



# THE DOWNUNDER

Journal of the  
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 138  
March 2018



Colonsay



*Ancestral home  
of Clan Macfie*

Oronsay

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

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

## President's Message



It has been a busy start to the year for our Society. Another attempt was made during the first four days in January to sort out historical family history files and general correspondence held previously by historian Trevor Phee. Those files contain a huge amount of material which date back to the founding of the Society over 40 years ago, much of which is now redundant. Some headway was made but there is still a great deal of work to be done when historian Bev Knowles receives them.

As President and journal editor, I always try to keep my message to a minimum. Unfortunately, so much has happened within the Clan and our Society recently, keeping my report brief has been impossible. As space has again been limited in this issue, the MacDuffee Clan Society of America's excellent school scholarship programme which was detailed at the 2017 Clan Parliament will again be held over until the next issue.

On 5th August last year I was the guest at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Scone RSL Pipes and Drums. The band has a close connection with our Society because it wears our modern Macfie tartan and was founded with the help of local Macfies around Scone. My thanks to all band members, especially long term band member and base drummer Charles Cooke for extending the invitation and I hope they keep up the great job they are doing.

In the July 2017 issue of *The Downunder*, members were notified about the demise of Scottish House and the gift of a tent received from them. Since that time the Society has also been given a number of their books which includes a set of the original booklets produced by Dr. Earle Douglas McPhee about our Clan. Those books have been added to the Society's own collection of history books and extensive family tree publications. To the best of my knowledge, a list of those has never been published which is something that needs to be addressed. Members can then not only know about them but perhaps have access to them. Hopefully a list can be detailed in a future journal.

On the 29th January I attended the Scottish Australian Heritage Council's (SAHG) AGM held in Sydney. Our Society is a member of the Council which does an excellent job promoting Scottish heritage. It will assume greater importance now that Scottish House has folded. SAHG has now taken over responsibilities for public liability insurance for Societies like ours that was formerly handled by Scottish House.

During 2017, the last remaining member of our Society who resided in Tasmania, died. Two attempts were made to renew our membership in the state. Firstly, two newspaper advertisements, both in colour, were placed in the main body of the Hobart Mercury, seeking new members. The total cost for both was \$1,393.59. I have never been a fan of newspaper advertising but Society executives felt it was worth a go. Secondly, I attended Tasmania's only Highland Gathering at historic Richmond not far from Hobart. Our Society was fortunate to secure a spot as space was limited and others who wanted to attend with their tents had been turned away. For that reason I was happy to be there in the open with a table kindly supplied by Di Cornish, Secretary of the St Andrew Society who organised the event.

The Tasmanian gathering was a lovely event, where I met Society Treasurer Ian McCathie and his wife Margaret and caught up with Scottish Australian Heritage Council members who attended. I was also able to chat with M. C. for the event Frank McGregor, who acknowledged our Clan's participation.

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Front cover: The Macfie Standing Stone on Colonsay

# GENERAL NEWS

continued from page 2:

Was the newspaper advertising successful? No, not one response. Did the gathering bring forth any Tasmanian members? No, not one. Although locals were in attendance, many of those I met were overseas and interstate tourists. Fortunately, two of those interstate tourists from Queensland, Lynne & Steve Bristow, did join up on the day.

Over recent times, both Vice-President Morris McPhee and I have tried unsuccessfully to prevent our Society's bank from withholding the maximum amount of tax for the Australian Tax Office, from funds on deposit. Thankfully our Society now has an Australian Business Number (ABN) and also a tax file number (TFN) which has overcome the problem.

On the subject of finance, many thanks go to our treasurer Ian McCathie who has done a great job preparing the Society's accounts which appear on page 14. Our Society is in a strong financial position.

My disappointment with the 2017 Clan Parliament and events afterwards was expressed in our last journal. Unfortunately the minutes taken at the Parliament were slow to be sent out to participants and unavailable at the time of writing the November *Downunder*. Now that they have been received, an amendment or correction relevant to that report will be noted in the next issue.

It is now up to Clan leaders, particularly those in Scotland, to address the problems that came to light at the Parliament. Before moving on, there are two Clan matters mentioned in the following pages which Society members should be aware of. Hopefully they will be my final words about the 2017 Parliament and Clan problems. It would be great to be able to report on some positive news about the Clan from here on.

Finally, I would like to extend our best wishes to our Commander, Iain McFie, who has now been incapacitated since July 2016. It is sad to read on page 5 that his condition, which has confined him to a nursing home situation is likely to get worse rather than better. All members of our Society hope he gets the best care possible to manage his situation and regain some semblance of his former mobility and fitness. Unfortunately, his ill-health has coincided with a major setback for the Clan.

## Lost Contact

Pauline V. Flynn,	10/30 Barnsbury Rd.	VIC
Dorothy J. McPhee,	3/9 New St. Dalby	QLD

## New Members



A warm welcome to the following new members:

Q18-1099 Lynne & Steve Bristow Bellbird Pk.QLD  
V18-1100 Scott McPhee Briar, VIC

## 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 March 2018 are an essential part of our funding and greatly appreciated.

Shirley Dickson	Naracoorte	SA
Helen McPhee	Tamborine Mtn	QLD
Gregor McPhee	Kendra	QLD
Jenny Hutchins	Carindale	QLD

## Out & About

Clan Society Treasurer Ian McCathie and his wife Margaret celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in February by revisiting Tasmania where they spent their honeymoon.

