



# THE DOWNUNDER

Journal of the  
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 125  
July 2013



**Colonsay**

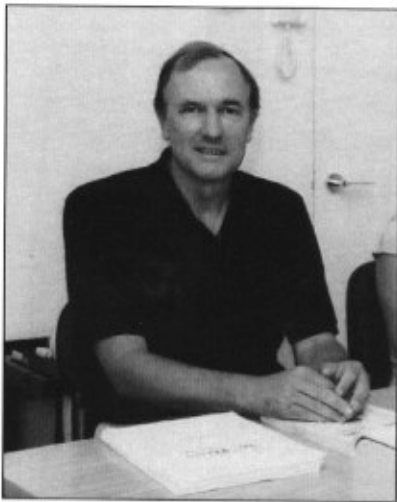


**Ancestral home  
of Clan Macfie**

**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

Its a funny thing, it never rains it just pours. Over the past few years there haven't been many new office bearer's for the Society. That has just changed. I thank all those who are retiring from office for their contribution, and extend a warm welcome to the members who have been prepared to volunteer their services to our organisation.

The position of Society piper has been vacant for some time which has now been filled by Michael Phee. For health reasons, ACT Vice-President Gwen Hubert was forced to step down and has been replaced by Heather Groves. Lyndsay Armstrong has relinquished the position of secretary and will be replaced by Robyn McPhee. Clan historian Jan Harper from Victoria has stepped down and will be replaced by Past President Bernie McPhee. The position of Tasmanian Vice President is now the only position vacant. Our current treasurer Geoff

McPhee is battling on despite a number of difficulties, including his own ill-health. It would be greatly appreciated if someone would come forward to relieve him of the treasury duties. Similarly, any offer to take over my role as the editor of The Downunder would be welcome and accepted. Sometimes a new approach or a new talent is needed to keep an organisation healthy.

I would like to thank all those people who have sent in subscriptions with supportive notes and comments, they are greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, receiving that feedback is one of the casualties when members renew their subscriptions over the internet. A good example was a note I received recently from Betty Garrad of Nambour in QLD. After Betty reads The Downunder, she passes it on to her local family history society. What a lovely gesture.

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## Heraldry Insight

**The Banner** (ref: The Science of Heraldry by T. Innes)

The banner is a square flag, showing the same arms as the shield, or, the surcoat and covers the whole surface of the flag. The earliest banners, however, were not square but rectangular, the width being only one-half or two-thirds of the height. This shape was more effective for heraldic display. The crest, motto and supporters should not appear on the banner. In actual mediaeval warfare none below knights-banneret and (feudal) barons displayed the square banner. Other notables used and can still only use this 'upright' banner'. A rectangular banner always had been, and still is, recognised as the proper form of displaying arms on a 'house flag' where the occupant is armigerous and aspires to a more personal display than the Scottish National Flag (St. Andrew's Cross). The best known example of the banner in Scotland is the banner of the King of Scots ( 'the ruddy lion ramping in his field of tressured gold'). Technically banners have the following sizes:

<u>Scottish Banners Rank</u>	<u>Banner Size</u>
The Sovereign	1.50 metres square
Dukes	1.25 metres square
Earls	1.10 metres square
Viscounts and Barons	1.00 metres square
Baronets & other Armigers	1.00 metres square

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**Front Cover:** A standing stone on Colonsay, with a view of the waterway called The Strand



# MEMBERS IN PROFILE

## New Life Member

**VIC member:** Bernie McPhee (V75-118)

**Migrant forebears:** John McPhee and children Margaret 22, Alexander 20, John 18, Ann 16, Isabella 14, Robert 10 and Archibald 8

**Occupation:** shepherd

**Home in Scotland:** 'Killiechonate', Inverloch Estate, Inverness Shire

**Emigrant Ship:** Childe Harold

**Arrived Australia:** from Liverpool, Geelong 16th June 1853

**Pioneering forebears:** John McPhee and Bridget Loney



**Member's story in brief:** Bernie's grandparents John and Bridget (nee Loney) McPhee farmed in Victoria's Wimmera, near Horsham. They had 12 children; John 1864, Charlotte 1866, Catherine 1868, Archibald 1870, James 1872, Mary Ellen 1876, Robert 1877, Alice 1880, Emily 1882, Janie 1885, Margaret & Hector 1887.

Hector is Bernie's father. He married Catherine (Katie) Liston in April 1919 at Beulah. They farmed at Pullet and then Yaapeet in Victoria until 1935, when the Depression and drought forced them off the land. By then they had 7 children, Jack born 1920, James 1922, Rowley 1924, Marie 1926, Catherine 1928, Michael 1931 and Robert 1934; 3 baby boys had also died. The family then moved into Beulah where Hector built a shop and started a wool/skin buying business. At Beulah 2 more boys were born, Bernie 1936 & Leo Patrick 1939. About 1940, Hector sold up and moved the family to Mont Albert in Melbourne.

Bernie attended Our Holy Redeemer Catholic Primary School at Surrey Hills and then St. Colman's ('scholarship') School in North Fitzroy where students were tutored to win the Junior Government Scholarship at the end of year 1. From there Bernie went to CBC 'Parade', opting out in 1951 after year 7. He then worked at two branches of the State Saving Bank of Victoria for 4 years between 1952 and 1955. With a desire to serve God, and his brother Michael already in the Carmelite order, saw Bernie at the Carmelite Theological College in 1956. Bernie was ordained as a priest in 1964.

Studying full time at university Between 1965 and 1968 Bernie worked as an assistant priest at Middle Park and Port Melbourne until he obtained his bachelor of arts and education degrees. He then moved to Winston Hills in Sydney for 3 years to work as the Director of Vocations for the Carmelite Order and National Director of the Third Order of Carmelites. It was then back to Victoria for a teaching position at the church's Whitefriars College, Donvale where he was Headmaster between 1972 and 1976. While headmaster, he was a member of the Headmasters Conference of The Independent Schools of Australia. After Whitefriars, Bernie worked until 1980 in the Catholic Education Office of Victoria where he was also on the executive of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria and a representative on the Planning and Finance Committee of the Schools Commission. In 1981 he was acting principal of St. Ann's College at Warrnambool and in 1982, acting principal at 'St. Martin in the Pines' girls boarding school. In 1983 he resumed studies in the USA spending a year at the Western School of Theology in Boston and at the University of San Francisco in 1984. Completing his studies, Bernie then took a sojourn to Scotland where he visited Lochaber and met the MacDonells of Keppoch historian, Ann MacDonell. His love of family and Scottish history grew after that visit. Back in Australia, Bernie spent 3 years as the principal of Sacred Heart College at New Town, near Hobart, a Sisters of Saint Joseph school founded by Mary MacKillop.

