



THE DOWNUNDER

Journal of the
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 139
July 2018



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

Past President's Message



I have always believed it is a good thing that from time to time new blood is injected into the management of organisations like ours to ensure they remain healthy and vibrant. After 12 years as President of our Society and 10 years as editor of the Society's journal *The Downunder*, I felt this year was the right time for me to step down from both roles and pass the reins to someone else. I do so with mixed emotions, but content in the knowledge that we have many talented people capable of managing the Society. I have no doubt my successor, Victorian Vice President Peter McPhee is one of those. I congratulate Peter and all the executives elected at the recent BGM and wish them all the best.

Being so close to the recent BGM and Peter's election as President, I offered to edit and send out this issue of our journal on his behalf, which will be my last. Back in 2006, I received a letter from our Society's founder and then Clan Commander, Sandy McPhie, who offered me his best wishes prior to my election as President. In the last paragraph of his letter he stated "I believe the very life of our Clan Society is dependent on the

quality of our News bulletin 'Downunder'. It's going well - keep it alive and thriving." Like Sandy, I believe our journal is the lifeblood of the Society and have endeavoured to produce one that is interesting and informative for our members spread across Australia. I am sure Peter will continue to do the same.

A full report on the Society's BGM and biennial gathering has been provided in the following pages. Being my turn to organise it in Sydney, I chose to try something different. Rather than a Macfie only weekend, I opted for our Society to join in the social events organised by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council for Scottish Week. The Council did a wonderful job, and our members who participated in the weekend's activities had a memorable time. Hopefully it can be repeated.

Our Society was again represented at the Scottish Act of Remembrance Ceremony on Anzac Day in Sydney. About 20 Scottish representatives that included members of other Clan Societies, Scottish dancers and Scottish Societies, laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney. It was a lovely event in magnificent weather, and took place at the conclusion of the main parade. As can be seen in the photo above, I was able to attend and lay the Society's wreath wearing my father's World War II service medals.

Another highlight on the Scottish calendar in NSW, is the Aberdeen Highland Games, usually attended by Morris McPhee, his wife Robyn and former Treasurer Geoff McPhee. This year, with Geoff being unable to attend, and Morris and Robyn living in Queensland, I represented the Society. A large crowd attended a great day of Scottish events which I think would only be rivalled by the Bundanoon Gathering.

Before concluding my message, I would like to thank all those Society executives and other members who have helped me as President over the years and contributed by being members of our Society. Also to those who have sent in articles for the journal and been thoughtful enough to write letters of encouragement many thanks. Our Society is composed of a wonderful lot of people who it can be said, reflect our collective forebears and their unique culture. With many of Western civilisation's traditional values under threat from numerous directions, I feel Societies like our that seek to promote our values, history and heritage, are more important than ever and worth hanging on to.

In This Issue:

General News	3	Kirkin o' the Tartan History	11
War Memorial reunion & Clan News	4	Death of Colonsay owner	12
Genealogy and McPhee Clan Prayer	5	Author J M Barrie & Sale of Ulva	13
Report on the 22nd Biennial General Meeting	6	Obituaries	14
MacDuffee Scholarship & Service Award	10	Office bearers & Events Diary	15

Front cover: Some of the members who attended the Burns Supper. From the back L to R: Alex McPhee, Joanna Moore, Bonnie Moore, Ian McCathie, Morris McPhee, Peter McPhee, Robyn McPhee, Heather Grove, Ian McPhee, Margaret McCathie, Judy Moore and Rosemary Szente.

GENERAL NEWS

New Member

A warm welcome to new member:
Sandra Carnovale, Truganina VIC



Donations

Normally around this time of year, a list of all those who have donated to the Society with their subscriptions is published in this column. I must apologise for the omission. Regrettably, a lack of space has precluded printing it in this issue. A full list will be published in the November journal.

Lost contact

Cherrie McFee (V75-107), Rhyll, Victoria

On the Mend

Roger Goodwin, husband of our chief historian Bev, is recuperating from a recent operation. We wish him a speedy recovery.

In Memoriam

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

Ruth Elaine McPhee (N77-339)
formerly of Lugarno NSW who passed away on
27th March 2018

Heather Knowles (Q76-222)
Formerly of Albany Creek QLD who passed away
on 17th April 2018

Ross McPhee, (V75-107)
formerly of Rosebud West, VIC and lately of Kana-
hooka, NSW passed away on 12 June 2018

from Brian & Cass Mchaffie NSW

Brian and Cass Mchaffie from Tweed Heads are two loyal, long term contributors to our Society. Recently they sent in an article about emergency anaesthetist Dr. Ian McPhee that appeared in the *Tweed Daily* newspaper on 6th June. For some years Dr. McPhee has been spearheading a campaign to upgrade facilities at the Tweed Hospital. In their note, Brian and Cass said: "Dr. McPhee has been a doctor in this area for some years and his son is an anaesthetist. Both are members. I met the son when I was having a cataract operation and we were having a conversation about Clan affairs when the surgeon suggested he should proceed."

from Western Australia

At the 2012 BGM weekend in Western Australia, members visited New Norcia, 130 kilometres north of Perth, which is the only monastic town in Australia. The New Norcia Monastery was then home to only 9 Benedictine monks, one of whom was Society member Father Anscar, known simply as Anscar. He gave members a memorable personal tour of the monastery.

