



THE DOWNUNDER

Journal of the
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 134
Nov 2016



Colonsay



Ancestral home
of Clan Macfie

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

www.clanmacfie.co.uk

President's Message



Another year has zoomed past and left me wondering what actually happened during the past 12 months. One thing that did happen was the Society's Biennial General Meeting (BGM) in Melbourne. Each BGM weekend is different. While the turnout for the Melbourne gathering was disappointing, those who attended enjoyed a terrific programme, thanks to the efforts of Victorians Peter McPhee and Bev. Knowles. Organising any event like a BGM entails a great deal of time and effort and thankfully their efforts were rewarded. For a full report see pages 11– 13.

Personally, two of the weekend's events were particularly memorable. Firstly, having the Society acknowledged in the beautiful Scots Church in Collins Street Melbourne and being given the privilege to do a Bible reading during the service was something special. Bev Knowles is to be congratulated for organising the Society's participation in the service.

Secondly, the Society being able to conduct a wreath laying ceremony at the Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance was, I believe, a first for the Society. Being given the privilege to say a few words and lay the wreath on behalf of our members was a terrific honour. As the son of a returned serviceman who died prematurely as a result of service in World War II, it was a particularly poignant experience for me. Peter McPhee, who read The Ode at the ceremony, did a wonderful job ensuring our Society had the opportunity to conduct the service on the day after Remembrance Day. Thanks Peter for your great work.

The Melbourne BGM was held in November because the 2014 Adelaide BGM in November was so well attended and successful. November was chosen in that year because it coincided with the visit to Australia and New Zealand of our Clan Commander Iain McFie and his wife Fiona. Traditionally the Society's BGM has been held in May, and it is most likely that the 2018 BGM will again be held in that month.

Last year the Society had notepads embossed with the Clan logo and Clan tartan printed for members. This year the Society has produced drink holders, commonly called stubby holders which members can purchase either for their own use or as Christmas gifts for the family. They are unique to our Society.

It was an interesting exercise developing the drink holders from a concept, to the final product. After a scroll was chosen to be placed beneath our existing logo for the words Clan Macfie to be placed in, a graphic artist was given the job of designing a new logo on a Macfie tartan background. The logo colour scheme is based on the colours blue and gold, which could be said are Clan colours. As I didn't have a high resolution image of our clan tartan on file, I took a photo of the back of my kilt and sent it off to be used as the background. Several new logos were produced for appraisal with one chosen for the drink holders. One of those not selected has been used on the front cover of this issue of *The Downunder*, which I think looks particularly attractive. The drink holders look outstanding and were given a tick of approval when displayed at the BGM. So impressed were both of my sons, they have requested a number of them for Christmas. Naturally their dad will pay!



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Front cover: Those attending the 2016 BGM at the Celtic Club in Melbourne. Back row, left to right: Dean Rutledge, Peter McPhee, Morris McPhee, Ian McPhee and Roger Goodwin. Front row, left to right: Bev Knowles, Barbara McPhee, Judy Moore, Bernie McPhee and Joanna Moore.

MEMBER IN PROFILE

- VIC member:** Beverly Knowles (V08-1057)
- Migrant forebears:** Donald McPhee, wife Mary McInnes and children Neil, Hector, Catherine, Mary, Alexander, Angus, Margaret and Flora.
- Occupation:** crofter
- Home in Scotland:** Isle of Mull
- Emigrant ship:** *Marmion*
- Arrived Australia:** 4th December 1852, Portland Bay, Victoria
- Pioneer forebears:** great grandparents Angus & Margaret McPhee



Member's story in brief:

Bev was born at Roma in Queensland on 18th September 1948, the daughter of Heather Grace McPhee and Alexander Lloyd George Knowles. Her mother was a nurse and her father a public servant, who, on retirement, was Deputy General Manager of the Queensland State Government Insurance Office (SGIO). In the intervening years, Bev's father was appointed to positions in SGIO branches in several Queensland country towns, including Roma, Bundaberg, Maryborough and Rockhampton. Bev's younger brother Donald was born in Bundaberg in 1952.

After two years at Bundaberg State High School, Bev finished her schooling at Kelvin Grove State High School in Brisbane. Between 1966 and 1969, she completed an Arts Degree, majoring in English and Geography, followed by a Diploma in Education, at the University of Queensland before teaching at Maryborough Girls' High School.

In 1971, Bev travelled overseas with two university friends with the intention of teaching in the UK. In Edinburgh she taught Geography at Portobello Secondary School, then Scotland's largest state school, before moving to Leith Academy, one of the oldest schools in Scotland. Her years in Edinburgh provided opportunities for Bev to develop lasting relationships with her Scottish family and their former homes. Her mother's family arrived in Victoria from Mull in 1852. Her father's parents migrated to Australia in 1921 from Stonehaven, south of Aberdeen.

Returning to Australia, Bev had a change of career, joining Macmillan Publishing as a book editor in 1974. She subsequently moved to RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) University as publications and information officer and in 1979 joined the Queen Victoria Medical Centre (now Monash Medical Centre) as public relations manager. She developed and coordinated the hospital's internal and external communications program, including management of international media and communications for the Monash University In-Vitro Fertilisation team. In 1985 Bev joined Holt Public Relations, becoming a Director in 1987, and after two mergers by 2000 was a Director of Porter Novelli (Melbourne) Pty Ltd and Group Account Director of the firm's Health/Social Marketing Practice.

