



# THE DOWNUNDER

Journal of the  
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 137  
November 2017



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](http://www.clanmacfie.co.uk)

## President's Message



This has been a particularly hard journal issue to produce. The year has been a mixed one, with some positive things but some disappointments and sad news towards year's end.

Over the past 12 months it has been wonderful that so many members have donated generously to our Society. The response and comments about some of the articles that have appeared in *The Downunder* have been most appreciated. Unfortunately, my request in the last issue for articles about the achievements or life experiences of members' children or grandchildren did not draw a response. It is hard for me to know if members are satisfied with the journal's content, but feedback over the year indicates articles are relevant and of interest.

Former Society Historian and founding member, 95 year old Norah McPhee, died in August. A tribute to her is on page 3. About the same time, 47 year old Anna McPhee from Sydney also died. Both were wonderful women who will be missed. A tribute to Anna is on page 12. Society Vice President and NSW Vice President Morris McPhee and his wife Robyn are moving to Noosa in Queensland. Morris and Robyn have been an invaluable help to me here in Sydney over the past few years. I have no doubt they will love living in the Sunshine State and wish them well.

Clan Treasurer Finlay McFee and his wife Lorraine, aided by others in the 'Home Society', did a wonderful job organising the 20th International Gathering and 12th Clan Parliament at Stirling, Scotland.

I was looking forward to having lots of good news to report after attending the Clan Parliament during early September. Regrettably I am unable to do that. It is an understatement to say that what came to light at the Parliament was disappointing. Being Clan Commissioner, and thus Iain's representative in Australia, it has been particularly difficult compiling a report on the Parliament which is so unflattering about the way the Clan is being handled at present. The Parliament got off to a bad start. At the beginning of the first session, there was no welcome or statement of any kind from the Commander about the Clan, his capacity to lead with his ongoing health problems or his future intentions. Such a statement could easily have been read by his brother or one of his immediate family. That omission created uncertainty and difficulties for all leaders in attendance at Stirling. Let's hope the problems currently facing the Clan, which are detailed in my report in the following pages, can be overcome in the not too distant future.



### 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 those who have sent in articles that have appeared in *The Downunder*, and 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.

Ian McPhee, President

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Front cover: left to right, President of The McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand, Glen McPhee, New Zealand Commissioner James McPhee and Australian Society President and Clan Commissioner Ian McPhee

# VALE

## **Norah McPhee (N74-012) 1922-2017**

Norah McPhee, from Mt Vincent NSW, died suddenly and unexpectedly on 27th August. She was 95.

Norah (nee Spalding) was born at Norwich, England in 1922. Her father was a master builder there until he bought a cinema at Wymondham in 1930. She and her 2 sisters, Molly & Madge, were raised there.

After finishing school at East Dereham High, Norah passed the civil service exams. She joined the service in 1939 and worked at Norwich as a clerical assistant to telecom engineers. Being a civil servant, she was not permitted to join the armed forces when World War II broke out. In 1941 Norah worked as a nurse in a nearby military hospital before joining the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) in early 1943 as a meteorological assistant. As a 'met girl' or 'met WAAF' she was posted to bomber command at Mildenhall and then to 149 Squadron at Lakenheath. There she met Sandy McPhee. They married at Wymondham Abbey in March 1945.



Separated for nearly a year, Norah came to Australia in February 1946 on the *Waiwera* and joined her husband in Sydney. She and Sandy settled at Pennant Hills where Norah worked as a librarian. In 1947 their daughter Barbara was born, followed by Andrew in 1949 and Sally in 1956. Living at Pennant Hills, Norah's husband Sandy worked as an international airline pilot for Qantas. During those periods when Sandy was away, Norah looked after the children and kept the home fires burning.

It was while living at Pennant Hills that Norah and Sandy became founding members of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia. She supported the concept of its formation and was one of its bedrocks from its inception in 1974, over 43 years ago. Norah embraced her husband's Scottish heritage with passion and dedication, becoming inaugural historian for our Society in 1974, a post she held for 34 years. The support she provided to her husband in building the Society over many decades is an inspiration in itself. In some ways, such was her interest and dedication to all things Macfie, it is hard to believe she wasn't actually born a McPhee.

After Sandy's retirement as a jumbo jet pilot, he and Norah relocated to Mt. Vincent in the beautiful Hunter Valley of NSW in 1984. Living there, Norah continued to spend countless hours in the early years of the organisation, writing up shipping records and other archival material to build a data base of people who had a connection to Clan Macfie. At the time it was a monumental task that eventually filled several filing cabinets. Those records have been, and still are, invaluable to our Society and its history. As a trained librarian and people person with a wonderful memory, Norah was ideally suited for the role of Clan Historian. She could recall the details of a vast number of Society members and their historical roots. The Society prospered and grew, thanks to her dedication, incredible memory and hard work. In recognition of Sandy and Norah's contribution to the Society, they were both made life members in 2008.

Norah, together with Sandy, attended Scottish gatherings in Australia and also Clan Parliaments in Scotland. In so doing, she was widely known and respected for her contribution not only to the Macfie Clan Society of Australia, but to the Clan and its members in Scotland, England, Ireland, the USA, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden and elsewhere. Many in those countries will be saddened to hear of her passing. She will be missed but has left a wonderful legacy.

A funeral service was held for Norah at the Christ Church Anglican Church, Mt. Vincent on 12th September. Norah is survived by daughter Barbara and her husband Jim Knowles; son Andrew and his wife Glenys, and daughter Sally, grandchildren Tanya, Scot and Mathew ( Andrew and Glenys' children) and Jane (Sally's daughter), also great-grandchildren Madison and Ryan.

# 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 2017, are an essential part of our funding and greatly appreciated.

