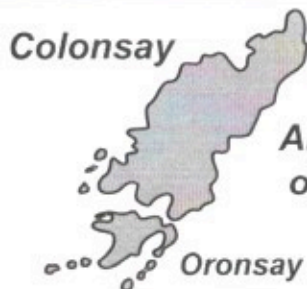




THE DOWNUNDER

Journal of the
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 127
JUNE 2014



Ancestral home
of Clan Macfie

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

www.clanmacfie.co.uk

Acting President's Message



Although proud to be able to carry out the role of Clan President while Ian gets through this difficult personal time for him, I will be more than pleased when able to hand back to him, because it will mean that Ian has got through this period and regained full health.

During my period as Acting President the most important item on the Clan Agenda will be the visit to Australia of our new Clan Commander and his wife following their time in New Zealand, and this visit will take place during the 40th Anniversary of the Clan Macfie Society in Australia, which was founded at Richmond NSW in 1974. I understand that this will be the first time Ian and Fiona have been in Australia. They will be in Australia for only two weeks, arriving on 30th October and departing 14th November. Unfortunately this will preclude their visiting all states. It will probably mean that they will be restricted to New South Wales with a trip to Adelaide for a few days to attend the Clan Bi-Annual General Meeting, which was already planned to be held in South Australia this year, and enjoy a few days sightseeing. If it is possible we will arrange time for them in other states. Once we have their itinerary finalised we will notify all Clan members, and I would encourage all Clan members who can do so to meet with Ian and Fiona while they are in Australia.

We have been fortunate in having an Australian as our immediate past Clan Commander, with Sandy McPhie in this role for many years, but now that the Clan Commander is resident in Scotland, which some may see as being as it should be, it is fortunate that he is visiting us so soon after assuming the role. We will be endeavouring to arrive at a balance of Australian and Scottish themed activity and events while allowing Ian and Fiona some personal leisure time. If any Clan member has knowledge of any possible events happening within the first two weeks of November that they believe may be of interest to Ian and Fiona, please send the details to me at colonsay@bigpond.net.au. I cannot guarantee that they will be able to fit all these into their schedule, but the more we know about, the more diversity we can include in their Australian experience. Equally, any Clan member who may be able to have some time available to meet and be involved with Ian and Fiona during their time in Australia, please contact me.

While in the Acting President position, I trust I will be able to fulfil the Presidential role as well as Ian has for the last several years, but would appreciate the involvement, in whatever way they see fit, of as many Clan members as possible both during the Commander's visit and into the future. A Clan will only exist and grow if all members of the Clan contribute in some meaningful way to its existence. After a successful 40 years existence I look forward to a bright future for the Clan MacFie Society in Australia and the Clan around the world.

The picture above was taken in 2005 during a visit to Colonsay by my wife, Robyn, and myself.

The cairn is a memorial to Dun Eibhinn, which was a fort situated on the rocky knoll above and to the rear of the memorial. This fort was occupied by leaders of the Macfie Clan from the 13th to the 17th century.

Morrison McPhee Acting President.

In This Issue:

On the Cover & General News	P3	Scottish Diaspora Tapestry	P8
Clan Society 40th Anniversary & BGM	P4	Commander's Planned Schedule	P10
Clan Commander A Brief Introduction	P6	Office Bearers	P11
Meet your Clan Commander	P7	A MacFie Tale	P12

On the Cover

U-Sea Colonsay

Colonsay around the world

The town of Colonsay www.townofcolonsay.ca is situated in the rural municipality of Colonsay No. 342, Saskatchewan, in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. Colonsay is located on Highway 16 (the Yellowhead Highway part of the Trans-Canada Highway) running east-west in central Saskatchewan near the intersection with Highway 2.

Colonsay derived its name from the Inner Hebrides Scottish island of Colonsay. All the streets in the village are also named after islands located along the west coast of Scotland. The town has a population of around 475 having increased from around 400 in 2000.

The main economy of the area is agriculture featuring grain crops such as wheat, canola, barley, oats, rye, as well as lentils and peas. Livestock raised in the vicinity are cattle, hogs, sheep, and buffalo. The potash mine of Colonsay was first named Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, but is now named Mosaic Potash Colonsay. Potash is mined and sold to crop nutrient manufacturers for fertilizer, as well as for use as an ingredient in ice melting products and as a water softener.