In December 1985 Bev married Englishman Roger Goodwin at the Welsh Church in Latrobe Street, Melbourne. They have two sons, James Alexander Clifford Goodwin, born in 1988 and Robert Charles McPhee Goodwin, born in 1990.

Roger recently retired from his career as a quantity surveyor but continues to undertake occasional projects. Bev joined Melbourne's La Trobe University in 2000 and in 2007-8 completed her Masters of Marketing degree at Monash University. She is a member of several professional associations and is a Fellow and Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Bev has continued consulting but also works as a Director of the Australian Centre for Heart Health, Chairs the Victoria Area Committee of the Endeavour Foundation, one of Australia's largest providers of services and employment for people with disability. She also Chairs the Eastern Metropolitan Council of Victoria's Adult and Further Education Board. Bev enjoys going to the opera and concerts with friends, her community choir, travelling with Roger and their friends, is practising playing nursery rhymes on the piano for their new grand-daughter, Imogen Grace, enjoys family history and, of course, is a keen Macfie Clan Society member.

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

Ashley McPhee	Balgowlah	NSW
Helen McPhie	Eagle Heights	QLD
Lyndal Wallace	Balmoral	QLD
Dene Rutledge	Doncaster East	VIC

New Arrivals

Society Historian Bev Knowles and husband Roger Goodwin now have their first grandchild. Their elder son James Goodwin and his partner Louise recently celebrated the birth of their daughter who they named Imogen.

Ashley McPhee and his wife Jane of Balgowlah in Sydney, became the proud parents of another son. They named him James Murray McPhee. James will be a playmate for his brother Cameron. The Society President and his wife are also celebrating as grandchild James is another added to the family.

Commander's Health

As mentioned in the last issue of *The Downunder*, Commander Iain has had to deal with serious health problems. He is now undergoing rehabilitation. An update is provided on page 9 in my report to the BGM. The following is Iain's address for those wishing to send him a card:

Iain McFie, Patient
Spinal Surgeries Unit
Queen Elizabeth University Hospital
1345 Govan Road
Glasgow, Scotland
United Kingdom G51 4TF

Merry Christmas

I wish all members of the Society a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. A big thank you to all members, who, by virtue of their membership, have supported the Society over the past twelve months.



To all executive members who have either represented the Society at Scottish gatherings or contributed to our Clan Society in some other way, go my best wishes and thanks.

Iain McPhee, President

from WA Vice President Trevor McPhee

Members who attended the 2012 BGM in Perth, will remember the young Scottish dancers who performed at the BGM dinner.

The 2 young daughters of our nephew Ashley Godden have been most successful in their dancing and FYI I summarise their achievements over the past few years. At the time of our BGM Lily was about 5 years of age and Abigail was 3. The performance of the group at our dinner was outstanding and members attending were enchanted by the dancing abilities of the youngsters. Their performance was a major contribution to the success of our evening. The girls' achievements since include:

Lily:

At age 8 was runner-up in a 7-12 category at the Perth Championships.

Won the international Highland Dancing Championship age 7-9.

Was 3rd at the Australasian Highland Dancing Championship age 7-9.

Won the Adelaide Championship age 7-9.

In 2015 and 2016 she participated in the World Championships in Scotland and recorded the following successes:

Was 5th at the Cowal (Argyle) World Championships 9 years.

Was 5th at the World Pipe Bands age 7-11.

Was 5th at the Commonwealth Championship at Stirling Scotland ages 9.

5th at the Bute (Firth of Clyde) Championship age 7-11.

5th at the International Festival of Dance Scotland Championships ages 9 years.

Abigail

won the beginner category at Champion of Champions in Adelaide 7 years and under. She won the beginners at the International Highland Dance Championships 7 years and under.

Runner up at the Perth Championships 10 years and under. Runner up twice in Scotland at the Stirling Games 11 years and under. Runner up at the Musselborough (Edinburgh) Games 10 years and under.

They have certainly done well and who knows what future successes are in store for them.

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Clyde Smythe (N74-059). For his obituary, please see page 13.

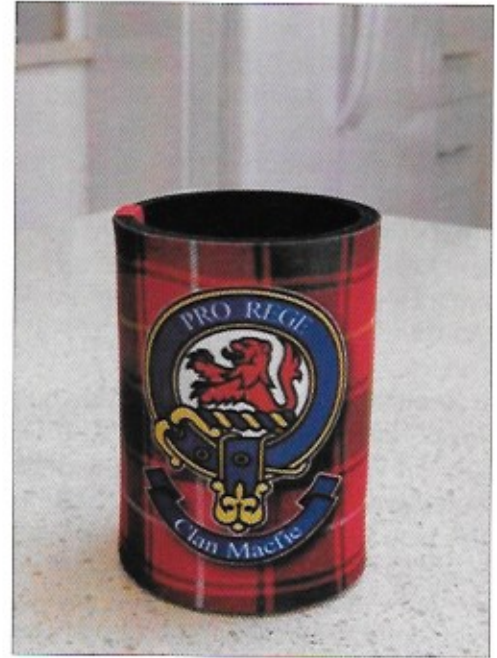
Two Great Christmas Gifts

New Society Drink Holders

The Macfie Clan Society of Australia has developed and purchased 200 very stylish drink holders for members. They are ideal for keeping bottles or cans of drink cold. Often called stubby holders, they were made by a small firm in Sydney.

On a modern Macfie Clan tartan background, they have a pair of the Macfie Clan Crests. The crest and its colour scheme were developed by a graphic artist specifically to stand out on our beautiful tartan. The drink holders are aimed especially as gifts for the younger adults of the family.

