



THE DOWNUNDER

Journal of the
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 130
July 2015



Colonsay



*Ancestral home
of Clan Macfie*

Oronsay

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

www.clanmacfie.co.uk

President's Message



As for most people these days, this year has been another busy one for me. Apart from numerous extra curricular activities, including helping to look after grandchildren, I took a trip to Thailand in April with my older son Ashley.

One of the organisations I belong to is the BTRMA - the Burma Thailand Railway Memorial Association based in Western Australia. Its aim is to perpetuate the memory of the privations and sacrifices of Australian and Allied Japanese prisoners of war (POW) and the selfless dedication of the medical personnel during the construction of the Burma Thailand Railway. It does so by informing current and future generations through all forms of education and particularly with the Annual Quiet Lion Tours to the Burma Thai Railway.

My interest in the organisation relates to my father being a Japanese prisoner of war, who was fortunate to survive his time working mainly in Burma on the 'Death Railway'. Like so many other survivors, he died a premature death as a result of his treatment at the hands of the Japanese. Only a small handful of former POWs are still alive today.

My son and I went on this years Quiet Lion tour, which included a visit to the River Kwai, the Three Pagoda Pass on the Burma Thailand border, the site of numerous former POW camp sites and a train trip over part of the original line built by POWs. The tour highlight was attendance at the dawn service on Anzac Day at the notorious "Hellfire Pass" and the Anzac Day ceremony at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, 130 km north west of Bangkok. The trip was an emotional experience, made particularly memorable by the fact that former POW Neil McPherson from Perth, who worked on the line in Burma, spoke at both ceremonies on Anzac Day.

As mentioned in the last issue of *The Downunder*, the Society was going to produce some notepads for members with the Clan Macfie logo on them. It's great to report we have now had those printed and will offer them to members in the next issue of our journal. The Society's new treasurer Ian McCathie has been on a extended trip around Australia so the financial report due to appear in this issue has been held over until the next one.

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Update on former Commander Sandy McPhie

From Helen in Towoomba

Sandy was admitted to hospital last Sunday, very unwell, but is now improving and I am hoping he will soon be able to return home. The medical profession have been unable to make a definitive diagnosis, after carrying out numerous tests, but whatever they are doing seems to be working. This has not been a good year healthwise for Sandy as this is the third time he has been in hospital for extended periods this year. He, also, recently underwent cataract surgery which, hopefully, will improve his sight as he has been having difficulty being able to read for some time. Obviously, at 86 years old some health problems are to be expected but I hope this will be "it" for this year at least!

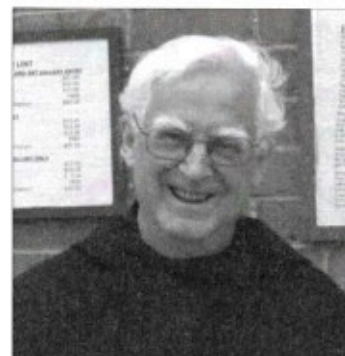
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Front cover: Commander Iain McFie and his wife Fiona at the Kiama Blowhole on the south coast of News South Wales during their visit to Australia last year

MEMBER IN PROFILE

- NSW member:** Fr. Anscar McPhee (V75-129)
- Migrant forebears:** John McPhee & 7 children: Margaret 22, Alexander 20, John 18, Ann 16, Isabella 14, Robert 10 and Archibald 8
- Home in Scotland:** 'Killiechonate', Inverlochy Estate, Inverness Shire
- Emigrant ship:** *Childe Harold*
- Arrived Australia:** from Liverpool, Geelong 16th June 1853
- Pioneer forebears:** John McPhee and Bridget Loney



Member's story in brief: Born Leo Patrick McPhee in 1939, to Hector McPhee and Catherine (Katie) Liston. Known as Pat, he attended Surrey Hills and then the Marist Brothers at Camberwell in Melbourne. He left school at 18 at which time he had 2 brothers - Mathew and Bernie who were Carmelite priests. The Carmelites follow the order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

On leaving school Pat read up on all the orders and became interested in the Benedictines. He found there was a group in Western Australia who followed 'the rule of St Benedict'. In 1957 he went to WA and entered a training course where he did 8 years of study at the New Norcia Monastery 130 kilometres north of Perth. The monastery was founded in 1846 by Spanish monks.

Pat who had been given the name Father Anscar (and known as Anscar) at New Norcia, was ordained in 1964 as a priest monk. At that time everything was in Latin. Anscar's job or work at that time was to take charge of the lay Benedictines a job he did for 18 years. During that time he put out a newsletter called 'Life-in-Christ' that went out all over the world.

Anscar then had a number of roles at the monastery. He became the novice master training young monks and was also responsible for all publicity and was also the prefect of students. He was chaplain of the local school and organised retreats. He also started up a museum at the monastery to save and conserve all its treasures.

1982 was a momentous year for Anscar. In 1982 when Father Sanz needed a break at the Kalumburu Mission Anscar replaced him for 3 months. Over the years Anscar had suffered from Lupus but during his time at Kalumburu his health improved. He then went to Rome to study theology for 3 months which confirmed his faith in God. On his return home he requested a return to Kalumburu for health reasons. The new Abbot at the monastery agreed to his request.