After 36 years of service Bernie left the Carmelite order in 1990. He continued to teach in Victoria at Mary MacKillop College in Leongatha, the Catholic Regional College at Sydenham and the Killester College Springvale until he retired in 2001 when he turned 65. Bernie has written numerous publications including a 220 page novel in 2004 called 'Defection Memoir', a special edition of the magazine Nubecula called the 'Silver Jubilee of Whitefriars Monastery' and several works on family history. He is a member of the 'Port Phillip Pioneers Group' of the Genealogical Society of Victoria. In 1983, Bernie attended a Macfie Clan Gathering in Nova Scotia run by Sylvia McPhee. He has been a Society member since 1975, a past president, is an excellent historian and continues to be a regular contributor to the The Downunder.

# GENERAL NEWS

## New Member

A warm welcome to the following new members:  
W-1090 Jacque Van Buren Scarborough WA

**Correction:** In the last issue, Vanessa Warne and John Moore were incorrectly given member numbers starting with N instead of S.

## Donations

Many thanks to the following members for their generous donation made to the Society and the Clan. Those donations, banked between the beginning of January and the end of July 2013, are an essential part of our funding and greatly appreciated.

Ian McPhee	Scullin	ACT
Bruce Agland	Clarence Town	NSW
Lyndsay Armstrong	Rose Bay	NSW
Margaret Barnes	Drummoyne	NSW
Marelle Lee	Lennox Head	NSW
Andrew McPhee	Baulkham Hills	NSW
Barbara McPhee	Kurri Kurri	NSW
Dr Ian Ross	Kingscliff	NSW
Joyce McPhee	Bonnells Bay	NSW
Marion McPhee	Maroubra	NSW
Nathan McPhee	Cooranbong	NSW
Beryl McPhee	Nowra	NSW
Andrew Pardoe	Bundanoon	NSW
Clyde Smythe	Turrumurra	NSW
Bruce Taylor	Yagoona	NSW
Linda Waddington	Belmore South	NSW
Betty Garrard	Palmwoods	QLD
Jenny Hutchins	Carindale	QLD
Heather Knowles	Albany Creek	QLD
Donald Knowles	Yepoon	QLD
Lorna Lansdowne	Wishart	QLD
Robert Lansdowne	Wishart	QLD
Sally Melick	Cleveland	QLD
Dr. Ewen McPhee	Emerald	QLD
Duncan McPhee	Brookfield	QLD
Lorraine McPhee	Toowoomba	QLD
Neville McPhee	Victoria Point	QLD
Dale McPhie	Woody Point	QLD
Helen McPhie	Eagle Heights	QLD
Dorothy Murphy	Currumbin	QLD
Helen Rice	Buderim	QLD
Jean Rushbrooke	Eagle heights	QLD
Ian McPhee	Kidman Park	SA
Iris Beavis	Bunyip	VIC
Patricia Chapman	Croydon	VIC
Jan Harper	Port Melbourne	VIC
Kim Duffie	Milford Grange	VIC
Peter McPhee	Abbotsford	VIC
Peter McPhee	Nunawading	VIC

Simon McPhee	Narre Warren	VIC
Donald McPhie	Nilma North	VIC
Julie Peters	Port Melbourne	VIC
Dane Rutledge	Doncaster East	VIC
Norma Dunn	Dunsborough	VIC
Fr. Anscar McPhee	New Norcia	WA
Margaret McPhee	Nedlands	WA

## New Society Piper

It is great news that new member Michael Phee from Gorokon NSW has become the Society's official piper. Michael is well qualified for the job because he not only plays the pipes, but is a bag-pipe manufacturer with his own brand. To boot he is also from Scotland. Congratulations Michael, the Society looks forward to hearing from you - literally.

## Glen McPhee in NZ

Congratulations to former ACT Vice President and former editor of The Downunder, Glen McPhee who has been elected as the President of the Macfie Clan Society of New Zealand. Although Glen and his wife Glenda moved to New Zealand a few years ago to be near their daughter, both have maintained their long held membership of our Society.

## Secretarial Change

Secretary Lyndsay Armstrong has stepped down from her position as secretary of the Society. Her position will be filled by Robyn McPhee. Robyn is the wife of NSW Vice President Morris McPhee. Thank you to Lyndsay for your contribution and welcome Robyn.

## ACT VP

As mentioned in the last issue of The Downunder, ACT Vice-President Gwen Hubert is currently undergoing treatment for cancer. It is wonderful to report that Gwen is responding well to treatment and improving as the days go by.

ACT member Heather Groves has stepped forward to take over as the new representative for the ACT. Heather is a former school teacher and is keen to participate in all the Society's activities. To Heather we extend a warm welcome.

## In Memoriam

Long term member Betty Hasting (N75-102) from Bella Vista in NSW, died in November 2012. Betty had been a member of the Society for 36 years.

# Clan Macfie News No 65

from Clan Commander (Ceann Cath) Iain McFie

## The Clan Macfie Tartans

Buying your kilt is a big step. It is expensive, so get it right the first time. There is the initial problem of deciding which of your Clan's tartans you wish to wear -- that is, if your Clan has more than one tartan. I recognize three tartans as Macfie. All have the same thread and colour count. What makes them different is the shading of the colours. We have the Ancient, the Modern and the Muted/Weathered. Which one you choose to wear is your preference. There are also two others that are semi-recognised as Macfie -- the Funeral black and white, and the black and white with the yellow over-stripe. Both these tartans have the Macfie name attached to them, but neither matches the thread or colour count. (NB the tartans referred to in this article can be seen on the back page).