Recently I received a lovely note from Anscar at New Norcia. Normally I wouldn't share such personal correspondence with members, but as this is my last *Downunder*, I hope he doesn't mind. When reading the following, please keep in mind monks at New Norcia have virtually no income to pay for things such as membership subscriptions: "Someone gave me some money for my Diamond Jubilee of monastic profession and I thought immediately of you and how much I owe you for your wonderful publication of *Downunder*. I know it is not enough but it's a spot of goodwill & appreciation to you. You really do a wonderful job as president. ..God bless you and keep you." signed Patrick Anscar McPhee.

Thank you Anscar. It has been my privilege to serve our Society and enjoy sharing our common heritage, not to mention being able to meet so many decent and interesting Australians. That our modest journal is enjoyed in remote parts of our vast country reinforces my belief in its value to our members.

Robert Burns: A Grace Before Dinner

O thou, who kindly dost provide
For ev'ry creature's want!
We bless Thee, God of Nature wide,
For all Thy goodness lent;
And if it please Thee, heavenly Guide,
May never worse be sent;
But, whether granted or denied,
Lord, bless us with content.
Amen

Colonsay Website

A new Visit Colonsay website has been set up at:
<https://visitcolonsay.co.uk/>
It is managed by the Colonsay Tourism Marketing Group and has information about the island, accommodation, island events, offers, news & getting there.



Family Reunion, Canberra from Peter McPhee

Every evening at the Australian War Memorial a serviceman listed on the Wall of Honour is remembered during the Stand to and Remembrance Service. His service record and story is read to the assembly. On the centenary of his death on 10th April 1918 the ceremony commemorated the service of Sergeant V A D McPhee who was killed in action during World War I. It represented an ideal opportunity for family members to gather and honour their ancestor who gave his tomorrow so we could have our today. On Tuesday 10th April 17 family members from Victoria related to Sergeant Victor McPhee attended the Australian War Memorial for the service.



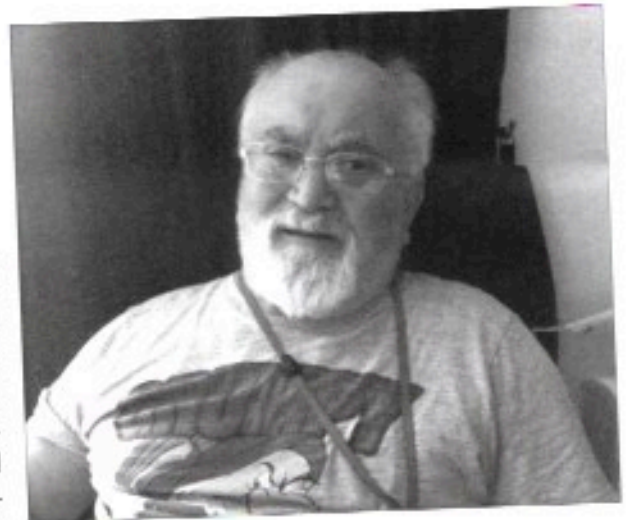
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Clan Macfie News No 81

from Clan Commander (Ceann Cath) Iain McFie

I hope you were all able to celebrate Macfie Day with the other Macfies worldwide. Unfortunately Fiona was unable to be with me that day because of medical appointments so I was on my own thinking about the Clan and the '93 Gathering on Colonsay, and the unity of purpose that was expressed then. Where has all the unity of purpose gone that was expressed in '93?

If you have any ideas of improvement for the Clan, please share them with everyone. We are always anxious to hear from you and hear what is important to you. I have been in touch with the Lord Lyon asking him to allow Andrew Duffy, an Armiger and my Commissioner for the United Kingdom and Ireland, to act on my behalf as in lieu Commander as long as needed, and while I remain in hospital in Newtonmore. Andrew has agreed to accept the appointment. I would like each and every one of you to give Andrew your full support.



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A QUESTION OF AGE.

Salvation Army girl (to old Aberdonian):
 "Will you give a shilling for the Lord?"
 "Hoo auld are ye, lassie?"
 "Eighteen past."
 "Ah weel, I'm seventy five. I'll be seein' Him afore you, so I'll hand it to Him mysel'."



GENEALOGY

from Alison Flavel, South Australia

My connection to the McFies goes back to Donald McFie who was born in the small village of Skiskine on the western side of the Scottish Isle of Arran in December 1835. He was working on a ship and jumped ship in New Zealand at Dunedin (Otago) during the gold rush days. The gold more or less finished there and was found on the west coast at Ross near Hokitika. He would have tramped across the South Island to get to the west coast over very rugged country. So as not to be detected he changed his name to Daniel and spelled his name McFie a different way. He was always known as Dan. Somehow he met Flora McLean, born on the Isle of Coll 25/12/1835 and sent money back to her to sail out to New Zealand. They married on 12/3/1866 at the home of Mrs Evans at Hokitika. Dan was the grandfather of my father Archibald Howat and they lived by the river at Kanier (just outside Kokitika). My mother was May Woodhouse and they lived all their lives at Kokitika.