Individual holders may be purchased from the Society for \$6.00 each plus postage, or for \$5.00 each plus postage if more than 10 are purchased. For orders please contact secretary Robyn McPhee on 02 98681521 or Vice President Morris McPhee's mobile 0455 334846 or his email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au



Society Writing Pads

The Clan Macfie Society of Australia writing pads are half the size of A4 paper and contain 50 sheets.

Embossed with the clan tartan and clan logo, the pads make a stylish and practical small Christmas gift for any member of the family. They are ideal for a desk, the kitchen bench or any place where it is necessary to take down a message. At left is what they look like (reduced in size).

Two pads may be purchased from the Society for \$10.00 plus postage, or in packs of 5 for \$20.00 plus postage. For orders please contact secretary Robyn McPhee on 02 98681521 or Vice President Morris McPhee's mobile 0455 334846 or his email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au

20th International Gathering & 12th Parliament of Clan Macfie

September 6th through September 9th, 2017

Preliminary Programme

Wednesday 6th September:	Arrival of delegates. Commander's Reception
Thursday 7th September:	Opening of 12th Parliament; Clan Session, half day outing (probably 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, returning Wednesday 13th
Wednesday 13th Sept.:	Depart Colonsay

For details of the Clan Macfie Parliament and Clan Society Gathering 6-10 Sept 2017, please consult the Clan Macfie website http://www.clanmacfie.co.uk/clanhome/gathering_2017.php Any questions or suggestions can be emailed to gathering2017@clanmacfie.co.uk

The Scottish Rifles in N.S.W

The first N.S.W. volunteer unit with Scottish associations was the Duke of Edinburgh's Highlanders. This unit was formed in 1868, possibly due to enthusiasm stirred up by the visit to Australia of Queen Victoria's second son, Alfred. The unit adopted full Highland dress with the tartan of the 42nd Regiment Royal Highlanders, the Black Watch. These volunteers were not paid but received a grant of fifty acres of freehold land upon completion of five years efficient service. The unit lasted ten years and was disbanded in 1878.

From 1878 to 1885 the colony had only a small permanent garrison of artillery supported by four militia infantry regiments. As a result of a Russian War Scare in 1885 it was decided to form more reserve companies. However, they would be unpaid volunteers and the government would provide only arms and instructors.

The Scottish community of Sydney held a meeting in the Sydney Town Hall on 26th August 1885 and decided to form a Scottish Corps. The Government gazetted the unit as "Sydney Reserve Corps of Scottish Rifles". In December a meeting was held to decide upon a uniform. The drab uniform offered by the government was unacceptable and finally, after much argument, full Highland dress was decided upon. The tartan was to be that of the Black Watch but with a distinct thin red line replacing a thin black line in the sett. This decision added to the unit's initial expenses and it was not until the Queen's Birthday Review in 1889 that the Corps made its first public appearance in full uniform. Once the initial obstacles had been overcome, the decision to wear full Highland dress proved sound and the uniform may be one of the reasons why the Scottish Rifles increased in strength when other volunteer units were disbanding.

In 1898 a second company was formed in Sydney and another raised in Newcastle. Following this two companies were raised in towns on the north coast of the state, one at Maclean and the other at Lismore.

At Maclean 39 volunteers joined up at a meeting on 13th April 1898 at the Folbigg's Hotel. The volunteers had to be of Scottish birth or descent, aged between 18 and 40, with a minimum height of 5ft 6in (1.65 m) and minimum chest of 34 inches (86 cm). It did not take long for the Maclean Company to have over 60 on the roll. Two members listed on the nominal roll of the Maclean Scottish Rifles are D. McPhee and J. McPhee. It appears D. McPhee was a sergeant, as he represented Maclean in an annual 'Musketry Competition' against Lismore. The company at Lismore had been raised at a meeting in the Lismore School of Arts Hall during February 1900. (Ref: The Scottish Rifles in Northern New South Wales by M. Buckley)



March past, 5th Regt. NSW, Scottish Rifles, Centennial Park, 1901 during visit of Duke of York to NSW.

GENEALOGY

The Post Familial Age: Is it a Grim Future? from the Downunder Editor

The following article was written by Ross Douthat in the lead up to the US presidential election, a contest between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump. It had a by-line caption that read "Fraying family ties are driving an ever-more powerful state, a rising dread of the future, and new populist politics of right and left." It was taken from the Australian Financial Review who in turn had sourced it from the New York Times. Although it was written for a US audience, it is an interesting article, providing a genealogical perspective on life not only in the US, but in other western countries like Australia. It discusses the role and shape of the family in comparison to times past. The majority of the article is reproduced below:

"How did we get here? How did it come to this? Two visions of the president as essentially a Great Protector: a feisty grandmother or a fierce sky father - are contending for the votes of an ostensibly free people?

Start with the American family. Start with my own family, as an illustration. My maternal great-grandfather had five children, four of whom lived to have families of their own. His son, my grandfather, also had five children, two sons and three daughters, who grew up as part of a dense network of cousins.

On my father's side, the families were smaller. Then the social revolutions of the 1970s arrived. There were divorces, later marriages, single parenthood, abortions. In the end all those aunts and uncles, their various spouses and my parents, 12 baby boomers all told - only had seven children: myself, my sister and five cousins.

So instead of widening, my family tree tapered, its branches thinned. This is a very normal Western family history. Everywhere across the developed world, there are later and fewer marriages or children. It's a new model of social life, a "post-familial."