The U-Sea Colonsay is a bulk cargo carrier owned by Canpotex of Canada, primarily used for the transport of potash between Canada and destinations in Asia. The ship made its maiden voyage on October 2011 from Japan to Vancouver; it is named after the Colonsay Potash Mine in Province of Saskatchewan, where some of the potash it carries originates. This ship is one of nine vessels to be built for a joint venture operated by U-SEA and Canpotex. The vessel was built by Imabari Shipbuilding in Japan, and has a tonnage capacity of 60,000 tonnes.

GENERAL NEWS

As it has taken me some time, and only with the welcome assistance of Heather and Ian, to get this issue of the Downunder out to you. I am happy to report that Ian has survived his two hospital excursions and is now recovering at home with a positive result from both procedures.

Congratulations are due to ACT member, Ian McPhee and his wife Judy on the recent celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

To add to our recent purchase of the initial larger redesigned Gonfalon, we have now received two additional new Gonfalons and the necessary mounting hardware and travel bags will soon be arranged. This will give the Clan Society three Gonfalons for use by members in any state at functions where they can be easily carried in processions or marches, or displayed at meetings or Highland Gatherings. The mounting hardware allows for carrying by hand or being statically displayed on internal or external flat hard surfaces using the demountable base, as well as on soft or sloping external surfaces using the ground spike. The two piece vertical pole allows for displaying at different heights.

OUR 40th ANNIVERSARY

On the 3rd May this year our Clan Society will celebrate its Fortieth Anniversary. It came into being at Richmond, N.S.W. when 24 of 31 Clan members approached agreed to form a Clan Society in support of Clan Macfie. Originally known as The McPhee Clan of Australia, the society name was changed several years later to The Macfie Clan Society of Australia to better reflect its status as a Clan Society and to use the officially recognised spelling of the Clan name.

Six of the twenty four Foundation Members are alive to-day with five still actively supporting the Clan and its Clan Society.

The initial impetus to establish a Clan Society in Australia was triggered by a "Letter to the Editor" which appeared in The Australian Newspaper of the 2nd April 1973. It was from a (Dr) Earle Douglas MacPhee of Vancouver, B.C. Canada seeking to make contact with "Macfie" descendants in Australia who could provide family migration data for a Clan history he was compiling.

Three Australians responded to this letter – Brian McPhee of Adelaide, Miss Kaye McPhee of Melbourne and Sandy McPhie, a RAAF Air Traffic Control officer at RAAF Base Richmond N.S.W. In reply to Dr. MacPhee they discovered that in addition to his request for migrant details he also wished to see an active Clan Macfie Society established in Australia. Correspondence between the three resulted in Sandy McPhie agreeing to undertake the task of forming a Clan Society.

The ground work for this had been put in place several years earlier when Sandy was a controller at RAAF Base Williamtown. His father, Hector McPhie, a former stock and station agent in Toowoomba, Q., had mentioned their family forebears had settled in the Hunter Valley (west of today's Williamtown) when they arrived in Australia in 1838. In due course Sandy located family gravestones, the site of the original farm and relevant births, deaths and marriage entries at the Maitland CPS Office. In an endeavour to trace other descendants of his original family immigrants he wrote to a number of people with an "ie" spelling of the family name but without success. However, it established a base of information which enabled him to write to the thirty one Clan members approached to form a Clan Society.

Kaye McPhee (Melbourne) and Brian McPhee (Adelaide) were two of the early acceptors to form the new society, Brian becoming Vice-President of the new Society and, later, South Australian Vice-President before taking over as Clan Society President in 1998 when Sandy McPhie stood down from the office. Other early members in addition to Brian, Sandy and Kaye were Qantas Captain Sandy McPhee of Sydney who became the Society's first Treasurer and was appointed the first Commissioner for Clan Macfie in Australia, and Charles Macphee of (Sydney/Melbourne) along with Brian McPhee, a Vice-President of the Society. Several years later, Charles gave significant assistance to Ulf Hagman of Sweden in restoring and re-erecting the Macfie Standing Stone on Colonsay. Sandy McPhie served as President of the Clan Society from its inception until 1998 when he stood down from office and then as the second Cean-Cath or Commander of Clan Macfie, from the 7th September 1989 to 12th October 2008. Sandy's wife, Helen, was co-opted as Society Secretary and gave valuable service throughout his time as Clan Society President.