Editor's Note: In addition to the above, Alison was kind enough to respond to my request in the November 2017 *Downunder* journal for the achievements of members' children and grandchildren. Alison writes:

"Our son Peter Flavel is CEO of Coutts Bank, The Strand, London and a year or so ago when the Queen turned 90 they invited her to lunch at the bank. She hadn't been into a bank for 7 years. So a small party of 8 dined in one of the bank's dining rooms. The Queen asked Peter what his background was and he replied that his mother came from New Zealand and his father from Adelaide. She said how she loved Adelaide and they had a most enjoyable and informal luncheon. Then approximately a year or so later he invited the Duke of Edinburgh to lunch and this time just 6 sat around the table and another enjoyable and chatty lunch was had. When our son was first appointed to this position, I emailed my immediate family and said that Peter had a new job. He was 'baker' to the Queen.

from John McPhee, Toolamba Victoria

John sent in details of his pioneering ancestor Norman McPhee (1845-1908) and his family. The following is a small section of Norman McPhee's story.

Norman was born in 1845 on the island of South Uist. His parents were Archibald McPhee & Christina McLeod, both born on the Isle of Skye. They moved back to Skye when their son Norman was 4 years old. McPhee families had lived at Colbost and Bracadale on the S.W. coast of Skye for generations.

The McPhees were forced to leave Skye during the potato famine years and were among thousands who were part of the Highland Clearances. They had a chance of a new life thanks to the Highland and Island Emigration Society that was formed to organise emigration of destitute Highlanders to Australia. Archibald and Christina with their 4 daughters and son Norman, together with Archibald's mother Margaret, unmarried brother Alexander, and sister Christina, left together from Skye by steamer for Liverpool, never to see their birthplace again. They left Liverpool aboard the *Priscilla* bound for Port Phillip, Victoria on 13th October 1852. Three weeks after leaving, measles and Scarletina broke out and many died, including baby Margaret on 8th December and Jane, aged 5 on 10th December. The *Priscilla* arrived at Port Phillip on 24th February 1853 and was quarantined at Port Nepean. On the voyage 42 had died. Archibald and his family were employed by Captain McPherson to work *Heidelberg Station* at Morang. Archibald was employed as a shepherd for a term of 12 months at 50 pounds per year plus keep.

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A Macfie Prayer

The following prayer was written by Sister Helen of Nova Scotia, Canada, and adopted as a 'Clan Prayer' in 1983. It appears at the beginning of a substantial hard-covered book titled *MacPhee Clan of Alberta 1888-1983*, compiled by Barbara R MacPhee and Betty B McPhee, published in 1984. It is part of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia's book collection.

"Dear Heavenly Father: We are gathered here today - a small portion of your earthly family to do you homage by becoming better acquainted with one another and with the MacPhees who have already gone to their Eternal Home with you. Grant, that by increasing our awareness of our origins, we may become more fully alive to our possibilities as your children. Help us to appreciate the sacrifices made by our forefathers in seeking out this new land, so that we who come after, might have a better life. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son and of all the MacPhees in Heaven with you. Amen."

Report of 22nd Biennial General Meeting

At the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, 169 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW.

Thirteen members attended the Biennial General Meeting (BGM):

ACT: Heather Grove; NSW: Ian McPhee, Trish McPhee, Joanna Moore, Rosemary Szente, Linda Waddington; QLD: Morris & Robyn McPhee, Ian & Margaret McCathie; SA: Judith Moore; VIC: Bev Knowles and Peter McPhee

1. Welcome

President Ian welcomed those present to the meeting and requested ACT Vice President Heather Grove take the minutes of the meeting (which have been used for the following report). The meeting proceeded with a Macfie Clan Prayer written by Sister Helen of Nova Scotia, Canada.

2. Apologies:

NSW: Geoff McPhee, Lyndsay Armstrong, Angus and Ann McPhee, Lachlan McPhee, Joanne McPhee; QLD: Helen McPhie, Susan Spinks; SA: Brian & Marilyn McPhee; VIC: Bernie McPhee; WA: Trevor & Rhonda McPhee, Jillian & Alan King; NZ: Glen and Glenda McPhee

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 21st Biennial General Meeting

The minutes of the 21st BGM held in Melbourne were circulated and accepted by those present who had attended the meeting. Moved: Bev Knowles, Seconded: Morris McPhee

4. Business arising from 21st BGM:

No action concerning establishing a Facebook presence for the clan has been undertaken as yet.

5. President's Report from Ian McPhee:

After 12 years in the position, Ian presented his last President's Report. Outlining some of the difficulties experienced by societies such as ours, Ian noted that to survive and prosper, it is necessary to adjust and evolve to meet new challenges in a changing world. He encouraged us to continue to explore social media in an effort to attract new and younger members.

He is confident that the Society's current administrative processes are sound, with a data base that continues to be updated and improved. The Society is also in an excellent financial situation with a number of assets that have been purchased over the past few years.

Ian reminded us of Sandy Macfie's and his own commitment to continue regular issues of *The Downunder*. Prior to Ian's election as president, our Society's founder Sandy McPhie wrote to him on 9th April 2006 and offered his best wishes. In the last paragraph of his letter Sandy stated "I believe the very life of our Clan Society is dependent on the quality of our News bulletin 'Downunder'. It's going well - keep it alive and thriving." As the life-blood of the organisation, Ian stated it was crucial to the Society.

The Macfie merchandise which was a new direction for the society, has been selling well. Ian suggested there was potential to develop new products unique to our Clan featuring our tartan fabric. The Society also now has some promotional literature.