For a while, conservatives have worried that this revolution is a boon to liberalism, to centralisation and bureaucratic control - because as families thin, people are more likely to look to politics for community and government for protection.

This idea is borne out of voting patterns, where marriage and kids tend to predict Republican affiliation, and the single and divorced are often reliable Democratic partisans. The Obama White House's "Life of Julia" ad campaign in 2012 - featuring a woman whose every choice was subsidised by the government from cradle to grave, with a lone child but no larger family or community in sight - seemed to many conservatives like a perfect confirmation of our fears.

Human beings imagine and encounter the future most intensely through our own progeny, our flesh and blood. The US Constitution speaks of "our prosperity" for a reason: We are a nation of immigrants, but when people think about the undiscovered America of the future, its strongest claim on them is one their own descendants make.

If those descendants exist. But for many native born Americans there are fewer of them - fewer children and, as birth rates drop and marrying age rises, still fewer grandchildren or none at all. Which means that when they look into their country's future, white baby boomers especially see less to recognise as their own.

This alienation is heightened when descendants they do have seem to be faring worse than they did. The combination of small families and social disarray feeds a grim vision of the future, in which after you've passed, your few kids and fewer grandkids will be beset, isolated and alone." (Ref. Australian Financial Review, 7th November 2016)

Report of 21st Biennial General Meeting

At the Celtic Club, 320 Queen Street, Melbourne VIC 12th November 2016

Present:

Eleven members attended the Biennial General Meeting (BGM): Ian McPhee NSW, Morris McPhee and his wife Robyn NSW, Joanna Moore NSW, Judy Moore SA, Beverly Knowles and Roger Goodwin VIC, Bernie McPhee VIC, Dean Rutledge VIC, Peter and Barbara McPhee VIC.

1. Welcome

After lunch was concluded, President Ian McPhee declared the meeting open at 1.00 Pm, welcoming everyone. He thanked both Bev Knowles and Peter McPhee for organising the event at the Celtic Club for the Society. Appreciation was also expressed to those who had travelled interstate to attend the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Heather Grove ACT, Norah McPhee Mt. Vincent NSW, Lachlan McPhee NSW, Joanna McPhee NSW, Helen McPhie QLD, Susan Spinks QLD, Brian and Merylyn McPhee SA, Bernie McPhee VIC, Ross McPhie VIC, Frances and Bob McPhee-Allan VIC, Anthony Gartland VIC, Julie Peters VIC, John McPhee Doncaster VIC, Bruce McPhee VIC and Meg Davis VIC, Trevor and Rhonda McPhee WA

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 20th BGM

The minutes of the 19th BGM held in Adelaide were circulated and accepted by those present who attended the Adelaide meeting. Moved: Morris McPhee, seconded Bev Knowles.

4. Business arising from 20th BGM:

No action concerning a Facebook or other digital communication as discussed at the Adelaide BGM had been undertaken.

As raised at the Adelaide meeting, no group was formed to 'research and attempt establishment of a Facebook presence for the Society'.

5. President's Report:

Ian McPhee provided the following report to the meeting:

a. Income & Expenditure :

Although there has not been an increase in subscription rates for several years, income primarily from subscriptions and donations has been more than adequate to sustain the Society. This has been assisted by minimal running expenses over the period. As can be seen from the accounts (which were published in the last issue of *The Downunder*), the Society's finances are probably in the best shape they have ever been since its formation. The fact that our Society is no longer obligated to contribute on a regular and defined basis to finance Clan activities in Scotland, has also helped increase the Society's bank balance.

Our strong financial position is not unplanned. My desire to improve the Society's finances has been documented before. Since becoming President, it has always been my intention, supported by executive members, to have funds available for the following objectives:

1. To purchase items and merchandise for the promotion of the Society or the benefit of members.
2. To conduct campaigns to attract new members.
3. To fund contingencies such as the Clan Commander's visit in 2014 and events such as the BGM.

b. Assets and Merchandise

In addition to the purchase of items such as gonfalons and banners made in the past, the executive is now trying to develop and accumulate some merchandise not only to promote the Society but to benefit members. This was kicked off in 2015 with very reasonably priced writing pads with the clan crest that were offered to members as Christmas gifts and for their personal use.

This year the Society has developed and purchased very stylish drink holders called coldy holders or stubby holders. On a modern Macfie tartan background, they have a pair of the Macfie Clan crests. The crest and its colour scheme were developed by a graphic artist to stand out on our tartan. The drink holders are aimed especially as gifts for young adult members of the family.

c. Membership

Our membership is ageing significantly. Like many similar organisations, our Society finds it hard to attract new members to replace those who have not renewed their membership or passed away. In part this is a problem born out of the frenetic society we now live in, where people have many competing interests for their time. As at the end of 2015, the Society had the following number of members. Some of those members are not financial:

Australian Capital Territory	8
New South Wales	77
Queensland	51
South Australia	14
Tasmania	1
Victoria	52
Western Australia	12
New Zealand	3
Thailand	1
Total	219

Now that the Society is in a strong financial position, it is probably timely for a significant portion of the Society's existing funds to be spent on a drive to renew the Society's membership. As new members are not beating a path to our door, we must find ways to attract them.

d. Loss of the Society's Armigers & Founders

It would be remiss of me not to mention that during 2016, former Clan Society President and former Clan Commander Sandy McPhie from Queensland died, as did former Clan Society Treasurer, Senachie and Commissioner Sandy McPhee from Mt Vincent in NSW. Both were wonderful men, responsible for founding and developing our Society and also helped re-establish the Clan itself. Both will be missed.