## From WA Vice President

WA Vice President Trevor McPhee reported in February that he and his wife Rhonda will be travelling extensively this year. Trevor writes: This month we went from Fremantle to Melbourne on QM2 anticipating to arrive there at the same time granddaughter Ashleigh was due to have our next great grandchild. As things turned out, baby Luke, (a brother for first child Mayla) was born when we were in transit!! Rhonda and I still have trips planned to see our son Brett in Manila over Easter plus another Melbourne family trip in mid May, then a trip down the Rhine/England from middle of July.

## In Memoriam

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

Dorothy Jean McPhee (Q77-327), formally of Dalby, Queensland who died on 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2017.

Bruce McPhee, (V75-096) formerly of Box Hill, Victoria who died on 30th November 2017.

Notice & Invitation:  
**22nd Biennial General Meeting  
of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia**

Notice is hereby given: that the 22nd Biennial General Meeting (BGM) of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia will be held at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh St., Sydney on Saturday 30th June 2018 commencing at 11am.

**Order of Business**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Welcome                                     | 6. Treasurer's report and financial statement |
| 2. Apologies and greetings                     | 7. Election of executives                     |
| 3. Confirmation of the minutes of the 21st BGM | 8. Items pursuant to Clan Macfie              |
| 4. Business arising from those minutes         | 9. General business                           |
| 5. President's report                          | 10. Closure of meeting                        |

**Executive Committee**

Nominations are now called for the following Executive positions:

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

NB: Nominations are to be in writing, stating the nominee's name and intended office. They are to be signed by the nominee accepting nomination and by a proposer and seconder. Only financial members can accept nomination or propose or second a nomination. Nomination forms have been sent out and are also available from the President which close with him on 15th June 2018.

**The Weekend Programme**

**Friday 29th June**

4.30 pm Drinks and a welcome at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, Sydney

**Saturday 30th June**

10.30 am Morning tea followed by the AGM at 11am

Lunch & afternoon: at your leisure

7.15 pm Burns themed Scottish Dinner at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, Sydney

**Sunday 1st July**

10.00 am Church service & Kirkin' o' the Tartan, Hunter Baillie Memorial Presbyterian Church, corner Johnston St. and Collins St. Annandale followed by morning tea.

11.30 - 3.00pm A Clans and Families Forum including a speaker on DNA organised by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council will be held in the church hall. It is optional to attend and will include lunch for those who choose to participate.

Lunch: For those who don't attend the Forum, lunch will be taken at another venue nearby.

The cost per person to provide the BGM morning tea venue hire, and incidentals is \$20.00. The Burns Supper on Saturday evening will be a high quality evening of Scottish entertainment, together with a meal. The cost per person is \$105.00.

For those who have not been to a Kirkin' o' the Tartan, attending the church service on Sunday if possible is a must. The cost of the Families Forum after morning tea is \$15.00. Family and friends who don't attend the Forum are invited to have lunch, details TBA on the day.

**Attendance & Information**

The Castlereagh Boutique Hotel has suitable accommodation for those wishing to attend the gathering and stay in the city. The hotel's phone number is (02) 92841000. Members are encouraged to wear Scottish dress to the BGM, Burns Supper and Church service. Please indicate your attendance by either telephoning, emailing or writing to the President. Contact details are as follows:

Office: 02 99382550

Mobile: 0419 382555

Email: irmac10@bigpond.net.au

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**Note from Victorian Member Ross McPhie**

Victorian Vice President Peter McPhee attended my father Bruce McPhie's funeral in December last year. Peter did a sterling job as RSL representative and honouring Bruce as a long serving Macfie Clan member, both of which contributed greatly to making the funeral service on 8th December a very special day.

**QLD Vice President Retires**

Susan Spinks has stepped down as the Vice President for Queensland. Susan has done a great job for the Society over many years. She and her husband John, helped organise a lovely Biennial General Meeting for Clan Society members in May 2008 at Toowoomba. They also hosted a memorable gathering for attendees at their Oakey home. On behalf of all Society members, thank you Susan and John.



The Society's stand at Richmond in Tasmania



Massed bands on the green at Richmond in Tasmania



**Clan Macfie News No 79**

from Clan Commander (Ceann Cath) Iain McFie

"The reports I have received seem to indicate a very comprehensive business program at our 12th Parliament. I'm sorry I was unable to attend. This was due to the lack of available care for me. However, the members of the overseas' Clans who visited me gave glowing reports, for which I was very thankful.

I am intrigued to hear of the committee of Presidents and Armigers that has been formed. My thanks also go to Jim Gilcrest. From what I've heard, he took photos throughout the Parliament. I think I will have to appoint him Parliamentary Photographer. What do you think? I do know that others took photographs as well.

At a recent visit with my surgeon in Inverness, I was told my condition will not improve, but will likely deteriorate. Of course this was very disappointing to hear. However, I can manage very short walks, but I have to be accompanied by two members of staff to assure that I don't fall. I am quite settled here for the time being, but once we move down to the Glasgow area, which I hope will be in the near future, I will be more in command.



Iain's beard has been trimmed since this photo was taken

With all that is going on at the moment, Fiona & I will not be sending out cards this Christmas, but will be making a donation to charity. We send everyone a very merry Christmas & a happy, healthy New Year."

## Colonsay Standing Stone Land Update

No news has been received about moves to reclaim the Colonsay land on which the Macfie Clan's Standing Stone is located. As detailed in the last *Downunder*, title to the land was forfeited some 7 years ago by Clan Macfie Associates Limited, the legal entity formed to own it for failing to comply with government filing and financial obligations. This situation was discovered just prior to the 2017 Clan Parliament. How did it come to light? On 6th July last year I wrote to Clan Treasurer Finlay McFee requesting 4 items be raised for discussion at the Stirling Parliament. Two of those concerned the standing stone:

Item 1: A proposal, "... to have the Standing Stone on Colonsay listed as an historic monument by Historic Scotland" if that had not already been done. The Treasurer replied it was not listed.