Membership of the new society quickly spread across all States of Australia and a Newsbulletin was introduced to keep members up to date on Clan and Clan Society activities. The Newsbulletin to-day, No. 127, known as "DownUnder", a computer generated 16 page edition with colour photographs – a far cry from the 1974/75 Gestetner duplicated wax sheets mailed in hand addressed envelopes. The full collection of Newsbulletins is a fitting acknowledgement of the Clan Macfie presence in Australia and contains many

(and varied) stories of the early Clan migrants, their descendants and their achievements in Australia. It is a record of which we can all be proud.

A posting from RAAF Base Richmond to Headquarters Support Command for Sandy McPhie at the beginning of 1975 saw the Clan Society base move to Melbourne. This proved a blessing in disguise for the society membership for, amongst other duties, Sandy McPhie, then a Squadron Leader, was required to pull an occasional weekend shift in the Command Operations room. With (thankfully) very little going on over the weekends he had available spare time. The Operations Room held current copies of all Australian telephone directories – this was 1975 when there were no computers, no internet and every little country town had its own telephone exchange. Directories for closer settled rural areas could contain listing of dozens of country telephone exchanges.

Using a base list of some 24 “accepted” Clan surname spellings, Sandy worked his way through all directories over a number of duty weekends, extracting names and addresses of Clan members. In February 1977 he wrote to 763 people inviting them to join The Macfie Clan Society of Australia and received several hundred acceptances.

The rest, of course, is history for the Clan Society formed in 1974 is still flourishing to-day with an Australia wide membership many of whom attend the Society’s Biennial General Meeting weekends which are held in a different State capital in rotation, or have attended Clan Macfie International Gatherings in Scotland and visited the Clan’s home islands of Colonsay and Oronsay.

40th Anniversary Bi-Annual General Meeting

2014 is the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia in 1974.

Fortunately we will be able to mark this important milestone in the society’s history with the attendance at our BGM, to be held in Adelaide on the 8th November, of our Commander, Iain McPhee and his wife Fiona, who will be in Australia after spending some time in New Zealand.

Any member of the Clan Society who is able to, is encouraged to attend the BGM and meet with the Commander and his wife as well as many other members from all over Australia. If you have not been able to attend a BGM before now is the opportunity to combine this with meeting our Clan Commander. This would be an ideal time to possibly combine an extended visit to Adelaide and the other many attractions of South Australia starting or finishing with the BGM.

The BGM and associated activities are being organised by our South Australian Vice President, Judith Moore and Brian McPhee, a past President of the Society.

For more information on the BGM and associated activities and to notify Judith and Brian of your attendance, please contact Judith on 08 83650220 or Brian on 08 82390038 or email bmcphie@internode.on.net. I am sure they will also be able to offer some advice on the many other things to see and do if you plan to combine the BGM attendance with an extended holiday in SA. Alternatively, please contact Morris McPhee on 02 98681521 or by email at colonsay@bigpond.com.au

OUR CLAN COMMANDER

A brief Introduction



Iain and his wife Fiona are well known to many Clan members through their dedication since 1993 as Co-ordinators for the quadrennial Clan Gatherings and Clan Parliament in Scotland. Iain, a former President of the Clan Macfie Society in Scotland, received a grant of arms in March 1998. He was appointed Commissioner for Clan Macfie in Scotland by the Clan Commander that year. He has also been the Keeper of The Clan Macfie Records for many years.



The Arms of Iain Morris McFie.

Per fess urdee Azure and Or, in Chief a sword point downward Argent hilted and pommelled Or between two sprigs of oak of the last, and in base a lymphad sable under sail Argent, flags and pennons flying gules. Above the shield is placed an Helm befitting his degree with mantling Azure doubled Or, and on a Wreath of the liveries is set for Crest a demi-lion rampant Sable armed and langued Gules holding in the forepaw a feather paleways Sable quilled Or, and in Escrol over the same this motto AIRSON ALBA AGUS AN RIGH

Clan Commander Profile

Born on the 10th of March 1936 Iain was the second son of Robert and Elizabeth McFie.