The kilt is a very smart form of dress if worn correctly, and it is suitable for all occasions. Your kilt should be set around your waist, and if wearing a belt, it should act as the equator between the kilt and your shirt. In other words, the top of your belt should be in line with the top of your kilt. The straps of your Sporrán (a pouch made of leather or fur that performs as a pocket or wallet in the pocketless kilt) should be hidden between kilt and belt. Seen from the back, only your belt appears. In other words, you put your sporrán on first and the belt overlays it at the back. If you wish to appear neat, the length of the kilt is also important. The bottom hem should never be lower than mid-knee, but is thought nowadays to be set between an inch and two inches above mid knee.

## A Compilation of MacFie Bagpipe Music, by Robert McFie

Our own Bob McFie, Clan Piper and Master of the Art, has completed an important addition to the pipe music repertoire. All compositions are by or about Macfies, and, of course, it includes original compositions by Bob the Pipe Master, himself.

### Where to Find a Copy:

Donald McPhee, owner of **Kilts and More**, in Muelhausen, Germany, has arranged printing and distribution of this important addition to pipe music. It's now available in their online catalogue at: [www.kiltsandmore.de](http://www.kiltsandmore.de), click on "Bagpipe Music" on the links on the left hand side. By the way, even if you're not a piper, Kilts and More is a wonderful site to visit. They carry an amazing array of everything Scots, including Macfie tartans, etc.) Many thanks to Bob, and also to Donald McPhee, for taking the initiative in project to life and making the music available to pipers everywhere!



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## AOM for Jan Harper

Victorian Society member Jan Harper is a sociologist, a feminist and an equal opportunity practitioner. She was awarded the OAM in the Queen's Birthday Honours for service to the community through the promotion of equal opportunities for women.

Jan's focus has been on social and cultural change for women. She actively participated in the Women's Movement, and was a founding member of the Women's Electoral Lobby, where she concentrated on girl's education. She jointly founded the Women's Movement Children's Literature Cooperative in 1972, which for over a decade wrote and published a total of 60 non-sexist books for children, and promoted the Cooperative's work in schools, with children's librarians, publishers, parents and in the press. She undertook research for the Royal Commission on Human Relationships, which led to the publication of "Mothers and Working Mothers" and "Fathers at Home". Following other free-lance research, she was responsible for the de-institutionalisation of St Nicholas Hospital in Carlton, in which the 100 intellectually disabled, multiply-handicapped young residents were placed in 23 group homes in the community.

In 1985 she was appointed the first Equal Opportunity Officer at the University of Melbourne, where she focussed on social and cultural change in a university setting. During her ten years there she tackled discriminatory practices, fostered women's advancement through programs assisting them to clear the academic hurdles through training and mentoring, and encouraged all staff towards providing a gender-inclusive curriculum in their teaching. Following retirement, she developed a number of mentor schemes for women at Monash University.



# GENEALOGY

## Skye Reunion & the Macfie Clan AGM

from Karen Law, San Remo NSW

In 1905 my great-grandfather Alistair (Sandy) MacPhee, together with 4 children emigrated to Australia, settling in Townsville Qld. His brother Angus and his family remained on Skye. My grandfather moved to Sydney and married a girl from Waterford in Ireland and they had four daughters.

Whilst I was growing up I knew that my grandfather came from Scotland but did not know from which part. In the late 1990's Angus MacPhee's grandson, the late Angus Macphee from Scotland, was researching his family tree. He knew that there was a "Lost Banch " living in Australia. He and his wife Iona made a visit to Townsville, Australia, where he researched local school records and found the names of two MacPhee girls. He assumed that these girls would have been the grand-daughters of Alistair MacPhee. He managed to find and get in touch with an old school friend of Billy Kear (Sandy's grandson). This friend was able to put Angus MacPhee in touch with Billy Kear's sister Betty Fitzgerald in Brisbane.

Betty gave Angus the phone number of Mary MacPhee (my mother's sister) also in Brisbane, Angus and Iona paid her a visit where Mary was able to fill him in on the "Lost Branch". In 2011 after my mother Catherine (Sandy's eldest grand-daughter) passed away, I wrote to inform one of her cousins of her passing. From this contact I was given other family members' names.

In 2012, whilst my daughter, sister and I were visiting Skye, we met some MacPhee cousins. From this meeting we planned to hold a family reunion in Harlosh where most of the family had lived or are still living. In May 2013, my daughter and I travelled to Harlosh to attend this gathering. The family reunion was planned to coincide with the Clan MacFie Society of Scotland AGM and dinner which was held on Skye on 18th May, 2013.

The late Angus MacPhee spent many years writing a book about Harlosh called *Harlosh - A Rock and a Flame*, which is an account of the life of an island family from the late 19th century until the last decade of the 20th century. It is a shame he did not get to see the finished product. It is thanks to Angus coming to Australia to look for my mother and her sisters that we have been able to meet our long lost family. Moira and a few of the other cousins managed to have the book published in time to coincide with the MacPhee family gathering in Harlosh. My cousins Ian MacPhee, Moira Campbell (nee MacPhee), my daughter Jodi Burnham and myself also attended the Clan Macfie Society's AGM. Once the meeting ended we had a chance to meet the Clan Chief Iain Macfie and his wife Fiona along with a few others. Several members of the Clan MacFie Society purchased a copy of the book.

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## Harlosh and the Isle of Skye

### Harlosh

Situated at the end of a narrow peninsula between Lochs Caroy and Bharcasaig (both of which are arms of Loch Bracadale), Harlosh is a settlement some 7 kilometres from the village of Dunvegan on a peninsula of the same name on the Isle of Skye. Harlosh Island and Tarner Island lie just offshore, with Wiay some 3 kilometres distant to the south. The name "Harlosh" is of Old Norse origin and may refer to a river mouth, although the meaning is not clear.

Harlosh is home to the Isle of Skye Fudge Company and the Ben Aketil wind farm is situated between Harlosh and Edinbane in the hills beyond Upper Feorlig. The Isle of Skye is littered with prehistoric monuments, some dating from around 4200 BC and Harlosh has examples of this ancient occupation. The oldest of these are the chambered cairns, while the most evocative are the brochs or duns. The ruins of Dun Feorlig broch are just to the north-east along the shores of Loch Caroy. This Iron Age structure has an external diameter of 16.3 metres and there is little trace of the building except for part of the foundation course. It sits on an elevated rock separated from the surrounding area by a deep hollow that was probably excavated. Dun Reil is a structure of a similar antiquity to the south of Harlosh, beyond Camus Ban.

