



THE DOWNUNDER

Journal of the
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 133
July 2016



Colonsay



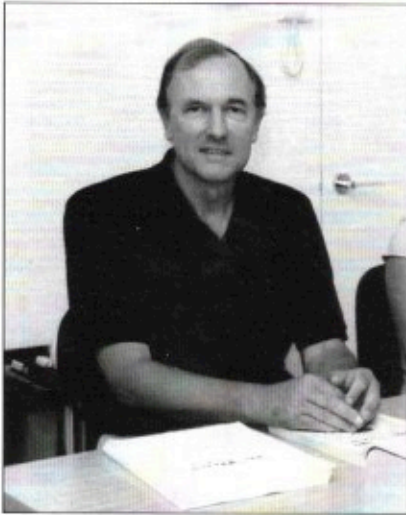
Ancestral home
of Clan Macfie

Oronsay

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

www.clanmacfie.co.uk

President's Message



It is unfortunate to report that Commander Iain McFie had a serious health setback a couple of months ago. It follows a difficult winter for Iain and his wife Fiona, where their heating broke down and they could not get anyone to fix the problem.

Fiona sent this note to Clan members: "Iain is doing well all things considered. It was quite a shock when Robin & I found him on the ground, but within 3 hours, the Doctor ~ Ambulance had him in Hospital. This was really quick as we do not have Doctors on duty at the weekends. He is being moved today to St. Vincent's Hospital, Kingussie which is just 4 miles from the house. This will make visiting so much easier as I do not drive." It appeared Iain suffered a stroke, but tests have now apparently ruled that out. More details are provided under Clan News on page 6.

Iain's ill-health has meant a halt in preparations for next years Clan Parliament and Gathering which is to be held between 6th - 9th September at Stirling. Any member who can attend, won't be disappointed with what they will experience in Scotland. Preliminary details are provided on page 6. On the subject of meetings and gatherings, our own Society's 22nd Biennial General Meeting will be held this year in Melbourne. I hope all those who can attend will do so. It is a wonderful opportunity to engage with fellow Society members, and forward any ideas that may contribute to improving our organisation.

I would also encourage anyone who wants to participate in running the Society, to please nominate for an executive position. All positions are open and new participants most welcome. As time is short for so many today (including me), society's such as ours face the problem of getting people involved. Recently, Ann Johnston, the editor of the Clan Macfie Society of Scotland's journal called *The Galley* retired. After Ann's retirement, no one was prepared to take on her role. As a result, publication of *The Galley* has been suspended indefinitely. Where good communication is so essential to any organisation, this is a terribly unfortunate situation.

In May I made a trip to the UK, to pursue some personal interests. As one of those interests involved ceramics, I stayed at Stoke-on-Trent which is renowned for the production of fine bone china and other ceramics. These days the ceramics industry is a shadow of what it once was. The people that live there are also different to times past as Stoke now has a considerable Muslim population originating from Kashmir and Pakistan. From Stoke, it was off to Oban in Scotland where I was able to visit the Clan Treasurer Finlay McFee and his wife Lorraine. As the Argyll and Bute Council Office at Lochgilphead is not far away, I was also able to do some family research there. That proved most rewarding. After Oban and a stay on the Isle of Mull, it was on to Edinburgh. Edinburgh is home to the Office of the Lord Lyon which is responsible for heraldic law in Scotland. Clan Macfie has always had a warm relationship with the incumbent Lord Lyon and I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet Lord Lyon, Dr. Joseph Morrow QC and members of his staff. I will be writing more about that meeting in the next *Downunder*.

Before signing off, I would like to thank all those who have contributed so generously to our Society this year. Anyone who looks at page 4, could not help but be impressed with the number of members who have made a donation to our Society. It is a great indicator that our heritage is highly valued by our membership. It is hard to attract new members, but the members we have are both loyal and generous.

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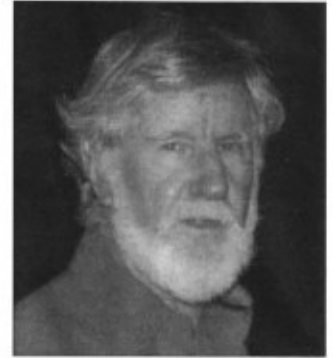
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Front cover: The Mayor of Marrickville, Sam Iskandar, opening the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Exhibition at the Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Camperdown in Sydney.

MEMBER IN PROFILE

QLD member: Andrew McPhee (R77-261)

Migrant forebears: Donald McPhee & Jessie Cameron
Occupation: Farm labourer in Scotland
Home in Ireland: Lanark
Emigrant ship: Departed Liverpool on the *Admiral Boxer*
Arrived Australia: Goolwa SA. August 1855
Pioneer forebears: Donald McPhee & 2nd wife Anora Skipworth



Member's story in brief:

I was born Kevin Andrew McPhee on 18/4/1932, in a little bush hospital in a little bush town called Werrimull. I have always been known by my Christian name Andrew. I am the fourth son of Horace Argyle Augustus (called Son) McPhee and Pearl (nee Duthie). They had 7 other children: Colin Royce born 1922 (died 2004), Lorna Pearl 1924, Flora Joan known as Joan 1926, Donald 1928 (died 1944), Ian 1929 (died 2008), Jean Heather 1934 and Keith Edward 1938. Lorna, Joan, Jean and Keith all now live in Mildura.