On completion of National Service he was employed for ten years as a designer draughtsman. He then moved to work as a Civil Servant in a Royal Ordnance Factory. As a designer he worked on small mechanisms before joining the Governments Adult Training Service as an Instructional Officer. His last promotion to Senior Training Officer moved Iain to Inverness.

Initially working for the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) in Inverness Iain was seconded to Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE). He took early retirement after three years in Inverness, but was retained as a Consultant. After several years of working from home as a consultant to small companies, he decided to stop work altogether. However, boredom set in and he now works during the holiday seasons at the Highland Wild Life Park, which is a two minute walk from home.

While working in engineering Iain studied for and obtained both Mechanical and Production Engineering qualifications. He latterly obtained a BA Degree in Adult Education Management. Since 1981, Iain has been the president of the Scottish branch of the International Organisation of Good Templars and also Chairman of the Scottish Temperance Alliance.

He and his family found a lovely home two miles from Kincaig close to the River Spey, probably too close as it sometimes comes and visits.

Iain and Fiona met at school and have been married for fifty-one years. They have three sons and a daughter, Roderick, Rhona, Ronald and Robin. They also have four grandsons and a granddaughter, the mother of their great grandson.

Keen on sport Iain played rugby for his school, Regiment in England and Germany and also his Division. On leaving the Army he was instrumental in forming his School's former pupils' team and was its Captain for ten years. and continued to play until his forty-second birthday. He was/is still keen on skiing, one reason for moving to Kincaig, and enjoys long walks in the hills. Building dry stone dykes is another hobby.

MEET YOUR CLAN COMMANDER (Cean-Cath)

If you are unable to attend the BGM, we would encourage you meet with Your Clan Commander (Cean-Cath) while he is in Australia. Iain and Fiona will be spending some time in Sydney, Adelaide and Canberra, and would enjoy meeting as many Clan members as they are able to. Unfortunately the short time they will be in Australia will preclude travelling to other states.

They will be arriving in Sydney on 30th October and be staying in Sydney most of the following week before flying to Adelaide for the BGM. They then plan to fly to Canberra and spend some time there before returning by car to Sydney, and will be flying out at 11:30 am on Friday 14th November.

The proposed schedule is shown on Page 10.

To enable as many Clan members as possible to meet with them, and to assist in the detailed planning of the visit, we would ask anyone who would like to be part of this memorable visit to contact the following executive members and let us know of your interest.

Morris McPhee	email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au	Sydney area
Brian McPhee	email: bmcphoe@internode.on.net	Adelaide
Heather Grove	email: heathergrove1@hotmail.com	Canberra

WORLD

FOCUS

United by the past

Mark Fisher discovers how Homecoming Scotland 2014 is unearthing the secrets of the past and celebrating the Scottish diaspora

ANCESTRY TOUR: Heritage pilgrims are guided through some of the most stunning landscapes in the UK

It's a sweltering December day in Sydney and two old friends, Barbara Gurney and Elizabeth Campbell-Mackenzie, have stepped out of the summer heat to show off their handiwork. Sitting in Gurney's living room, each of them holds up the linen panel she is in the midst of embroidering.

Measuring 50cm by 50cm, Campbell-Mackenzie's panel is an illustration of the Scottish-born Elizabeth Macquarie (née Campbell). She is standing in front of the Female Orphan School she built in Parramatta in 1818. With an end-of-the-month deadline approaching, Campbell-Mackenzie has stitched her blue dress, the details of the orphanage and the cliffs in the background.

Gurney's panel pictures Macquarie's husband, Lachlan, the fifth Governor of New South Wales, who was born on the Hebridean island of Ulva. So far, she has embroidered his military jacket, golden epaulettes and much of the foreground detail. "There was a lot of stitching in that red coat," she says.

Once their work is done, the panels will travel the 10,000 miles to Prestonpans, near Edinburgh, where the Prestoungrange Arts Festival will stitch them together to form the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry. This 90m artwork is a labour of love created in 27 countries by more than 400 volunteer embroiderers who, like Campbell-Mackenzie and Gurney, have an affiliation to Scotland.