Living at Kalumburu in the remote north east Kimberley area of Western Australia, Anscar became a loved and trusted friend of the old people of Kalumburu who shared their wonderful oral history with him. During his time there, he visited and documented many sacred sites and cave paintings in the area.

In 2006, Anscar published a respectful tribute to the Spanish monks who worked and worshiped at the Benedictine Abbey of New Nocia from 1846 to the present day. The book called "Senor Pilich the Monastery Cat" was reprinted in 2013.

Anscar was at the Kalumburu Mission for 28 years and in 2011 returned to the Monastery at New Norcia, where he is one of the remaining Benedictine monks. In that same year he published a hard covered book called *A hero in the Night Time of Dreaming*. The book tells the story of Penda Gudje, a leader of supreme integrity and gifted in Aboriginal cultural ideals. It is a dreamtime story of how a great warrior inspired his people. The book was launched at the Carmelite Hall in Middle Park, Melbourne.

In 2012, Clan Society members attending the Biannual Annual Meeting in Perth were given a wonderful tour of the New Norcia Mission by Anscar. His distinctive laugh and sense of humour enhanced the experience for all who had the pleasure of his accompany. He continues to maintain his membership and interest in our Society.

GENERAL NEWS

Donations

Many thanks to the following members for their generous donation made to the Society and the Clan. Those donations, banked as at the end of August 2015, are an essential part of our funding and greatly appreciated

William & Rebecca	McVie Bonython	ACT
Ian R.	McPhee Scullin	ACT
Margaret	Barnes Drummoyne	NSW
Andrew	Pardoe Bundanoon	NSW
Andrew J.	McPhee Baulkham Hills	NSW
Stuart	McWilliam Moree	NSW
Michael & Mary	McPhee Vaucluse	NSW
Dr Kerr	Chatfield Penrith	NSW
Karen A	Law San Remo	NSW
Neville & Sonia	Phee COOMA	NSW
Ross & Joyce	McPhee West Pymble	NSW
Mrs Trish	McPhee Seaforth	NSW
Marion	McPhee Maroubra	NSW
Martyn F	Roberts Moree	NSW
Clyde & Barbara	Smythe Turramurra	NSW
Beryl	McPhie Nowra	NSW
Greg	McPhee Urunga	NSW
Gary J	McPhee Carlingford	NSW
Mairi	Petersen Shellharbour	NSW
Bruce & Dorothy	Taylor Yagoona	NSW
Joyce	McPhee Bonnells Bay	NSW
Nathan & Elsie	McPhee Cooranbong	NSW
Marelle	Lee Lennox Head	NSW
Ian R	McPhee Frenchs Forest	NSW
Bruce	Agland Clarence Town	NSW
Erina	Wood Masterton	NZ
Dr Ewen	McPhee Emerald	QLD
Betty	Garrard Nambour	QLD
Helen E.	Rice Buderim	QLD
Robyn M.	Young Jimboomba	QLD
Dale & Rachel	McPhie Woody Point	QLD
Nevell J.	McPhee Victoria Point	QLD
Heather	Knowles Albany Creek	QLD
Robert	Lansdowne Wishart	QLD
Donald A.	Knowles Yeppoon	QLD
Lorna	Lansdowne Wishart	QLD
Helen	McPhie Eagle Hts	QLD
Kevin A.	McPhee Port Douglas	QLD
Dorothy J.	McPhee Bell	QLD
Jenny M.	Hutchins Carindale	QLD
Dorothy	Murphy Currumbin	QLD
Fr. M Mathew	McPhee Coorparoo	QLD
Nigel	McPhee Lockleys	SA
Anthea & Mark	Uebergang Nailsworth	SA
Ann	Leask McLaren Vale	SA
Ian L.	McPhee Kidman Park	SA
Donald J.	McPhie Nilma North	VIC
Marie Joyce	Jackson- Nation Warragul	VIC
Cherry	McFee Rhyll	VIC
Beverley	Knowles Balwyn	VIC
Anthony	Gartland Box Hill Sth	VIC
Gwen D.	Jarvis Foster	VIC
Keith & Anne	McPhee Glen Waverley	VIC

Ian R.	McPhee Shepparton E.	VIC
Hadyn M	McPhie Mirboo Nth	VIC
Dr Ian	McPhee Rosanna	VIC
Ross	McPhee Rosebud	VIC
Kim	McDuffie Milford Grange	VIC
Jan	Harper Port Melbourne	VIC
Cheryl	Threadgold Black Rock	VIC
Jim	McPhee Monbulk	VIC
Peter B	McPhee Abbotsford	VIC
Kelly	Ross Subiaco	WA
Trevor & Rhonda	McPhee Balcatta	WA
Margaret E	McPhee Claremont	WA
Norma	Dunn Dunsborough	WA

Overseas

NSW President and Clan Society Vice President Morris McPhee and his wife Robyn, the Society's secretary, are about to embark on a major overseas holiday. Of course Scotland is on their itinerary. While there they will stay in Edinburgh for several days and also visit Colonsay.

