melbourne. After reaching the leaving age, he returned to the family farm. John married local Whittlesea girl Beverly Mason at Whittlesea in 1962 which was about the time he took over his father's dairy farm. They have 3 children - Andrew born 1966, Robyn 1968 and Sally born in 1970. John and Bev both ran the farm, milking about 100 mainly Friesian cows. In 1970 they established an Aussie Red stud which is a Scandinavian breed. His farm 'Conron Grange', established in 1841, was until recently the oldest continuously operating dairy farm in Victoria. John was active in the Whittlesea Agricultural Society, the Whittlesea and District Dairy Farmers Association & Whittlesea Volunteer Fire Brigade of which he was captain for over 20 years. He is a life member of all 3 organisations and was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in 1997.

As Melbourne encroached, a 'green wedge' prohibited any development near his farm and this caused him to sell out. He and his wife moved to a large dairy farm at Colac in the Western District where he milked 250 cows in a state of the art dairy. After 3 years at Colac, due to ill health in the family, the Colac farm was sold. John and Bev purchased their current home at Tolamba near Shepparton and retired. John's main interest now is in growing trees, especially oak trees in pots, and helping his family.

# GENERAL NEWS

## Lost Touch

If you know how to contact the following members who have moved from the address listed below, kindly advise President Ian McPhee

Roderick MacDuff 4/64 Moondine Drive  
Wembley WA

Elizabeth Wilson, PO Box 354  
Beaudesert QLD

## Clan Parliament

Clan Commander Iain Macfie has sent tentative details of the forthcoming Clan Parliament and Clan Gathering that will be held in September next year. The business meetings will be in Dumfries in the South West of Scotland with the usual trip to Colonsay at the end of business. Information can be obtained via the Clan Macfie Society web page. The tentative programme is as follows:

### Wednesday 4th

PM Registration at hotel.  
6pm Clan Commanders Reception  
7.30pm Dinner

### Thursday 5th

AM Opening of Parliament  
PM Local excursion - John Paul Jones  
Cottage and local tour.  
Evening Ceilidh, band entertainment.

### Friday 6th

All day Excursion to the Lake District and  
Hadrians Wall  
Evening Talk on Robert Burns

### Saturday 7th

Am Parliament?  
Pm Local excursion TSB Savings  
Museum and Gretna Green  
Evening Clan Dinner.

### Sunday 8th

Travel to Colonsay.

Attending a Clan Parliament is not only a wonderful experience in itself, it is a great opportunity to see some interesting places in Scotland and meet some great people.

## ACT Vice-President

Due to ill-health ACT Vice-President Gwen Hubert was unable to attend the Society's Biennial General Meeting in Perth. A recurrence of serious health problem also meant she could not nominate to continue representing the ACT for our Society. We all hope Gwen can return to good health as soon as possible.

## Brian McHaffie NSW

Regrettably former South Australian member Brian McHaffie has had to confront a serious health problem. The following is part of an email his wife Cass forwarded to the editor about Brian's illness:

'Confirmation that we have now is that the problem is lymphoma in his Lymphatic system so that is all the Lymph glands are affected. Good news is that his bone marrow test proved it is not in that.

Once a fortnight Brian has to have a 6-8 hours of chemo and this will go on for 3 months then a full body scan will be done again to check the system. Friday 5th October starts the treatment. Sadly Brian is not allowed to travel in this time but our bucket list will be fulfilled after that we can be sure.'

In October Cass followed with:

'Upon reflection when life has changes things you thought important are not anymore and a complete different way of looking at them wakes you up to what is.

Brian is constantly saying how he is amazed at the interest shown in him and we both appreciate more than ever this being done.

## SA Vice President

Judy Moore from SA had a nasty bout of pneumonia recently but is recovering and was able to attend the BGM in Perth.

## In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the passing on 8th September, of Victorian member Betty Patricia McPhee. Betty was the wife of long term Victorian member Ross McPhee (V75-107) of Rosebud West.

## Family Reunion of Donald and Honorah McPhee

From New Zealand member Glen McPhee.

"The descendants of Donald and Honorah McPhee held a family reunion in April at Mildura, NSW.

The Admiral Boxer departed Liverpool UK in 1855 and arrived three months later in Adelaide. On board were Donald McPhee and Jessie Cameron who started a life-long relationship. The pair married soon after at the Cameron Estate, Wattle Flat near Strathalbyn South Australia and had five children:

Flora (b.24/5/1861), Jessie (b.23/2/1863), Donald (b.29/12/1865), Mary (b.14/6/1872), Isabell (b.15/3/1875).

Donald married Honorah Skipworth in Mount Gambier SA and they had 13 children. Most were born in Mt Gambier and the family then moved to Mildura and got involved in the vineyards and fruit growing.

In April 2012, the descendants of Donald and Honorah McPhee had a family reunion in Mildura. Over the years Mildura has been regarded as the family hub. Some 140 people attended, many sporting the McPhee tartan, coming from New Zealand, northern and central Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, Victoria and South Australia.