## Chambered Cairns

Chambered cairns were tombs built by Neolithic peoples [c.4500-2100 BC]. Archaeology has found that the bones inside the cairns were not together as whole skeletons, but separated and placed in set areas of the cairn: e.g. all the skulls in one area. This means that Neolithic people did not bury their dead, but practised exhumation, leaving the body in a special place to rot before carefully placing the bones in the cairn. Some cairns do have articulated burials in them, but these are from later peoples who reused the tombs. They are known as Beaker people due to the pottery beakers found with the skeletons.

## Brochs

The Iron Age in Scotland is most commonly associated with brochs and duns, more recently termed "Atlantic roundhouses". They are massive, drystone-built, circular or almost circular structures that are found only in northern and western Scotland. They vary considerably in date, architectural design and complexity, diameter and height, and quality of preservation. The best known example of this broad range of Atlantic roundhouses is the "broch tower". Broch towers are the most complex and spectacular of the roundhouse tradition. There are many remains of roundhouses in northern and western Scotland and they can be identified by the Gaelic word "Dun": e.g. Dun Beag, Dun Neill.

Brochs were traditionally seen as defensive in function, however research has shown that it was not the only reason for their construction. On Skye, most are not in the best defensive positions nor do they enclose large enough areas to defend animals and possessions, suggesting that defence was not of key importance. The Skye brochs occur mainly in the north of the island. This may be due to a lack of intensive survey in the south, but may also be due to the greater availability of agricultural land in the north.

Excavations in the Hebrides have shown that brochs were basically farmhouses. Studies of the broch towers at Glenelg suggest that the ground floor may have been used for storage or sheltering animals, while the first floor was the living area. Very little excavation of these sites has been undertaken on Skye, so there is still some debate as to their function and dates.

## Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

As reported on the previous page, the Macfie Clan Society of Scotland had its Annual General Meeting on 18th May. It was held at the Gaelic College of Sabhal Mor Ostaig (pronounced Soll More Ostaig), pictured below, on the Isle of Skye. What a wonderful location to hold an AGM.

Sabhal Mor Ostaig is a college whose medium of instruction is the Scottish Gaelic language. It is located about 3 kilometres north of Armadale on the Sleat Peninsula of the Isle of Skye in north-western Scotland. It is part of the University of the Highlands and Islands and also has a campus on Islay known as *Ionad Chalum Chille Ìle*. It is one of the "cornerstones" of the university and a main economic driver of South Skye.

The college was founded in 1973 at Ostaig Farm Square, by local entrepreneur Sir Iain Noble. The literal translation of the name *Sabhal Mòr Ostaig* is "the great barn of Ostaig", referring to the original building erected by Major Allan MacDonald of Belfinlay during his tenancy of Ostaig arm in about 1820.



In its first year it offered a Business and Highland studies course in Gaelic, to which 7 students attended. It was ten years before the college had its first full-time student. Renowned Gaelic poet Sorley MacLean was amongst its early board members. The first full-time Director of the college was Isle of Raasay-born Gaelic scholar Farquhar MacLennan who assumed the role in 1976.

From 2002 the college offered bachelor degrees as a constituent college of UHI Millennium Institute and its successor the University of the Highlands and Islands. The college is the venue for the annual Sabhal Mòr Lectures, and students of Gaelic travel from all over the world to attend. The college has about 100 full-time students, 160 distance-learning students and 900 attending short summer courses related to Gaelic language and culture.

# McPhee of Lochaber and the Lords of the Isles

## Editor's Note

The McPhees, like the members of other island clans, lived across the Western Isles, Western Highlands and other parts of Scotland. From the earliest of times, as families expanded, clan members moved to the mainland and nearby islands. This was not unusual considering the limited size of Colonsay. However Colonsay was always regarded as the main home area, not only because many clan families lived there but the clan chief usually also resided there - the seat of power if you like.

The Lochaber area, radiating from the main centre of Fort William, situated at the southern end of the Great Glen and within the shire of Inverness, was home to many McPhee families. Lochaber can best be described as that area bounded in the north by the northern hills of Loch Arkaig, on the east by Loch Treig, on the south by Loch Leven and on the west by Glenfinnan. The area was the ancestral home of the Camerons, a strong clan, and many of the McPhees lent their support to them.

In the following article, our Society's Past President, Bernie McPhee, explains the significance of Lochaber to Clan Macfie. Not only did clansmen live in Lochaber long before the Clan's last chief was murdered on Colonsay in 1623, but some from that area married into the aristocracy, which indicates the clan and its members were highly regarded by the powerful MacDonalds and Camerons.

Bernie has always had a strong interest in the McPhees from Lochaber. That is not surprising considering his family originated from there. Is there a connection to the nobility? Its a tantalising thought for Bernie.

## From Bernie McPhee

A number of historians give the impression that people called McPhee appeared in Lochaber Scotland only after 1623, when they were running away from the troubles in Colonsay. This is far from the full story. Not only were there people called McPhee in Lochaber for hundreds of years before this date of 1623, but they were of the contemporary society's highest rank who twice married into the family of the Lords of the Isles, and who once took their McPhee blood by marriage (of a McPhee grandchild) into the earliest Locheil Cameron family, that family which was just taking its formative and Lordly shape in the middle of the 15th Century.

And by the way, the Lochaber name was always spelt 'McPhee'.

So, relying upon, and starting from, the work of the late Josephine MacDonell of Spean Bridge Lochaber who was writing in 1931, I have prepared a simplified MacDonald genealogy, showing how McPhees are intimately involved with those same MacDonalds, and with the Camerons too.

## Starting with Somerled

Somerled 1140 was succeeded by Reginald 1211, then Donald 1289 then Angus Mor who died in 1334.