Both Sandy McPhie and Sandy McPhee were the only armigers in our Society i.e. registered with the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh as having arms. As only armigerous members of any Clan Society can participate in the election of a Clan Commander, the Society is in a position where it does not have a representative who could participate in such an election.

At the beginning of 2016, I put in an application, together with my genealogical history, for a grant of arms from the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh. That application was approved recently, although the process at this stage has not yet been completed. Looking to the future, I hope other members of the Society may see value both for the Society and for themselves personally in becoming armigerous.

e. Clan Commander's Health

Commander Iain McFie had a major health setback in July when two discs in the nape of his neck collapsed. The compression of the discs affected his spinal cord. Iain has been in hospital ever since. After undergoing two operations and being treated in three different hospitals, he is now at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow.

At the hospital in Glasgow, Iain is undergoing rehabilitation and also further tests. His mental faculties are fine, but he is still unable to walk or stand without assistance. In recent days, he has been given the use of a motorised electric wheelchair so that he can move about unaided. Hopefully Iain is able to make a full recovery.

6. Executive Committee & Office Bearers:

Since becoming President, I have enjoyed a great deal of help from all the current executives and office bearers. To every one of those generous people I express my appreciation and thanks. I am particularly grateful to Historian Bev Knowles and Victorian member Peter McPhee for organising the 2016 BGM. Also to Society Vice President Morris and his wife Robyn from NSW, Trevor and Rhonda McPhee in WA and Heather Grove from the ACT for contributing to the Society. Past President Bernie McPhee continues to support *The Downunder* by providing historical material for publication.

6. Treasurer's Report:

In the absence of treasurer Ian McCathey, Society Vice President Morris McPhee spoke to the report. No issues were raised about the accounts.

7. Election of Executive Members for 2017 -2018:

The following executive members for 2017 - 2018 were nominated and elected unopposed:

President	Ian McPhee
Vice President	Morris McPhee
Treasurer	Ian McCathie
ACT V.P.	Heather Grove
NSW V.P.	Morris McPhee
QLD V.P.	Susan Spinks
SA V.P.	Judith Moore
TAS V.P.	Robyn McPhee
VIC V.P.	Peter McPhee
WA V.P.	Trevor McPhee

8. General Business:

The decline in membership was discussed. It was pointed out that membership for many community and interest groups like our Society had declined in recent years.

It was suggested that as young people use Facebook and Facebook being free, that the Society should establish a Facebook page. Bev Knowles and Joanna Moore agreed to establish one.

Past President Bernie McPhee expressed the view that it would be beneficial for the Society to have a website.

The subject of Society merchandise was raised. There was general agreement the new stubby holders with the clan logo were practical, looked great and were of good value. The president asked for any suggestions from the meeting for other products the Society may consider purchasing, but none were forthcoming.

9. Vote of Thanks

A big thank you must go to a number of people: to Bev Knowles and Peter McPhee for organising the lunch and BGM weekend. To all those who made the effort to attend, especially those who travelled interstate. To Morris and Robyn McPhee for lugging the Society's two pull up banners and gonfalon as oversized aircraft baggage from Sydney to Melbourne. Finally, to our hosts at the Celtic club who provided good food and good service for our members.

10. Closure

The meeting closed at 2.00 pm. The meeting was advised it was anticipated the next Biennial General Meeting would be held in Queensland during the last weekend in May, 2018..

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A Traditional Scottish Toast

Original

May the best ye've ever seen
Be the worst ye'll ever see
May a moose ne'er leave yer ginal
Wi' a tear drap in his e'e
May ye aye keep hale an' her'ty
Till ye're auld eneuch tae dee
May ye aye be jist as happy
As we wish ye aye tae be

Translation

May the best you've ever seen
Be the worst you'll ever see.
May a mouse never leave your ginal*
With a teardrop in his eye.
May you always keep hale and hearty
Till you're old enough to die.
May you always be just as happy
As we wish you always to be.

NB hale & hearty means strong & healthy; ginal is a storage chest for meal or oats; a moose is a mouse.

The BGM Weekend

From President Ian McPhee

Happy Hour at the Radisson

The BGM weekend kicked off on Friday afternoon, when a few members gathered at the Radisson Hotel on William Street during the hotel's happy hour between 4 pm and 7 pm. Our host for the occasion was long standing Society stalwart Peter McPhee and his wife Barbara. It was a pleasant get together followed by dinner a few doors down the street at an Italian restaurant.

The Celtic Club

Members met as arranged at the Celtic Club after it opened a little later than anticipated. The Celtic Club is Australia's oldest surviving Irish Club. Founded in 1887, the Club had its formal opening in 1888. It was originally a semi-political association, supportive of Irish Home Rule amongst Melbourne's sizeable Irish population, also championing the rights of Irish Australians in an establishment otherwise dominated by the largely Protestant Anglo-Saxon traditions of Great Britain. Reflecting this political background, the original name of the club was the 'Celtic Home Rule Club'. Though politicised, the club nevertheless sought to avoid domination by the clergy, both to avoid offending Protestant Irish members, and to preserve the institution as a contributor to the secular life and culture of Melbourne. These days, it is a non-political and secular club, catering for those of Irish and Irish/Australian heritage and other groups like the Macfie Clan Society of Australia who wish to use its facilities.