Joyce McPhee	Bonnells Bay	NSW
Bruce Agland	Clarence Town	NSW
Dorothy J McPhee	Dalby	QLD
Norman McPhee	Ringwood	VIC

## from Jan Harper VIC

"I read your piece about David Livingstone and thought I should tell you that we met his relative on the Island of Mull last year. We went down to the town square at Tobermory and struck a wonderful Highland school band. As we watched, we got chatting to the man next to us, Mr Livingstone, who said he was from the family of David Livingstone. (David Livingstone did not marry, I think, so our Mr Livingstone must have been descended from his brother).

We followed the band and the crowd up the hill until we unexpectedly arrived at the Highland Games. At the Games we talked again to Mr Livingstone and our daughter Marion had a long chat with the local Laird. (NB a photo of Mr. Livingstone and the band whose tartan is very like McPhee is on the back page.)

Also noted in the Newsletter the death of Gwen Jarvis. Some years ago I interviewed her and will try to search out the papers. Her father was Mayor of Dandenong (I think from memory he was a baker) and gave his name to McFees Road in Dandenong."

## From SA Vice President Judy Moore

Judy attended the 60th anniversary of Clan MacLeod at the Glenelg Golf Club on 20th August. At the gathering she met Charles Cook, Hon Secretary of the Scone RSL Pipes & Drums in NSW. What a coincidence! The Scone band wears the Macfie Clan Tartan.

## In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the passing of the following:

Marlena Turner, (T97-925) formerly of Ulverstone, Tasmania died on 5th July 2017

Norah McPhee, (N74-12) of Mt. Vincent NSW died on 27th August 2017. Obituary on page 3

Anna McPhee, (N87-594) Sydney NSW died on 31st August. Obituary page 12.

Follow up on Jock McPhee Article in the July 2017 issue of *The Downunder*.

## from Carmel Cole QLD

"Reading in the recent issue of *The Downunder*, I saw a reference to Mrs. Agnes Gunn reference to, Tam O'Shanter, Jock McPhee. I also read an article from her referring to Tam as coming from *Willeroo Station*.

My mother's uncle John (Jock) McPhee took up the pastoral lease of *Willeroo* as reported in *The Northern Territory Times and Gazette* on 18th September 1896, previously I think he was a stockman at *Avergne Station*.

John was born in St. Lawrence in 1866, originally registered as Thomas but obviously changed to John as the next boy was called Thomas. He had uncles, brothers-in-law and cousins droving in Queensland and the Northern Territory.

He is mentioned in my great grandmother's will under her children, son John, *Willeroo Station*.

Hope this at least clears up one "Jock" McPhee ..."

**PS:** Carmel included with her letter, a wonderful report about John (registered as Thomas) McPhee. It quoted articles from the Northern Territory Times 22nd March - 29 March 1912 and the Daily Mercury, Mackay 14th June 1952. Space regrettably precludes sharing them with members in this issue.

## from WA Vice President Trevor McPhee

"Just a note to let you know we are all still here in the west. As you know, we only have very few members and it is difficult to organise a big show with 6 people.

You may remember that Pam MacDonald, President of Clan Donald, & a few others came to our WA BGM dinner in 2012 so we have been reciprocating by attending their annual luncheons. The 2017 luncheon was again held at S.A.S. House at the Army base at Swanbourne, a suburb of Perth. A relative newcomer to Perth, Kelly Ross (daughter of past ACT state Vice President Glen McPhee), her husband Hugh, together with members Suzie McPhee, Chrissie Backus and of course Rhonda and I all attended and had an enjoyable afternoon.

The fellow who did a great job of addressing the haggis also told us the tale of when he addressed the haggis at a function in Scotland. He hid a small rabbit in his sporan and when in the act of stabbing the haggis, let the rabbit go, causing much uproar and consternation. The mind boggles!!"

**20th International Gathering & 12th Parliament of Clan Macfie**  
**September 6th through September 9th, 2017**  
**Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling Scotland**

On 12th August 2017 the Macfie Clan Society of Australia received the following proclamation from Iain Morris McFie, Ceann Cath, Clan Macfie

**Proclamation Convening the Twelfth Parliament of Clan Macfie**

I, Iain Morris McFie of Coulintyre, Kincaig, Inverness Shire, Scotland, Ceann Cath (Commander) of Clan Macfie acting in accordance with the powers invested in me do hereby proclaim that the Twelfth Clan Macfie Parliament, for the dispatch of Clan and Clan Society business shall commence on Thursday the seventh day of September 2017 at 09.30 in the Stirling Court Hotel, Stirling, Scotland and continue in the said Hotel during the following three days and members of Clan Macfie as able are required to give their attendance at the same time and place accordingly. You are also summoned to attend the various entertainments arranged and thereafter to travel to the Clan's ancestral home, Colonsay and Ornsay. Given under my hand and seal at Coulintyre, Kincaig this seventeenth day of July two thousand and seventeen.