This Angus Mor was the first MacDonald, says Rev Archibald MacDonald. He was followed by Angus Og 1329 who received the Lordship of Lochaber after the Battle of Bannockburn 1314, as well as the lands of Morvern and Ardnamurchan, previously owned by the MacDougalls who had sided with Comyn against the King. It was always a danger in those days of picking the wrong side to win. It is understood that McPhee was sent from Islay at this time to hold safe the Lochaber lands for MacDonald.

**John Lord of the Isles. 1329 – 1380** The main seat of MacDonald Rule was Islay. It was probably John, Lord of the Isles who appointed a **McPhee** as hereditary Keeper of the Records to the Lord of the Isles. Therefore when there was a solemn ceremony of anointing of a new Lord of the Isles, in front of the anointing Bishop of Argyll and seven priests, and in front of all the heads of tribes, and in front of the vassals and main chiefs of MacDonald, **McPhee**, in his special role as the Keeper of the Records, and acting as ORATOR, would read out the catalogue of the New Lord's ancestors. **McPhee** as ORATOR and as Keeper of the Records would be a witness to the sword of his father being placed in hand of the newly anointed Lord, and a witness to the new Lord of the Isles swearing to continue his vassals in possession of their lands and to do exact justice to all his subjects. (Martin told us all about this about 1700). John had two marriages:



**First Marriage** was to his first cousin **Annie MacRuarie**. Annie was the daughter of Roderick, and was the heiress to his extensive lands. John and Annie had two children. They inherited back the lands which their mother had brought to the wedding with John: the son Ranald (Reginald) was to become the ancestor of Clan Ranald and Glengarry. I don't know what Godfrey got out of the deal. But the family of a second marriage took precedence in regard to the other vast inheritances and titles of the great John Lord of the Isles.

**Second Marriage of John, Lord of the Isles** was to **Princess Margaret Stewart, daughter of King Robert II of Scotland**. This Second Marriage of John MacDonald to Margaret Stewart produced three children: Donald, Iain Mor and Alisdair Carragh

DONALD: 2nd Lord of the Isles, Died 1424. From whom comes the Sleat Family. Donald was the 10th Earl of Ross who married Lady Margaret Lesley, Countess of Ross whose son was **ALEXANDER MAC-DONALD**, 3rd Lord of the Isles, one of whose marriages was to the **daughter of McPHEE of LOCHABER** (Glen Pean) and they were the parents of **Celestine of Lochalsh** who never quite became the Lord of the Isles, but his family rates a mention on an IONA monument.

IAIN MOR OF ISLAY: Iain became the Lord of the Glens & Earl of Antrim in Ireland on his marriage to the Irish heiress Margery Bissett. Large Irish properties were transferred to John, Lord of the Isles, his father.

ALISDAIR CARRAGH: 1380 – 1443 Lordship of Lochaber bestowed on Carragh by his father the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord of the Isles. Alisdair Carragh married Mary, daughter of the Earl of Lennox. Alisdair Carragh became the **1st Chief of Keppoch**.

**Marriage of Alisdair Carragh the 1st Keppoch Chief to Mary Lennox**, and they had one son **ANGUS OF FERSIT** who became the **2nd Keppoch Chief**.

**Marriage of Angus of Fersit, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Keppoch Chief, to the daughter of McPhee of Glenspean, the leader of a powerful Sept of that time.**

Angus of Fersit and McPhee's daughter had three children:

DONALD MacANGUS, ALEXANDER OF THE GLENS, and MARIOTT MACDONELL

**DONALD MacANGUS, 1484 - 1496** who was the **3rd Keppoch Chief**

First child of Keppoch and daughter of McPhee of Glenspean. Donald married the daughter of Cameron of Locheil. Donald made peace with King James IV. Killed fighting against Dugald Stewart, Chief of Stewarts in Appin. Donald's son was **Iain Aluinn** who was the **4th Keppoch Chief**. But he ruled for only one year. He was deposed for acknowledging MacIntosh Lordship over Lochaber. His uncle took over as Keppoch Chief.