ACT VP

ACT Vice President Heather Grove is not letting the grass grow under feet. To escape the harsh Canberra chill, she recently escaped to Port Douglas in Queensland. Her trusty i-pad accompanied her to keep in touch with family and friends.

Former Treasurer Geoff McPhee

Geoff recently joined Morris and Robyn McPhee manning a tent at the Aberdeen Highland Games. With his wife Ruth now in a full care facility, Geoff recently downsized to a townhouse not far from his home in Lugarno.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Dutch resident Heleen Van der Leest. A long term Clan member, Heleen is the sister of New Zealand Clan Commissioner James McPhee.

It is also with sadness we report the passing of four members of Past President Bernie McPhee's close family:

Robert Vincent McPhee,	V76-151	Vermont	VIC
John Thomas McPhee,	V78-422	Oakleigh	VIC
S. Margaret Barnes,	V05-1009	Albert Park	VIC
Marie Therese O'Sullivan,	V76-218	Vermont	VIC

Aberdeen Highland Gathering

From Vice President Morris McPhee

On the first Saturday in July since 2000 the Aberdeen Highland Gathering is held. This year this was the 4th of July. The gathering is held at Jefferson Park on the banks of the Hunter River in beautiful Aberdeen, in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales.

Geoff McPhee, our previous Society treasurer, who grew up in the area, has attended this gathering for a number of years representing the Clan Society. Last year I had the opportunity to join him for the first time in the Clan Society tent and with my wife Robyn I also joined him again this year. The Games begin with a parade of bands, clan representatives and others that leads into the Massed Band Salute and Chieftain's Address that officially opens the day. This year I had the honour to march, carrying the new Clan Society Gonfalon, entering the arena ahead of the Scone Pipe Band which is the lead Pipe Band of the parade. The Scone Pipe Band wears the MacFie Clan Tartan.



Morris McPhee with the new MacFie Clan Society's gonfalon on parade at the Scone Gathering.

The bands enter the arena and march around the perimeter of the oval to line up across the oval facing back to the entry point where the Chieftain of the Day and official party are located. Clan representatives with Clan Banners line up behind the massed bands. The bands then march towards the official party, return and march forward again. The Clan Representatives, with Banners held aloft, march through the ranks of the bands and line up in front of the official party. The bands then march forward, finishing behind the Banner holders.

The opening address by the Chieftain of the Day and some short speeches by other members of the official party take place with the Chieftain then inspecting the Clan Representatives and the Pipe Bands before declaring the gathering beginning. Everyone can then relax and enjoy the range of Clan and Clan Society stands, Scottish clothing and food outlets, and a general range of other stands located around the perimeter of the oval while also enjoying the Pipe Band and Scottish dancing competitions along with the caber tossing and other traditional Scottish events for young and old.

The Scone RSL Pipes and Drums

From Vice President Morris McPhee

Scone is located 14 Km north of Aberdeen.

The seed for the establishment of the Scone RSL Pipes & Drums began around Anzac Day, 1995. The pipe band that had been playing for many years at the Scone and Gundy Anzac Day parades had pulled out at the last minute, leaving the Returned Services League in a great predicament. The pipe music for the parades in that year was supplied by loudspeakers in the back of a vehicle. This was a most unsatisfactory situation and so the Returned Services League (in conjunction with the Scone RSL Club Ltd) approached a couple of pipers, Wayne Saunders and Mark Lawrence, who had on previously played with the Muswellbrook RSL Pipe band (ex-Upper Hunter Pipes & Drums) to come and form a band in Scone. The club, along with a local businessman, Eddie McPhee, were to provide the necessary funds to kick the band off. It was this connection that led to the selection of the MacFie tartan for the new band.

At the same time there was a fledgling band at the Scone Grammar School. This band had been practicing for some little time but had not really reached the stage of going out before the public due to lack of numbers and equipment. Those involved with this group then joined ex-Muswellbrook players to form the Scone RSL Pipes & Drums. The first official event the band attended was the 1997 Australia Day festivities held at the Scone Historical Society, Kingdon Street and run by Scone Shire Council in conjunction with the Scone Historical Society.

Clan Macfie News No 73

from Clan Commander (Ceann Cath) Iain McFie

Email: commander@clanmacfie.co.uk

Back Home at Last

Now that our house has been repaired after being flood damaged, we are finally back in Coulintyre. It is nice to be back in our own home...although its appearance is a little different. Before we began to unpack the seventy odd packing cases, they are not very large; our home looked really nice in a minimalist kind of way. However, as we unpacked and placed things, everything became a bit more cluttered. Trying to persuade Fiona to put things into a charity shop or even just send them to the refuse site is nigh on impossible.

I suppose I cannot complain as I noticed my wardrobe contained trousers and slacks that may have fit me when I was a good bit slimmer. One always lives in hope of shedding a few (?) pounds.

We have a new member of Clan Macfie. Recently Fiona and I became Great Grand Parents, again. Gordon, our oldest grandson, and his wife Sarah became parents of a beautiful girl who is to be called Jessica. We unfortunately have not been able to meet the new arrival though we hope to do so soon.

Using two-ply wool, Fiona is knitting a shawl for Jessica...which takes time and patience. She wants to finish it before we visit the family.