At the start of the two-year project, they shared their diaspora tales with artist Andrew Crummy. He turned those tales into 150 designs, which he sent back to Canada, India, China, Malawi and wherever else the diaspora communities were found. The embroidering began in earnest.

"I even said to one of my daughters-in-law, 'Can you do Christmas this year? I'm busy stitching,'" says Campbell-Mackenzie, a supporter of the Clan Campbell Society and the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. "It's nice to be part of it," says Gurney. "It's a bit unreal to think something we've done might be around in a few hundred years."

The tapestry will tour Scotland throughout 2014 and internationally in 2015, and is one of the flagship projects in a headline year for Scotland. As well as Bannockburn Live (26-30 June), which marks the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow (23 July-3 August) and the Ryder Cup in Gleneagles (26-28 September), the country is reinforcing its international links through Homecoming Scotland 2014, a year-long programme pitched at the 50 million people around the world who claim Scottish heritage.

A key Homecoming strand is the ancestral programme, designed to help visitors explore their family roots. "There can be somebody who wants to spend every waking hour in Scotland's People Centre researching Great Aunt Mary because she was a MacDonald. But the larger portion are people who are coming because they have family history and, by going to a ceilidh, visiting Glencoe or Culloden, it makes it an ancestral experience," says Vineet Lal, International Marketing Manager at VisitScotland.

For those who want to delve deeper into their clan heritage, the three-day ancestral itineraries (visitscotland.com/see-do/itineraries/ancestry) are a good place to start. Gurney has made the journey from Sydney five times since 1973 and, using genealogy websites such as Scotland's People (scotlandsppeople.gov.uk), she has

A STITCH IN TIME: Glenda Gartrell begins work on her William Scott panel (below)



10 OVERSEAS

www.rosl.org.uk

uncovered the story of her ancestors. They came to Australia in 1835: one side from Edinburgh, the other from Banffshire by way of Denmark. "I've been to most of the places that hold the records and I've seen where my ancestors are buried, up near the North Sea in an old ruined church that hasn't been used since 1800," she says.

She also traced Campbell-Mackenzie's lineage all the way back to a woman who inherited a substantial sum from the estate of Robert the Bruce. "Unfortunately, it didn't come down the female line," she laughs.

As the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry shows, the creative relationship goes two ways. That's also the case for composer Jim Sutherland, mastermind behind *Struileag/Shore to Shore*, a show he is creating with the descendants of native Gaelic speakers he has found all over the world. In Russia, he tracked down Vitaliy Negoda MacDhùghail, author of Gaelic poetry; in Buenos Aires, Guillermo Santana MacKinlay, leader of a Gaelic choir; and in Vancouver, Dave MacCallum, a Gaelic rapper. "When I started a Facebook page for the project, I found that people had a real thirst for information about Scotland and information about each other," says Sutherland.

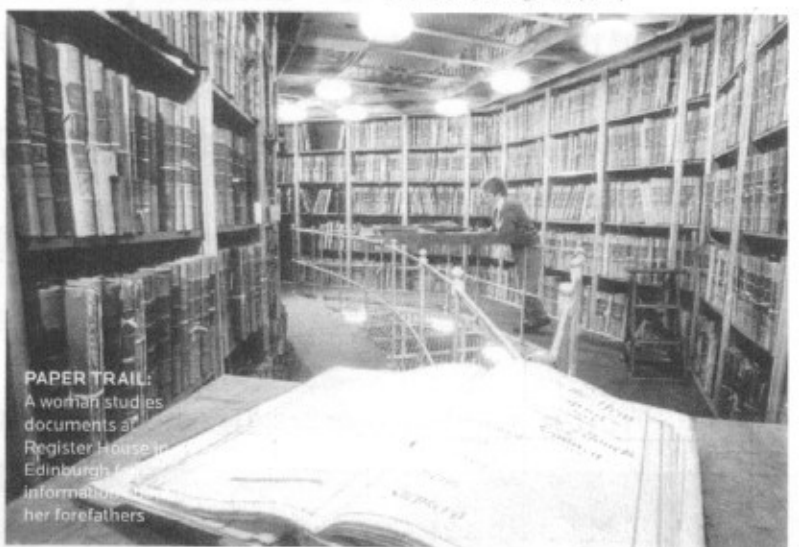
Written by 20 poets and writers, his large-scale 75-minute show will premiere in Glasgow during the Commonwealth Games. It is complemented by an online historical storytelling project (www.struileag.com), designed to bring the diaspora together. "There are lots of amazing stories," he says. "There was the Highlander who went off to America and married into the Nez Perce tribe and ended up fighting against Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn. We'd like to see people adding themselves into these stories so it'll have a life of its own."