Werrimull is about 80 kilometres West of Mildura and our family lived on a wheat and sheep farm at Meringur another 20 kilometres West which is in the Mallee desert of Victoria not far from the South Australian border. Early schooling was at the Mildura South Primary school and the Mildura High School. I wanted to be an architect but my father could not afford to send me to university in Melbourne. After much research he found that I could study architecture at the Ballarat University where I could live with his brother, my uncle Allen.

My first job was in Adelaide where I met and married Heather Slape in March 1955. We had three sons and when Heather was pregnant with our fourth on July 4th. 1966 we moved to Alice Springs where I started my own practice. Our children are Anthony Argyle born 1959 now in Melbourne, Mathew Andrew 1961 now in Adelaide, Peter Andrew 1964 also now in Adelaide and Andrew Clyde 1967 resident in Port Douglas. Alice Springs was growing very fast at the time and there was a lot of work for architects and builders. While there I joined Rotary International and was a member for 25 years which was a good experience. I was also elected on the first Alice Springs Council, was Council's representative on the Northern Territory Town Planning Authority and the Northern Territory Tourist Board.

During the 1970's the commonwealth government was again trying to build housing for aboriginal people and I got involved in that which was very interesting although frustrating. In 1985 we moved to live at Palm Cove because I thought that living in central Australia for 19 years was too long and thought I had better get out before it became 20 years.

Gary Hunt who was also from Alice Springs had opened an architectural practice in Port Douglas and when I called in to see him he offered me freelance work. Christopher Skase was starting his Mirage project in Port in 1987 and Gary offered me work on that project which was very hectic but exciting. Since then I have done various small projects about Port Douglas and have decided that this is the place to live. I retired from work in 2005. I have been involved with amateur Art Groups and was president of ArtHouse Port Douglas for a few years and am now a member of DABS a Mossman Art Group.



In 1989 I had bought an old 'week end' shack at Oak Beach and in 1996 built a permanent house there and I don't want to be anywhere else.

(editor's note: Andrew is a cousin of Glen McPhee, former Vice President of the ACT).

←
Donald & Jessie McPhee with 4 of their 5 children: L to R Donald snr, Jessie, Flora holding Mary & Donald standing. Another child Isobel was born later.

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 July 2016, are an essential part of our funding and greatly appreciated

Ian R	McPhee	SCULLIN	ACT	Nevell J.	McPhee	VICTORIA POINT	QLD
Gary J Marelle	McPhee Lee	CARLINGFORD LENNOX HEAD	NSW	Mary A.	Goodall	PLAINLAND	QLD
Ian R	McPhee	FRENCHS FOREST	NSW	Heather	Knowles	ALBANY CREEK	QLD
Robyn	Hancox	WOLLSTONECRAFT	NSW	Betty	Garrard	NAMBOUR	QLD
Bruce	Agland	CLARENCE TOWN	NSW	Robyn M.	Young	JIMBOOMBA	QLD
Russell	Mattocks	BALGOWLAH	NSW	Dale & Rachel	McPhie	WOODY POINT	QLD
Bruce & Dorothy	Taylor	YAGOONA	NSW	Gwen	McPhee	WYNNUM	QLD
Ross	McPhee	KANAKOOKA	NSW	Alison E	Siddins	GOONDIWINDI	QLD
Lyndsay	Armstrong	ROSE BAY	NSW	Dr Ewen	McPhee	EMERALD	QLD
Mairi	Petersen	SHELLHARBOUR	NSW	Nigel	McPhee	LOCKLEYS	S.A.
Joyce	McPhee	BONNELLS BAY	NSW	Ian L.	McPhee	KIDMAN PARK	SA
Marion	McPhee	MAROUBRA	NSW	Ann	Leask	MCLAREN VALE	SA
Beryl	McPhie	NOWRA	NSW	Marlena	Turner	ULVERSTON	TAS
Greg	McPhee	CABARITA BEACH	NSW	Julie	Peters	PORT MELBOURNE	VIC
Brian & Cass	McHaffie	TWEED HEADS STH	NSW	Anthony	Gartland	BOX HILL SOUTH	VIC
Ross & Joyce	McPhee	WEST PYMBLE	NSW	Simon	McPhee	NARRE WARREN	VIC
Barbara	Smythe	TURRAMURRA	NSW	Hadyn M	McPhie	MIRBOO NORTH	VIC
Barbara K.	McPhee	KURRI KURRI	NSW	Kim	McDuffie	MILFORD GRANGE	VIC
Michael & Mary	McPhee	VAUCLUSE	NSW	Jan	Harper	PORT MELBOURNE	VIC
Mrs Trish	McPhee	SEAFORTH	NSW	Dr Ian	McPhee	ROSANNA	VIC
Andrew	Pardoe	BUNDANOON	NSW	Keith & Anne	McPhee	GLEN WAVERLEY	VIC
Andrew J.	McPhee	BAULKHAM HILLS	NSW	Ian R.	McPhee	SHEPPARTON EAST	VIC
Stuart	McWilliam	MOREE	NSW	Donald J.	McPhie	NILMA NORTH	VIC
Margaret	Barnes	DRUMMOYNE	NSW	Marie Joyce	Jackson- Nation	WARRAGUL	VIC
Janet R.	Mackay	BRACKEN RIDGE	QLD	Cherry	McFee	RHYLL	VIC
Robert	Lansdowne	WISHART	QLD	Bernard P.	McPhee	MONT ALBERT	VIC
Kevin A.	McPhee	OAK BEACH	QLD	Margaret E	McPhee	CLAREMONT	WA
Dorothy J.	McPhee	BELL	QLD	Trevor & Rhonda	McPhee	BALCATTIA	WA
Lorna	Lansdowne	WISHART	QLD	Kelly	Ross	SUBIACO	WA
Jean	Rushbrooke	EAGLE HEIGHTS	QLD	Glen	McPhee	PUKEKOHE	NZ
Jenny M.	Hutchins	CARINDALE	QLD	Erina	Wood	MASTERTON	NZ
Dorothy	Murphy	CURRUMBIN	QLD	G Bruce	McFee	Chiangmai	Thai
Fr. M Mathew	McPhee	COORPAROO	QLD				
Sharron	Benett	COOLUM BEACH	QLD				
Donald A.	Knowles	YEPPOON	QLD				
Gwen	Duff	TEWANTIN	QLD				
J. Duncan	McPhee	BROOKFIELD	QLD				
Keith A	McPhee	TARRAGINDI	QLD				
Lorraine	McPhee	TOOWOOMBA	QLD				