2017 Scottish Gathering

The Scotland based Macfie Society held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Edinburgh on the weekend after Macfie Day. At the end of the meeting, I announced to the group that I would visit Skye in order to investigate the possibility of holding the next Gathering at the Gaelic College there.

I was reminded by Shiona MacPhee MacKay that she had already made a provisional booking on Skye for the last week in August 2017. That is what old age does for you. I had forgotten I had asked Shiona to look into this for me.

At Dumfries it was suggested the next Gathering be held at a time when children are out of school. As mentioned above, the provisional booking on Skye was for late August, so I asked Shiona if she would contact the College to see if July was an option. The student accommodation is of a good standard with single, double and two family rooms (only three persons). The home Society has used the halls on several occasions and found them comfortable. There are several bed and breakfasts (B and Bs) nearby and one or two exclusive hotels, neither of which is large enough for the Gathering. If we decide Skye is to be the venue, then following are some things to be considered.

The good things: (1) Skye is beautiful... even in the rain; (2) The college accommodation is of a good standard, with single, twin and two family rooms (sleeps three); (3) Room costs, at the College, are not expensive; (4) The Clan Donald Centre is at nearby Armadale Castle; (5) There are a large number of McPhees on the Island; (6) Possibility of joining some of the summer courses; (7) Plenty of other accommodations available locally; (8) Dunvegan Castle, home of the MacLeod Clan Chief, is worth a visit.

The not so good things: (1) Difficulty in getting to Skye and getting around while there; (2) Difficulty getting from Skye to Colonsay; (3) There could be a problem having a private Clan Dinner; (4) There are only two, three-person family rooms; (5) Local public transport is scarce; (6) The refectory has a limited menu...plain, but wholesome; (7) The midges are fearsome; (8) Is there a local company that could provide suitable transport for visits?

July is a very busy and expensive month... especially on Colonsay. Some of the Cottages and the Hotel are probably already booked for 2017. **Therefore we need to know now** if you wish to attend a July or August Gathering. Please let the Commander know as soon as possible, by e-mail, which month and location you prefer. The longer you take to decide will reduce the possibility of renting accommodations on Colonsay. 6 a non-runner, it has been suggested an alternative location for the Gathering should be Stirling. Stirling is in central Scotland and is close to both Edinburgh and Glasgow and is home to a beautiful renovated castle.

Book Review

The Tartan Pimpernel by Dr Donald Currie Caskie From Ian McPhee

Quite a while ago, a friend of my wife who knew I had an interest in all things Scottish, gave me an old hard covered book called *The Tartan Pimpernel*. It lay on my bookshelves for a year or two before it was picked up during a spot of spring cleaning and almost hit the bin. That is, until it was given a closer inspection. Rather than a work of fiction, which I had assumed, the book was a true story.

The Rev. Dr. Donald Currie Caskie (1902 – 1983) is renowned for his exploits in France during World War two during which he helped an estimated 2,000 Allied sailors, soldiers and airmen to escape from occupied France (mainly through Spain).

The son of a crofter, Rev. Caskie was born in the town of Bowmore on Islay in 1902. He was educated at Bowmore School and then Dunoon Grammar School before studying arts and divinity at the University of Edinburgh. His first charge was at Gretna, before becoming the minister of the Scots Kirk in Paris in 1938. In his autobiography 'The Tartan Pimpernel' he states that 'he had been called to Paris in 1935'

The Tartan Pimpernel, first published in 1957, was written by Presbyterian minister Dr. Donald Caskie and tells the story of his life as a Presbyterian minister in France during World War II. The brief summary in the fly leaf of the cover gives a picture of what it is about:

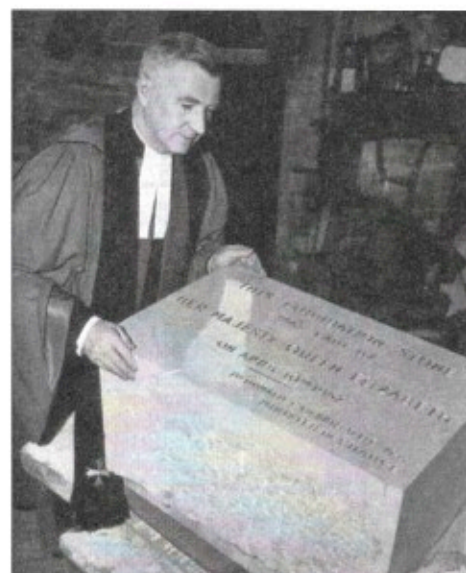
"On Sunday, 10 June 1940, the Rev. Donald C. Caskie, Minister of the Scottish Kirk in Paris, preached for the last time in four years, said goodbye to his congregation, locked the church and joined the mass-exodus from the city. A Highlander, he denounced Hitler from his pulpit. He was on the Gestapo 'Black List'.

After a perilous journey - he was mobbed by French villagers who thought him a German paratrooper and machine-gunned from the air - he arrived in Marseilles and commandeered the British Seamen's Mission near the Old Harbour. There the adventures of the Tartan Pimpernel began. Immediately contacted by Allied Intelligence Officers, he was conscripted to service. The Seaman's Mission became a vital link on the escape route for prisoners-of-war and soldiers escaping from Dunkirk. He fed, clothed and gave the men shelter before sending them through the Pyrenees with forged papers to Spain. he collected military information for the Allies.