Item 2. Had two parts: (a) "the issue of public liability insurance for trustees of the standing stone on Colonsay," & (b) "Discussion on how better to manage the trusts property." At that stage I was unaware the Clan's trust didn't own the land and had no knowledge of Clan Macfie Associates. Finlay replied that the Clan's Trust had not taken responsibility for the land on Colonsay on which stood the Standing Stone (pictured on *The Downunder's* front cover). He also advised that the land continued to be held by Clan Macfie Associates Limited and that the directors of that company bore responsibility for any public liability that may arise. He also pointed out that he and the Commander continued to be the only two trustees for the Clan, and he was reluctant to expand its grasp any further until it was more broadly based.

After my request to discuss the standing stone on Colonsay at the 2017 Parliament, Finlay and/or his wife Lorraine checked on the status of Clan Macfie Associates ownership of the Colonsay land. It was only then, after Lorraine McFee did an on-line search, was it discovered the company created to own the land had been wound up, and by default ownership forfeited to a government authority. It is nothing out of the ordinary that companies sometimes fail to report and are sometimes wound up. Those things happen.

It is a shame however and disappointing that for 7 years The Macfie Clan Trust's two trustees were unaware of the above situation. The expressed desire of those in Scotland to keep what has happened a secret, especially from the landowner who donated the land to the Clan, is equally disappointing. Embarrassing as the position may be, wouldn't it be better to be upfront, explain the situation and give assurance the oversight was being addressed? It would be nice to think that courtesy could also be extended to members within Clan Societies such as ours.

### The Clan Macfie Trust

In light of current events, it would be remiss of me as Clan Commissioner not to mention the Clan Macfie Trust. Assuming it is fit for purpose, a trust offers the Clan an effective legal entity to manage its finances, own assets and general operation. It must be remembered however, no matter what the legal entity, be it a company, an association, a foundation, a trust or some other, its operation is dependant on the competence of those responsible for it. Regardless of its form, any legal entity not run by competent people will be ineffectual or fail to fulfil its objectives.

Commander Iain McFie and Clan Treasurer Finlay McFee, were responsible for the creation of **The Clan Macfie Trust**. They signed it into existence on 17th May 2012 and became its only Trustees and remain the only trustees. A bank account was created for the Trust with the Royal Bank of Scotland. I have absolutely no knowledge of Scottish law, but put forward the following points about the Trust:

1. Sine qua non : The opening paragraph of the trust states "when there is a Clan Commander or Clan Chief in office as a trustee hereunder he will be Trustee sine qua non." In a literal sense this apparently means without whom nothing can be done i.e. Without the Commander's presence other trustees have no power to make any decisions.

2. The Commander has an automatic right to be a trustee, chairperson and convenor of the Trustees unless he declines any of those responsibilities in writing.

3. Appointment of Trustees: It is not clear to me, but it seems existing trustees must be in unanimous agreement to appoint a new trustee, although the Commander as sine qua non has a right of veto.

4. "Specific Directions as to Purposes" of the Trust. Seven points are listed as follows:

- (a) To preserve and promote the clan's heritage and history
- (b) To ensure the continuation of the clan as an entity recognised officially by the Court of the Lord Lyon or his successor.
- (c) To promote genealogical and cultural research pertaining to the clan
- (d) To spread awareness and knowledge of the clan worldwide
- (e) To promote the clan heritage and establish a museum dedicated to the cultural heritage of the Clan MacFie on the island of Colonsay
- (f) To promote any charitable trust or incorporation or interest in promoting the Clan MacFie and to refuse funds or apply funds to that charitable trust or incorporation as they may deem appropriate
- (g) In implementing or assisting to implement any purpose or purposes which the trustees in their uncontrolled discretion may from time to time by minute resolve upon.

### Some Trust Issues to Consider

Apart from a brief mention about expanding the Trust in the latest Clan News (No 79) received, it has never been mentioned in any other Clan News I am aware of since its formation. No financial reports have appeared in the Clan News nor any financial reports provided to Armigers, Commissioners or Clan Society Executives that I know about. Without the benefit of any such information, it would seem (banking transactions aside), the Trust hasn't actually done anything of significance since it was formed in 2012.

There are issues related to the Trust which Clan members around the world would reasonably expect to know or learn about. Some of those include: (1) understanding how the Trust (i.e. The Clan) is to be financed; (2) Ascertaining if the Trust needs amending to make it more applicable to the real world; (3) If not a legal protocol, if and when financial accounts would be provided; (4) Learning about notable Trust decisions or meetings (5) Determining if the process to select new Trustees is fair, open and transparent; (6) Ensuring Trustees are accountable if they fail to achieve the Trust's objectives, one priority clearly being "To preserve and promote the clan's heritage and history".

President's Note: At a meeting with Finlay McFee on 16th September 2017 at Oban, I was asked by the Clan Treasurer to be a trustee. Without any in-depth knowledge of the Trust itself, I took that as an honour, accepted the invitation and looked forward to making a contribution. In light of later events related to proceedings at the Parliament, I notified Finlay on 24th December 2017, that I was no longer prepared to act in that capacity for the Clan.