Overseas

Linda Gilcrest who resides in the United States, writes and distributes Clan News on behalf of Clan Macfie. Linda has had serious health issues but is now back in action and resumed her role sending out Clan News.

The NZ Society recently held its AGM. Their President Glen McPhee (formerly of the ACT) reported that several exciting initiatives were discussed, including a genealogy data base to provide a resource for members, improving communications via Facebook, and redesigned membership cards. The sustainability their Clan Society due to falling numbers and aging was also canvassed.

Brian & Cass McHaffie Celebrations

From Cass McHaffie,

In April our son Stuart and Nicole his wife celebrated their 30th Wedding Anniversary.

May 5th this year Brian was 80 years old (His O.B.E.) and it was a great occasion to have the McHaffies from Adelaide - Stuart, Nicole, Charlotte, Ruby and Janice come to the Tweed to celebrate with Sydney-siders Brian's sister Brenda with her daughters Annabelle and Emma, Annabelle's husband Michael and two delightful children Lucie and Abigail .

On July 14th this year (Bastille Day) Brian and I will celebrate 60 years of Marriage and this is to be celebrated in U.K. We wish to re visit the Church where we were married in 1956 St Johns Church Stratford East London. Our Page boy Raymond (son of my sister Dolly.) and youngest Bridesmaid Vicky (Daughter of my brother Fred) now in their 50s and 60s will be attending our celebrations scattered over Wales and U.K.

Our trip starts on 2nd June on the way to U.K. Two days each way will be spent in Abu Dhabi. Extensive seven weeks ahead of visiting a few places never seen by us before so mixture of apprehension and excitement is with us .! Being two of few older relations left , Brian and I are fortunate to have the younger members keen to please and make this trip memorable.

Former Society Piper Bob McPhee, of Torrington.

From Bob's daughter Fiona Thompson, Inverell, NSW

I was catching up on my Clan Society reading recently, and felt the need to inform the Society about my father Bob (Robert) McPhee, of Torrington.

Dad became unwell over the Christmas period, and our family felt the need to place him in a nursing home. He has severe dementia, and although he is fit and healthy otherwise, he is no longer safe to care for himself at home. We have re-located Bob to the Pioneer Village in Longreach, Western Queensland – one of his favourite stomping grounds as a younger man.

My brother Alistair and his wife Catherine, along with their brood of 8 children and grandchildren, are able to visit him regularly and keep an eye on him. Dad has started to play the pipes again – with the encouragement of his grandson Angus. It's interesting to note that with his terrible memory loss – his chanter and pipes remain his most prized possessions.

Despite being understandably miserable at the changes in his life, he is now surrounded by grandkids, being well cared for and will hopefully find a measure of life's' happiness again soon.

News from WA

From Trevor & Rhonda McPhee

With our small numbers here we don't do much; however on Sunday we attended the Clan Donald Annual Lunch, you may remember we have done some reciprocal visiting since 2012-- Pres Pam MacDonald came to our BGM Dinner.

Suzie McPhee and Chrissie Bacchus came with Rhonda & me, & had a good social time.

You may remember Margaret McPhee who came to our BGM== she has been ill & couldn't make it. She is in a nursing home at Alfred Carson Lodge at 30 Bay Road Claremont. I'll try & call in on her when next over that way.



Clan Macfie News № 76

from Clan Commander (Ceann Cath) Iain McFie

Email: commander@clanmacfie.co.uk

From the Commander

A decision has been made to hold the 20th International Gathering and 12th Parliament of the Clan Macfie in Stirling, Scotland. Finlay McFie, his wife Lorraine, Fiona and I visited the Stirling University campus on the 14th of June and found it to be a most suitable place to hold the 2017 Clan Gathering and Parliament. We had an excellent lunch before we met with the Events Manager. If all the food is to this standard, our stay should be very enjoyable.

The accommodation is of good quality. Some rooms are twins, but the majority are fitted with a five foot bed. All rooms have a shower room and other facilities. There are two floors in the hotel with a limited number of rooms on the ground floor.

The University is situated on the outskirts of Stirling and is set in a parkland with some lovely walks. Towering over the site is the Wallace Monument dedicated to Sir William Wallace, better known now as Braveheart. Stirling is reasonably accessible from Glasgow and Edinburgh by bus and train. There is a bus service from the centre of Stirling to the University. The "unibus," as it is called, leaves from the town centre every ten minutes and takes only a matter of minutes. The hotel is a short uphill walk from the bus stop. Of course taxis are available from both the train and bus stations. There is a train station in Bridge of Allan; however, not all trains to Stirling go on to Bridge of Allan.