Since the last BGM, Ian has had custody of nearly all the Society's records originating from past presidents, previous historian Trevor Phee and former Clan Commander Sandy McPhie. In total they comprise a small truck load of documents. In his view, to expect our Society to manage and store such a huge volume of material much of which is irrelevant or superfluous is unreasonable. Over the past year or so, countless hours over many weeks have been spent sorting through thousands of pages of documents, some going back over 40 years, in order to rationalise, catalogue and where necessary to dispose of unwanted material. The Society's files are now more ordered and manageable for future executives.

A great deal of work has also been done documenting and collating the Society's excellent literature collection which Ian will endeavour to feature in future issues of *The Downunder*. He stated it was always his belief that the Society should have a collection of relevant history books not only available to members, but as a resource for our journal.

Membership numbers are declining through natural attrition and the challenge of increasing membership is ongoing. An advertising campaign in Tasmania, and Ian's personal presence at the state's only Highland Gathering yielded no success. Membership had declined from 219 two years ago to a current membership of 195. To keep the Society viable, it must not only have a reasonable membership base in terms of numbers, but also in terms of participation. Like membership, participation has also declined markedly in recent years.

Our Society is composed of a lot of wonderful people who it has been a privilege to be associated with. As at the end of 2017, it had the following number of members, some of whom were not financial:

Australian Capital Territory	6
New South Wales	66
Queensland	49
South Australia	11
Tasmania	1
Victoria	47
Western Australia	11
New Zealand	3
Thailand	1
	<hr/>
	195

Ian closed by thanking all office holders past and present for their input for which he was grateful. He made particular mention of Morris and Robyn McPhee who have supported him very closely during his tenure, particularly when faced with ill health. Ian wished Peter McPhee, the incoming President and the new committee every success for the future.

6. Treasurer's Report from Ian McCathie:

Ian McCathie reported that the clan finances are in a stable position. The term deposit will be rolled over when it becomes due. As the Society is now listed as a not for profit organisation with an ABN and tax file number, the bank no longer charges fees. The Treasurer presented a comprehensive financial account which he moved for acceptance which was seconded by Ian McPhee.

7. Clan Commissioner's Report:

Ian McPhee, as Clan Commissioner, presented a report reiterating and updating information shared in the November 2017 and March 2018 editions of *The Downunder* following his attendance at the Clan Parliament in Scotland. It became obvious at the Parliament to Ian, that the Clan was in an unsatisfactory state, exacerbated by the ongoing illness of the Commander. As Clan Commissioner, no direct communication has been received from Commander Iain McFie for over two and a half years due mainly to his ongoing ill-health and confinement to a nursing home.

A list of the Clan's problems was presented to the meeting. They included the Colonsay land issue, matters surrounding the Clan's Trust and its ability to operate in the Commander's absence, Iain McFie's ability to fulfil his duties as Clan Commander in light of his ongoing ill-health, the lack of any succession planning, the lack of comprehensive communication with clan societies, the standard of management and also financial reporting.

Ian's efforts to have some of these matters addressed at the Parliament in Stirling and since then have been met with active discouragement by some, especially by those in Scotland. He has subsequently tendered his resignation as the Clan Commander's representative in Australia, by writing to Commander Iain McFie in April, to advise him he was relinquishing his position as Clan Commissioner effective from 30th June. No reply has been received.

Confirming his encouragement and support to the Society, Ian expressed the view it was up to the incoming Macfie Clan Society of Australia Executive to decide what action (if any) to take that may be in the best interests of the Society and the Clan in addressing the Clan's problems.

8. Election of Executive Members for 2018 - 2019:

Nominations were received for the following position from:

President	Peter McPhee
Vice President	Morris McPhee
Treasurer	Ian McCathie
ACT Vice President	Heather Grove
QLD Vice President	Morris McPhee
SA Vice President	Judith Moore
WA Vice President	Trevor McPhee

All officers were elected unanimously. The remaining vice presidencies of NSW, Tasmania and Victoria remain vacant. The newly elected President was invited to take the chair, but requested Ian McPhee continue as chairman for the duration of the meeting.

9. Items pursuant to Clan Macfie:

The new committee and other members at the meeting agreed to continue to seek clarification and hopefully, rectification of the situation in Scotland. A letter to the Commander seeking answers to a number of questions about the Clan's current problems was deemed a suitable first action to take.

Questions were raised about other avenues for clarification and direction through the Lord Lyon to obtain a list of Armigers who could be consulted, or contacting the Scottish Government re the question of restoring the ownership of the land. It was suggested that our sister societies around the world should be contacted to share our concerns.

Bev Knowles volunteered to look into the legal situation and suggested that drafting a simple plan of succession could be a helpful solution. Bev and President Peter have undertaken to continue working on improving the situation for all Macfie Clan members.

10. General Business:

Given recent reports of other Scottish interest groups such as ours being forced to fold, the general business of the Society is always about increasing membership. Some discussion of the value of Facebook in particular, and examples of members' successful experiences in other situations, convinced the attendees at the meeting to pursue this avenue. The committee plans to set up a Facebook Account, with advice and support from members (or their children) who are technologically skilled. Merchandising articles made with Macfie fabric may include scarves or runners. Members to seek samples of a lightweight fabric.

Ian McCathie is currently digitising the complete set of *The Downunder* bulletins. Three complete sets are available in Society records or held by members. It was suggested that a set might be stored in the Mitchell Library, for posterity.