**Programme Summary**

<p align="center"><b>Wednesday 6th</b></p> <p>Registration, Clan Commander's Reception &amp; Dinner</p>	<p>1500 Presentation by Clan Society of NZ: Clan Genealogy Database Project Proposal</p>
<p align="center"><b>Thursday 7th</b></p> <p>09.30 Opening ceremony Procession of Clan &amp; Clan Society officials Welcome by President of Clan Macfie Society Opening of Clan Parliament by Ceann Cath</p> <p>10.00 1st Session of Parliament Prayer by Alastair Scouler Remembrance Greetings, good wishes and apologies Announcements Matters arising from the 11th Parliament Clan reports     1. Ceann Cath     2. Treasurer     3. Clan Macfie Associates     4. Clan land donation offer     5. Future directions - the way forward     6. Future Gatherings - 2023, 400th Anniver.</p> <p>11.00 Parliamentary Standing Committee Reports     Genealogy     International Gatherings     Keeper of the Records     Memorials and special projects     Music, dance and the arts     Nomenclature     Constitution Review Committee     Tartans</p> <p>12.30 Lunch</p> <p>1400 2nd Session of Parliament Presentation by the MacDuffee Society: Attracting youth to the Clan - The MacDuffee Scholarship</p>	<p align="center"><b>Friday 8th</b></p> <p>Free day</p> <p align="center"><b>Saturday 9th</b></p> <p>09.30 3rd Session of Parliament Introduction Appointment of Chairman for Society business Announcements Clan Society reports     Clan Macfie Society (Scotland)     Thorburn/Macfie Family Society (Sweden)     Cathay Reunion Assoc (USA)     MacDuffee Clan Society of America     Macfie Clan Society of Australia     Macfie Clan Society of Canada     Macfie Clan Society of America     The McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand     Coffey/Coffee Reunion Association (USA)</p> <p>12.30 Lunch</p> <p>Notified items of Clan Society business Other items relating to Clan Societies Committee meetings if time allows Closure of 12th Parliament</p> <p>7pm Pre dinner drinks 7.30 Clan dinner</p> <p align="center"><b>Sunday 10th</b></p> <p>11am church service Departure, 1.00pm for minibus to Oban and from there to Colonsay.</p> <p align="center"><b>Wednesday 13th</b></p> <p>Depart Colonsay</p>

## Report on the 20th International Gathering & 12th Parliament of Clan Macfie

When reading the following pages, several things should be kept in mind:

- People involved with clan societies and the Clan are volunteers.
- The Clan as an entity has no legal standing and is separate from clan societies
- The Clan Commander has absolute authority and responsibility for the Clan.

To many Society members, the details of what goes on with the administration of our Society and the Clan in Scotland is not of paramount importance. I understand that, and do not want to dwell on those details which are of little concern to many members. However, I have a responsibility to inform all the members of the Australian Society of what came to light at the recent Clan Parliament.

### The Three Sessions of Parliament

#### 1. Commander's Report

Commander Iain McFie had a major health setback in July 2016. He suffered a collapsed or fused vertebrae in his neck, which eventually caused neurological complications. He underwent two operations, received physiotherapy to learn to walk again and was later moved to a nursing home at Newtonmore, not far from his home at Kingussie. Thirteen months after being admitted to hospital, Iain had not regained his previous good health and was unable to attend the Clan Parliament. Fortunately his mental faculties remain intact. As his brother put it, mentally Iain was "as bright as a button". All those at the Parliament were sorry to hear of Iain's ongoing health problems.

It was surprising and disappointing that the Commander Iain did not provide the Parliament with any sort of simple welcome message or statement about the Clan, its future or indeed his own future intentions as Clan leader. That omission contributed to uncertainty about the future of the Clan. It also left Clan Society leaders and armigers in the invidious position of having to deal with Iain's ability or otherwise to continue as Clan leader in his absence.

#### 2. Clan Finances

Currently the Clan has little in the way of funds to address the challenges the Clan faces. While the Treasurer gave a verbal report on the Clan's financial situation, no report was actually tabled.

#### 3. Clan Society Presentations

Two bright spots. Both programmes below will be featured in the next issue of *The Downunder*

1. MacDuffee Clan Society of America of Clan Macfie: Donna McDuffee gave an excellent presentation about a scholarship opportunity offered by her Society to students.
2. Clan Society of New Zealand: Glen McPhee gave an excellent presentation on a proposal to establish a Clan Genealogy Database.

#### 4. Parliamentary Standing Committee Reports

Another disappointment.

Not one report was tabled from the eight Parliamentary Standing Committees that include committees for Genealogy, International Gatherings, Keeper of the Records, Memorials and special projects Music, Dance and the Arts, Nomenclature, Constitution Review Committee and Tartans. No one was re-elected or appointed to any of the Committees by the Parliament, so it would appear they are now defunct.

#### 5. Clan Society Reports

Were presented by:

Scotland:	The Clan Macfie Society,	(President Bobby McFie)
Sweden:	The Thorburn/Macfie Family Society,	(President Christer Hemberg)
USA:	MacDuffee Clan Sty. of America of Clan Macfie,	(Donna McDuffee Infantino)
Australia:	Macfie Clan Society of Australia,	(President Ian McPhee)
Canada:	Macfie Clan Society of Canada,	(President Gary MacPhie)
USA:	Macfie Clan Society of America,	(distributed to attendees)
N.Z.:	The McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand,	(President Glen McPhee)
USA:	Coffey/Coffee Reunion Association,	(Lynn Morgan)

## 6. Loss of the Standing Stone & Colonsay Land

A shocker that emerged at the Parliament!

I will try and cut a long story short. As most of our members know, our Clan has a standing stone on a plot of land on Colonsay. Our last hereditary chief Malcolm was executed there in 1623 by Colkitto and his MacDonald associates. It is a wonderful monument and focal point for the Clan.

As I understand it, the land on Colonsay, comprising one acre in area, was gifted to the Clan in 1978 by the island's owner, Lord Strathcona. As a Clan is not a legal entity in Scottish law, a standard limited liability company was incorporated in December 1978 to hold and care for the land and the standing stone on it. That company was called Clan Macfie Associates Ltd.

Over the years, a number of directors ran Clan Macfie Associates. They included Commander Iain's brother Bobby McFie who was a director for 20 years until he stepped down in 1999, former Commander Sandy until he retired in 2008, Ulf Hagman from Sweden, Douglas Young a retired army colonel and lawyer, and a few others over the years. By 2010 there was only Douglas Young and Ulf Hagman (who was terminally ill) left running the company. Like other companies, Clan Macfie Associates as a passive land owning company, was required to submit documents annually to government authorities. That would normally be done by lawyers and accountants.