The reunion was held at the Mildura Settlers Club in the afternoon and evening. The gathering was a great success with some relatives caught up after 50 years. The elders of the family - Iris McPhee and Lila McPhee, thoroughly enjoyed the families getting together and catching up with so many relatives. The reunion also served as an opportunity to update the family tree records and to rekindle interest in our genealogy. Among the group were ten members of our McPhee Clan Society.



Former Downunder Editor and Canberra Vice President Glen McPhee, playing at his family reunion

Ross and Lynne Douglass were the instigators and organisers of the reunion. The activities included a rolling slide show of early photos of the generations, print outs of the individual family branches and family photographs. In the evening the family regrouped and enjoyed a dinner at the Settlers Club with Glen McPhee playing a few highland tunes on the pipes.

The reunion was judged a huge success with those attending wanting a return in a few years time."

.....

## The Arab & the Scotsman

from Brian & Cass McHaffie

An Arab Sheik was admitted to St. Vincents Hospital for heart surgery, but prior to the surgery, the doctors needed to store his blood in case the need arose. As the gentleman had a rare type of blood, it couldn't be found locally, so the call went out to all the states.

Finally a Scot, was located who had a similar blood type. The Scot willingly donated his blood for the Arab. After the surgery the Arab sent the Scotsman, as appreciation for giving his blood, a new BMW car, diamonds and US dollars.

A couple of days later, once again the Arab had to go through corrective surgery. His doctor telephoned the Scotsman who was more than happy to donate his blood again. After the second surgery, the Arab sent the Scotsman a thank-you card and a jar of sweets.

The Scotsman was shocked that the Arab this time did not reciprocate his kind gesture as he had anticipated. He phoned the Arab and asked him 'I thought you would be generous again, that you would give me a BMW car, diamonds and money .... But you only gave me a thank-you card and jar of sweets'.

To this the Arab replied: 'Aye, but I now have Scottish blood in my veins'.



## Report of 19th Biennial General Meeting

Held at the Gleneagles Reception Centre, 102 Marmion Ave, Karrinyup WA, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2012

1. A statement of support & good wishes was read out from Clan Commissioner Sandy McPhie of Toowoomba, as was a greeting from Clan Commander Iain McFie of Scotland.

Attendees: from NSW, Morris (VP), Robyn & Joanne McPhee, Geoff (Treasurer) & Ruth McPhee, Ian McPhee (President); from SA, Judy Moore (VP), Brian & Marilyn McPhee; from VIC, Bruce McPhie; from WA, Jillian (VP) & Alan King, Trevor & Rhonda McPhee.

2. **Apologies** were received from: Gwen Hubert ACT, Margaret Barnes NSW, Lachlan McPhee NSW, Sandy & Norah McPhee NSW, Trevor Phee NSW, Rosemary Szente NSW, Sandy & Helen McPhie QLD, Bernie McPhee VIC & Ross McPhie VIC.

3. **Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial General Meeting** held in Sydney were confirmed by Society Treasurer Geoff McPhee and NSW Vice President Morris McPhee.

4. **Business arising** from the 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial General Meeting

Purchase of new Gonfalons: Morris McPhee stated new gonfalons will be larger than the Society's existing one, feature modern Macfie Clan tartan & cost \$440.00 from All Things Tartan in QLD.

Website: Joanna Moore's proposal & acceptance that she establish a website for the Society did not eventuate. At this stage no further action is anticipated.

5. **President's report:**

Noted the distinction between a Clan Society & The Clan i.e. they are two distinct & different entities. Discussed donations to The Clan. Explained that The Clan Treasurer in Scotland prefers not to receive levies from Clan Societies as has been the past practice. His preference is to have funds 'pledged' but not actually paid, but acknowledged such 'pledges' had no legal significance. President disagrees with this approach. In the past, about 10% of subscriptions collected by our Society were provided to the Clan.

Brief update on the Society's finances; noted donations represented about 40% of total income; Adequate funds were required for membership drives, promotional literature etc and purchase of merchandise.

6. **Membership**

There was a broad discussion on membership and how to seek new members; without new members, the Society would not survive in the long term. It was put forward that each state could have their own membership drives, as they have familiarity with local groups etc. Mentioned little success recruiting new members at Scottish gatherings like Bundanoon. Joanne McPhee (NSW) proposed having a Facebook page; explained it was a good cost free option to attract new members, especially among young people. She agreed to set it up.

New life members: Past President Bernie McPhee V75-118 from Victoria & Past President Brian McPhee S74-005 from South Australia, were made life members of the Society.

7. **Treasurer's report** and financial statement

Treasurer Geoff McPhee stated the current balance in the trading account was \$10,373.59 and the Society had \$12,000.00 on term deposit. The accounts had not been audited. There were no questions for the treasurer.