11. Expression of Thanks to Retiring President:

Treasurer Ian McCathie expressed the thoughts of all those present when he assured Ian of the clan members' extreme gratitude for his tireless work for many years on behalf of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia.

12. Date and Venue of the next BGM:

To be announced. The Meeting closed at 12.40pm.



At the BGM, L to R. Robyn and Morris McPhee, Ian McPhee, Peter McPhee and Margaret McCathie.

At the Burns Supper, President Ian McPhee with his two sons, Philip on the left & Ashley on right. Both are Society members.

The BGM Weekend

From President Ian McPhee

A highlight of the 2018 BGM weekend was the Burns themed Scottish Dinner held on the Saturday night at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel. As nearly all interstate members attending the BGM were also staying at the hotel, it was the perfect venue. The black tie event was organised by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council and our Society was able to support the function with 21 members and their friends attending. A guest speaker, an address to the haggis, a lovely meal and Highland dancing to the accompaniment of bagpipes ensured everyone had a great night. I think many of the 70 people present at the function could have continued on well after the official closing time of 10.30 pm.



At the Kirkin o' the Tartan, L to R: Linda Waddington, Ian McCathie, Heather Grove (with hand bag), Margaret McCathie, Peter McPhee, Bev Knowles & her husband Roger

Being part of Scottish week in Sydney, the Scottish Australian Heritage Council also organised a Kirkin' o' the Tartan the next day at the Hunter Baillie Memorial Presbyterian Church at Annandale. Only about three kilometres from the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel, Society members had little difficulty arriving for the start of the service at 10 am. After an organ prelude, a piper led those who carried their clan's colourful gonfalons to the front of the church, where they were displayed for the congregation. Newly elected President Peter McPhee did the honours for our Society. After the placing of tartan near the altar, the order of service included an entreaty by the Australian Gaelic Singers, a welcome by Rev. Dr Gordon Fullerton, the hymn Morning has Broken, Lord's Prayer, a bible reading by the president of Clan Davidson, the Kirking Prayer, Psalm 23 by the Gaelic Singers, a bible reading by Vice President of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council, Psalm 121 by the Gaelic Singers, Prayers of Thanksgiving and offering, the minister's sermon 'People of Hope' and the hymn My Hope is Built on Nothing Less. It was a memorable service in a beautiful church.

A sumptuous morning tea followed the church service in the nearby hall. Afterwards, a Clans and Families Forum including a speaker on DNA had been organised by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council to be held in the church hall. Speakers included Stephen Szabo on heraldry and the Honourable Grant Davidson of Davidston (NB Davidston has been spelt correctly). The cost was a modest \$15, which included a light lunch. Some Society members attended the talk, while others concluded the weekend at the North Annandale Hotel, a short walk from the church, where the 'Arts Room' had been set aside for Society members to have lunch.



Address to the Haggis: L to R. Geoff Davidson, President of the Clan Davidson Society in Australia, Dr. Frank Davidson, Vice President of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council & Pipe Major Adam Wishart.



On their way back to QLD, Morris & Robyn McPhee stopped at Maclean on the NSW north coast. To their surprise, they saw 2 telegraph poles with Macfie tartan wrapped around them.

MacDuffee the Younger Heritage, Scholarship & Service Award

The following includes a presentation from the MacDuffee Clan Society of America given by Donna McDuffee Infantino to the Clan Parliament in Scotland last year. The MacDuffee Scholarship and Service Award is an innovative way to attract young members to their Society.

Purpose: The MacDuffee Scholarship is to recognize college bound high school seniors based on citizenship, contributions to Scottish Heritage, academics and service to the MacDuffee Clan Society.

Criteria: The students eligible for consideration must be graduating high school seniors who have been accepted at either a two or four year college or university course. Consideration will be given to accomplishments and activities such as: academics, community service, activities in their church and school, awareness of Scottish Heritage, knowledge of their family genealogy, and admission to a College or University. Successful applicants will be asked to write a half page paper regarding their family history. All eligible students will be the children, grandchildren, step-children or adopted children of active members in good standing.

Guidelines: Scholarships will be awarded and disbursed each year at the Annual General meeting in July. All eligible candidates are to submit their Scholarship Application by May 1st of their senior year in High School.

Amount: Scholarships may range from \$250 to \$500 at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee. One scholarship may be granted each year. The scholarship is for one year and is not renewable.

Deadline: The deadline for submission of a Scholarship Application is May 1st of each year. The post mark or media date on the submission will be strictly monitored.

Scholarship Committee: (5 Members) The committee will consist of the President, Vice President and Treasurer, Secretary, editor of the Clan Chatter and one member at large appointed by the President based on recommendations of the Board.

Scholarship Committee Evaluation Guidelines

Each application will be reviewed for completeness and timely submission. Those eligible applications received by May 1st will have the 5 criteria evaluated based on the following scale:

Incomplete or poorly
written.



One point

Acceptable



Three points

Well written & thought out and with
significant achievement



Five points

The following items are required by the Scholarship Committee to determine each year's winner of the Scholarship:

- 1.) Please demonstrate your general knowledge of the MacDuffee Clan Society in 2-3 written paragraphs.
- 2) Identify service oriented organizations that you have supported during your High School career, any leadership positions that you may have held and Awards earned.
- 3) Who is your oldest known ancestor? Please provide a brief story about a significant contribution(s) that one of your ancestors may have accomplished. Please limit to a half page.
- 4) How many Highland Games or Festivals have you attended?
- 5) Who do you think is the most famous Scot and why? Limit to half page.