Denounced by a British traitor, Dr. Caskie was banished to Grenoble where he continued his work as an 'underground padre'. Arrested by the Gestapo and sentenced to death in a Nazi Court he passed through seven prisons and was saved from death by a German padre.

Through his perils *The Tartan Pimpernel* was sustained by the Christian Faith and inspired by native patriotism. Still the Scottish Minister to Paris, he has saved the books in which he recorded the names of his guests of war. Among the legion of men he helped were Whitney Straight, the millionaire sportsman and R.A.F. ace, and Redvers Prior, M.P. His story is enlivened by Scottish humour and brilliant character studies of his comrades and enemies. He was awarded the O.B.E. for his services to the Allied cause."

Caskie finally returned to Scotland as minister in Old Gourrock Church. He later became the minister at Wemyss Bay, Skelmorlie on the Firth of Clyde and also at St Cuthbert's Church in Monkton, Ayrshire. He retired to Edinburgh in the early seventies and lived the final year of his life with his younger brother in Greenock. He died in 1983 and is buried at Bowmore on Islay. Various personal artefacts, including his wartime medals, can be seen at Kilarrow Parish Church, Bowmore



Rev. Caskie with foundation stone of the new Scottish Church in Paris 1957

Muriel McPhee's Trousseau

from Canberra Vice President Heather Grove

Every time I take a visitor to the National Museum on the shores of Lake Burleigh Griffin, I am proud to take them to see what one of my friends calls 'Heather's Relative's Underwear'. It has also featured as a showpiece for local branches of the Georgette Heyer and Jane Austen Societies, the Abbey Girls Book Club and indeed all of my friendship groups but, apart from us, I have it on good authority from one of the guides that it is one of the most popular exhibitions in the museum.

Local Clan members Ian and Judy McPhee, who were nearer relatives than I, were very pleased to hear this following my last visit with Iain, Clan Commander and his wife, Fiona. Without Ian and Judy's intervention the National Museum and its many visitors would have been the poorer.

Muriel McPhee was one of the Southgate McPhees on the northern bank of the Clarence River near Grafton. As one of the Lower Coldstream McPhees on the other side of the river, I met her occasionally at the local agricultural shows, family funerals and the Friday visits to town. We knew we were distantly related and I was reminded recently when examining the family tree that very early in the settlement of the area, two cousins married, linking the two family branches even more closely.

Miss McPhee as I called her, and her brother were dairy farmers at Arulbin, the family property. She had not married but this was not altogether unusual when I was growing up in the fifties and sixties. World War I had left its mark and there were nearly as many Miss McPhees, Browns etc. in our church and other social groups, as there were married women.

Approximately the same age as the century, Muriel was a teenager during World War 1. Like most girls of her generation and those generations before her, she had been trained by her mother in knitting, sewing and crochet and practised her skills in making her own clothes. In her spare time on the dairy farm owned by her family she would have had, nearly always, a piece of work underway. Many of her crochet articles featured a medallion pattern. The beauty of these is that, like quilting squares, each one can be carried around, worked on in odd moments until completed and then the garment or tablecloth or other napery item can be constructed at a later date. Muriel would have memorised this and other patterns and no doubt had a special pocket in her aprons to store her crochet hook, thread and current medallion.



Most young girls of this era prepared articles for use in later life which they sometimes kept in a 'bottom drawer'. This was called the 'glory box' or 'hope chest' when referring to articles of napery and other items they collected and the 'trousseau' when referring to clothing to be made and used in early married life. The 'trousseau' was usually not started until a girl was engaged and, in fact, one of the reasons for a period of engagement before marriage was to use this time to prepare the clothes which would be taken on the honeymoon and on into marriage.

After her parents died Muriel lived on with her brother who also remained unmarried, at the farm which they worked together. He died first and she lived on - a long and, seemingly uneventful life. After her death, several cousins, amongst them Ian and his wife Judy, found themselves with the unenviable task of clearing the house and outbuildings of possessions collected and stored, in case they were needed, some since early settlement in the mid nineteenth century.

No doubt clearing and garage sales were organised but, as most of us know, there always comes a time for the 'skip'. Many items ended up, by necessity at the local tip and as the days passed, decisions were being made quickly. A huge pile of fabric items of some sort stored in calico flour bags and found pushed into the back of cupboards was building up, destined for the tip. Fortunately, however, Judy noticed and investigated more thoroughly. She realised, with her own expertise, knowledge and appreciation of hand-crafts, that the family was discovering something special. In fact, they had found a treasure trove, not of coins or bullion, but of over 100 items of table linen, nightwear and undergarments, obviously lovingly prepared by Muriel as a young girl, in anticipation of her intended marriage. The fabrics and designs of the garments, which included items such as camiknickers, enabled them to be accurately dated to the early part of the twentieth century.