8. **Election of executive members** The following executive members for 2013 - 2014 were nominated and elected unopposed:

President	Ian McPhee	Vice-President	Margaret Barnes
Treasurer	Geoffrey McPhee	ACT V.P.	vacant
NSW VP	Morrison McPhee	QLD V.P.	Susan Spinks
SA V.P.	Judith Moore	Tas V.P.	Vacant
Vic V.P.	Ross McPhie	WA V.P.	Jillian King

9. **General business**

Morris showed the meeting Clan Bulletin No 1 as a comparison with the existing Society's journal *The Downunder*. He mentioned that businesses such as All Things Tartan could be approached to advertise in the journal.

Rhonda and Trevor McPhee raised the idea of obtaining merchandise which could be supplied to Society members. Some items could be promoted as suitable Christmas presents etc which could help maintain member interest in The Society. It was moved by Bruce McPhie, seconded by Ruth McPhee and agreed by the meeting, the next BGM be held in South Australia. It was mentioned that a date near July 1<sup>st</sup> (Tartan Day) may be suitable. Brian & Merylyn McPhee agreed to arrange it. Robyn McPhee mentioned a celebration or meeting around the annual Burns night celebration should be considered.

#### Footnote Re Clan Levies

Clan Commissioner Sandy McPhie from Toowoomba sent in the following email concerning a Clan Society's obligation to finance the Clan:

"The Clan Societies should contribute not more than 20% of their membership fees to the Clan each year. This was decided at a Clan Parliament about 1985 and still stands, as far as I know. However, in practice this was not done at the 20% rate by most Clan Societies (if not all) except in the first year or two. As President I was sending each year 10% of the total collected in subs for the previous year up to when I handed over to Brian in '98 or thereabouts. I would include with this any donations being held for the Clan i.e., drawing one cheque each year."

#### BGM Dinner

When the BGM Meeting was concluded, those attending the meeting moved into the function room at the Gleneagles Reception Centre, to be seated for a night of wonderful entertainment and lovely food. Our organisers and hosts Trevor and Rhonda McPhee did a superb job organising the event. A beautifully printed menu with the Society's name and the clan crest was provided for each guest. Commencing about 6.30pm, the following is how the night progressed:

- Master of Ceremonies Trevor McPhee, gave a welcome & announced a display of Highland dancing
- Executives including WA V.P Jillian King & husband Alan, were piped into the room
- Haggis, carried by NSW V.P. Morris McPhee was piped in and addressed
- Haggis was removed to be cut up for serving prior to the main course
- Grace was said by Society Treasurer Geoff McPhee
- The entree of pumpkin soup was served
- 'Haggis wi' Bashed neeps & Tatties' was served; Guests were also offered a drink of Atholl Brose
- The main course of 'roast beef with red wine jus & Yorkshire Pudding seasoned vegetables' served
- as the main course was completed the President's address was given
- Hosts Trevor and Rhonda McPhee were presented with a bottle of single malt Scotch whisky
- The dessert, a 'Topsy Laird Trifle' was served
- Coffee and shortbread fingers were provided
- a toast to Scotland and the Clans was given by former President Brian McPhee from Adelaide
- the night concluded with everyone gathered on the reception room floor singing Auld Lang Syne.

It was a night to remember.

#### Visit to New Norcia

New Norcia, 130 kilometres north of Perth, is the only monastic town in Australia. A mission to help the local Aboriginal people was established at the site in 1846 by Spanish Benedictines, under the guidance of Rosendo Salvado and Joseph Serra. The mission was named after the Italian town of Norcia, birthplace of the order's founder, St. Benedict. The last Spanish Benedictine to live at New Norcia died in January 2010, aged 99.

Today New Norcia is home to only 9 Benedictine monks, one of whom is Society member Father Anscar known simply as Anscar. After 28 years at Kalumburu Mission in the east Kimberleys, he was relocated back to New Norcia last year. Situated in the peaceful Moore Valley in the wheat belt, New Norcia includes numerous Spanish inspired buildings and about 6,885 hectares (17,000 acres) of farm land.

On the Sunday following the BGM, Society members visited New Norcia where Anscar was our host for the day. We had the privilege of a personalised tour with him of the entire mission to experience areas not available to the average tourist. With Anscar's wonderful knowledge & his unique and entertaining humour, it was a memorable day for everyone. Highlights of the visit included the Abbey Church, museum, library & art gallery. The day was completed with a late lunch at the New Norcia Hotel which is also part of the mission. Our thanks go to Anscar for his warm friendship and a terrific, once in a lifetime opportunity.

## Our Strap and Buckle Badge

### From Clan Commissioner Sandy McPhie

I was asked recently which of the Clan Macfie Strap and Buckle Badges depicted on various Clan and Clan Society papers was the correct one and why are there differences. You can take your choice as the answer to the first part – they are all correct, or alternatively, none is correct. Most or all of the differences detected in these badges are due to the artistic interpretation of the person drawing our demi lion rampant and/or the strap and buckle itself. However, there is a lot more to this if you wish to dig deeper for though we do not have a Clan Chief, we are certainly involved with the protocol aspects relating to Clans that do have a Chief and their relevant badges.