## The Clan Newsletter

The Clan Macfie News is edited and dispatched from the USA. It is rather disappointing there has been no word about the Clan's current problems in issue no 79, the latest issue to hand. It is reasonable to expect important matters such as an update on solving the land ownership debacle, how trustees are to be chosen and other management topics would be covered. It is fair to say private correspondence is warranted for some business matters, but it is equally fair to say it is desirable and fair for members to be informed of important matters rather than have them only as the subject of emails among a few people 'in the know'.

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### YE CAN TAK HER WI' YE.

NB griev: Is an old Scots word for the overseer or head-workman on a farm.

"Marriage," as the old elder said to his daughter, "is a solemn thing." The griev at *Bonnie Doon* may have thought so too but he was, nevertheless, very pleased with himself when the farmer's son asked his daughter's hand in marriage. After the young chap had gone the griev had a talk with Jeannie. "Jeannie lassie," he said, "I've just had a veesit 'o Jock and I've consented to your marriage." "Oh but father," she blurted out, "I dinna want to leave my mither." "Hoots lassie," replied her father, "dinna let that trouble ye - Ye can tak her wi' ye!"



# Story of the Emigrant Ship Hercules

from Ian McPhee:

The following story is about one of the ships used by the Highland and Island Emigration Society (HIES) to assist destitute people escape famine and poverty in Scotland. The HIES was a charitable non-government organisation formed in April 1852. It worked in conjunction with the British Government that enabled nearly 5,000 Highlanders to leave Scotland and settle in Australia during the 1850s.

Numerous Macfie Clan Society members in Australia are descendants of Scottish immigrants who were sponsored by the HIES. For example, a number of members in QLD, NSW, VIC and SA are descendants of a family who came to Australia on the *Marmion* in December 1852. I am one of those NSW descendants. While most voyages organised by the HIES were conducted extremely well and completed without abnormal hardship or loss of life, the *Hercules* was an exception.

The story of the *Hercules* has been compiled primarily from two sources. Firstly, a 140 page A4 book written by W. B. Clarke of Flemington, Victoria, published in 1989 entitled *H.M.S. "Hercules" Scottish Emigrant Ship 1853*. The book is part of our Society's collection of books and contains a wealth of interesting information and documentation about the *Hercules*. Secondly, from a University of Edinburgh thesis published in 1973 by Rodney Balfour entitled "*Emigration from the Highlands and Western Isles of Scotland to Australia during the Nineteenth Century*". The thesis is available in Australia on micro-film at the Australian National University in Canberra. Being an important source for my own research into the HIES, I now have a hard copy of Balfour's thesis as part of my own collection of Scottish books and papers.

One of those who emigrated on the *Hercules* was 26 year old John McPhee from the small town of Burnisdale near Skeabost on the Isle of Skye. He sailed alone with no aid. (NB John's age as recorded by our Society's previous historian Trevor Phee, as 31, which presumably was taken from a shipping list. Such discrepancies are commonplace for the period.

## A Rough Start to a Long Voyage

Among the passengers from Skye were 10 families from Lord Macdonald's estate who had been issued with summonses of removal in 1852 and subsequently secured a passage to Australia on the *Hercules*. Those families had been evicted from their homes when many of their breadwinners were away from home, working in the Lowlands. The mass eviction was terribly cruel, which attracted much adverse commentary at the time. Those people went on to suffer more hardship on the *Hercules*.

The H.M.S. *Hercules* was a former naval vessel of 1900 tons which the Highland and Island Emigration Society had arranged to be pressed into service despite numerous warnings as to the dangers of using such a ship for the conveyance of passengers. The ship was sent to the emigration port of Campbeltown on the Kintyre Peninsula in Argyllshire to embark the emigrants. Sir John McNeill, one of those associated with the HIES, made the following comments about the emigrants who were about to sail: "As regards these people whose life is passed in the open air or in houses through which the wind is continually whistling, I consider the risk from exposure to weather as nothing compared to the risk of being too much between decks ... I do dread the effect of much confinement below, especially in bad weather when the ports cannot be kept open on the lower deck."

The emigrants booked on the *Hercules* were from the islands of Skye, Uist and Harris. They were taken from those islands to Campbeltown in the steamer *Celt*. The *Celt* was hired by the HIES because the season was too advanced - too cold and boisterous for them to travel on the open deck of a regular steamboat that plied the waters between the islands and the mainland.

A vivid description of the emigrants arrival at the emigration port after being transported on the *Celt* has survived. "Nearly all the females and children suffered greatly from sea-sickness; and when on the afternoon of Sunday 12th, they passed from the *Celt* to the deck of the *Hercules* riding quietly in the beautiful harbour of Campbeltown, many of them were still much exhausted; but the men, accustomed to beating, seemed to have suffered little. It was curious to observe them, as they stepped over the gangway of the great ship. The young women came first - some looking cheerfully round, some sad and some in tears; but all took pains to adjust their shawls and handkerchiefs, their tresses or their capes, as they made their



appearance before strangers. The married women and children followed, the latter skipping and dancing on the broad deck overjoyed at their escape from the confinement of the steamboat; the former, so completely absorbed by the care of their children, and the fear of losing them in the crowd that they did not seem to be conscious of where they were or what had brought them there. The men looked dark and stern, like men about to confront danger, and not likely to shrink from the encounter, but relaxed into a smile at the first kind word."

With 747 emigrants on board, the *Hercules* began its ill-fated voyage on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 1852.

Soon after leaving port, the *Hercules* had to contend with a storm and adverse winds for 5 days and was forced to seek shelter in Rothesay Harbour, on the south side of Rothesay Bay, on the Isle of Bute, in the Firth of Clyde, where it stayed for two weeks. Four days after resuming its voyage, an outbreak of smallpox forced the *Hercules* into the southern Irish port of Cork, where there was a naval hospital. The disease spread rapidly among the emigrants, thereby creating dismay among the local people.