A Brief History of the Kirkin o' the Tartan

The recent origins of the Kirkin of the Tartan (literally the Churching of the Tartan) can be traced back to the Rev Peter Marshall whose life story "A Man called Peter" was written by his widow Catherine. A film was also made about his life and a song written, both titled "A Man called Peter."

While some claim that the service was the invention of the Rev Peter Marshall during World War II as a support of the US war effort, pointing out that there is no record of the practice in Scottish history, others maintain that the origins of the practice lie in the turbulent years following the Scottish defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1745, when the victorious but badly shaken English under the leadership of the infamous Duke of Cumberland sought to wipe out Scottish nationalism and the Jacobite cause.

Until 1782, some 35 years after Culloden, the wearing of tartan was proscribed and punishable by death, as the bearing of arms and the playing of bagpipes, which were declared to be a weapon of war. Although the Kirk had opposed the rebellion, not wanting the reinstatement of a Catholic monarchy, English repression resulted, it is claimed with Highland ministers of the Kirk agreeing to include within their worship services a clandestine prayer for Scotland and things Scottish, of which the tartan was the enduring symbol.

Clansmen would secrete a piece of the banned tartan cloth about their person and during the Kirking Prayer would touch their piece of beloved tartan. That no records exist of what was a treasonous act is not surprising. It may have been that after the end of the repression in Scotland, the practice lapsed into obscurity. However the lack of a written record is in itself not conclusive and I would question whether Rev Peter Marshall would have introduced something with the claim that it was or had been a practice in Scotland when this was not the case.

Many Scots had been forced to flee Scotland in the aftermath of Culloden and again with the Highland Clearances, settling in the New World, New Zealand and Australia, where even to this day there remains a strong allegiance to the tartan and things distinctively Scottish. It is also extremely appropriate to give thanks for the heritage and particularly the heritage of faith that has come to us from Scotland whether or not the practice of the Kirking of the Tartan had its origins in post Culloden Highland Scotland. Also the Rev James Reid, formerly of Glasgow and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Manly remembers a kirking prayer being used regularly in the Free Kirk in pre World War II Scotland (i.e. Before Peter Marshall). (reference: the Hunter Baillie Memorial Presbyterian Church order of service 1st July 2018)

The Kirkin' Prayer

The following prayer has been taken from the Clan Society's archives.

"Almighty and Eternal God, we praise and thank you for your goodness to us in our Scottish heritage.

We dedicate to you our tartans - the symbols of the unwavering loyalty, steadfast hope and great achievements of our Scottish forebears.

We praise and thank you today for the rugged individualism, respect for law and order, the hate of cant and hypocrisy, the regard for human personality and the belief in the equality of all men and women before you that was so important in the lives of our forbears.

Today we pray that we, their descendants in Australia may remain always true to these great ideals.

We pray that we may be true to the faith handed down by those who have gone before us;

faith which has played such a great part in the building of our country, Australia. May we and our fellow clansmen and women everywhere, help to bring peace, goodwill, equality and justice to our world.

We praise you O God, for all your faithful servants in every age, and we pray that we, with all who have died in the faith of Christ may be brought to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of your eternal kingdom.

AMEN.

Rev. Peter Marshall

Rev. Peter Marshall was born in Scotland on 27th May 1902 and became a United States citizen in 1938. During World War II he held prayer services at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington to raise funds for British war relief. At one of those services in 1941, he delivered a sermon entitled "the Kirkin' o' the Tartans" and hence a tradition was born.

Marshall was Chaplain of the St. Andrew's Society in Washington and was appointed the first Chaplain of the United States Senate in 1946 where he served until his sudden death from a heart attack in 1949.



Scotland News

Death of Colonsay's Owner

The owner of the Macfie's ancestral homeland, the 4th Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal has died at age 94. Donald Euan Palmer Howard was born on November 26, 1923, son of the 3rd Baron and Diana, daughter of the 1st Baron Wakehurst. Educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, he served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1947. Demobilised a lieutenant, he studied further at McGill University, Montreal, endowed by his grandfather, before joining the business consultants Urwick Orr. In 1957 he moved to Somerset to become joint managing director of Kelston Engineering; he also chaired Tallon, the ballpoint pen manufacturers, and Eagle Star.



Strathcona divided his life between Westminster (he was on the Tory front bench for eight years), the West Country and Colonsay. He inherited the temperate island 40 miles off the coast of Argyll with his title in 1959. Having failed to sell it, however, he did part with its smaller neighbour Oronsay. He fostered tourism as Colonsay's population declined from an initial 170 people. The island, eight miles by three, had been bought in 1905 by the first Lord Strathcona, who built the Canadian Pacific Railway. The 18th-century Colonsay House became the family seat, though Strathcona moved into the smaller Kiloran, his elder son taking over the Colonsay House. When he married his first wife in Bath Abbey in 1954, 30 tenants made the 550-mile journey by boat and train, led by a piper. They brought a silver cigarette box, presented to the couple by the estate's factor.