Years ago it was the custom for Clan Chiefs to give their followers a silver plate of their crest to wear as a badge and this was affixed by a strap. When not in use the strap was coiled around the crest. The strap and buckle badge developed from this and implies the wearer is a clansman or clanswoman of the Chief whose crest is displayed. It may be used by any member of the Clan subject to the Chief's pleasure.

So there we have a problem. Clan Macfie's last Chief, Malcolm, was murdered on Colonsay in 1623 and no line of descent has ever been established or a new Chief appointed. No record of Chief Malcolm's Arms exists although it is accepted he was a Chief and had his own Armorial Bearings. In 1672, an Act of the Scots Parliament established The Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland. The first Macfie Arms recorded in this Register were those of Robert Macfie of Langhouse & Airds in 1864. These were followed in 1867 when his grandson, Robert Andrew Macfie of Dreghorn, matriculated his own Arms. Since then some 30 or so Macfie Clan members have received a Grant of Arms or matriculated Arms.

When commercial manufacturers became aware of the potentially lucrative market for things Scottish strap and buckle badges became readily available for all Clans and on all types of merchandise. The crest of Macfie of Dreghorn was the base item for Clan Macfie, not Langhouse, possibly as Frank Adam's definitive publication, *The Clans, Septs, and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands* (first published in 1908), showed the Arms of Macfie of Dreghorn amongst the Arms of Scottish Chiefs (or important Chieftains). There is no question to-day about our Clan Macfie strap and buckle being accepted.

The differences in some Macfie badges used on Clan Society publications etc., can be due to several reasons. Artistic licence is the most likely cause but if different Macfie Arms were used for the designs then of course, difference would appear in the finished items – the tail of the demi lion rampant and its forelegs are likely variants in this context, as too, is the strap and buckle being more elaborately coiled in some instances. But really, who cares? – they are all genuine and acceptable and we can wear them with pride as we await the great day when a new Chief of Clan Macfie is appointed.

### From *Science of Heraldry*, by Sir Thomas Innes of Learney,

"The 'Badge in Scotland is often synonymous with the chief's crest, being so termed when depicted within a 'belt and buckle' on which the motto is displayed....."

"In one respect Scotland can claim to be the country where heraldry still has freest use as a personal decoration, for almost everyone with Highland dress wears his own crested buttons - if he has a crest - and the use of the crested 'cap-badge' is an invariable accompaniment of the kilt or Highland bonnet. These badges normally display the crest of the Chief, within a so-called 'garter', on which the motto is inscribed. The chief himself surmounts his crest or badge with three silver feathers rising out of the top, and a peer's badge cap-badge is 'ensigned' with his coronet. The use of this so called 'garter' has been criticised as (1) an infringement of the privilege of Knights of the Garter; (2) a breach of the Laws of Arms. Investigation shows that the long-standing Scottish practice is strictly correct. In Lyon Register the 'garter' has been officially described as a 'belt and buckle', and the popular Scottish cap-badge is simply a conventional form of the plate and strap with which clansmen and adherents bore their Chief's badge.... It is therefore not 'usurpation of arms', but an expression of adherence to that particular Chief or Laird.

There is however no such thing as a 'family' or 'clan' crest. It is the property of the Chief alone, and whilst it is correct to display this in a cap badge - with necessary 'belt and buckle' which indicates that the use is as clansman or follower - it is illegal to misappropriate the crest of one's Chief to decorate one's plate, paper or rings, such being the user's property, not his chief's property!"



## The Secrets of Atholl Brose

Atholl Brose is an old Scottish drink that was made from whisky, heather honey and water in which oatmeal has been steeped, so that it is thickened by the floury part of the meal. Cream was sometimes also added. There are a number of variations in making the drink. Many of the Highland regiments had their own special recipe to make it, which is named after the Earl of Atholl.

### Atholl, in Pethshire

The current province and estate of Atholl was once the Pictish province of Athfodla. The area is bounded in the north by Badenoch, in the east by Glen Shee and Braemar, in the west by Rannoch Moor and in the south by Lochs Tummel and Rannoch. It is a beautiful part of Scotland.

The magnificent Blair Castle, situated at Blair Atholl at the junction of Glens Tilt and Errochy, is home to the Dukes of Atholl. Most of Atholl's followers were originally of the Clan Donnachaidh, the Duncans, who were adherents of King Duncan I who was killed by MacBeth. Their descendants, often called Robertson after Robert Duncan, who was granted the barony of Struan for bringing one of James I's murderers to justice, have a long line of Stewart and Jacobite loyalty. (ref: Collins Encyclopaedia of Scotland)

### The Atholl Highlanders

The Dukes of Atholl remain the only British subjects permitted to maintain a private army, known as the Atholl Highlanders, to which Queen Victoria granted permission to bear arms. In its present form and not as a military regiment, like the one raised to fight in the American War of Independence, it can be traced to the 1839 Victorian extravaganza called the Eglington Tournament. At that event the Duke's heir Lord Glenlyon, fighting as 'The Knight of the Gael', decided to take with him a bodyguard of some 60 killed Highlanders, clad in blue tunics and Murray of Atholl tartan. The Atholl Highlanders fell by the wayside for some years but were revived in 1966 with about 50 members. They have an artillery detachment which appears on parades to fire salutes, and an excellent pipe band.