The incredible and very sad part of the story was that none of the items had ever been used! The only conclusion the family could come to was that Muriel must have had a fiancé or at least a sweetheart, who was killed in the first world war. Only a very great trauma would have prevented these items, in which money for fabrics and threads and many long hours of stitchery had been heavily invested, from being put into daily use. We all know the great war was followed some years later by the Depression and then World War II. Everyone, of necessity, recycled their clothing with the 'Mend and Make Do' mantra ringing in their ears. My parents were contemporaries of Muriel's and their lives on a dairy farm on the other side of the river would have had many parallels. In the early fifties some of my clothes were still made of recycled fabric and I grew up hearing stories of actual clothing MADE of flour bags...

With Muriel the last of her generation, the true story will never be known. We do know that many soldiers from the region were killed on the western front and in other theatres of war. The cousins' further discovery of rings of a type popular for soldiers to give their sweethearts and a soldier's photograph on her dressing table led them, however, to this logical conclusion.

The happier part of the story comes with Ian and Judy's actions following the discovery. They donated several of these items along with the rings, photo, sewing machine and some of Muriel's other possessions to the National Museum where they are valued and displayed for all to see.

Housed in the Australian Journeys gallery, alongside such exhibitions as the life and films of Damian Parer, Muriel's story is often used as the beginning or the end for guided tours because it has such universal appeal. It is used as a poignant part of the ANZAC tours for school groups. Historians amongst us value it for its illustration of pristine clothing and handcrafts popular at the beginning of the twentieth century. Needleworkers are impressed with Muriel's expertise which included netting and drawn thread work amongst her other skills. And Macfie Clan members are grateful to Ian and Judy for recognising the importance of their find and we are proud to have a place in the museum's collection. This gallery is meant to have changing exhibitions but the fact that Muriel's Trousseau has remained on display for several years is testament to its value and wide appeal.

When I first saw the exhibition I was very moved, thinking sadly of Muriel's long life, now defined by what must have been a memorial to lost love, and possibly to her, a life half-lived. As the museum points out in its written material and its daily tours, with shocking statistics of young lives lost, this was a fate that was not uncommon for girls of the early twentieth century.

If you would like to see the Muriel McPhee collection for yourself, on your next trip to your National Capital, visit the museum, walk up the ramp and take the lift to the next floor. If you don't anticipate a visit to Canberra anytime soon, turn to your trusty computer and Google Muriel McPhee. You will not be disappointed.



McPhee of Lochaber and the Lords of the Isles

From Past President 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

Reginald 1211

Donald 1289

Angus Mor Died 1334. This Angus Mor was the first MacDonald, says Rev Archibald MacDonald. Angus Og 1329 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 sent from Islay at this time to hold safe the Lochaber lands for MacDonald.

John Lord of the Isles. 1329 – 1380 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 Martin told us all about this about 1700).

John Lord of the Isles 1329 – 1380

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 MACDONALD**, 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 and 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 1st 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 2nd Keppoch Chief, to 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, 3rd 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.



Scotland News

Glenshiel Battle Site

The Battle of Glenshiel was the only engagement of the 'little' Jacobite Rising of 1719. Jacobites were those who supported the exiled Stuarts. The battle was fought between a Jacobite force led by the 10th Earl Marischal and a government regular army under General Wightman. The Jacobite army included some 300 Spaniards ostensibly to help the Jacobite cause but in reality to divert English attention from Spanish designs on Italy. The Spanish contingent, originally some 5000 strong but much depleted by storms at sea, arrived in its two remaining frigates in Loch Alsh in April, where they joined the force assembled by Cameron of Lochiel, the Earl of Seaforth and Lord George Murray.

Their hopes of a widespread rising of Jacobites were disappointed, for news of the meagre Spanish presence had spread quickly, but they had mustered almost 1000 men. Seaforth garrisoned Eilean Donan Castle as a supply base while the Jacobite army headed for Glenshiel on its way to the Great Glen and, ultimately Inverness. But the government was well informed; at the beginning of June a Royal Navy squadron of three warships blasted Eilean Donan Castle to ruins from the west and General Wightman led his army from Inverness into Glenshiel from the east. The two sides were well matched for size and strength, and fighting on 10th June lasted about three hours. But lack of support from Lowland Jacobites had so depressed morale of the Highlanders that the force was ordered to disband. The Spaniards, most of whom apparently survived surrendered, held prisoners of war and were eventually repatriated.

National Trust of Scotland archaeologists marked the 296th anniversary of the Battle of Glenshiel by carrying out a survey designed to increase knowledge of the site and its story. The Trust owns around 60 per cent of the battlefield at Kintail, including fortified Jacobite positions at a 'chokepoint' in the glen. Archaeologist Stefan Sagrott said: 'We've carried out several walkover surveys across the battlefield, which have identified remains associated with the battle. But this survey work will be the first time it's been carried out using high-tech GPS survey kit allowing us to locate the remains to within a centimetre. 'The visible remains consist of a series of banks and ditches which are all that are left of the Spanish fortifications. 'By accurately locating the remains we can both enhance our understanding of the battlefield and ensure that they are protected for future generations. 'The routed Jacobite troops fled north over the pass now called Bealach nan Spainteach (the pass of the Spaniards) which forms part of the Five Sisters of Kintail ridge - the National Trust of Scotland cares for this as part of the 18,000 acres of countryside and mountains that it is responsible for in the area. (ref: National Trust for Scotland, Collins Encyclopaedia of Scotland)