### Disease Outbreak

While anchored in Cork, it was discovered typhus fever had also broken out, and with that disease among the emigrants, the local authorities refused to allow anyone to disembark so that they may be admitted to hospital. While they remained aboard it was impossible to fumigate the ship, with the result that the illness spread. To cope with the situation, the Haubowline Island Naval Hospital in Cork was opened for smallpox patients and others who were sick, while those with typhoid fever were taken on board the Hulk *Duc d'Orleans*. To prevent disease spreading, healthy people were eventually separated from the sick and accommodated in the Queenstown Military Barracks where they would stay until their voyage could be resumed.

With disease still prevalent among many of the *Hercules* passengers, it was decided the ship should set sail with 380 emigrants who were in good health. They included 54 married couples, 80 single men, 87 single women and 105 children under 14 years of age. Those who were still unwell would be sent out to Australia on other ships when they recovered. A total of 56 persons, including the surgeon and the matron, died before the ship left Cork, where a further number died later in hospital. Some, mostly children who had lost their parents, were returned to their native districts.

The *Hercules* sailed from Cork on 14th April, 1853 with a little over half its original complement of passengers, bound for South Australia & Victoria.

On 26th July, some of the emigrants were disembarked at Adelaide. A little over eight months after commencing its voyage, the *Hercules* arrived in Melbourne on 3rd August, 1853.

John McPhee was one of those on board. He went to work for Mr. McDonald of Saltwater River for £65 per year. It would be interesting to learn of John's fate and if by chance any of his descendants are in the Society. Does any member have any information?



The *Hercules* in the harbour at Campbelltown.

# GENEALOGY

From a report presented to the Clan Parliament at Stirling in September last year by Glen McPhee the President of the McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand.

## Macfie Clan Genealogy Project:

### Background

In 1968, Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee (1894-1982) started a mountain of research that led to the publishing of his series of booklets on The Mythology, Traditions and History of MacDHUBHSITH - MacDUFFIE CLAN, (ca. 1973) and the re-establishment of the Macfie Clan as an active clan (1981) by the Lord Lyon.

The McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand has had discussions with Bruce MacLennan who is the Clan MacLennan Genealogy Database Administrator. Clan MacLennan is one clan that has developed an internet-accessible Genealogical Database, containing over 30,000 MacLennan related names - mainly in Scotland, and is accessible only to existing members. It contains only records up to the year 1900.

### Proposal

"The McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand is requesting all Macfie Clan Societies to give serious consideration to establishing an international genealogical database to attract new members by offering them something special - something Macfie related, that they cannot find elsewhere. Ideally this would not only entice new members into the Societies, but also strengthen their connection to the Clan."

### Some Points to Consider

- The genealogy data will be stored in a secure, password protected database - only paid up clan society members will be allowed access, and no one else.
- The data base will focus on recording Clan members, their spouses and children - mostly those born before 1900.
- Data will be obtained from credible public sources with the aim of having details of ancestors of every "Macfie" descendent.
- To ensure the data is robust and reliable, sources will be referenced for every item of data entered.
- This is a massive project. To be successful, it will require meaningful input from many members internationally.
- While members with computer and programming skill will be very useful, all members can contribute by doing things such as research, data entry and verification.
- Clan society members will also be able to contribute, verify and suggest corrections to existing family records and add documents, photos and stories.
- The database enables the sharing of birth, death & marriage certificates, and other important documents. Database administrators could look at purchasing these for the benefit of society members.
- The more members who are involved, the more data that gets entered, the more we will have documented the histories of our ancestors.

### Benefits

1. Unifying Clan members across countries, and an asset for Clan Macfie.
2. A tribute to, and follow up to the works of Dr. Earle Douglas MacPhee.
3. Collegial project for Societies.
4. Valuable resource for members to research family trees and find lost kin.
5. Opportunity for Clan members to contribute and get involved.

### Get Involved

This is a worthwhile ambitious project. If you can make a contribution or would like to learn more about it, please contact Robin McFee in New Zealand, email [mcpheeclannz@gmail.com](mailto:mcpheeclannz@gmail.com)

OR

Log on to the New Zealand based discussion forum website [www.macfieclansociety.org](http://www.macfieclansociety.org) It will be private, so a login will be required. This website also hosts the TNG genealogy database software.

# Obtaining a Grant of Arms

## from President Ian McPhee

Obtaining a grant of arms (and thus becoming armigerous) is a rewarding achievement. I would encourage anyone interested in their heritage to apply for their own arms. Sadly, I am currently the only armigerous member of our Society. The process of applying for a coat of arms begins with a petition to the Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland. It must be accompanied by documentation detailing the petitioner's existing family and lineage back over several generations. In order to do that, a petitioner must supply original or certified copies of birth, death and marriage certificates, together with a 'Schedule of Proofs' summarising the documents.

All going well, the petitioner will be notified that arms will be granted and what form they may take. Commonly, the grant will consist of a shield, crest and motto. The Lord Lyon may also advise the petitioner of historical aspects or requirements relevant to the petitioner's clan or family. In the case of Clan Macfie, the 'black lymphad' (or galley) is a significant feature that is commonly shown on the shield or charge.