### The Legend

Legend has it that the drink was first recorded back in 1475 when the Earl of Atholl incapacitated his enemy. Supposedly this was one of the McDonalds, a Lord of the Isles, leading a Highland rebellion against the King. Hearing that MacDonald drank from a small well, the Earl spiked it with honey, whisky and oatmeal. MacDonald stayed sampling the tasty drink and was taken prisoner.

### Recipe from Trevor McPhee W.A.

As hosts of the BGM in Perth, Trevor and Rhonda McPhee delighted all those who attended the BGM dinner, by providing everyone with the opportunity to sample or have a glass of Atholl Brose. Trevor is an old hand at making Atholl Brose, and provided the following recipe for the beautiful tasting drink he made:

Ingredients: 1 1/4 cups rolled oatmeal  
2 cups cold water  
3/4 cup of honey (perhaps more or less)  
1 bottle of Scotch whisky  
1 or 2 300 ml bottles of cream

Method: Mix the oatmeal in water and stand several hours stirring occasionally  
Strain the oatmeal through a fine strainer into a large bowl. Press all the liquid out of the oatmeal with the back of a spoon and discard the dry meal.  
Mix 1/2 cup of the honey till dissolved.  
Add the Scotch whisky plus 1 bottle of cream.  
Taste, and then add honey and cream as needed to obtain a smooth rich flavour. The honey flavour should be noticeable, without the Atholl Brose being sweet.  
Store in the fridge in glass bottles, shaking them occasionally to re-blend the cream. It won't sour and the Atholl Brose will keep for a year or more in the fridge.

Serving: Trevor finds the Atholl Brose is best made a week or more in advance. It always tends to 'settle' a bit, cream rising and oatmeal going to the bottom, so it needs a good stir before pouring. Serve in a sherry glass as a pre-dinner drink. Pour from a jug, with a stirrer. Warn guests that it is far more potent than it seems, or they might overdo it.

# GENEALOGY

## DNA Search: Can you Help? From Qld member Sally Mellick

I have spent a bit of time chasing down the family of Charles McPhee and Mary McMillan, both of whom I expect died at Kinlocheil, Scotland, between 1835 and 1840. During my foraging I came across some marvellous material about one of their descendants, Alexander McPhee. This I found through Trove and the newspaper references are included in the material. Among other things, I thought these attached stories might make some interesting items for the newsletter.

However, my purpose for tracing this family was to see if I could find a living male descendant who might be willing to have a DNA test for me. I would like to discover if they were related and how close the relationship is through DNA testing. As you would know, it is difficult to find living descendants without a lot of trial and error, so if anyone knows of or can lead me to any of the following or male descendants of theirs, I would be grateful:

Malcolm John McPhee	b circa 1946	probably Victoria
Robin Bruce McPhee	b circa 1942	probably Victoria
Richard Earle McPhee	b circa 1947	probably Victoria
Paul Gaugin McPhee	could be NZ	

If anyone recognises this family I am happy to share my findings on them to date. I have been in touch with some descendants over the years, but am looking for proven male descendants. I got close once I thought, but found out the descendancy was adoptive, so it was back to the drawing boards. So please if anyone can assist with this enquiry contact by me via my email address which is:

mcphee.mellick@gmail.com or by phone on 07 36301140

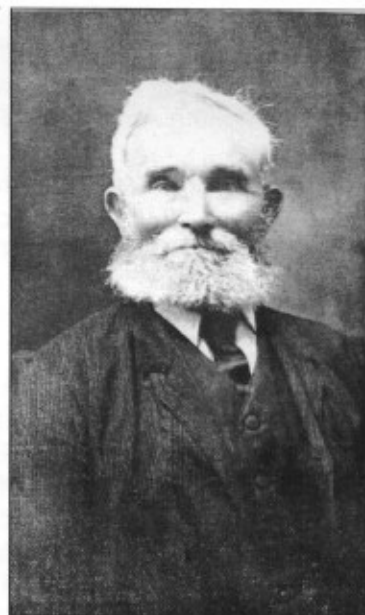
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## History of McPhee Street Hamilton, Victoria

from the editor

On a trip to Victoria late last year, I spent some time at Hamilton in the heart of the Western District and caught up with Ian Black at the Hamilton History Centre. Over a number of years Ian and other staff members at the Centre have provided invaluable assistance to me researching my family. I don't think it is an exaggeration to say, the Hamilton History Centre is one of the best of its kind in Australia. They have an excellent resource base and dedicated volunteers with an intimate knowledge of local history. Fortunately not only have I been able to receive information from them, but been able to provide them with new material as a result of my endeavours. It is wonderful that family research is so often something that can be shared.