**ALEXANDER OF THE GLENS, 1497 – 1500** who was the **5th Keppoch Chief**

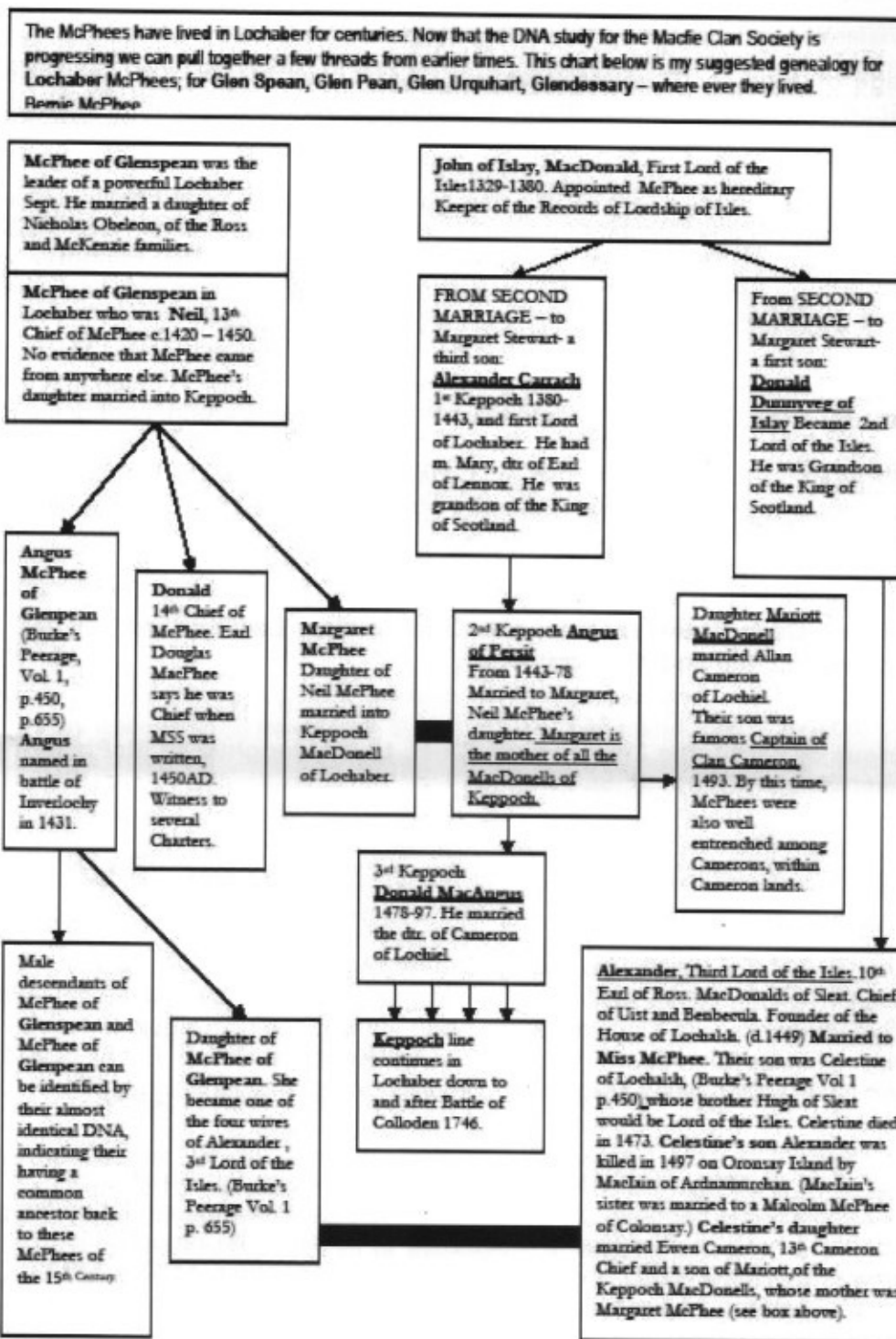
Second child of Keppoch and daughter of McPhee of Glenspean. Alexander married the daughter of Donald Gallach of Sleat, whose mother was a MacDonell of Antrim. She brought Irish Clans to Lochaber. Alexander's son was **DONALD GLAS** who was the **6th Keppoch Chief, 1500 – 1513**. Donald Glas married a daughter of Cameron of Locheil. MacIntosh invaded Lochaber. King James IV sent Alexander Gordon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Huntly to quell Lochaber. Commission of fire and sword against Keppoch. Donald Glas submitted to Huntly, and was granted some lease of Lochaber lands. But Mamore granted to Stewarts of Appin. And lands to north of Spean River granted to MacIntosh. This last grant of land began and kept alive the 250 years of unresolved tensions and hostilities between Keppoch and MacIntosh.

**MARIOT MacDONELL**

Third child and only daughter of Angus Fersit of Keppoch and daughter of McPhee of Glenspean. Mariot, **sister of the 3rd and 5th Keppoch Chiefs**, married in 1493 to Ailean nan Creach (Allan of the Forays) or, Allan Cameron of Locheil. The son of Mariot and Alan was to become the famous Alan, Captain of Clan Cameron, one of whose seven chapels of propitiation can be seen today restored and defiant at the Cemetery of **Cille Choirill** in Lochaber.

The following chart was produced by Bernie McPhee. It helps explain the relationships he mentioned in his article on the preceding pages about the McPhees from the Locaber district.

### McPhee of Lochaber, Scotland: down to today by DNA.



.....

### Sandy McPhie's notation on 'Feather' in last issue of the Downunder

"The crux of the matter is the Lord Lyon authorising me to wear three feathers as Commander, and for MY Lieutenants or Commissioners to wear two while acting on my behalf. That is, the appointments I made as Commander. I know that some Clans in Australia (and no doubt overseas) have High Commissioners or Commissioners, and even State Commissioners, appointed by their Clan Societies and, unless such appointments are made by their respective Clan Chiefs I would question whether they should wear any feathers at all unless an armiger in their own right. A delicate point, I know, in some instances and one which should probably be ignored apart from ensuring we do the right thing".

# Scottish Sword Dancing

The sword dance is known as the Ghillie Callum.

History: The Sword Dance is one of the oldest of the Highland dances. Apparently the earliest reference to sword dancing in Scotland, is its mention in a document called the Scotichronicon.

The Scotichronicon is a chronicle or legendary account compiled in the 1440s, by the Scottish historian Abbot Walter Bower. Walter Bower, (c. 1385 – 1449), was born at Haddington in East Lothian, and became a canon regular in 1417 of Inchcolm Abbey, located on an island in the Firth of Forth.

The Scotichronicon is a continuation of an earlier work by historian-priest John of Fordun. The National Library of Scotland has called it probably the most important mediaeval account of early Scottish history, noting that it provides both a strong expression of national identity and a window into the world view of mediaeval commentators.

Highland dances such as sword dancing were originally highly athletic male dances of triumph, joy and other reflections of emotion. Sometimes they were performed with shouting, vigorous arm movements and flourishes with the bonnet. Competitive Highland dancing as we know it, began during the revival of interest in Highland culture during the 1800s and it was after that women first began competing. The Sword Dance was included in the St. Fillan's Society Games in 1819, possibly the first time it was danced competitively.

The Legend: Tradition has it that the Ghillie Callum can be traced back to Malcolm III of Scotland, known as Malcolm Canmore. Malcolm's father, King Duncan I (1034-1040), was killed by his rival claimant to the throne Macbeth in 1040. Malcolm Canmore fled to England where he took refuge with his uncle. He later returned to Scotland and after defeating Macbeth in the Battle of Lumphanan in 1057, killed him. It was after he slew Macbeth, it is said Malcolm crossed his bloody sword with that of Macbeth's, and danced in triumph. Thus the sword dance was born. Soon after Macbeth's death, his stepson Lulach 'the fool' (1057-1058) became the ruler for a short time, until he also was killed by Malcolm Canmore who then became the King of Scotland (1058-1093).

Dance Performance: Highland sword dancing requires great skill. It portrays the agility of the dancer over the sharp edges of the sword by skilful crossing and re-crossing with intricate steps and perfect balance. The feet must be placed close to the swords, but must never touch them. The opening step travels around the outside of the crossed swords, the remainder of the dance being performed inside, over and around the centre crossing. Each quarter step must be repeated with progression anti-clockwise. All movements in, over and across the swords must be evenly spaced. In Side and Forward Crossing and Spring Points, the working leg is held straight in open positions. In turning over the swords, the knees will be slightly flexed in open positions.