See www.visitscotland.com/see-do/homecoming-scotland-2014 to find out more about Homecoming Scotland 2014; and www.scottishdiasporatapestry.org for information about the Diaspora Tapestry.

Mark Fisher is a freelance journalist based in Scotland and author of *The Edinburgh Fringe Survival Guide*.



DIASPORA TAPESTRY: (Clockwise from top left) Helen Johnson stitches the Botany Bay panel; the St Mary MacKillop panel; the Botany Bay panel; and Elizabeth Campbell-Mackenzie with her Elizabeth Macquarie panel outside the Female Orphanage in Sydney



PAPER TRAIL: A woman studies documents at Register House in Edinburgh for information on her forefathers

Macfie Clan Society of Australia: Draft Itinerary for Clan Commander's Visit 2014

Day	Date	Proposed Activity	Location
Thu	30/10/14	Arrive from NZ 15:45 QF 144, stay with Ian McPhee	Sydney Airport
Fri	31/10/14	By car to Akuna Bay, West Head, Palm Beach, Northern Beaches	Sydney
Sat	01/11/14	Day trip by car to Blue Mountains, 3 Sisters, Katoomba, Leura etc.	Sydney Region
Sun	02/11/14	AM-PM Mosman Cairn, Taronga Zoo, Nth Head, Sydney Harbour	Sydney
Sun	02/11/14	PM , function: Society members with Commander Iain & Fiona	Sydney
Mon	03/11/14	Iain & Fiona, own leisure: Sydney sites, opera house etc	Sydney city
Tue	04/11/14	Iain & Fiona own leisure: city sights Harbour Bridge walk etc	Sydney city
Wed	05/11/14	Day trip to Hunter Valley / South Coast	Sydney Region
Thu	06/11/14	AM Iain & Fiona, own leisure	Sydney
Thu	06/11/14	PM Iain & Fiona fly to Adelaide: 3 PM flight	Sydney/Adelaide
Fri	07/11/14	Visit to Adelaide Hills &/or Barossa Valley, other sightseeing	Adelaide Region
Sat	08/11/14	40th Anniversary BGM, Lunch and Celtic Night Function	Adelaide
Sun	09/11/14	Church service, farewell lunch, fly to Canberra 3PM flight	Adel./Canberra
Mon	10/11/14	Mt Ainslie, Parliament House, War Memorial etc	Canberra
Tue	11/11/14	Tidbinbilla Nature Res., The Arboretum, meet Society members	Canberra
Wed	12/11/14	To Sydney by car through Southern Highlands Lunch at Bundanoon	Canberra/Sydney
Thu	13/11/14	Free for a day trip, general sightseeing & farewell Lunch/Dinner	Sydney
Fri	14/11/14	Depart for Hong Kong 11:25 flight Cathay Flt 197	Sydney Airport