There will be no student accommodation during our time at the University as the University term begins the week after we will be there. There are plenty of Bed and Breakfasts (B&Bs) in Stirling and Bridge of Allan, which is a short walk from the University entrance. The preliminary programme for Stirling is as posted below:

20th International Gathering and 12th Parliament of Clan Macfie September 6th through September 9th, 2017

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 6th September: | Arrival of delegates. Commander's Reception |
| Thursday 7th September: | Opening of 12th Parliament; Clan Session; half day outing
(this will probably be to the smallest whisky distillery in Scotland)
or time on your own. |
| Friday 8th September: | Day tour or your own plans. Clan Dinner. |
| Saturday 9th September: | Clan Society Session. Half day tour on your own. |
| Sunday 10th September: | Depart for Colonsay. |

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Commander's Health: Editor's note

Back in early July advice was received from Commander Iain's son Robin, that Iain had suffered a mild stroke and was taken to hospital. It was reported the stroke had effected his balance and possibly the co-ordination of his right leg. His mental faculties all remained intact.

The latest news from Iain's son, Robin:

"Iain has had a second MRI. The doctors are now confident that Iain has not had a stroke. His condition appears to be caused by a disc between two neck vertebra being pushed against the spinal cord; hence his good mental function and poor motor coordination.

He is to be sent to Aberdeen for an assessment to see if he is suitable for a surgical procedure to alleviate his condition. He'll have the assessment on 10th August. After that we should know if he can have surgery. After surgery, he would be in the hospital in Aberdeen in Recovery a few days and then back closer to home in either Inverness or Kingussie. Of course, all times are flexible. He'll then have physical therapy for some time before going home.

So all indications look good at this time."

Notice & Invitation:
21st Biennial General Meeting
of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Notice is hereby given: that the 21st Biennial General Meeting (BGM) of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia will be held at The Celtic Club, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne VIC on Saturday 12th November 2016.

Order of Business

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Welcome | 6. Treasurer's report and financial statement |
| 2. Apologies and greetings | 7. Election of executives |
| 3. Confirmation of the minutes of the 18th BGM | 8. General business |
| 4. Business arising from those minutes | 9. Closure of meeting |
| 5. President's report | |

Executive Committee

Nominations are now called for the following Executive positions:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • President | • Queensland Vice-President |
| • Vice-President | • South Australian Vice-President |
| • Secretary | • Tasmanian Vice-President |
| • Treasurer | • Victorian Vice-President |
| • ACT Vice-President | • Western Australian Vice-President |

NB: Nominations are to be in writing, stating the nominee's name and intended office. They are to be signed by the nominee accepting nomination and by a proposer and seconder. Only financial members can accept nomination or propose or second a nomination. Nomination forms are available from the president and close with him on 30th October 2016.

Weekend Programme

Members will meet on Saturday at 9.30 am in the Celtic Club, followed by a tour of the nearby iconic Queen Victoria Market. Members have the option of a 2 hour Hunter Gather Food Tour, including tastings (\$49 per head), or can explore the market independently. It's then back to the Celtic Club for lunch and the BGM. Following the BGM, members can take the free City Circle tram to Melbourne's Immigration Museum, where a guide will give an introduction. A visit to the Museum's Discovery Centre which provides family history resources, has been arranged. Entry cost is \$14.00. Saturday night is free for members to visit a show as it is Melbourne Music Week, or sample a Melbourne restaurant.

On Sunday, members are invited to the 11 am service at Scots Church, Collins St. Melbourne where Clan members will be acknowledged. Following the service, members are invited to attend a wreath-laying ceremony on behalf of the Society in the Sanctuary of Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance on St. Kilda Rd, followed by lunch (members own expense) in the Terrace Restaurant, Royal Botanic Gardens.

Attendance & Information

	Saturday 12th November		Sunday 13 November
Morning	Queen Victoria Market visit	Service	11 am Scots Church, Collins St.
Lunch	12 noon	After church	Shrine of Remembrance wreath laying
General Meeting	1.00pm	Lunch	Terrace Restaurant, Botanic Gardens
Afternoon	Immigration Museum		

Members are encouraged to wear Scottish dress to the lunch and BGM. Please indicate your attendance by either telephoning, emailing or writing to either the President (see page 15 for details) or preferably: Peter McPhee or Bev Knowles by 30th October. Their contact details are as follows:

Peter McPhee: Home: 03 98741460 Mobile: 0412 342426

Email: pmphee@bigpond.com

Bev Knowles: Home: 03 98172891 Mobile: 0417 303614

Email: bevknowles@netspace.net.au

GENEALOGY

15th Century Lochaber McPhees: What happened to them afterwards?

From Historian Bernie McPhee VIC

1. McPhee of Glen Spean.

This McPhee, described as "leader of a powerful sept of that time", was immortalized in his daughter's descendants. Married to the second Chief of the MacDonell Clan, this well bred McPhee became the mother of all the MacDonells of Keppoch. The recently designated Chief of MacDonells of Keppoch's claim to the Chieftainship leads directly back to Glen Spean's daughter. And a daughter of this lady married the Captain of Clan Cameron in the middle of the same 15th Century.