On that trip, Ian Black provided me with a book called *The Streets of Hamilton, Western Victoria* by John McKay. As the inside page states it is 'A History of the People behind the Names', and its printing was made possible with the financial support of the Hamilton History Centre. Page 105 is devoted to McPhee Street, named after Alexander McPhee pictured at right. Situated between Kenny Street and the Coleraine Road, McPhee Street was named by Hamilton Town Council on 10th June 1943 [Minutes p373]



Alexander was one of 10 children born to Donald McPhee and Mary nee McInnes. They emigrated from the Isle of Mull, Scotland, with 8 of their children, arriving at Portland Bay Victoria on 4th December 1852 with other passengers on the *Marmion*. Members of the family were soon after employed on various properties in the Hamilton District. Alexander eventually settled permanently in Hamilton itself and had a staggering 15 children. One of his descendants is Trevor McPhee from Western Australia who hosted the 2012 BGM in Perth. Page 105 of *The Streets of Hamilton* states the following:



"Alexander McPhee (born 30th December 1831 to Donald and Mary) was the original purchaser of 7 acres (3ha) on the outskirts of Hamilton for £17 16s and 3d, having been only 3 years in the colony. Alexander married Sarah Ann Prider on 22nd December 1857, a 17 year old resident near Penola. They remained in South Australia and he worked as a shepherd until about 1860 when they returned to what had become known as North Hamilton.

Alexander McPhee was one of many labourers employed in 1885 to help drain Buckley's Swamp. Mr. McPhee worked as a shepherd and agricultural labourer supporting a rapidly expanding family. His sister Catherine had married George Coldham owner of 'Audley' and periodically Alexander McPhee worked there with his brothers.

He was very active from 1873 in the local Western Pioneer Tent of Rechabites and featured in their conference booklet of March 1912, as their oldest and longest serving member.

Sarah McPhee died aged 74 on 9th January 1914 at her home in North Hamilton having given birth to 15 children. Mr. McPhee died 27th September 1916 aged 85. Both were buried by Salvation Army services in the Hamilton Cemetery, not far from their former home, which was almost adjacent to a small reserve now called Bandicoot Park.

Sarah and Alexander McPhee's children were: - Donald, Christina, Ann, Hector, William, Walter, John, Duncan, Sarah, Angus Hamilton, twins George and Margaret, Albert and Mary. Their son William McPhee sub-divided the area, the main street of which carries the family name. Ann McPhee, pictured at right is probably Alexander and Sarah's daughter. She participated in a 1909 Musical competition.



**Editor's note: Rechabites:** from 'The McPhees of Argyll page 193

"The original Rechabites were a tribe of people living in the Arabian Desert. In obedience to the command of their ancestor Jonadab, they dwelt in tents and abstained from wine.....

The Order of Rechabites, although it could only claim a fanciful connection with the tribe, had adopted their principle of abstinence, and was trying to set an example of sober and righteous living in the present generation. The Order had been founded on account of the necessity which existed for a Temperance Benefit Society, the first branch being opened at Salford, in England, on August 25, 1835.....

....Referring to the scriptural aspect of the question, while there was no definite law laid down, it was easy to see that abstinence was approved of by the Bible, from the cases of the Rechabites, the Nazarites and others that might be mentioned. On this matter, however, every Christian man ought to be able to answer for himself to his own conscience. They were fighting, not against men, but against an evil, and everyone who had any love for mankind should try and rescue those who had fallen, and thus save souls from death. .... The only effective remedy was total abstinence."

.....

### **Marriage Certificate found**

from Jillian King Vice President WA

Alexander, whose story is told above, had several brothers, one of whom was Neil McPhee. After a romance on the emigrant ship *Marmion*, Neil married fellow Isle of Mull native Ann Campbell, and they went on to live in South Australia. Fruitless searches of records in Victoria and South Australia indicated that no record of their marriage had survived.

A 15 year search by W. A. Vice President Jillian King (and also *The Downunder* editor) for Neil and Ann's marriage record, came to an end recently, when it was discovered by a friend of Jillian's on the internet at the Ancestry.com website. How did this record remain so illusive for so long?

The answer is simple. It all boiled down to the incorrect spelling of their names on the marriage certificate. Neil's name had been spelt Niel; his surname McPhee had been spelt McFee as was his father's surname. His mother's maiden name of McInnes had been spelt McGuinness.