SOCIETY OFFICE BEARERS

	President*		Treasurer*
Ian McPhee	PO Box 6464 Frenchs Forest NSW 2086 02 9938 2550 mobile: 0419 382555 Email: irmac10@bigpond.net.au	Geoff McPhee	43 Cedar Street Lugarno NSW 2210 02 95334195 mobile: 0408 215290 Email: gandrm@bigpond.com
	Acting President*		Clan Commissioner*
Morris McPhee	24 Cobran Road Cheltenham NSW 2119 02 9868 1521 mobile: 0439 407492 Email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au	Sandy McPhee	2 Sandalwood Drive Glenvale QLD 4350 07 46345919 mobile: 0419 766578 Email: ahmcphe@bigpond.com
	Vice President*		Clan Armiger*
Margaret Barnes	201/5 Cary St Drummoyne NSW 2047 91811689 mobile: 0419 612845 Email: mbarnes@netspace.net.au	Sandy McPhee	49 Rodney Rd Mt Vincent NSW 2323 02 49380350 Email: norsandy@bigpond.net.au
	QLD VP*		Secretary
Susan Spinks	Chertsey M/S 212 Oakey QLD 4401 07 4691 6206 mobile: 0408 063122 Email: susanfaithspinks@tadaust.org.au	Robyn McPhee	24 Cobran St Cheltenham NSW 2119 02 93716117 mobile: 0434 072845 Email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au
	NSW VP*		Chief Historian
Morris McPhee	24 Cobran Road Cheltenham NSW 2119 02 9868 1521 mobile: 0439 407492 Email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au	Trevor Phee	24 Bibby Street Hamilton NSW 2303 02 4962 2672 Email: t.phee@bigpond.com
	ACT VP*		Historian
Heather Grove	20 Mellor Crt. Florey ACT 2615 02 62583219 mobile: 0404612891 Email: heathergrove1@hotmail.com	Bernie McPhee	1/18 York St. Mont Albert VIC 3127 03 98997138 Email: berniepmcphie@hotmail.com
	VIC VP*		Historian
Ross McPhee	18 Faulkner St. St. Kilda VIC 3182 0421048207 Email: rossandkarenmcphie@gmail.com	Helen McPhee	2 Sandalwood Drive Glenvale QLD 07 46345919 Email: ahmcphe@bigpond.com
	SA VP*		Society Piper
Judith Moore	107/125 Montacute Rd Campbelltown SA 5074 08 83650220 Email: -	Michael Phee	90 Brennon Rd Gorokon NSW 2263 02 43923666 mobile 0405 735887 Email:
	TAS VP*		Downunder Editor
Robyn McPhee	24 Cobran St Cheltenham NSW 2119 02 93716117 mobile: 0434 072845 Email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au	Heather Grove	20 Mellor Crt. Florey ACT 2615 02 62583219 mobile: 0404612891 Email: heathergrove1@hotmail.com
	WA VP*		
Jillian King	PO Box 3320 Joondalup WA 6027 08 94054884 Email: Semark63@bigpond.net.au		

* Denotes Macfie Clan Society of Australia Executive

All correspondence should be sent to:

The President, Macfie Clan Society of Australia

24 Cobran Road Cheltenham NSW 2119

Disclaimer & Note

As the journal of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia, The Downunder is produced solely for the information and enjoyment of the Society's members. It has been compiled with due care and in good faith from a variety of sources. Any views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the executive or members of the Society. All contributions submitted for publication are subject to alteration and editing.

A Macfie Tale from the Gaelic Society

"Macfie and the Witch of Jura"

By Alastair Campbell of Airds

This article appeared in the *Gaelic Society of Inverness Journal*, volume XXXIIIV, page 8

As some of my not very remote ancestors were Macfies, I have always taken an interest in their Clan legends. Fortunately, to satisfy the desire to obtain some knowledge of the existing traditional lore concerning Macfies, these clan ancestors supplied the necessary information, and some of them were excellent story tellers. It is common knowledge among students of Highland history that the Isle of Colonsay was the old time stronghold of the Clan Macfie, and they were well connected by marriage to other leading West Highland families. After the forfeiture of the Lordship of the Isles, they were followed by the MacDonalds of Isla, to their bitter loss.

Besides having Colonsay and Oronsay, the Macfies, according to tradition, had also some land on the adjacent island of Jura. At this time, Jura contained a noted witch, Cailleach na Beinne Brice. It seems witches could fall desperately in love, and the Jura hag was no exception. She fell in love with the young Malcolm Macfie of Colonsay. Whatever powers – savoury or unsavoury – that she possessed, she was a complete failure in luring Malcolm. Macfie did not respond to her attentions, for he had no inclination to be amorously disposed to such a disreputable character. Yet, for a long time, he was powerless to resist her company.