Upon receiving the go-ahead, the petitioner can then begin the process of contributing to the design of the arms using the services of an heraldic artist who plays a key role in how the arms are displayed. Any design has to meet with the approval of the Lord Lyon which can lead to compromises required of a petitioner, but does stop those silly petitioners who want to have all sorts of nefarious things like a pet dog or cat shown on their arms. The Lord Lyon approved a grant of arms for me on 13th June 2016. It was an interesting process to arrive at the arms that are displayed on the back page of this journal. Some key points:

1. Colour Scheme : The colours commonly used for Clan Macfie arms are blue and gold (or yellow).
2. Motto: Is placed at the top of the arms in the form of a scroll. Unlike some other Macfie Clan armigers, I chose two words that mean a lot to me - pride and independence. In times past, pride and independence were synonymous with Highland clans and culture. Pride in one's Scottish ancestry, in one's work, in ones achievements and in one's endeavours generally, is an important quality to me. To be independent or self-reliant and not beholden to government or anyone else is part of my ethos and etched into my psyche. Once the motto is chosen, a decision has to be made on what language to use - usually Latin, Gaelic or English. I originally wanted to use Gaelic, but had to discount it because there were too many differing interpretations for both the words I had chosen. Choosing English meant the motto was unambiguous.
3. Lion: Below the motto, Scottish arms commonly show a lion in one form or another. In my case it is a "lion rampant". Some armigers choose to have the lion holding an object of personal significance to them.
4. Helmet: Below the lion or whatever object is used in lieu of a lion is depicted a helmet.
5. Shield: Armigers can make a statement of personal significance on the shield. To express my own, and several generations of my family's involvement on the land with sheep and wool, I chose the horns of a merino ram which are bisected with a sword. The sword is in the form of a claymore once used by Highlanders but the description using that word was not permitted by the Lord Lyon for my arms. Below the ram's head, a galley is shown. Highland galleys, once used in the Western Isles, were known as birlinns, another term not acceptable to the Lord Lyon for my arms.
6. Mantling: The decorative surrounding that enhances the arms are drawn by the heraldic artist with guidance possible from the petitioner. Symmetry is important to me, so the mantling on my arms is balanced on either side of the shield with a bright assertive appearance.
7. Letters Patent: The final process is the issue of the formal "Letters Patent" on parchment, signed by the Lord Lyon and sealed with his Seal of Office. It contains a fully illuminated drawing of the arms. A copy of the Letters Patent, including the painting of the arms, is made in the Lyon Register. With the current backlog of work in the Lord Lyon's office, I am still waiting to receive my Letters Patent.

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## Scotland News

### St. Columba's Cell

Archaeologists from the University of Glasgow working with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) have uncovered conclusive evidence that a wooden hut traditionally associated with St. Columba at the monastery on Iona does indeed date to his lifetime in the sixth century AD. The process of carbon dating has led to the significant breakthrough which categorically proves samples of hazel charcoal, unearthed from an excavation of a wattle and timber structure on Iona 60 years ago, dates back to the exact period Columba lived and worked at the Hebridean monastery. It may be the monk's "cell" where he prayed and studied in isolation.



The samples, excavated in 1957 by Professor Charles Thomas, were kept in his garage in Cornwall, preserved in matchboxes, until 2012 when they were given to Historic Environment Scotland. A University of Glasgow Team of archaeologists then identified the significance of the finds and recently submitted the samples for carbon dating. Until recently the finds from the site were believed to be missing, but a project led by University of Glasgow archaeologists Dr Ewan Campbell and Dr Adrian Maldonado, funded by ourselves, re-located the samples. Commenting on the findings, Dr. Maldonado said "This discovery is massive. St. Columba is a key figure in Western Christendom and Thomas always believed he'd uncovered Columba's original hut, but could never prove it because the technology wasn't there at the time. This is as close as any archaeologist has come to excavating a structure built during the time of St. Columba" (ref. Historic Environment Scotland)

### The Whithorn Roundhouse

The ancient Scottish settlement of Whithorn has a history spanning more than 1500 years and is the site of the first Christian Church in Scotland. It stands alongside Iona and St. Andrews as one of the most important religious sites in the country. Recently Historic Environment Scotland recognised The Whithorn Trust for their project to build a full-scale reconstruction of an Iron Age roundhouse in Dumfries in south-west Scotland, which opened last year.



The idea of reconstruction grew out of historical excavations which have been carried out for many years in an area which, thanks to the legends of St. Ninian, Scotland's first saint, has long been a drawcard for archaeologists. According to the monk and historian St. Bede, writing in the 8th century, Ninian was a bishop who built Scotland's first church at Whithorn - the candida casa or shining white church. By the 300s AD Whithorn, with the sea and Roman Carlisle nearby, was an important centre for trade and early Christianity. Ninian, who is believed to have died in 431 AD, is credited with introducing Christianity to large parts of Scotland years before the work of St. Columba. His church, according to Bede, was "built of stone in a manner to which the Britons were unaccustomed" - at the time the local population would have lived in roundhouses like the reconstruction, made of wooden posts and woven hazel hurdles, as they had done for hundreds of years and would continue to for hundreds of years more.

It was a beautifully preserved roundhouse found at Black Loch of Myrton around five miles from the reconstruction site which inspired the Whithorn Trust project, which has won a Scottish Heritage Angel Award. The settlement there dates back to around 450 BC yet the roundhouse was so beautifully preserved in the wet boggy ground that even the details of the joints of the frame could be seen. The Black Loch roundhouse would have housed a family with about 20 members together with some of their animals. (ref. The Scottish Banner, Vol 41, no 6)

## Vale

### **Dorothy Jean McPhee** (Q77-327) 1928-2017

The Bell district of Queensland recently lost a valued resident with the passing of Dorothy McPhee. Dorothy was born in Brisbane in March 1928 and grew up on a farm near Wondai. Initially home-schooled via correspondence courses, her formal primary schooling was at the Chelmsford State School. She then boarded at Ipswich Girls Grammar School before undertaking a primary teaching course in Brisbane. After short periods at Wondai, Wallumbilla and Millmerran she was transferred into a one-teacher school at Koondai-Creek near Bell, Queensland.