Inheriting Colonsay, the 4th Baron admitted: "I don't know the full extent to which my father subsidised the island." He devised plans to turn it into a resort and "jazz up" its hotel. But he found it hard to balance the books, upsetting locals in 1967 by making 12 of the estate's 15 employees redundant, and in 1974, put Colonsay up for sale. Labour MPs (Members of Parliament) urged the government to intervene; but after his daughter Kate married on the island, Strathcona took it off the market. In 1980, with the help of his second wife, he began letting vacant cottages and wings of Colonsay House as 21 holiday units, and re-opened its golf course.

A wartime Naval officer, Strathcona was Deputy Chairman of the project to recover the SS Great Britain (a former passenger steamship advanced for her time) from the Falklands. She was brought back to Bristol in 1970, 84 years after her abandonment as a hulk at Port Stanley, having been damaged trying to round the Horn, and 34 years after being beached in Sparrow Cove with holes punched in her hull.

Strathcona was Chairman of the Bath Festival during Yehudi Menuhin's final years as Artistic Director. He bemoaned the difficulties of staging an ambitious festival in Bath, where he then had a home, with what he deemed insufficient backing from the city. He succeeded Sir Edwin Leather as Chairman of the Bath Festival in 1965 following a period as Deputy Chairman. Menuhin was seven years into his tenure and the festival's reputation was high, but staging an innovative programme each June proved financially taxing. He completed his five-year term with the 1970 Festival, which showed a surplus for the first time in more than a decade.

For 14 years Strathcona kept a low profile in the Lords. Then, in June 1973, Edward Heath appointed him a Lord in Waiting (government whip). His main function was to greet foreign dignitaries and members of the Royal family at Heathrow, but he did speak for the government, once urging drivers to keep calm when confronted with stupidity on the roads.

In January 1974 Heath made him Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the RAF, in the footsteps of his father, who had been a War Office Minister in the 1930s. He was there just eight weeks...long enough to arouse comment in RAF messes about his Naval beard...before Heath lost the snap "Who governs Britain?" election.

When Mrs. Thatcher came to power in 1979, she sent Strathcona back to the Ministry of Defence as Minister of State with responsibility for procurement. He was the only member of her government, then or for some years to come, with a beard, a factor some blamed for his sacking in her first reshuffle in 1981. After the Falklands conflict, he became President of the Falkland Islands Trust. He also chaired the Hales Trophy Trust, which awards the Blue Riband for the fastest crossing of the Atlantic, the Steamboat Association of Great Britain, and the Coastal Forces Heritage Trust.

Lord Strathcona married firstly, in 1954, Lady Jane, second daughter of the 12th Earl Waldegrave. They had two sons and four daughters. The marriage was dissolved in 1977, and in 1978 he married, secondly, Patricia Middleton, who survives him. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal died on 18th June 2018. He is succeeded as 5th Baron by his elder son, Donald Alexander Smith Howard.

Author J. M. Barrie, Moat Brae & Peter Pan

Born on May 9, 1860, in Scotland, J.M. Barrie was a Scottish dramatist, best known for writing Peter Pan in 1904, or The Boy Who Would Never Grow Up. The son of Scottish weavers, he moved to London to become a playwright. Moat Brae is the name of a Georgian townhouse built in 1823 at Dumfries in Scotland where J. M. Barrie, played as a child. Between 1823 and 1914, the house was used as a private residence after which it became the Moat Brae Nursing Home. It remained in constant use as a private hospital and respite care facility for the elderly until 1997. In 2001 it was sold, and sold again in 2008 to the Loreburn Housing Association who planned to demolish the house and build affordable housing. That plan saw the creation of the Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust that was established to save and restore the house and garden and to develop them as Scotland's first Centre for Children's Literature. Moat Brae will be opened at the end of this year. (ref. Scottish Banner Vol 41 no 08, Wikipedia)



Sale of Ulva

This is a follow up to a story printed in the November 2017 issue of *The Downunder* about the sale of Ulva, an island close to Mull. It is the birthplace of colonial Governor Lachlan Macquarie, & has links to the authors Beatrix Potter and Sir Walter Scott, who used Ulva as inspiration for his poem Lord of the Isles.

Residents on the remote Scottish island of Ulva celebrated after reaching an agreement to buy their home, fending off bids from tycoons. The five tenants on the Isle of Ulva feared their way of life might be coming to an end after their island was put on the market after decades of ownership by an aristocratic family. Ulva has a population of only six, including its owner, Jamie Howard, who inherited the island from his mother. He is retaining a large house on the island, which was not included in the sale.

The island's "laird" Jamie Howard put it up for sale for £4.25 million (A\$7.63 million), offering prospective buyers the opportunity to own "one of the finest private islands in northern Europe". Soon after, tycoons began flying in for viewings, raising concerns among residents that they might be removed from the island. But the North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMWC), a group comprised of people living in the local area, succeeded in delaying the sale of the land under a new Scottish law, giving them time to raise the cash.

But the tenants managed to delay the sale, and on Friday announced they had agreed to buy the island. "After a long and complex process, a Community Right to Buy was granted over the bulk of the estate at a price set by an independent valuation ordered by the Scottish Government," said a statement from the group. "However, in order to purchase the entire estate; lock, stock and barrel, negotiations have continued to the point reached today when we can announce final agreement between the parties." The asking price was met thanks to a government grant and contributions from more than 500 individuals.