Victorian Markets

The late club opening meant the scheduled visit to the Queen Victoria Market was also late getting under way. Fortunately, the Celtic Club is ideally located in the heart of Melbourne, and it took only a few minutes for members to walk to the markets near Flagstaff Gardens.

Conceived in 1878, Queen Victoria Market has had a colourful and varied history. The site has been a cemetery, a livestock market and a wholesale fruit and vegetable market. Each of those operations had its own vibrant history. The market is a major landmark and tourist attraction in Melbourne, and at around seven hectares (17 acres), is the largest open air market in the Southern Hemisphere. Named after Queen Victoria who ruled Britain and its Empire from 1837 to 1901, the market has been listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. Bev Knowles and her husband Roger did a great job guiding our group through the markets to see some of the most interesting vendors and historic sheds. To finish the tour, everyone enjoyed a tea or coffee in the Market at the Verona Cafe.



Ian & Peter McPhee at the Verona Cafe

BGM Lunch

The BGM lunch back at the Celtic Club was enjoyed in a relaxed, convivial atmosphere by the eleven members who attended. When the haggis was served, Past President Bernie McPhee said the Selkirk Grace and soon after, Peter McPhee gave the address to the haggis. Before receiving the main course, members were given a number of quiz questions. Everyone enjoyed the banter and lively discussion that ensued trying to answer those questions on Clan Macfie, our Society and Scottish history.

The Celtic Club did an excellent job catering to our lunchtime needs. The lunch was also enhanced with Peter McPhee contributing a bottle of whisky for toasting and general consumption. Many thanks to Peter. As the lunch drew to a close, it was my pleasant task to thank Bev Knowles and Peter McPhee for the wonderful job they both did organising the BGM weekend. After reciting a traditional Scottish toast (which is given at the bottom of page 10) they were each presented with a bottle of fine red wine. It was then time for the BGM. Regrettably there was insufficient time after the BGM to visit the Melbourne Immigration Museum in Flinders Street and then meet at the Rendezvous Hotel for a drink as planned. In place of those visits, members had afternoon tea in a nearby arcade and then had dinner at their own leisure.

Church on Sunday

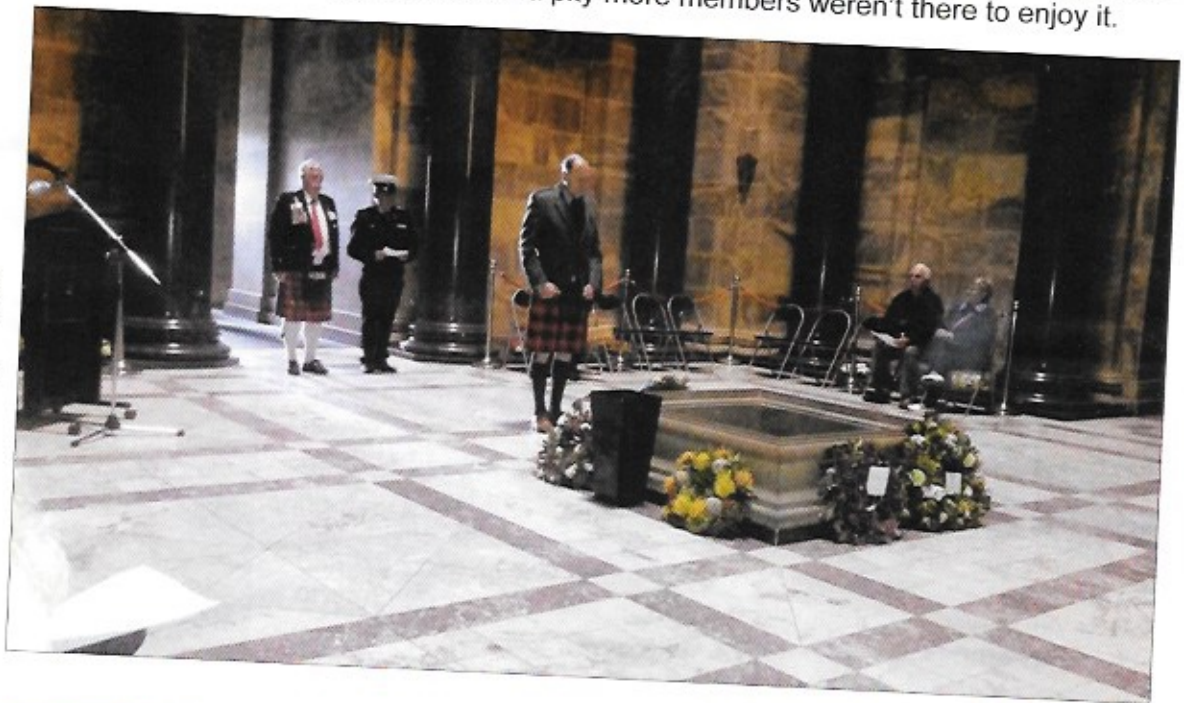
On Sunday, Clan Society members attended the 11am church service at the iconic Scots' Church, in Collins St. Melbourne. The Scots' Church was the first Presbyterian church to be built in the Port Phillip District, now the state of Victoria. It is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Clan members were acknowledged and welcomed to the service at Scots' Church by Rev. Douglas Robertson. The Clan was also recognised in the printed Order of Service, which notified the congregation that two Society members were to give the Bible readings. That was a great privilege for our Society to which we owe thanks to Scots' Church. I gave the first Bible reading from Psalm 15 of the Old Testament and Bev Knowles the second reading from Matthew 11: 25-30 in the New Testament. Rev. Robertson delivered a relevant and interesting sermon on the stress of our modern society. The service was an impressive one enhanced by a magnificent choir and lovely music. Regrettably Society members did not have enough time in the day's programme to enjoy a morning tea with the congregation.