Clan Macfie Associates failed repeatedly to comply with its filing formalities and legal obligations. Clan Treasurer Finlay has advised that as a consequence of that failure, the company "was struck off by the Registrar of Companies and therefore dissolved on 28th May 2010." Prior to the company being dissolved there were only two directors - Douglas Young and Ulf Hagman.

So what happened to the land? When a legal owner of land ceases to exist, by default the land passes to an authority called the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (QLTR). The QLTR now hold the land on Colonsay. Incredibly our Clan Commander was apparently unaware of this situation which only came to light after Lorraine McFee, (Clan Treasurer Finlay's wife), did an online search in July 2017.

It is almost beyond belief that for the past seven years no-one was aware that Clan Macfie no longer owned the land gifted to it on Colonsay. Over the years the monument, has been poorly maintained and that fact has been well known and observed often. It has also been well known among the Clan hierarchy in Scotland that those who controlled the monument wanted to relinquish their responsibility for it. Regrettably nothing was ever done to address that.

Many questions about the Colonsay land remain unanswered: Why was there no contact with the directors of Clan Macfie Associates? Seven years after the company was wound up, Douglas Young is still alive and apparently living and working in Inverness. Why wasn't he ever contacted? Was a lack of awareness about the loss of the land on Colonsay due to ignorance, due to laziness or due to incompetence?

So how can the Clan's land and monument be recovered? According to Finlay McFee, there are 2 options:

### 1. Restore the company

Restoring the company has become far more difficult due to time. The six year time limit for summary procedure has already lapsed. The process now available requires petition to the High Court of Session in Edinburgh and is very expensive, £10,000 plus. Douglas Young has to bring the petition as the last surviving director. If this was done the land title comes back to status quo ante.

### 2. Re-acquire the land from QLTR

Inform the QLTR that the land title has lapsed and have our Clan Trust buy it back. QLTR is obliged to sell at market value, but that is negligible in any case.

Finlay also made the following point about re-acquiring the Colonsay land: "It is important to understand that in legal terms the only persons with rights in this are the directors and shareholders of CMA Ltd. We do not believe Par-Magnus (Ulf Hagman's son) inherits his father's rights in this regard. Accordingly, Douglas Young is in legal terms the sole person with any rights. This sad state of affairs reflects the difficulties of structuring the Clan in real world legal terms. Our view is that the Trust is the antidote."

## 7. Clan Land Donation Offer

An offer of timbered land in Scotland was rejected due to tax, logistic and control problems it would entail.

## 8. The Final Parliamentary Session

Three matters were raised, the first two by me.

1. A Business Meeting: In essence, I proposed that Clan Society leaders and armigers hold a business meeting in Scotland two years after each Clan Parliament. My motion was well received and accepted.

2. Leadership & Succession: In light of Commander Iain's prolonged and ongoing health problems and his inability to communicate with anyone other than his immediate family, I was amazed no-one at any Parliamentary session raised the question about Clan leadership or of any succession plan. The leadership and the impact of the Commander's ill-health on his ability to remain at the helm was discussed. Some saw no problem. Others had quite the opposite view. Confrontation was avoided and no motion was adopted.

3. A Hereditary Chief: During the discussion about Iain's position, Iain's wife Fiona advised the Parliament that enquiries had been made about changing Clan Macfie from one being run by an elected Commander to a Clan with an hereditary chief. If that was to occur, Iain's descendants would inherit the right to run the Clan. Fiona mentioned that one of Iain's grandsons would be interested. The issue and its ramifications were not discussed at length by the Parliament, probably because many were so taken aback by the idea. NB. None of Iain's immediate family attended the Parliament bar Fiona.

The Parliament closed on Saturday afternoon.

## 9. A Summary of Informal Executive Meetings to Discuss Clan Leadership etc

Meeting 1. At the close of the first session of Parliament on Thursday 7th, I requested and convened a meeting of Society executives and armigers to discuss the difficulties created by Commander Iain's ill-health. This was awkward for all concerned. At the meeting concern was expressed about lack of communication with Iain and the future of the Clan. Also, how to manage the Clan in Iain's absence, the possibility of interim leadership and a letter to Iain requesting information as to his intentions regarding long term leadership of the Clan was discussed. It was agreed to meet again.

Meeting 2. Convened between the close of Parliament and the Clan Dinner on Saturday 9th:

a. Extensive discussion about the health and participation by Clan Commander Iain McFie took place. It was noted as Iain's health deteriorated over the past year, little attention was paid to the Clan. In part it was felt that was due to the absence of phone access in his nursing home room. I felt Iain should be asked to resign, not only for the sake of his own health, but to make way for a new leader. It was eventually agreed a letter should be drafted advising Iain of our concerns and recommend that he evaluate his current position with the possibility that he should stand down. It was requested I should write the letter which I reluctantly agreed to do. The draft would be reviewed by those present.

b. The issue of Iain McFie petitioning to change his position with the Clan from Commander to "Chief" was raised. As mentioned previously, this came as a surprise to everyone. One Clan Commissioner stated he felt such a move would alienate Clan Societies & damage the Clan. With regard to Iain's grandson, it was noted he was not a member of any Clan Society. There was antipathy to Iain's move. Considering the circumstances, it was felt Fiona's raising of the issue at the Parliament was inappropriate.

c. There was general discussion about having a "deputy" Commander. No-one was aware if this was a possibility or of any precedent. It was noted Sylvia McPhee, armiger and Commissioner for Canada, is the Clan Seneshal, but no one knew what her responsibilities were.

d. Attendance at a business meeting as agreed at the Parliament was discussed. The Commander's brother, Bobby McFie, was given the job of arranging the meeting at Glasgow in May 2019.

e. Currently there is a Clan Trust with two trustees, Iain McFie and Finlay McFee. It was agreed this should be expanded to five. I was nominated as one of those subject to approval by Iain McFie.

f. Discussion took place about the maintenance of the Colonsay Standing Stone. It was pointed out it had been erected "upside down and backwards".