2. McPhee of Glen Pean.

This McPhee also found immortality in his well bred daughter's becoming the mother of Celestine of Lochalsh. Although Celestine never became Lord of the Isles, (the honour going to his brother), he nevertheless gave to his descendants all the lands of Lochalsh, Loch Carron and Loch Broom, encompassing the ancient lands of Applecross Abbey, a fiefdom in itself, which even today are MacDonald lands.

3. McPhee signatory to a Charter of the Earl of Ross.

This was supposedly a "Donald McPhee". No surprise really that McPhee should be considered a suitable signatory to the Earl of Ross' documents, seeing that McPhee was so closely related to this particular Lord of the Isles. Over the 15th Century, as the great Lordship of the Isles distilled into a mere fraction of its power and landholdings and influence with the Crown, so did the McPhee folks, who became farmers, dependents of Cameron, sharers in the fate and disownership of property of the MacDonells, faithful servers in the Estate of Gordon after 1493 on the large Inverlochry Estate, and sometime in sword service to the MacIntosh. Nevertheless they were still fairly numerous and influential in Lochaber throughout the 15th Century.

4. Father McPhee of Kilmonivaig.

Father McPhee was a priest of the community of Velluscalian Congregation within the Catholic Church. This was a French Order whose monastery and headquarters was at Loch Etive. Remnants and ruins of this monastic community are still visible today. Father McPhee's work was as Pastor or Parish Priest at Kilmonivaig, just near where the River Spean runs down to the Great Glen and the Caledonian Canal. Not far from the site of the Battle of Inverlochry of 1431, in which McPhee's namesake fought alongside the MacDonells against the King's Earl of Mar. There is a Parish Scottish Church there today, and McPhee folks names on tombstones within Church grounds. This Velluscalian Order were no fly-by-night outfit, but as evidenced by their use of their own Liturgical books for worship, a well established and long approved Religious Order. Copies of some parts of these Liturgical books are still in existence today. We have to note that in those days, the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland was governed directly from Rome. Later than 1420, the Pope established a Scottish Hierarchy. Father McPhee set off for Rome in that year 1420. Father McPhee perhaps was heading off to Rome in view of the forthcoming self governing negotiations between Rome and Scotland, or more likely, was going off to Rome for the six yearly turnover elections of the Major Superiors of the Congregation to which he belonged. In any event, he was one of the main people in the Scottish Catholic Church and the Velluscalian Order. He died on the way to Rome. Another substantial Lochaber McPhee of the 15th Century, but whose great promise was voided in death.

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Overseas Enquiry: Can you Help?

My daughters, Robin MacPhee Brown and Jeannie MacPhee Vance, and I, inspired by my husband's uncle, Earle D. MacPhee, have been researching the MacPhee family in Prince Edward Island. We are using much of the information in the book I helped Earle produce on the MacPhees etc. of Prince Edward Island, Volume 8 of his series, plus a few of his personal notes which I found among my papers.

We found on page 45 of Volume 8, that John born 1858, son of Angus and Catherine MacDonald, born in Breadalbane, PEI, moved to Australia as a miner. This Angus was son of Dougald McPhee and Flora Mary Shaw, great grandparents of Earle D. MacPhee and my father-in-law, John Henry Lloyd MacPhee.

Dougald came to Canada, possibly, in 1806 and he and Flora Mary were married in Charlottetown in St. James Presbyterian Church in 1812.

I am hoping you can provide us with some information regarding possible record sources in Australia which might help us in our searching for the records of this John McPhee (MacPhee's) family. It would be amazing if some of his descendants were involved in the Clan organization there.

Please give my greetings to other Clan members there in Australia. We will be glad to provide others with any information we have which would help others.

Hopefully, Barbara Redd MacPhee. Reply: Barbara Macphee [grandmac26@shaw.ca]

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What is a Sennachie?

The role of *An Seanchaidh* (*Sennachie*, *Sen-chai*, *Seannachaidh*, and usually rendered in Scots and English as "Shennachie" or "Shenachie") is to carry out those tasks that record, preserve and illuminate the histories, lineages, honours and archives of the surname group.

The Sennachie was part of the Chief's household and is an ancient position, within both Pictish and Scoto-Gaelic traditions, and not to be confused with a Bard. In the *Gaidhealtachd* (Gaelic-speaking Highlands) the great chiefs would keep both a *shennachie* and a *bard* in their households, as well as a piper and/or a harpist, to entertain them and the *duine-uasail* (the "gentlemen" and senior members of the clan) and their visitors.

An Oath of the Sennachies

To preserve the history of the fathers
To pass it along without bias by instruction
From mouth to mouth, from knee to knee
The witness and the heritage most precious
In the power of the free, as opposed to the un-free
Without injury to any person or thing
Without twisting the truth
In opposing deceit
Without strengthening evil
Without weakening justice
So long as the blood is warm, and breath in the body
To the awakening of the Feinn

The mission of the Sennachie is to explore, explain and extend the collective knowledge of the history, lineages, customs, traditions, language, laws and ethos of the Clan or Family and the Chief, and loyalty to support the Chief in these matters. This helps foster links within the kinship group and provides continuity.

The Sennachie is the keeper of the flame. The duties are ancient and traditional, but have to be relevant to the modern day. In present-day terms, it can be seen as combining the functions of Genealogist, Historian, Orator, Banner-carrier, Herald and Heraldist and Keeper of the White Wand of Chiefship. These roles may, of course, be separated in larger Clans and Families, or re-apportioned as needs must (for reasons of geography, for example).

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A Seniors View on Face Book

For those of my generation who do not and cannot comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles.

Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell each passerby what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later, and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them. And it works just like Facebook.

I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator, and a psychiatrist.

The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry Exhibition

from President Ian McPhee NSW

I attended a display of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry that was held between 23rd March and 3rd April at the Chrissie Cotter Gallery, Pidcock Street, Camperdown in Sydney. The group of Sydney based panel embroiderers (the stitchers) organising the Sydney exhibition of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry invited all clansmen and clanswomen to visit the outstanding display.

The display comprised 305 panels depicting many of the personalities who have contributed to their new communities after emigration, and achieved much in their new homelands; - across the world. 39 panels were embroidered by Australians, the largest contribution within the Diaspora

Background

The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry was inspired by the success of the The Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry, an extraordinary 104-metre artwork, embroidered by 200 volunteers from around Scotland. It shows the early part of the Jacobite campaign of 1745 and was inspired by the Norman Bayeux Tapestry. Since its completion in 2010 it has attracted thousands of visitors during tours around Scotland.

Scots have migrated all over the world and have often had a profound impact on the areas where they settled. This project brought together stories from more than such communities, documenting their Scottish connections in more than 300 embroidered panels. It is a remarkable and heart-felt homage to the determination, courage and achievement of Scottish migrants and their descendants across the centuries.

The Scottish Diaspora Tapestry is a large embroidery, 164 metres in length, crafted from 305 panels that were embroidered in 34 countries. It was the third major tapestry project to have originated from the Prestoungrange Arts Festival in Prestonpans, East Lothian, Scotland. Work on the panels began in 2012. A version of the tapestry was exhibited across Scotland in 2014 for the Homecoming. The tapestry was displayed in locations around Western Europe the following year. November 2015 was the first time that all 305 panels were shown together. After a tour of Australia, New Zealand and Canada the tapestry will return to London and Edinburgh in 2017.

The Design

The original plan was for a tapestry consisting of 150–160 panels, each measuring 500mm x 500mm in size. Research was conducted across the globe by Gillian Hart and Yvonne Murphy; panel designs were then created by artist Andrew Crummy, who had previously been involved with the 104 metre Prestonpans Tapestry. Arran Johnston is a historian who was involved with the project and the tapestry tour director. The panels were planned to come together to form a work 90 metres in length.

The Stitchers

communities were identified in 25 countries to which Scots had emigrated. Groups of volunteers were approached to hand-stitch panels that documented their Scottish connections. By the end of the project panels were stitched by communities in 34 countries: Argentina, Australia, Antarctica, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Ethiopia, England, France, Germany, India, Italy, Ireland, Jamaica, Lithuania, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Israel, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Sweden, Taiwan, Tristan da Cunha, the United States of America and Zimbabwe. There was also a reverse diaspora, created to recognise the Italian and Asian communities who have settled in Scotland. Although people with a range of skills took part, it was estimated that it took at least 200 hours to stitch each panel.

In the tapestry a range of historical events are represented, many showing Scotland from the perspective of explorers and emigrants. Thirty five panels were given to Canadian volunteers, with Prince Edward Island having five of these. Four panels were stitched in Victoria, British Columbia.

The project was supported by £120,000 from Prestoungrange Arts Festival, £80,000 from Creative Scotland, £44,000 from Homecoming 2014, £25,000 from Bòrd na Gàidhlig and £102,000 from the Scottish Government. The great majority of this project's £1 million costs including the global tour has, however, been met by committed volunteers and in kind donations.

Exhibitions

In June 2013 the first completed panels were unveiled as part of the annual Three Harbours Arts Festival in Prestonpans. The tapestry first went on display in Prestonpans on 31 May 2014, then in Stirling. By August 2014 there were 200 completed panels which went on display in Edinburgh. It then was taken around Scotland to Paisley, Helmsdale, the Royal National Mòd in Inverness and Wick.

It then was exhibited in Doncaster and Corby in England. The tapestry began a global tour in May 2015 in Bergen, Norway. In June it was exhibited in Veere in the Netherlands. It then was shown in Barga and Picinisco, Italy and in Boussy and Paris, France.

In November 2015 all 305 panels were exhibited together for the first time in Goolwa, South Australia. The tapestry then went on to Adelaide, Tasmania, Albury and Sydney before going to Dunedin in New Zealand in April 2016. The tapestry travels to North America.

The Battle of Prestonpans

In 1685, James VII of Scotland also became the King of England. James Stuart ruled as James VII of Scotland and James II of England. His support of Catholicism however led to the premature end of his reign in 1688. He was replaced by the Protestant Prince William of Orange, who ruled as William III with his wife Mary II as joint sovereigns. They were succeeded by Mary's sister Anne. It was during her reign that Scotland lost her sovereignty with the formation of the United Kingdom in 1707.

Queen Anne died in 1714 leaving no heirs. This led to the Elector of Hanover being invited to rule the United Kingdom as George I of England and Scotland. Many Scots, particularly those in the Highlands, resented the appointment, believing a descendant of James Stuart was the rightful heir to the throne.

James' son, James Francis Stuart, made an unsuccessful attempt to regain his father's crown in 1715. His supporters and sympathisers were known as Jacobites, derived from Jacobus, the Latin name for James. James Francis Stuart, had a son called Charles Edward Stuart. His good looks and personality had given rise to his nickname of Bonnie Prince Charlie. Like his father, he also coveted the English throne and decided to take it by force.