Wreath Laying at the Shrine of Remembrance

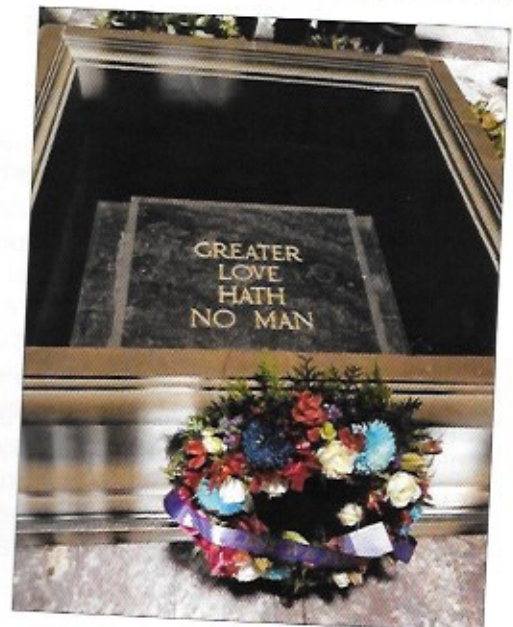
After the church service members made their way by car and tram to the Shrine of Remembrance at the southern end of the city on Birdwood and St. Kilda Road, where Peter McPhee had arranged for our Society to lay a wreath at 12.45 pm. After a few words at the microphone in the Shrine, it was my privilege as Society President to lay a wreath on the commemorative stone. That moving occasion was followed by The Ode, which was read by Peter McPhee. The ceremony was indeed a memorable occasion. Peter is to be congratulated for arranging the ceremony for us. It is a pity more members weren't there to enjoy it.

President Ian McPhee lays a wreath at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. Peter McPhee is standing ready to read The Ode.



Ian McPhee with Bev Knowles at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance.

The Society's wreath at the commemorative stone



The Shrine of Remembrance was opened in 1934 as a Victorian state memorial to Australians who served in global conflicts throughout the nations history. Inspired by classical architecture, the Shrine was designed and built by veterans of the First World War. From a small aperture high up in one wall, a ray of light traces its path across the commemorative stone every half an hour as it does naturally at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month each year. Around the inner sanctum are memorial books with the names of those who served and beneath, galleries with historic and personal artefacts.

Farewell Lunch

From the Shrine, members gathered for a lunch at the Terrace Restaurant in the Royal Botanic Gardens. Some members walked from the Shrine to the restaurant while others needed to travel by car. The Royal Botanic Gardens were founded in 1846, comprising 38 hectares of garden beds, tranquil lakes and sweeping lawns. An enjoyable lunch overlooking Ornamental Lake in the gardens, together with great company, concluded a truly enjoyable Sunday and another BGM.



Vale

Clyde Smythe (N74-059) 1931-2016

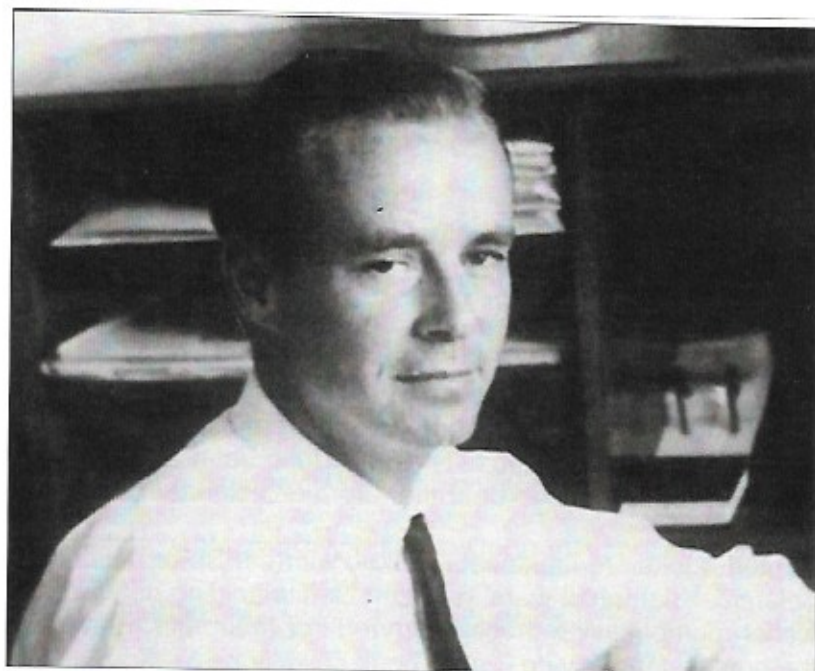
Clyde was born on April 7th, 1931 at Erigolia, a WW1 soldier settlement town near Griffith in New South Wales. His parents were Clytie (nee McPhee) and Viv Smythe. He is the grandson of Alexander Duncan McPhee and his wife Harriet.

When the farm failed in the Great Depression and drought of 1938, the family moved to Pennant Hills in Sydney, where they stayed with his grandparents, the McPhees, for two years. The Smythes then moved to a new house in the same street as the McPhees.

While Clyde was living at Pennant Hills, WW2 was raging. Family and relatives volunteered for service, which aroused Clyde's interest in military history.