Meeting 3 This meeting was held to review the letter which I had written. It comprised 3 paragraphs and had been read and approved prior to the meeting by a number of executives. Commander Iain's brother Bobby took charge of the meeting and made it clear he was unhappy with the second paragraph of the letter which he felt was too harsh. He requested Linda Gilcrest 'soften it' and facilitate email communication between members about the change. There was no objection by anyone present.



Considered to be too direct or "harsh", the middle paragraph of my letter stated:

"With the ongoing health, mobility and communication difficulties you are experiencing, clan armigers, Clan Society executives, Commissioners, as well as members have expressed concern for the future of the Clan. It would seem to them this is now an appropriate time for you to evaluate your position as Commander of Clan Macfie. Difficult as this is for all concerned, it is undesirable, if not untenable, for the current leadership situation (void) to continue much longer."

What followed over the next 2 months, in my view, was a most unsatisfactory situation. The original letter, and what was agreed at the final executive meeting fell by the wayside. A new letter was presented by Linda Gilcrest which bore no relation to the original. Linda proposed the Clan pay to provide Iain with secretarial services and have a telephone line installed for him in his nursing home room. I was not the only one strongly opposed to the idea. As Clan Treasurer Finlay pointed out in an email on 6th October: *"It is just not feasible to run a communications hub from a state run nursing home, even with the resources proposed"*. Linda's letter prompted others to submit their own letters.

Votes were then required to select the winner of a letter competition. It was an unnecessary outcome that caused some ill feeling among those involved. At the end of the day, after various modifications, two letters competed for the title of winner. One was Linda Gilcrest's letter, the other, a letter from Tom MacDuffee. Both are listed below. (NB The first paragraph of both was taken from my original. To avoid repetition and due to a lack of space, it has been deleted from both letters).

### **Linda Gilcrest's Letter**

"With the ongoing health, mobility and communication difficulties you are experiencing, Clan Armigers, Society Presidents, Commissioners, as well as Clan members, are concerned about the smooth progression of Clan business – especially in the outlying Societies. We certainly understand that your current situation makes it difficult, if not impossible, for you to easily communicate with those outside your immediate family. With this in mind, we're hopeful that we could improve this situation by installing a land line phone in your room, and extending the residence Wi-Fi to your room. Additionally, perhaps it would be possible to arrange weekly or bi-monthly secretarial assistance in order to keep up with email correspondence and any other issues requiring your attention. Another possibility that might be helpful to you is "voice activated" email. With this software, your email will be inputted into your computer by the sound of your voice.

We also think it would be helpful for you to appoint a deputy, or assistant, to attend any meetings of the Association of Clan Chiefs, or any other official duties that require your presence. In this way, the continuity of overall Clan business as well as any meetings set up by the Lord Lyon will have coverage from your representative.

Your well being and recovery is of paramount importance to all of us in the Clan, as we are certain it is to you, your family and those who know, love and respect you as we do. Everyone connected to you is eager for you to overcome your current disabilities. In the meantime, it is hoped that we can mutually resolve some of these issues that are causing communication difficulties within the Clan.

We can revisit this assistance in 2 to 3 months time to determine its effectiveness to you in your present situation. We are anxious to assist in this endeavor in any way possible, and are especially looking forward to your return to good health".

### **Tom MacDuffee's Letter**

"With your ongoing health and general communication difficulties that you are experiencing the Clan Armigers, Society Presidents, Commissioners, and Clan Officers are concerned about the regular functioning of Clan business. We understand that your current health condition makes it generally difficult for you to communicate with those outside your immediate family.

The recommendation from the Executive Committee is for you to reassign your duties. The Clan leadership has recommended that pursuant to Trust Deed 1. DEFINITIONS (iii) that a Trustee will act as chairperson on your behalf. He would consult with you as warranted and act in a timely manner for all administrative matters. The Executive Committee would then revisit this matter July 1, 2018.

Your well being and recovery is of paramount importance to all of us in the Clan, as we are certain it is to you, your family and those who know, love and respect you. In the meantime the recommendation noted above will resolve the issues that are causing communication difficulties and will assure the general conduct of Clan business within the International Clan in a timely manner.

It is also recommended that you formally notify the Lord Lyon and the Association of Clan Chiefs of your present situation and the functional delegation of leadership of the Clan, suggesting an Armiger as correspondence deputy to handle routine communication matters and to keep the Executive committee informed.

We hope that relinquishing these burdens will put you in a position to focus your energies on relocation to Glasgow near your family, which we believe might prove to be a game changer for your return to good health. Based on your past leadership we believe that you will act with the best interest of the International Clan as immediate and paramount".

## Voting Outcome

### **Linda Gilcrest's Letter**

Linda McFee Gilcrest	United States
Bobby McFie	Scotland
Christer Hemberg	Sweden
Gary MacPhie	Canada
Sylvia McPhee	Canada
Par-Magnus Hagman	Sweden
Vanessa Macfie	Ireland

### **Tom MacDuffee's Letter**

Ian McPhee	Australia
Tom McDuffee	United States
James McPhee	New Zealand
Finlay McFee	Scotland
Glen McPhee	New Zealand

NB 1. Andrew Duffee from Scotland chose not to submit a vote as requested.

NB 2. Sylvia McPhee, an armiger from Canada did not attend the Parliament but was given a vote. Armigers in the USA or elsewhere were not notified about the process and not given the same privilege.