Scotland's Population

New statistics published by The National Records of Scotland have shown that Scotland now has an estimated population of over 5.3 million people - its highest ever. The figures show a rise of almost 20,000 people since the middle of 2013 due to factors such as migration, with approximately 9,600 people from the rest of the UK moving to Scotland and around 8,000 migrating to Scotland from the rest of the world. (ref: The Scottish Banner, July 2015)

Residents Buy Lewis Property

Residents of the Carloway Estate on Lewis – site of the famous Callanish standing stones have officially taken control of the estate following a community buyout. Islanders voted by 254 to 86 in favour of the buyout in a postal ballot held last year. There was a turnout of 67.6 per cent.

Fewer than 1,000 people live on the 11,400-acre estate, which was owned by the Galloway family. In total, the £180,000 buyout comprises 11,400 acres of land including the area around the iconic 5,000-year-old Callanish stones, which are owned by Historic Scotland and not part of the buyout. The area also includes the famous Dun Carloway, an Iron Age broch. Kenny MacIannan, chair of the Carloway Estate Trust, said: "We have been in the fortunate position of having a willing seller, and I would like to thank the Galloway family for their professional approach to the entire process." A spokesman for the Galloway family said: "As the Carloway Estate Trust embraces its new challenges, we hope that the new management regime will bring prosperity, stability and development to the community and its residents." The main monument at Callanish dates back to around 3,000BC. Lewis at the time was populated by Stone Age farmers who lived in small villages dotted around the Outer Hebridean islands. It is believed that stone circles like Callanish were used for ceremony and ritual over many centuries. (ref: The Scotsman 25/8/2015)

David Livingstone Centre

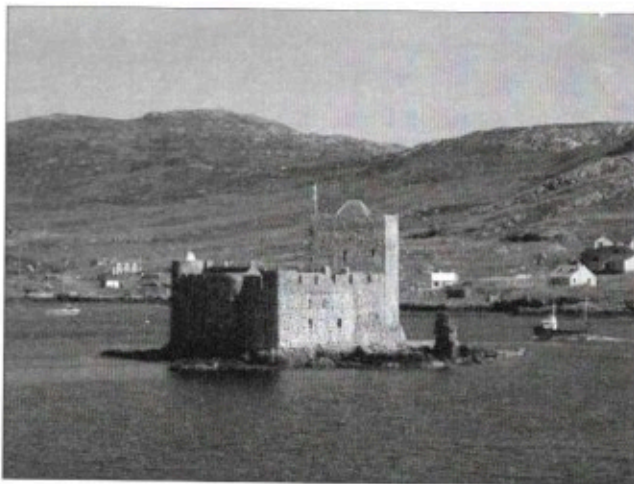
Established in 1930, The David Livingstone Trust has been successful in gaining initial support from a grant of £3.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to transform the David Livingstone Centre into a leading heritage attraction, celebrating the life of one of the most influential, but unsung, Scots.



The birthplace in 1803 of celebrated missionary and explorer, Dr David Livingstone, will be completely refurbished in a multi-million pound project. The David Livingstone Centre is formed around a single-roomed house in Shuttle Row, Blantyre, which was once part a complex of workers' dwellings alongside a cotton factory on the banks of the Clyde. Livingstone was born on the 19th March 1813 and as a young boy worked 12-hour days in the factory. Later, he daily walked to and from Glasgow to undertake his medical studies. Originally intending to go to China as a missionary, Livingstone was fired by the conviction that the African slave trade might be destroyed through the influence of 'legitimate trade' and the spread of Christianity, and embarked upon the travels that made him among the most famous of Victorians before his death in Africa in 1873. (ref: The Scottish Banner, July 2015)

Restoration of McNeil's of Barra Fortress

The future of one Scotland's most iconic medieval castles is to be secured in a major conservation scheme agreed between Historic Scotland and a Highland Clan Chief. Kisimul Castle, perched on a rocky islet off Castlebay on the Hebridean island of Barra, is the ancient seat of the Clan Macneil and the symbolic home of the Clan around the world. One of the most photographed castles in Scotland, it passed into the care of Historic Scotland 13 years ago on the basis of an annual rent of £1 and a bottle of Talisker malt whisky being paid to the Macneils.



Historic Scotland has announced that agreement has now been reached between the agency and Rory Macneil, the 47th Clan Chief, on a £200,000 scheme to preserve the ruined fortress for future generations. Half the finance is coming from funds donated by Clan Macneil members across the globe. A spokesman for Historic Scotland explained: "The work represents a unique opportunity to conserve and secure the site for current and future generations. It will also result in an improved visitor experience and ensure that the fabric and structure of the castle are conserved for years to come. Gaelic will be a key consideration in the interpretation that will be developed for the site."