Clyde is a foundation member of the Macfie Clan Society, which he joined at the invitation of his cousin Sandy McPhee (former Clan Society Treasurer and Commissioner) in 1974. Clyde's passion had always been military history, especially the WW1 battlefields, where his father and uncles served. He was the military historian for our Society for many years and was able to help many members with their research.

In 1956 Clyde married Barbara Jupe and they had two daughters, Jane and Debbie. Clyde studied at the University of NSW where he initially worked as a tutor. After completing a master's degree in building science, he was appointed a senior lecturer in the Faculty of the Built Environment, where he stayed until his retirement in 2006. During his time at UNSW, Clyde was particularly interested in the use of glass and concrete in buildings and undertook much research in these fields. In his spare time Clyde built several houses and was always ready to tackle a DIY project. He and Barbara built the family home at Turramurra in 1959, where he lived the rest of his life.



Scotland News

Ancient Pottery Find

Three pots and a food vessel were unearthed recently at a quarry in an ancient glen in Argyll, near Kilmartin Museum. Another pot was found last year. Kilmartin Glen is located between Oban and Lochgilphead on the west of Scotland and considered to have one of the most important concentrations of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains in Scotland.

Kay Owen, Redevelopment Project Officer at Kilmartin Museum said "As far as we are aware, there is no Beaker Pottery quite like it that has been found in Britain and which dates back that far. There is the age of it, but also the amount of it, it is quite remarkable ..." Some archaeologists think that the Beaker style of pottery was brought to Britain by migrants from continental Europe at the same time metals was introduced. The pieces, decorated with patterns and with bands around them, were found at Upper Largie Quarry before work to remove stone started and Ms Owen said there could be more pottery to be found. She added "..... the pots are still being tested by archaeologists but one is thought to have cremated remains within it. Someone would have been cremated and their remains placed in the beaker and the beaker then placed in a burial cist. ..."

The Kilmartin Glen is at the centre of the most important area for ancient monuments on mainland Scotland, with 800 ancient and prehistoric sites within 10 miles. One of the highlights of the glen is a line of chambered cairns. These date back more than 5,000 years. A few kilometres south is Dunadd Fort, a small hill fort occupied since the Iron Age. This place is where the Kings of Dalriada (the King of the Scots) were thought to have been crowned between 500 and 900AD. (ref: The Scottish Banner Vol40, no 4 Oct 2016)

Scottish Sea Eagle Numbers Set to Soar

Sea eagles, which were once extinct in Scotland, will more than double in number over the next decade, according to a new report by Scottish Natural Heritage. Counts in 2015 put the population at 106 pairs, but experts are predicting there will be at least 221 pairs by 2025 and they say this could rise to more than 1,000 pairs by 2040.

The sea eagle, or white-tailed eagle, is the UK's largest bird of prey. It vanished from Scotland in 1917, but a reintroduction programme was launched in the 1970s with young birds from Norway. To date there have been three releases – on the Isle of Rum from 1975 to 1985; in Wester Ross from 1993 to 1998; and in Fife from 2007 to 2013. A population of mainly wild-bred Scottish birds now exists on the west coast, including Mull, Skye, the Small Isles and Outer Hebrides. The birds released in Fife are just reaching breeding age, and the first successful nesting in eastern Scotland for around 200 years took place in 2013. The report, authored by researchers at RSPB's Centre for Conservation Science, considered a range of possibilities to predict the potential scale of the sea eagle population. (Ref: The Scotsman 13/10/ 2016)

John Knox's Bible Found

The University of Glasgow Library has identified a previously unknown book once owned by Scottish religious reformer John Knox. The large folio Latin and Hebrew Old Testament published in 1546 in Basel, Switzerland, appears to bear the reformer's signature dated 1561 on the reverse of the title page.

Printed books are inextricably linked with the Reformation: from published Scripture in the vernacular and polemical 'pamphlet wars' between clerics holding different confessional viewpoints, to the large illustrated works memorialising those 'martyred' for their faith. Printed books were central to those on both sides of the confessional divide. Large book collections were amassed during the 16th century packed with works tracing the controversies. Frustratingly for historians, all too often these libraries were broken up for one reason or another.

John Knox's library is just one such example; in the words of one biographer, Knox's "personal library has been largely lost to view" with just a handful of books certainly traceable to him surviving and identifiable. The volume was bequeathed to the University of Glasgow in 1874 on the death of insurance broker and Bible collector William Euing as part of a remarkable collection of around 3,000 Bibles described at the time as "one of the largest in existence. (Ref: University of Glasgow Library)

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EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

- December 3 Daylesford Highland Gathering, VIC
- January 1 Maryborough Highland Gathering, Maryborough VIC
- January 26 Australia Day Celtic Festival, Bradfield Park, Milsons Point NSW
- March 18-19 Geelong Highland Games, Goldsworthy Reserve, Corio VIC
- March 29 Ringwood Highland Gathering VIC
- April 14-15 Maclean Highland Gathering NSW
- April 1 Bundanoon Highland Gathering, Bundanoon NSW
- May 4-7 Australian Celtic Festival, Glen Innes NSW

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.



At the Melbourne BGM, from left to right: new Victorian Vice President Peter McPhee with his wife Barbara, President Ian McPhee and Society Chief Historian Bev Knowles.



At the Melbourne BGM, clockwise from left: Dean Rutledge, Robyn McPhee, Bev Knowles, Peter McPhee, Barbara McPhee, Roger Knowles, Morris McPhee and Bernie McPhee.