NB 3. Deadlines were extended to allow those who failed to submit a vote to still register a vote.

### **2017 Parliament Postscript**

It was disappointing that no positive programmes or projects came out of the Parliament. Quite the contrary, problems were exposed. There is great uncertainty over the impact of Iain's ill-health on his leadership. Questions of leadership succession and moves to turn the Clan from one with a Commander to one with a hereditary Chief still remain. With limited funds on hand, the Clan has to deal with recovering ownership of the land on Colonsay. What that will cost is anyone's guess.

It took nearly two months to conclude the process to write a letter to the Commander about his leadership. It generated many emails and angst among those involved. Differing views over the Clan's leadership have damaged personal relationships. I believe Tom McDuffee's letter was fair and addressed the Clan's current leadership dilemma. Nearly 3 months after the Parliament concluded, it cannot be reported if a letter has been delivered to Iain because nearly 16 months after he became ill, communication with him and his immediate family is so difficult.

I have no doubt the problems the Clan faces will be resolved. The Clan Trust is a legal entity that can help do it. Having said that, everything is still dependant on what our Commander decides.

## **Riddle of the Lost Jacobite**

Forensic experts hope to confirm that remains of a body in a coffin at an old Scottish mausoleum are those of an 18th century clan chief. Simon Fraser, the 11th Lord Lovat, called the Old Fox, was a Jacobite sympathiser who fraternised with the Hanoverian foes - but was beheaded in London in 1747 for being a supporter of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

The clan chief, whose Jacobite sympathies were forged in the late 1600s in France, was the last person to be publicly beheaded in Britain. According to the Clan Fraser, his body was intercepted by supporters and laid to rest back in Scotland. A body, minus the head, is in a lead casket inside Wardlaw Mausoleum at Kirkhill, near Inverness.

Scientists, led by Dame Susan Black, a forensic anthropologist, plan to carry out the study next month. Erik Lundberg of the Wardlaw Mausoleum Trust, said there was a 'calm nervousness' surrounding the exhumation. "I am also excited that this is actually coming to fruition - the final resting place of Lord Lovat has been a conundrum for a great number of years." He said there was always a risk somebody else was in the casket. "But we know we have a coffin with the coffin plate for Lord Lovat as it appeared in a London newspaper following the execution," he added. "I am fairly relaxed that it is him." (The Times 16/9/2017)



The body of Simon Fraser, the 11th Lord Lovat is believed to be in a lead casket inside Wardlaw Mausoleum at Kirkhill.

## The Story of Lord Lovat

Simon Fraser, 11th Lord Lovat, lived from about 1667 to 9 April 1747. Known as "The Old Fox" and "the most devious man in Scotland", he became Chief of Clan Fraser and was a sometime Jacobite sympathiser. Simon Fraser was the second son of Thomas Fraser and the grandson of the 7th Lord Lovat. The main Clan Fraser seat was at Lovat Castle, on the banks of the River Beauly about a mile east of Beauly. Simon Fraser was born and raised at nearby Castle Dounie, a short distance south of Beauly, which remained his family home throughout his life. Castle Dounie was destroyed by the Duke of Cumberland following the Battle of Culloden and rebuilt in 1880 as a mansion known as Beaufort Castle.

Even as a very young man Simon Fraser's interests seem to have revolved around building a power base within Clan Fraser that would serve his personal ambitions. In 1699 he secured for himself the title of 11th Lord Lovat and the position of the Chief of Clan Fraser by the brutal expedient of a forced marriage with Amelia, Lady Lovat. She was the recent widow of the late 10th Lord Lovat who had been a distant relative of Fraser's. This successfully gained him the title and estates, but so enraged Lady Amelia's family, including the powerful Duke of Atholl, that Fraser was forced to flee the country. He subsequently lost both the title and the Fraser family estates when his marriage to Amelia was annulled.

In France, Simon Lovat converted to Catholicism and attached himself to the Jacobite court-in-exile. In 1703 he returned to Scotland to sound out clan chiefs about a possible Jacobite uprising. It became obvious that there was little support to be found, so Fraser revealed the plot to the government of Queen Anne in an effort to gain credit for himself and falsely implicate the Duke of Atholl. Foolishly returning to France, Fraser was imprisoned there until able to escape in 1714.

During the 1715 Jacobite uprising, Lovat remained on the sidelines, writing to both sides to see which might offer him most advantage. In the event he obtained a pardon for his past crimes from the government and later benefitted by acquiring estates which had been forfeited to the Crown by Jacobites involved in the uprising. He also continued to pursue a series of legal cases intended to regain the Lovat title and the estates that went with it. He finally succeeded in 1733, becoming 11th Lord Lovat once more. During the 1745 Jacobite uprising, Simon Fraser again tried to back both horses. He professed his support to the Jacobites but claimed his age prevented his personal participation (he was by now in his late 70s). Instead he sent his son and a force of his Frasers to help the Jacobite cause. He then wrote to the Government claiming that he supported them and that his son's actions were against his wishes.

The government, this time at least, was not deceived and demanded his presence in Inverness, where he was swiftly confined to his townhouse. Escaping through a secret passage, Lord Lovat officially declared his support for the Jacobite cause and his clansmen went to fight in the battle. Fighting on the front line, the Fraser clan was slaughtered on Culloden Moor. Lord Lovat escaped to the Highlands, just one day after the Bonnie Prince, after his home - Castle Dounie - was pillaged and burnt to the ground by the Redcoats.

After the Jacobite defeat at the Battle of Culloden, the aged Fraser was forced to flee for his life. He was eventually captured hiding in a hollow tree on an island in Loch Morar, near Mallaig. He was taken to London where he was put on trial. Originally Lord Lovat was sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered - the typical punishment for treason but the King took mercy on Simon and allowed him to simply be beheaded instead.