The dance is performed to its own traditional tune called Ghillie Callum but is performed in two tempos, the dancer signalling for the change in tempo by clapping during the last four counts of the last slow time step. It culminates with the dancer's complete disregard for the edges of the double sided broadswords as it is finished in quick time.

Competition: In competition, dancers are judged on three elements: timing, technique and general deportment. Timing is the dancer's ability to follow the rhythm of the music. Technique concerns the dancer's footwork and the coordination of head, arms and hands. Good positioning of the feet is most important. General Department concerns the dancer's interpretation and ability to capture the spirit and motif of the dance and includes balance, overall appearance, bearing and carriage of the head, arms, body and hands. Upright posture is essential, and the dancer must exhibit a happy demeanour. Although the dances are very athletic, they must be danced with seeming ease, with no signs of strain and free of elaborate showiness.





# Scotland News

## Mingary Castle Restoration

This restoration has a significance for the Macfies.

Mingary Castle is situated a mile south-east of the small village of Kilchoan. Kilchoan is a remote crofting village at the western most end of the Ardnarmurchan peninsula, a 2 hour drive west of Fort William. Its white houses are strung out like pearls around a wide bay, looking across the Sound of Mull to Tobermory. The year round population of the village usually is just over a hundred.

In times past, Mingary Castle was home to the Maclan's of Ardnarmurchan. The Maclan's were descendants of the famous 12th century warlord Somerled and closely related to the holders of the title Lord of the Isles i.e. The MacDonalds. The Maclans also had a long standing connection to the Macfie's on Colonsay.



Between 1480 and 1490 Clan chief Malcolm MacDuffie took over as leader of the Macfie's on Colonsay. As he resided in the old fort on Colonsay called Dun Evin (Evin's Fort), he became known as Lord Dun-evin. Malcolm was one of the most important leaders of the Colonsay people and was responsible for establishing the School of Monument Carving on Oronsay. The fact he was a significant leader of a highly regarded clan loyal to the MacDonalds's, is evidenced by the fact he married into the Maclan's one of the strongest clans in the Western Isles. Malcolm was married to Mariota, a sister of John Maclan of Ardnarmurchan.

King James VI had the Lord of the Isles title abolished in 1493 under the Act of Forfeiture. Following that act, control of Colonsay and other MacDonald territories was transferred to the Crown and later to the Campbells. It was after the Act of Forfeiture that a number of Macfies relocated to Maclan's of Ardnarmurchan territory in Lochaber. The exact reason for the movement of the Colonsay people is not known

Work is underway on a project to save Mingary Castle, Scotland's best-preserved 13th Century castle. It is believed that the castle has not been inhabited, or been renovated in over 150 years. Donald Houston, owner of the Ardnarmurchan Estate which includes the castle, has undertaken the renovation task. The castle restoration has been boosted by the backing of Historic Scotland, in addition to already having charitable status.

Whilst no long term plans for the sight have been confirmed, it is thought that future uses may include luxury housing or a visitor centre. An Edinburgh based archaeological team have commenced excavation on parts of the castle in order to preserve any artefacts, and have already unearthed pieces of leather and a mediaeval bucket in the castle's moat.

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## Bagpipe Warning

"Glasgow's renowned College of Piping has issued a warning to bagpipe players everywhere to clean their instruments regularly, after an elderly Glaswegian piper developed pneumonia from two types of fungi—*rhodotorula* and *fusarium*—that had taken hold inside his pagpipes, reports London's Telegraph. The 77 year old confessed he had not cleaned his bagpipes for about 18 months. A case of bagpipe related pneumonia was described in The Lancet in 1978."

Ref: SMH 28/3/2013, pulse section page 3

## Clan Parliament

The following are details for the forthcoming Clan Parliament and Clan Gathering to be held in September this year at Dumfries in Scotland. Information can be obtained via the Clan Macfie Society web page. The programme is as follows:

### Tuesday 3rd

1900 An informal get together at the Bruce Public House Dumfries

### Wednesday 4th

1400 Registration at The Cairndale Hotel  
1800 Clan Commander's reception at the Cairndale Hotel  
1930 Dinner, Cairndale Hotel  
2030 Socialising with other clans folk

### Thursday 5th

0900 Opening of Parliament, Cairndale Hotel  
1230 Visit to the Steamboat Inn at Carsethorn, John Paul Jones Cottage and village of New Abbey  
1930 Dinner, Cairndale Hotel  
2030 Scottish music and entertainment at the Cairndale Hotel

### Friday 6th

0900 A visit to the Lake District, Hadrian's Wall and Gretna Green  
1930 Dinner at the Cairndale Hotel  
2030 Talk on Robert Burns at Cairndale Hotel

### Saturday 7th

0900 Clan Parliament  
1345 A visit to Ellisand, the farm worked by Robert Burns; or, a range excursion to Crockford to see and experience old Scottish firearms  
1900 Clan Dinner.

### Sunday 8th

0900 Religious service at the Cairndale Hotel  
1000 Travel to Oban, then by ferry to Colonsay

### Monday 9th

Sights of Colonsay and or Oronsay

### Tuesday 10th

Sights of Colonsay and or Oronsay

### Wednesday 11th

Depart Colonsay by ferry and return to Oban

## EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

Aug 18 Beechworth Celtic Festival, Amulet Vineyard, Beechworth, VIC  
Aug 31 Gathering of the Clans, Norah Head Sports Ground, NSW  
Sept 3-11 Clan Gathering in Scotland  
Sept 21 Clans on the Coast Festival, Tomaree No 1 Sports Ground Nelson Bay, NSW  
Oct 12 Canberra Highland Gathering, Kambah Oval, Kent St, Kambah, ACT  
Nov 3 Castle Hill Highland Gathering, Castle Hill Showground, NSW  
Nov 30 St. Andrew's Day  
Dec 7 Daylesford Highland Gathering, Victoria Park, Daylesford, VIC

### **William Wallace Anniversary**

The 23 August 1305 was the date when William Wallace was executed in London. Wallace was captured after being betrayed by Sir John de Menteith and was later transported to London. King Edward I devised a new method of execution for one of his arch enemies, and Wallace became the first person to endure the agonies of being hanged, drawn and quartered. (ref. Scottish Banner Vol. 37 No 2)