Dorothy married a Bell local, Edward (Ted) McPhee and they settled on the family farm. In 1967 she recommenced teaching at the Bell State School and was highly respected by colleagues and students alike. Today her legacy lives through those many students she taught. Dorothy had a long association with many local organisations and a strong community spirit saw her become a keen supporter of many activities for the enhancement of the Bell community. She was an early member of the *Macfie Clan Society of Australia* and, in 1981, she organised a McPhee Family Re-union at Bell which involved tracking down descendants of original selectors Angus & Christina McPhee.

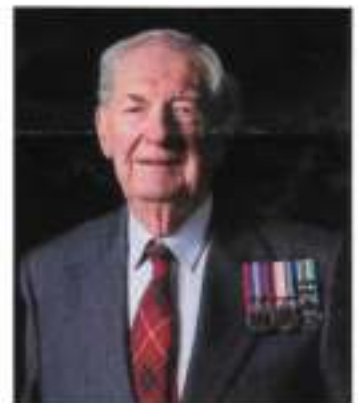
Dorothy lived a full and healthy life and, after a short period of illness, passed away at Dalby on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2017. Many friends, past students and family attended her grave-side committal and church thanksgiving service at Bell. Dorothy McPhee is survived by her three children (Keith, Jean, John), six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. (Many thanks to Dorothy's son Keith McPhee from Tarrangindi, Qld for the information on Dorothy's life.)

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### **Bruce McPhie** (V75-096) 1924-2017

Born on 9th November 1924, Bruce was the eldest child of Doris & Malcolm McPhie, descendants of the early settlers of the Otway Ranges in south western Victoria. Bruce had 3 siblings; Edna and Lester (deceased) and Ron, still living on the family farm in South Gippsland.

Bruce grew up on a farm on Wild Dogs Road, not far from Apollo Bay. On his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1942 he joined the RAAF, hoping to be a pilot but had to be satisfied with being an aircraft mechanic at the Sale RAAF base. Later he was posted to Perth, where he met his first wife, Clarice. He was 19 and she was 21. En-route to a posting in Europe the war ended and Bruce became part of the German occupation force. Back in Australia, Bruce & Clarice rented a house in Coburg in 1951 and adopted their daughter Heather. It was during this time that Bruce sought to be a minister, studying at a theological college at Melbourne University. He became a curate on Phillip Island, but was never ordained. In this post-war period Bruce began his lifelong career as a Life Assurance salesman for Colonial Mutual and MLC.



Bruce married his 2nd wife Marion in 1956 while on a road trip across the USA. From this union they had 4 children -- Fiona, Sally, Malcolm and Ross. The family lived in a war service home in Box Hill South and then in Elsternwick. Sadly the marriage didn't last. In 1972 Bruce married his 3rd wife, Norma, who became stepmother to four teenagers. This proved too much and in 1975 they went their separate ways. Achieving financial success as a salesman allowed Bruce to amass multiple residential properties and retire in 1980 aged 56. Bruce then married his 4th wife, Betty who became a great companion in his early retired years. They built a home in Forest Hill but parted in the mid-90s. Later, Bruce went on to live by himself in his unit at Box Hill North. Bruce had an extensive list of interests including bowls, tennis, travel, church activities, gardening, photography, stamps, coins, Probus Club, Senior Citizens and the Macfie Clan Society which he had joined soon after it was founded.

After a service at Manningham Uniting Church in Box Hill North, Bruce was buried in a double grave at Kew Cemetery in Melbourne where his great-great grandfather Niel McPhie was buried in 1892. Bruce is survived by his eldest daughter, Fiona, Malcolm and his children -- Rhett, Luke and Yasmin, Ross & his two daughters, Abbie and Coralie, & their children, Alec and Jaeda, Bruce's daughter Sally died in 2005.

# Macfie Clan Society of Australia Financial Accounts

for the Year Ended 31 October

2017

2016

2015

## **INCOME**

Membership Subscriptions			
Donations	4,705.00	2,750.00	5,255.00
Merchandise Sales	1,365.00	535.00	
Biennial General Meeting/Functions	24.00	2,470.00	
Term Deposit Interest	145.57	71.63	138.08
	6,239.57	5,826.63	5,393.08

## **EXPENSES**

Journal "Downunder" Printing & Postage	2,610.92	2,106.60	1,300.14
Other Printing & Postage	431.39	918.28	612.03
Merchandise & Promotions	837.50	175.00	
Office & Stationery	20.00		46.90
Flowers & Tributes	283.95	200.00	100.00
Biennial General Meeting/Functions	847.88		
Australian Share of Commanders Visit Costs			
Public Liability & Volunteer Insurance	88.00	180.00	180.00
Bank Fees & Charges		75.00	136.60
Subscriptions	95.00		
Displays & Tents	208.10		
	5,422.74	3,654.88	2,375.67

## **SURPLUS for the Year**

<b>\$816.83</b>	<b>\$2,171.75</b>	<b>\$3,017.41</b>
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## **Balance forward from Prior Year**

27953.67	25781.92	22,764.51
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## **TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS at year end**

<b>\$28,770.50</b>	<b>\$27,953.67</b>	<b>\$25,781.92</b>
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## **Represented By:-**

Cash at Bank	8472.14	7800.88	12,199.65
Bank Term Deposits	20298.36	20152.79	13,582.27