On April 9, 1747, many spectators arrived at Tower Hill to watch his execution - so many, in fact, that a wooden stand holding spectators collapsed and killed nine people - much to Lovat's amusement. He was said to keep his good sense of humour until the end. It is said that among his last words were a line from Horace: "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori", which means "It is sweet and seemly to die for one's country". When the blade fell, Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, became the last man in Britain to be executed from beheading. So ended the life of one of the least appealing characters to emerge from Scottish history. (The Scotsman 4/4/2016 & internet: undiscovered Scotland)



A portrait of Simon Fraser after his capture.

## Vale

### **Anna Marsali McPhee** (N87-594) 1970-2017

Anna McPhee, the daughter of Trish and the late Bill McPhee from Seaforth NSW died of cancer on 31st August aged 47.



Anna was educated at the Queenwood School for Girls in the Sydney suburb of Mosman. After graduating from Sydney university, she commenced a career in retail businesses and went on to work as the General Manager Public Affairs for retail giant Wesfarmers. In that role she managed complex, regulatory and commercial issues in the retail, mining and financial sectors.

Keen on politics from the outset, Anna began her political career working as a communication officer for the NSW division of the Liberal Party in 1993. She was a key member of the Liberal campaign team that saw the Liberal Party, led by John Howard, win a landslide victory in 1996 over the Australian Labor Party led by Paul Keating. Anna afterwards worked as an advisor to the Federal Minister for Industry, Science and Resources, the Hon. Nick Minchin and for Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan. She was always a strong advocate of women's participation in the Liberal Party. Returning to the NSW Division, she became the first female deputy campaign director in 1999.

Anna worked as the Chief Executive of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency & was Chair of the Diversity Council Australia. In 2008 she initiated the first Equal Pay Day campaign in Australia and was a member of the Government Delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women. She guest lectured at Stanford University Graduate School of Business on women in the workplace, and in South Korea. An executive on the Property Council, Anna was also a director of Heart Research Australia, the largest provider of private funding for medical research at Royal North Shore Hospital.

In 2013 Anna became the first female Chief of Staff to a Liberal premier during Barry O' Farrell's term as Premier of NSW (2011-2014). In early 2017, she stood as a candidate for the state seat of North Shore. Unfortunately a factional deal within the Liberal Party blocked her way. As Barry O' Farrell said, "Anna is one of the best MPs the NSW Liberal Party never had." In that same year Anna was appointed to the Board of Governors at Queenwood School, but ill-health cut short her involvement.

Anna was farewelled at St. Clements Anglican Church, Mosman, on 8th September which was attended by many well known Australians including two former Prime Ministers, two former NSW State Premiers and current NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian. She is survived by husband Reggie Cabal, mother Trish, her two sisters and families. Our Society made a donation to the Anna Marsali McPhee Leadership Award established in her honour at the Queenwood School for Girls.

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## Oatcakes

A Traditional Scottish Recipe

Ingredients: 225 grams (8 oz) fine (pinhead) oatmeal  
1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
Pinch of salt  
2 tablespoons dripping or melted butter  
(bacon fat is ideal)  
120 mls (1/4 pint) hot water  
A little extra oatmeal for rolling

Set oven to 190°C (375°F) or heat griddle or a heavy frying pan. Mix oatmeal, the bicarbonate of soda and salt together in a bowl. Add the melted fat and the hot water. Stir well until it makes a soft paste. Sprinkle some oatmeal on a board. Form the dough into a round and roll it out as thinly as possible, adding oatmeal to the surface as necessary, to prevent sticking. Brush off the excess oatmeal. Cut the dough into 4 or 6 pieces. To oven bake; place on a large ungreased baking sheet. Bake for 15-20 minutes. To griddle bake: bake on a hot griddle or frying pan until the edges begin to curl. Turn over and cook the other side. Do not let the oatcakes brown; they should be a pale fawn colour. Put on a wire rack to cool. NB To test for the correct heat of the griddle, sprinkle with a little flour. If it browns at once it is too hot; it should take a few seconds to turn colour. (Scottish Teatime Recipes; J Mathie)

# Scotland News

## **Fish Farm Escape Threatens Wild Salmon**

"More than 11,000 salmon that have escaped from a fish farm are threatening wild stocks of the species on one of Scotland's best conserved rivers. The escape from the Scottish Salmon Company farm at Geasgill on Mull was reported to Marine Scotland after employees recorded low numbers during a routine grading exercise. The Scottish Gamekeepers Association (SGA) fishing group said that 11,040 farmed salmon entered rivers including the Ba, one of the few rivers in the west of Scotland given a Class 1 rating for salmon conservation. Ghillies in the area have ordered any farmed salmon caught to be killed and not returned to the river. Gamekeepers also say that there is "real concern" that cross-breeding between farmed salmon will weaken the gene pool. Greg Marsh of the SGA .... says that all Scottish anglers need to be able to identify farmed salmon in rivers to ensure the fish are not being re-released into the system. One of the key differences in appearance between wild and farmed salmon is that vents on a wild salmon will be reddy/brown and slightly swollen at this time of year. Farmed salmon have silver vents and their tail and pectoral fins look smaller and are often shredded." (The Times, 16/9/2017)

## **Hebrides to get 100,000 more Trees**

"A project is under way to bring back vast areas of native woodland to the Western Isles. Vikings, climate change and crop expansion are all partly to blame for the deforestation that has taken place for centuries across the Outer Hebrides. The Hebridean Ark project aims to revive the tree population and have 100,000 more native saplings around Harris and Lewis by 2020. ... A seed bank is being built up from species that have a historic connection to the islands. These include rowan, aspen, birch, willow, hazel and juniper. Some are still found in remote locations such as on cliff edges and rocks close to lochs. Benefits from the project could include the return of wildlife, the creation of a natural windbreak, as well as helping to bring the community together. (The Times, 16/9/2017)

## **Sale of Ulva & the Island's Connection to Australia**

Ulva is a 1,860 hectare (4,600 acre) island reached by a short ferry ride from a pier on the Isle of Mull that is part of the island property. It is the largest of Mull's sister islands, which include the more famous monastic island of Iona, and Staffa, known for its remarkable basalt columns and its sea cavern, Fingal's Cave. The island is currently owned by Jamie Howard who has put it up for sale for £4.25m (\$7.23m).