## 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 seventh of this series of shipping tables, Rosemary's work is presented here detailing the clan name Macfie. 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
MACFIE	---- CHILD WITH	C	DEC	1896	OCEANA
MACFIE	---- CHILD WITH	6	APR	1899	OPHIR
MACFIE	---- INFANT WITH	1	NOV	1895	OPHIR
MACFIE	---- MISS	30	JAN	1908	MEDIC
MACFIE	---- MISS	18	FEB	1913	OTWAY
MACFIE	---- MISS	22	AUG	1911	WARRIMOO
MACFIE	---- MR	50	SEP	1890	VICTORIA
MACFIE	---- MR	52	JAN	1891	LUSITANIA
MACFIE	---- MR	40	NOV	1895	OPHIR
MACFIE	---- MR	38	DEC	1896	OCEANA
MACFIE	---- MRS	36	NOV	1890	OROTAVA
MACFIE	---- MRS	40	JUL	1853	ABDALLA
MACFIE	---- MRS	31	APR	1899	OPHIR
MACFIE	---- MRS	36	DEC	1896	OCEANA
MACFIE	---- MRS	64	MAY	1900	ORIZABA
MACFIE	---- MRS	32	NOV	1895	OPHIR
MACFIE	---- NURSE WITH	32	APR	1899	OPHIR
MACFIE	A CAPT	-	FEB	1858	RIALTO
MACFIE	ALLAN	24	MAR	1877	DURHAM
MACFIE	ALLAN	22	APR	1880	CHIMBORAZO
MACFIE	ANDREW L	36	OCT	1889	PORT DENISON
MACFIE	ANGUS	A	SEP	1877	SIAM
MACFIE	BEATRICE MISS	15	AUG	1885	ORIENT
MACFIE	BRUCE MASTER	3	AUG	1885	ORIENT
MACFIE	CAMPBELL MTR.	11	AUG	1885	ORIENT
MACFIE	D MR	36	DEC	1894	ORIENT
MACFIE	DANIEL	30	JAN	1890	LOCH CARRON
MACFIE	DAVID	25	MAR	1887	HUBBUCK
MACFIE	ETHEL	33	OCT	1914	CERAMIC
MACFIE	ETHEL MISS	13	AUG	1885	ORIENT
MACFIE	FLORENCE MISS	16	AUG	1885	ORIENT
MACFIE	H C MR	31	JAN	1913	MALOJA
MACFIE	HECTOR MASTER	9	AUG	1885	ORIENT
MACFIE	HELEN MUIR	16	JUL	1853	ABDALLA
MACFIE	HERBERT	19	OCT	1922	BENDIGO



Family Name	First Name	Age	Month	Year	Ship
MACFIE	JAMES	45	JUL	1853	ABDALLA
MACFIE	JOHN	8	JUL	1853	ABDALLA
MACFIE	M MR	28	NOV	1884	LUSITANIA
MACFIE	M MR	70	MAY	1900	ORIZABA
MACFIE	MARGARET	12	JUL	1853	ABDALLA
MACFIE	MARY	18	JUL	1853	ABDALLA
MACFIE	MARY A MRS	46	AUG	1885	ORIENT
MACFIE	MAUD MISS	7	AUG	1885	ORIENT
MACFIE	MAUD MISS	32	JUN	1910	SUEVIC
MACFIE	ROBERT CAPT	-	SEP	1862	BRUCE
MACFIE	ROBERT CAPT	-	MAY	1865	WHITE ROSE
MACFIE	ROBERT CAPT	-	APR	1864	BRUCE
MACFIE	ROBERT CAPT	-	JUL	1866	WHITE ROSE
MACFIE	ROBT BOYD	20	JUL	1861	SHALIMAR
MACFIE	SARAH	19	JUL	1861	SHALIMAR
MACFIE	SHAW	6	JUL	1853	ABDALLA
MACFIE	SUSAN	13	JUL	1853	ABDALLA
MACFIE	WILLIAM	4	JUL	1853	ABDALLA
MACFIE	WILSON	2	JUL	1853	ABDALLA

## Obituary

### Heather Mary Primrose (McPhie) Guinness (N74-003)

Born: Charleville, Q. 25<sup>th</sup> December 1927 - Died: Toowoomba, Q. 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Heather was the eldest of three children of Hector and Nellie McPhie of Toowoomba and older sister of our former Clan Commander, Sandy McPhie. She grew up in Toowoomba before going on a working holiday to the U.K. in 1953. She married Jeremy Guinness of South Africa in Sydney in 1955. Their early married years were spent in New Zealand, England and South Africa before finally returning to Australia to live in Sydney. They had three children, Timothy, Georgina and Christopher. Following the breakdown of their marriage, Heather moved to Toowoomba in 1980 where she was companion/carer for her ageing parents and looked after her younger son following a car accident.



Heather's ancestors came from Mull. A mother, two sons and four daughters migrated as "bounty" passengers on the sailing ship "Minerva", leaving Greenock on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1837, to arrive in Sydney on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1838. She is a third generation descendant of Neil, the younger of the two boys who came on the "Minerva".

Heather was living at Kellyville west of Sydney in 1974 when her brother Sandy, an air traffic control officer at RAAF Base Richmond, founded The Macfie Clan Society of Australia. She was the third of the original twenty three Clan members to support its formation and remained a strong and interested member throughout her life. She had been in hospital in Toowoomba for a little over two weeks before her death but knew family members and was able to speak with them until the final day. A keen gardener, a kind and thoughtful person, always willing to help others, Heather was a lovely lady who will be greatly missed but fondly remembered by all who knew her. She is survived by her three children and her brother and younger sister.