Macneil of Barra, whose father transferred the ownership of the castle to Historic Scotland in 2000 on a 999 year lease, said: "Agreement on the conservation plan is a milestone in the long and varied history of Kisimul Castle. ... This plan will help ensure that Kisimul continues to play a central, symbolic and economic role in Barra and Vatersay, and to serve as an inspiration to Macneils around the world. I would like to express my gratitude to clanspeople whose contributions to the Kisimul Castle restoration fund can now be put to good use, and to Historic Scotland for its stewardship of the Castle over the past 13 years and the positive way in which it is engaging with the Barra and Vatersay community." (ref: The Scotsman 26/8/2015)

Return of Scottish Wildlife

Rewilding Britain hopes that more than 20 rare and extinct species can be reintroduced across 100 million acres of British wilderness. Those species include wolves, lynx, boars and beavers. The Scottish Government has already identified 1.5 million hectares of land the charity says could be used for re-wilding. (ref: The Scottish Banner, Sept 2015)

Japanese Whisky Win

The whisky world was given a shake this year with news that for the first time ever, the 2015 edition of writer-reviewer Jim Murray's *Whisky Bible* ranked a Japanese whisky as the world's best, and that none of the top five whiskies on the list originated from Scotland.

The Yamazaki Single Malt Cherry Cask 2013, of which only 18,000 bottles were produced, was awarded 97.5 points out of 100 - the same as last year's title holder, Glenmorangie Ealanta, a 19 year-old Scotch. Yamazaki is produced by Suntory, Japan's oldest whisky distillery that was founded in 1923 by Shinjiro Tori. Second and third places were taken out by American bourbons William Larue Weller and Sazerac Rye 18 Year Old.

Jim Murray's *Whisky Bible* is an annual resource, first published in 2003, covering new and existing releases and expressions of grain spirits. It organises the massive catalogue of some 4,500 whiskies from around the world, ranks Murray's favourites and discourses emphatically on what's wrong and right with the industry that year. (ref: internet)

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Vale

Past President Bernie McPhee has notified the Society of four deaths in his family: his cousin Margaret Barnes, his sister Marie, his brother Jack and his brother Robbie who were all long standing members of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia. Our sympathy goes to Bernie for the loss of so many of his close family in such a short time.

Robert Vincent McPhee (V76-151) of Vermont Victoria.

Robbie McPhee who died at 80 years of age on the 4th August, 2014, was the tenth child of Hector and Katie McPhee of Mont Albert Victoria, and the grandson of John McPhee of Killiechonate Scotland and of Vectis Natimuk Victoria. Robbie is survived by his widow Helen, and his three daughters and two grandchildren. RIP

John Thomas McPhee (V78-422) of Oakleigh Victoria. Jack McPhee, who died at 93 years of age on 2nd September, 2014, was the eldest child of Hector and Katie McPhee of Mont Albert Victoria, and the grandson to John McPhee of Killiechonate Scotland and Vectis Natimuk Victoria. Jack's wife Moya had predeceased him in 1999. Jack is survived by his eight children, by twenty four of his grandchildren and by his fifteen great grandchildren. RIP

Sister Margaret Barnes C.S.B. (V05- 1009) of Kilbride Convent, Albert Park Victoria.

Margaret Mary Barnes, who died at age 85 years of age on 3rd December 2014, was the daughter of Cecil and Louie Barnes (nee Hassall) of Rainbow, Victoria. Margaret had taught in Brigidine schools around Victoria, at first in the Primary section, and later at Secondary level. Margaret had been Professed in the Religious life for 57 years. Dorothy and Billy, Margaret's sister and brother survive her. Her brother John Barnes died a year ago. Margaret Barnes was the great grand-daughter of John McPhee of Killiechonate Scotland and Vectis Natimuk in Victoria, and the great great grand daughter of Rowland Hassall of Sydney, ('Hassall Street', Paramatta) who came as Anglican Missionary on the ship "The Duff" to Sydney in 1798. RIP

Marie Therese O'Sullivan (nee McPhee) (V76-218) of Vermont Victoria, who died on 2nd August, 2015, aged 89 years, was the widow of John Joseph O'Sullivan of Surrey Hills Victoria, and the older daughter of Hector and Katie (nee Liston) McPhee, and the grand-daughter of John McPhee of Killiechonate Scotland and Vectis Natimuk Victoria. Marie is survived by seven children, seventeen grand children and six great grand children. RIP

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*** Denotes Macfie Clan Society of Australia Executive member**

EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

Sept 5	Norah Head Gathering of the Clans, NSW
Sept 13	Armadale Highland Gathering & Kilt Run, WA
Sept 19	Nelson Bay Clans on the Coast Festival, NSW
Oct 10	Canberra Highland Gathering, ACT
Oct 11	Caversham Ceilidh in the Park, WA
Oct 18	Brownsville Illawarra Scottish Fair, NSW
Nov 6-8	Beechworth Celtic Festival, VIC
Dec 5	Daylesford Highland Gathering, VIC

Disclaimer & Note

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



VIC members Peter McPhee and his wife Barbara at the 2014 BGM church service



The Society's tent at the Aberdeen Highland Gathering



VIC members Bev Knowles and her husband Roger at the 2014 BGM church service



SA member Ann Leask at the 2014 BGM in Adelaide



The 2014 BGM at the home of Brian & Marilyn McPhee, Adelaide. At front in the above photo from L to R: Ian McPhee SA, Dean Rutledge VIC, Cass & Brian McHaffie NSW