Scottish ministers have blocked the sale of the tiny Hebridean island to allow the local community to organise a bid. The local community is concerned that any outside buyer might remove the tenants and close off the island. The Land Reform Act passed by Scotland's pro-independence First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's government allows for the sale of private assets to be suspended to give community bodies the right to buy land. The £10m Scottish Land Fund gives annual grants to worthy projects and Ulva's residents are hoping the fund will go over its usual limit of £1m. The legislation has far-reaching implications in a region where half the land is owned by just 500 people, many of them absentee aristocratic landlords with castles and vast estates.

The Ulva bid has been lodged by North West Mull Community Woodland Company, which has already taken large areas into shared ownership. Its plan is to integrate Ulva in a wider regeneration strategy across north western Mull, where it has already set up nine new woodland crofts, a type of agricultural smallholding. Funding the buyout will be a challenge and much hinges on how much the island is valued by a government-appointed assessor. Although Howard had sought offers in excess of £4.25m, it had been valued at £3.1m when he inherited it from his mother in 2015.

Ulva loses about £100,000 a year and agents for the current owner estimate modernising its properties and infrastructure could cost another few million pounds. "Much of the purchase price will need to be raised through crowdfunding," said Ian Hepburn, a director of the woodland company. "We have been inundated with offers of help since the first time this was mentioned," he said.

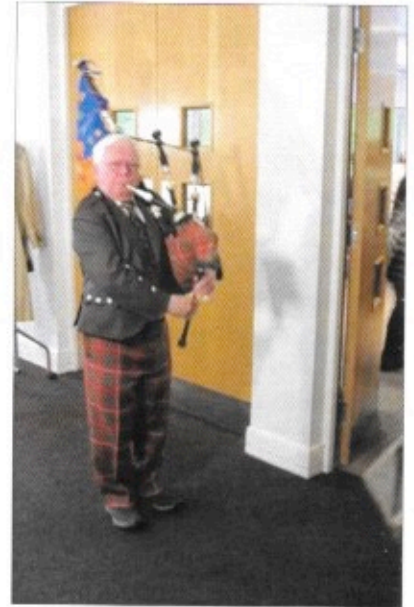
Australians have a significant connection to Ulva. Ulva's most famous emigre was Lachlan Macquarie who was the revered colonial governor of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821. His granite mausoleum, which sits a few miles from Ulva in a small enclosure on Mull, is frequently visited by Australian tourists. (The Week-end Australian 4/11/2017 & The Guardian 13/10.2017)

## The Stirling Clan Dinner

The Clan Dinner is always a highlight of the Gathering in Scotland. Both Commander Iain and his brother Bobby are masterful at handling any social function. With his piping ability and skills as a raconteur on display, Bobby ensured everyone present had a great night in his brother's absence. After Alastair Scouller said grace, the evening got under way. Unlike the last Parliament I attended, it didn't include an "address to the haggis." I was fortunate to be on a table with some people I knew, Bill McCaffey and his partner from the U.S. and Vanessa Macfie from Ireland. It was great night. Bill won a bottle of scotch whisky in a raffle which was shared and enjoyed by some of those at our table. Of course that didn't include sharing it with Vanessa's pet chihuahua who accompanied her to the dinner!



Left to right: Donna McDuffee Infantino, representing the MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Lorraine McFee from the home Society and her husband Clan Treasurer Finlay; far right Magnus Hagman & his wife from Sweden.



Expert piper, Bobby McFie, President of the "home" Society, pipes guests into the room for the Clan Dinner. Bobby is 91 years old.



Alastair Scouller, historian for the "home" Society.



Big Bill McCaffey from the Macfie Clan Society of America and Ian McPhee from Australia, enjoying a drop of the whisky Bill won at the Clan Dinner.

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## 2018 EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

February 18	Richmond Highland Gathering, TAS.
March 3	Bendigo, Scots Day Out, VIC
March 18	Geelong Highland Gathering, VIC
March	Maclean Highland Gathering, NSW
April	Ringwood Highland Gathering, VIC
April 7	Bundanoon Highland Gathering, NSW
May 3	Australian Celtic Festival, Glen Innes, NSW
May 26	Berry Celtic Festival, NSW
June 1-2	Bonnie Wingham Gathering, NSW
July 7	Aberdeen Highland Games, 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.



Clan Parliament Session at Stirling, Scotland, L to R: Andrew Duffy, Scotland; Gary McPhee from Canada and Linda Gilcrest USA.



On the Isle of Mull: Mr. Livingstone, with a rather low slung sporran. See Jan Harper's article on p.4



Attending the Clan Donald Annual Lunch in Perth, L to R: WA Vice President Trevor McPhee, Hugh Ross, Chrissie Backus, Trevor's wife Rhonda. Foreground: Kelly Ross & Suzie McPhee. See article p. 4



At Noosa in QLD, on the left, Society Vice President and NSW VP Morris McPhee next to Bernie G McPhee from Noosa.



On the Isle of Mull: The Oban High School Pipe Band. See Jan Harper's article on p.4