# Financial Statement for 2012

From Treasurer Geoff McPhee

		<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
<b>Income</b>	Subscriptions	\$3,446.80	\$3,230.00
	Donations (Includes Clan & Society )	\$2,380.00	\$1,930.00
	B G M		\$1,720.00
	Interest		
		\$5,826.80	\$6,880.00
<b>Expenditure</b>	Downunder Print/Post	\$2,500.53	\$2,315.84
	Functions & Promotions	\$274.00	
	Sundry Office & Stationary	\$515.54	\$259.55
	B G M		\$2,065.21
	Public Liability Insurance	\$288.45	\$166.00
	Bank Fees	\$166.00	\$143.05
	Subs, to Scottish House		\$30.00
	Clan Levy		
		\$3,744.52	\$4,979.65
<b>Surplus/(Defecit)</b>		\$2,082.28	\$1,900.35
Opening Cash Book		\$5,356.45	\$7,438.73
Closing Cash Book		\$7,438.73	\$9,339.08
<b>Total Cash at Bank</b>		<b>\$7,438.73</b>	<b>\$9,339.08</b>
Term Deposits		\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$19,438.73</b>	<b>\$21,339.08</b>
<b>Members Funds</b>	<b>Balance 01 January 2012</b>	\$10,979.28	\$19,438.73
	Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	\$2,082.28	\$1,900.35
	Transfer of Funds	\$6,377.17	
		\$8,459.45	\$1,900.35
	<b>Balance 31 December 2012</b>	<b>\$19,438.73</b>	<b>\$21,339.08</b>

## Account Notes

1. Society subscriptions for 2012, include \$210.00 paid in advance.
2. The Society's term deposit is held with the Commonwealth Bank and matures on 25th May 2014
3. For simplicity, funds previously classified as trust funds, Society travel fund and standing stone account have been re-classified as member funds.



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\* Denotes Macfie Clan Society of Australia Executive

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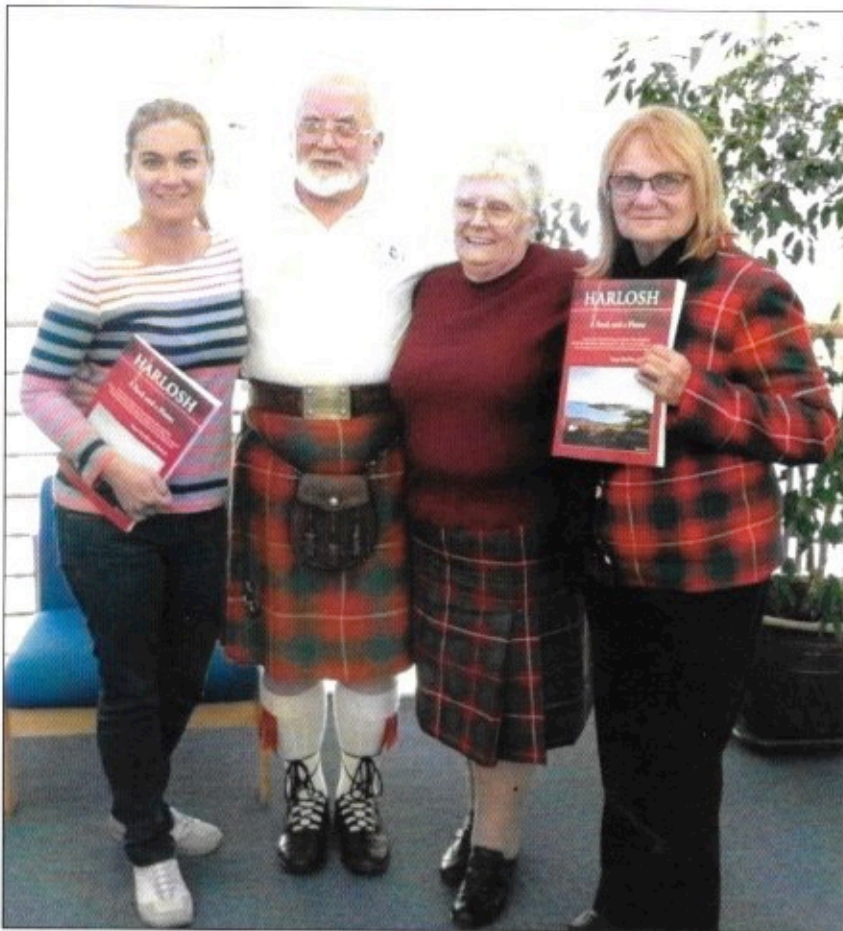
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## Disclaimer & Note

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.



From Left: Jodi Burnham, Clan Commander Iain McFie, wearing an ancient Macfie tartan kilt, his wife Fiona wearing a muted or weathered Macfie tartan skirt and Jodi's mother Karen Law, wearing a modern Macfie tartan jacket at the Macfie Clan Society (Scotland) AGM on the Isle of Skye. For the story see page 6



Victorian Society member Jan Harper was recently awarded an AOM. For the story see page 5

**President's Note on Tartan**

Until 2009, the ancient & modern were the only two recognised Macfie Clan tartans. The muted, a lovely colour, is now also recognised by the Clan Commander as a clan tartan. For the story see page 5

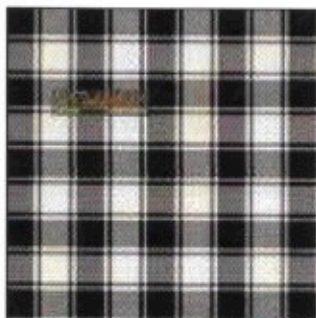
At the 2009 Clan Parliament in Scotland, I opposed the adoption of three additional tartans by the Clan, the only person attending to do so. (refer Downunder issue 114). My view concerning an expanded tartan range for the clan has not changed.



**Macfie ancient tartan**



**Macfie modern tartan**



**'Semi-recognised' Macfie funeral tartan**



**'Semi-recognised' Macfie dress tartan**



**Macfie muted or Weathered tartan**