Ulva is an idyllic location with views of Ben More Mountain and the spectacular Eas Fors Waterfall on the neighbouring island of Mull. But empty cottages, an abandoned church and the disused Ulva Hostel nearby are falling into disrepair. (ref. www.news.com.au)

Vale

Ruth McPhee (N77-339)

Ruth was born on 17th of April 1938, to William and Annie Quigley at Kogarah in Sydney. She was the eldest of three girls, her sisters being Jan and Elaine. At the age of four, her family moved to Narrabri in country NSW where her father worked as a Health Inspector. Then in 1945, when she was just 7 years old, Ruth contracted polio. Ruth's father managed to get help from an "underemployed" German doctor, who believed in the pioneering methods of exercise, massage and vitamins. Ruth spent a year living in Sydney with her aunt and uncle, undergoing rigorous exercise routines and rehab. A few years after returning home the family relocated to Scone.

At the age of 12 Ruth returned to Sydney where she spent a year as a border at PLC. She then returned to Scone, and in 1954, when she was 16, completed the Leaving Certificate at Muswellbrook High. She won a scholarship to Newcastle Teachers College and two years later, aged 18, was appointed to Colyton, near Mount Druitt, the first of the many schools she would teach at. On December 17 1960, Ruth married Geoff McPhee, after which they moved to Newcastle for her husband's work.

In 1962 Ruth and Geoff moved to Kogarah and 2 years later built a home in Lugarno where their two daughters Elizabeth and Fiona were raised. Geoff and Ruth stayed in Lugarno for 40 years. Ruth had many passions. She was a keen gardener, loved shopping and loved a bargain. Ruth retired as the Assistant Principal at McCallums Hill when she was 55 which led to a new passion, travel. Another passion for both Ruth and Geoff was helping with their grandchildren. In addition to those interests, Ruth was keen on genealogy and a keen supporter of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia. Ruth's faith was central to her life as she was a committed Christian and truly believed in God's grace. Ruth's last few years were spent at Chesalon Nursing Home in Jannali where she passed away on 27th March.

Ross McPhee (V75-107)

From his daughter Robyn McPhee, Wollongong.

My father, Ross McPhee, formerly of Rosebud West, Victoria, and lately of Kanahooka, NSW, passed away on 12 June 2018 aged 92. Ross worked for the Commonwealth Bank for over 40 years and also saw active service in New Guinea in WW2.

His sister, who I believe is also a Clan Member, still thrives at 91 and lives in Nowra, NSW. Ross was always very proud of his McPhee family history. His father Stewart was one of the McPhees from Apollo Bay, Victoria. The picture at right shows Ross with his great grandson Miles Whidden. He leaves behind 3 daughters, 3 granddaughters, 2 grandsons, 3 great grandsons and 3 great granddaughters.



Heather Knowles (Q76-222)

Born on 27th May 1923 at Goondiwindi in Qld, Heather was the only daughter of John McPhee and Grace (nee Cameron) McPhee. As the daughter of a grazier and outback station manager, she attended a number of small country schools including Barcaldine, Roma & Jericho in Qld. She also received part of her education through the correspondence school.

As a young person, Heather wanted to be a journalist and wrote numerous short stories and poetry which were published in *Queensland Country Life* & the *North Queensland Register* newspapers. This early ambition was not realised and after finishing school, Heather became a nursing sister. During W.W. 2 she nursed T.B. patients and children with diphtheria in isolation wards. At Roma, Heather met and married (in 1947) Don Knowles, who worked with the State Government Insurance Office (SGIO) which is now the company Suncorp-Metway. They had 2 children - Beverly in 1948 and Donald in 1952.

Heather led an active life. She was a keen golfer, a member of the Retired Officers Association (SGIO), was a member of her local Uniting Church's Community Care group for over 30 years, a former Red Cross volunteer and strong supporter of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia. After a sudden decline in her health, Heather passed away peacefully at St Andrew's Hospital, Brisbane, on Tuesday, 17 April 2018. She was 96 years old.

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EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

Sept 9	Armadale Highland Gathering & Perth Kilt Run, WA
Sept 15	Clans on the Coast, Nelson Bay, NSW
Oct 6	Canberra Highland Gathering & Scottish Fair ACT
Nov 4	Central Coast Spectacular, Gosford NSW
Dec 1	Daylesford Highland Gathering, VIC

Corrections

The following are corrections to my report about the 2017 Clan Macfie Parliament written up in the November 2017 issue of *The Downunder*. Firstly, with regard to the Commander's welcome, I acknowledge there was a welcome of sorts relayed to the Parliament. Secondly, with regard to the Parliamentary Standing Committee Reports, I was incorrect in saying no one was re-elected because all standing committee chairmen agreed to remain. In addition, I acknowledge some of those committees (such as the music committee) are still active in some way.

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 Society Presidents
who attended the 2017
Macfie Clan Parliament
at Stirling in Scotland:**

Left to right:
Gary McPhie (Canada),
Lynn Morgan (USA),
Fiona McFie (representing
the Commander),
Ian McPhee (Australia),
Bob McFie (Scotland),
Glen McPhee (New Zealand),
Christer Hemberg (Sweden).



Barbara and Peter McPhee at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, next to a photo of Peter's relative Sergeant Victor McPhee.



The relatives of Sergeant Victor McPhee at the Australian War Memorial. For the story see page 4.

The BGM Weekend
The beautiful function room at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel in Sydney where Society members attended a black tie, Burns themed supper organised by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. Guests are watching a display of Highland dancing accompanied by a piper.