Bonnie Prince Charlie's campaign to seize the English throne began when he landed in the north of Scotland during 1745 and gained the support of numerous Highland clans. Among them was the Cameron Clan, which included a number of McPhees loyal to the Cameron Clan Chief known as Lochiel.

Opposing the Jacobite army was a hastily convened force of government troops numbering about 3,000 men led by Sir John Cope. The first battle between the two opposing forces took place on 21st September 1745 to the east of Edinburgh at Prestonpans, near Musselburgh. There, behind a marsh and a ditch with the sea at his rear, Cope thought he had an ideal position to defeat the Jacobite Army. 'There is not in the whole of the ground between Edinburgh and Dunbar, a better spot for both Horse and Foot to act upon' he said.

Leading the Jacobite Army was Bonnie Prince Charlie's Lieutenant, the wily tactician Lord George Murray. Murray had a stroke of good fortune when a local farmer's son and Highlander supporter, Robert Anderson convinced him there was an excellent narrow route through the marshes. Commencing at 4 a.m., the Jacobites, walking three abreast in total silence along a route known as the Riggonhead Defile, circled around to the east of Cope's men.

Cope's pickets failed to spot the Highlanders until about 5 a.m. As dawn broke about an hour later, some 2,500 charging Highlanders attacked the government army from the rear. The charging Highlanders were too much for the Government artillerymen who took to their heels. The Royal dragoons and infantry did likewise. Cope was forced to flee at the head of 400 redcoat stragglers to Berwick-on-Tweed, leaving behind 500 dead, more than 1,000 prisoners and many wounded. Less than 100 Highlanders were killed or wounded.

The Battle of Prestonpans was all over in less than 15 minutes. After the victory, the whole of Scotland was under Jacobite control.

Scotland News

Moat Brae House Saved.

Moat Brae was designed in 1823 by the architect Walter Newall, for Robert Threshie of Barnbaroch was built in the Greek revival style. The interior of the house has a particular charm and theatricality about it, arranged as it is around a circular gallery and top-lit dome over the central saloon.

However, the garden of this Georgian house is equally important. It, too, must be secured for the nation, for it was this garden that proved to be the inspiration for J M Barrie's world-famous character Peter Pan. Barrie was a pupil at the nearby Dumfries Academy and made friends with the Gordon family who lived in Moat Brae House and where the schoolboys played regularly in the garden in the 1870's.



A total of £5.3 million of capital funding has been secured to transform the derelict Georgian house and garden where Peter Pan began into a national centre for storytelling and children's literature. The finance which includes £1.78 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, £680,00 from Creative Scotland and £500,000 from Dumfries and Galloway Council, means historic Moat Brae House has finally been saved and will soon bring a whole range of benefits to Dumfries and its people.

The Peter Pan Moat Trust (PPMBT) will create a visitor attraction which is expected to welcome 40,000 visitors a year from all round the world contributing a much needed additional £1.3 million for the local economy. Children from across the region, and far beyond, will have a wonderful place to visit and play, and enjoy a year-round programme of creative events and activities. The Centre will open in 2018 and will be a place to discover children's literature and storytelling across many eras, countries and cultures. The grounds will be reinvented as a Neverland Discovery Garden. Joanna Lumley, PPMBT Patron, said 'Moat Brae inspired J M Barrie to write one of the best-loved children's stories of all time. And we hope it will give generations of young people the courage and confidence they need to lead creative lives.'

J M Barrie played at Moat Brae when he was a pupil at the nearby Dumfries Academy in the 1870s and later described his time in Dumfries as the 'happiest days of his life' and the garden as 'enchanted land to me—the genesis of that nefarious work - Peter Pan'. (www. Norton Museum of Art) (Internet: Dumfries & Galloway on Line)

Tartan for Scotland's Jews

"The Jew's of Scotland finally have a tartan to call their own. Rabbi Mendel Jacobs, who calls himself the only Scottish-born rabbi in Scotland, has drawn a wave of attention for his "Jewish Tartan", the first kosher Jewish tartan registered with the official Scottish Register of Tartans, established by the Scottish Parliament in 2008.

A combination of colours from the Scottish saltire flag and the Israeli one, both blue and white, the tartan plaid has a central gold line representing gold from the Ark, silver to represent the Torah and a deep red to symbolise Kiddush wine. Rabbi Jacobs chose the colours, he said, and designed it with the help of Brian Wilton of the Scottish Tartans Authority, the predecessor to the register.

Rabbi Jacobs bills the tartan as kosher because it complies with the Jewish law, shatnez, that prohibits wearing a mixture of wool and linen. Rabbi Jacobs was born in Glasgow, where he now runs a Lubavitcher congregation. Some years ago, a friend told him that a Polish tartan and a Sikh tartan had been registered. 'So why not a Jewish one?' he wondered. 'Jews have always enjoyed a positive relationship with Scotland - one of the few countries in Europe with no history of anti-Semitism and where relations have always been peaceful,' he said. ... Jews have lived in Scotland for centuries, with numerous English Jews coming north to escape persecution in the Middle Ages. The majority of Scottish Jews today are descended from immigrants who arrived in the late 19th century, mainly settling in Glasgow and Edinburgh." (ref: Financial Review 2-3 April 2016)

Colonsay News

Colonsay Book Festival

Held 23 - 24th April prior to the Spring festival. Authors attending include

Jim Crumley:

Nature writer and poet Jim Crumley has over twenty books to his name, mostly on the landscape and wild-life of Scotland. His many books include *The Winter Whale* (2008), *The Last Wolf* (2010), *The Great Wood* (2011), which examines whether the ancient Caledonian forest might be recreated, and *The Eagle's Way* (2014), which looks at the reintroduction of sea eagles. Jim will be reading from his latest book, *Nature's Architect*, about beavers, and discussing the argument for wildlife reintroductions.