## **TOTAL ASSETS**

<b>\$28,770.50</b>	<b>\$27,953.67</b>	<b>\$25,781.92</b>
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## SOCIETY OFFICE BEARERS

<p>Ian McPhee</p>	<p><b>President &amp; Clan Commissioner*</b>            PO Box 6464 Frenchs Forest NSW 2086            02 9938 2550 mobile: 0419 382555            Email: imac10@bigpond.net.au</p>	<p>Ian McCathie</p>	<p><b>Treasurer*</b>            66 Banks St. Newmarket QLD 4051            07 33568054            Email: 2012tardis@gmail.com</p>
<p>Morris McPhee</p>	<p><b>Vice President &amp; QLD VP*</b>            7 Rani Circuit, Noosaville QLD 4566            mobile: 0455 334846            Email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au</p>	<p>Robyn McPhee</p>	<p><b>Secretary</b>            7 Rani Circuit, Noosaville QLD 4566            mobile: 0434 072845            Email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au</p>
	<p><b>NSW VP*</b>            vacant</p>	<p>Bev Knowles</p>	<p><b>Chief Historian</b>            24 Sevenoaks St Balwyn VIC. 3103            98172891 0417 303614            Email: bevknowles@netspace.net.au</p>
<p>Heather Grove</p>	<p><b>ACT VP*</b>            2/30 Krichauff St. Page ACT 2614            02 62785703 mobile: 0420 825396            Email: heathergrove1@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Bernie McPhee</p>	<p><b>Historian</b>            1/18 York St. Mont Albert VIC 3127            03 98997138            Email: berniepmcphree@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Peter McPhee</p>	<p><b>VIC VP*</b>            7 Shrewsbury Rd., Nunawading VIC 3131            98741460 mobile: 0412 342426            Email: pmcphree@bigpond.com</p>	<p>Michael Phee</p>	<p><b>Society Piper</b>            90 Brennon Rd Gorokan NSW 2263            02 43923666 mobile 0405 735887            Email: macphee1340@gmail.com</p>
<p>Judith Moore</p>	<p><b>SA VP*</b>            107/125 Montacute Rd Campbelltown SA 5074            08 83650220            Email: -</p>		<p><b>* Denotes Macfie Clan Society of Australia Executive member</b></p>
<p>Robyn McPhee</p>	<p><b>TAS VP*</b>            7 Rani Circuit, Noosaville QLD 4566            mobile: 0434 072845            Email: colonsay@bigpond.net.au</p>		
<p>Trevor McPhee</p>	<p><b>WA VP*</b>            33b Collier Ave Balcatta WA 6021            94404748 042 3905850            tma@inet.net.au</p>		

### CLAN COMMANDER— CEANN CATH

Iain McFie, Coultyre, Kincaig  
 Kingussie, PH21 1LX  
 Email: commander@clanmacfie.co.uk  
 Tel. 01540 651391

### 2018 EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

March 18	Geelong Highland Gathering, VIC
March 25	Ringwood Highland Gathering, VIC
March 31	Maclean Highland Gathering, NSW
April 7	Bundanoon Highland Gathering, Bundanoon NSW
April 29	Kirkin O' Tartan, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Spring Hill QLD
May 3/6	Australian Celtic Festival, Glen Innes NSW
May 26	Berry Celtic Festival, Berry NSW
May 31	Bonnie Wingham Gathering NSW
June 8-11	National Celtic Festival, Portarlington, VIC
<b>June 30</b>	<b>Macfie Clan Society BGM</b>
July 7	Aberdeen Highland Games NSW
July 1	Tartan Day
July 29	Kirkin' O Tartan St. Lukes Presbyterian Church, Lindfield NSW
Sept 9	Armadale Highland Gathering & Kilt Run, WA
Oct 6	Canberra Highland Gathering & Scottish Fair ACT
Dec 1	Daylesford Highland Gathering, VIC

#### Disclaimer & Note

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

## Society President Ian McPhee's Coat of Arms



### Official Description:

Per fess Azure and Or, in chief a sword Argent point downwards hilted and pommel-gilded of the Second between two merino rams' horns conjoined Proper, in base a galley Sable under sail of the Third, flags and pennons flying Gules. Above the Shield is placed an Helm befitting his degree with a Mantling Azure doubled Or, and on a Wreath of the Liveries is set for Crest a demi-lion rampant Sable, armed and langued Gules, and in an Escrol over the same this Motto "For PRIDE AND INDEPENDENCE". And GRANT WARRANT to Lyon Clerk to matriculate the same in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland."

### In plain English:

The top half of the shield is blue the bottom half is gold (Per fess Azure and Or). On the top half of the shield are two merino ram's horns which are joined. Between the horns is a sword pointing downwards with its hilt and pommel gold. On the bottom half of the shield is a black (Sable) ship (galley) with a sail natural colour (Proper) and red flags. The Crest: On a wreath of gold and blue the top half of a black lion rampant with a red tongue, teeth and claws and over the same is the motto "FOR PRIDE AND INDEPENDENCE".

for more details about the arms see page 11



Scone Pipe Band performing at their 20th Anniversary celebration



Ian McPhee & Ian McCathie at the Richmond Highland Gathering in Tasmania

### Clan armigers who attended the 2017 Macfie Clan Parliament at Stirling in Scotland:

Left. to Right.:  
 Gary McPhie (Canada),  
 James McPhee (New Zealand)  
 Ian McPhee (Australia.)  
 Par-Magnus Hagman (Sweden)  
 Linda Gilcrest (USA)  
 Andrew Duffy (Scotland)