# Scotland News

## The Clipper Ship, City of Adelaide

Glasgow: It is the oldest surviving clipper ship in the world, apart from the Cutty Sark, and in its heyday carried emigrants from Scotland to Australia, where about 250,000 people can trace their origins to its passengers.

For years, the City of Adelaide has lain rotting on a slipway in Irvine, Scotland. But now, nearly 150 years after the ship was built, preparations are under way for one last voyage - to Adelaide, where the vessel is to become a tourist attraction.



The City of Adelaide in dry dock at Irvine Harbour outside Glasgow

According to the National Historic Ships Committee, the 54 metre ship is one of the most important in British maritime history, the last survivor of the timber trade between North America and Britain. Despite its early splendour and pedigree, the future had looked bleak for the City of Adelaide after it sank in the River Clyde. It became a political issue with various parties laying claim to ownership until a bid from Australia secured its future.

The ship was built in 1864 in Sunderland, England, and launched on May 7 that year. It spent 23 years making 16,000-kilometre trips to and from Australia, and played a fundamental role in the development of the young nation.

In 1893, it was converted to a hospital ship a Southampton on England's south coast, and after being commissioned into the Royal Navy in 1924 was converted to a training ship at Irvine and renamed HMS Carrick. The ship was moored at Greenock, on the River Clyde until 1950 and later Glasgow, where it was used as a clubhouse for the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

It became a landmark before it sank in 1991. After a year under water it was raised by the Scottish Maritime Museum & moved to its site in Irvine. The Carrick was repaired and opened to the public in 1995 but there were problems with funding and the museum applied for consent to dismantle the vessel in 2000. Experts said the restoration required would be akin to building a new ship. They suggested breaking it up, which provoked a campaign by interested parties, including a group from Sunderland, to save the ship.

In 2010 the Scottish Government announced the ship would not be dismantled, and that Adelaide had been identified as a preferred bidder. Engineers in Australia constructed a 100 tonne cradle, costing £680,000, which has now arrived in Irvine. The clipper ship will be transported on a lift ship to become the centrepiece of a maritime heritage display in Port Adelaide. (ef: SMH 24-25 March 2012, Guardian News & Media)

## EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| January 1   | Maryborough Highland Gathering, Princes Park Maryborough, Victoria              |
| January 25  | Burns Anniversary   |
| January 25  | St Andrew's Society of Western Australia Burns Supper, WA                       |
| January 26  | Australia Day Celtic Festival, Bradfield Park, Milson's Point, NSW              |
| February 9  | Inaugural Bendigo Scots Day Out, Rosalind Park, Bendigo, VIC                    |
| February 17 | Mt Barker Highland Gathering, Mount Barker Oval, Mt Barker, SA                  |
| March 3     | Geelong Gathering, Deakin University, 75 Pigdon's Rd, Waurn Ponds, Geelong, VIC |
| April 6     | Bundanoon Highland Gathering, Bundanoon, NSW                                    |
| April 14    | Ringwood Highland Gathering, VIC  |
| May 2-5     | Glen Innes Celtic Festival, Glen Innes, NSW                                     |



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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.





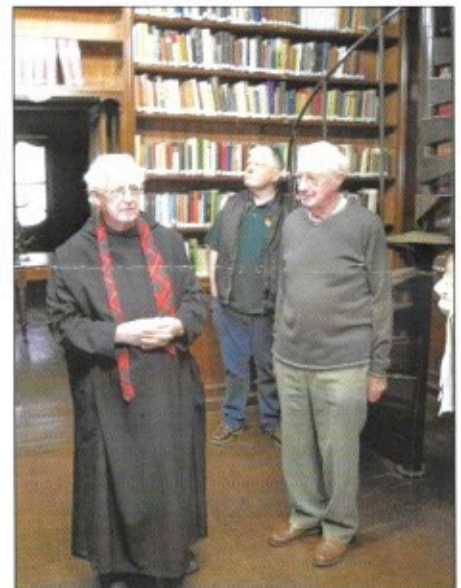
The menu behind a glass of Trevor McPhee's Atholl Brose at the BGM Dinner



Family reunion: The family of Bern & Iris McPhee. Iris in the middle, is the elder of the family. Society members in the photo include Iris holding the little girl, & Glen McPhee's brother Kevin with the beard and glasses. Story page 5



BGM Dinner L to R: Trevor McPhee, Joan Read, Ian McPhee, Jillian King, Bonnie Hull & Kay Brown, all descendants of 1852 Marmion emigrants Donald & Mary (nee McInnes) McPhee



New Norcia Library: Father Anscar, Morris McPhee & Bruce McPhie



At the home of Trevor & Rhonda McPhee, L to R: Robyn, Rhonda, Morris, Ruth & Geoff - all McPhees.



At the BGM Dinner, held at Karrinyup, in Perth, L to R Western Australian members: Margaret McPhee, Trevor McPhee & Jillian King