JULIE DAVIDSON

Veteran journalist Julie Davidson has written for almost all the major UK newspapers and won several awards for her travel writing. Julie's *Looking for Mrs Livingstone* is the intriguing story of Mary, the courageous and stoical, yet long-overlooked wife of Scots missionary and explorer, David Livingstone.

DENISE MINA

Acclaimed Glasgow crime writer Denise Mina first came to public attention in 1998 with *Garnethill*. This book won the Crime Writers Association Dagger for Best First Crime Novel, and Denise has gone on to write another 11 novels, including the DI Alex Morrow series, set in Glasgow. The latest in the series, *Blood, Salt, Water*, moves the action to Loch Lomond and Helensburgh. Two of Denise's books, *The Field of Blood* and *The Dead Hour*, were adapted for BBC One;

JACOB POLLEY

Cumbrian-born poet Jacob Polley has published three collections of poetry. Jacob has also published a novel, *Talk of the Town* (2009), which won the Somerset Maugham Award. He currently teaches creative writing at the University of St Andrews, is working on a second novel and a fourth book of poems, while "also brewing a non-fiction book about reading, memory and revelation."

HEW STRACHAN

Professor Sir Hew Strachan is one of the UK's most eminent military historians, with special expertise in the administration of the British Army, and the history of the First World War. His many books include *From Waterloo to Balaclava* (1985), *The Politics of the British Army* (1997), *The First World War* (2004, to accompany a Channel Four series) and *The Direction of War – Contemporary Strategy in Historical Perspective* (C.U.P., 2013). As well as his academic positions, Professor Strachan was until recently Director of the Oxford Programme on the Changing Character of War, he is a trustee of the Imperial War Museum and a Commonwealth War Graves Commissioner. He was knighted in 2013.

Festival of Spring

For the 6th successive year the island opened its shores and welcomed in the lighter & brighter days of the year with its three week Festival of Spring which ran from April 25th to May 15th 2016. The festival has an eclectic mix of nature, art, foraging, craft, heritage and baking events, with rspb guided walks, textile workshops, cooking classes, island history lectures & local music to name but a few. About 65 separate events make up the festival. The following is a brief summary of the festival programme:

Week 1: foraging, basket weaving, screen printing, farm walk, nature walk, Oronsay walk, book binding, talks and art exhibition, belltain and quiz night.

Week 2: knitting and crochet, farm walk, natural yarn dying, painting, baking, nature walk, historical walk, printing, fabric dyeing, talks and art exhibition and quiz night.

Week 3: knitting and crochet, farm walk, natural yarn dyeing, painting, baking, collage, nature walk, Oronsay walk, printing, fabric dyeing, talks and art exhibition and quiz night.

Rugby

The Colonsay Rugby Festival invites around 12 men and women's rugby teams from all over Scotland to battle it out on a beach. It might be one of the smallest islands to host a rugby tournament, but it's probably the most fun. Aside from the rucks, scrums, mauls and tries, there's a ceilidh and plenty of beach based entertainment. The event takes place on 23rd July.

Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Prepared by Society Treasurer Ian McCathie

Financial Accounts for the Period Ended		31 October	31 October
		<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Income	Subscriptions &		2,390.00
	Donations (Includes Clan & Society)	5,255.00	2,182.00
	B G M		
	Term deposit Interest	138.08	1,444.19
		5,393.08	6,016.19
Expenditure	Downunder Print/Post	1,300.14	1,292.00
	Other printing	612.03	
	Functions and promotions		
	Office stationary	46.90	
	Flowers and tributes	100.00	
	Biennial General Meeting		390.00
	Commanders visit to Aust		4531.69
	Public liability insurance	180.00	180.00
	Bank fees and charges	136.60	100.00
	Subs, Scottish House		90.00
	Gonfalons and bags		1032.90
		2,375.67	7,616.59
Surplus/(Defecit)		\$3,017.41	-\$1,600.40
Balance brought	Forward from previous per	22,764.51	24,364.91
TOTAL MEMBER	FUNDS at year end	\$25,781.92	\$22,764.51
Represented by:			
Cash at bank		12,199.65	9320.32
Bank term deposits		13,582.27	13,444.19
Total Assets		\$25,781.92	\$22,764.51

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

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EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

September 18	Armidale Highland Gathering & Kilt Run, WA
October 8	Canberra Highland Gathering & Scottish Fair ACT
October 16	Dapto Illawarra Scottish Fair, NSW
November 12	Macfie Clan Society of Australia BGM, Melbourne
November 4-6	Beechworth Celtic Festival, VIC
November 30	St. Andrew's Day
December 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.



Macfie Clan Society of Australia

(Founded in Richmond NSW on 3rd May 1974)

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Ancestral Home of
Clan Macfie

Executive Nomination Form

I (print):

Address:

Hereby accept nomination for the executive committee of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia to be elected at the Biennial General Meeting on Saturday 12th November 2016 at the Celtic Club, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne VIC.

Position of:

Signature of nominee: Date:

Signature of proposer: Date:

Signature of seconder: Date:

Please return the completed nomination form to The President at the above address. Forms must be returned by 30th October 2016.