Macfie was fond of hunting the wild deer and following the roe, and as Jura contained sufficient of such sport to satisfy his demands, he was often found in pursuit of game on that island. This gave the Cailleach plenty of opportunity to be in his company, and she could wield her uncanny powers over him in no uncertain manner. If he was crossing the Sound, returning home, she could, if she wished, make him return by casting her ball of yarn to land a short distance in front of Macfie's bhirlinn. No sooner did the ceirse strike the water than, despite the efforts of the crew, the boat would turn and head back to the island. Several times he had endeavoured to cut with his dirk the thread of the yarn, but his efforts had no effect; it only seemed to turn the edge of his blade. However, he subsequently learned – evidently in a moment of forgetfulness on the part of the love struck hag – that she possessed a small axe capable of cutting the thread. He decided to secure it on his next visit, and that he did, unnoticed by the witch. Jubilantly he set sail for home. When he was half way across the Sound, the Cailleach, from her vantage point on the Ben, beckoned him to return, dolefully singing the following:

"A Mhic-a-phi a luaidh's a thasgaidh Dh'fhag tha air a chladacch mi"

(Macfie my love and treasure Thou hast left me on the strand.)

At the same time, she flung her magic ball of yarn, which landed as it had done many times before, immediately in front of the boat's prow. However, Macfie seized the stolen axe from its hiding place and cut the thread, with the result the bhirlinn kept on its course. On perceiving this, the Cailleach gave forth a roar that exceeded in volume anything that emanated from the throat of the Bulls of Bashan, and she made for the shore, tearing up the ground with the back of her heels to such an extent that the fissures are still visible and are called in commemoration of her, Sgroib – na – Cailleach. All the while she shouted:

"A Mhic-a-Phi, dhub, charraich, ghranda. Dh'fhag tha air a chladacch mi."

(Thou black, twisty and ugly Macfie Thou hast left me on the strand.)

It was to no avail. The boat kept on its course, and the disconsolate witch had no choice but to retrace her steps up the mountainside, vowing vengeance on Malcolm.

Ref: Taken from the *CLAN CHATTER* Published for the MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.

MACFIE CLAN SOCIETY

40th ANNIVERSARY BGM IN ADELAIDE
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8 - SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9
MEET YOUR CLAN COMMANDER IAIN
& his Wife Fiona

Programme and costs:

For those who will be in Adelaide

Friday Nov 7 7pm :Dinner at "Snooty Fox" restaurant which is in
The Quality Hotel 160 O'Connell Street, Nth Adelaide
Pay for your own meals

Saturday Nov 8 11am :BGM at 4 Figtree Court, North Adelaide.
Tel. no. 8239 0038 in case you get lost.
Morning tea served from 10-15am.

12.30pm : Lunch at Waterfall Gully Restaurant
Using private cars (if enough) for transport
Pay for your own meals

7pm : Celtic Night arranged by
Mount Barker Caledonian Society.
Cost: \$20 per person, supper provided

5.45pm : Bus will leave from Quality Hotel
North Adelaide and return there afterwards.
Cost of bus will be divided between
number of passengers.

Sunday Nov 9 10.30am Church Service at St Andrews Church
96 Archer Street, North Adelaide
Followed by lunch and farewells.

For accommodation it is suggested you contact:

Quality Hotel 160 O'Connell Street, Nth Adelaide (08) 82675066 or
Regal Park Motor Inn, 44 Barton Terrace East, Nth Adelaide
(08) 8267 3222

Mention that you are coming to the Macfie Gathering in Adelaide.

Rates:Quality Hotel; Room for 2 \$149
Regal Park Motor Inn; Room for 2, \$125 (10% Seniors discount)
These rates do not include breakfast.

If you have any problems contact Brian McPhee: 08 8239 0038
or : bmcphoe@internode.on.net

Please turn over for Registration of Interest on reverse

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

FOR CLAN MACFIE BGM

SATURDAY 8 NOV – SUNDAY 9 NOV 2014

Names of people attending:

Friday night dinner _____
Saturday BGM _____
Saturday lunch _____
Saturday night _____
Bus travel required _____
Sunday lunch _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone no: _____

Will you have a car YES / NO
(i.e. for interstaters will you be hiring a car)

RSVP BY AUGUST 31 to Brian McPhee either by:

Telephone: (08) 82390038
Email: bmcphree@internode.on.net
Post: 4 Figtree Court, North Adelaide. SA. 5006