



THE DOWNUNDER

*Journal of the
Macfie Clan Society of Australia*

Issue 141
March 2019



Colonsay



*Ancestral home
of Clan Macfie*

Oronsay

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

www.clanmacfie.co.uk



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Firstly I must pay tribute to the magnificent work of the past president Ian McPhee. For the past 12 years he has filled the role exceptionally well. Attending functions around the country and producing what I believe to be the premier Clan newsletter in Australia. On behalf of all members of the Society ,Thanks.

I have taken on the role, as President of the Society, somewhat reluctantly. I hope that I can do justice to my predecessors in keeping the name of our clan at the forefront of Scottish involvement in Australia. To achieve this I need your help.

A number of crates of our Clan History have been provided by Ian and these are a great reference source. Similarly details of family trees for members are available through our clan historian Bev Knowles.

Ian McCathie is digitising all our past issues and we hope to have these available on line. This will give us a record of our activities and also a reference of Scottish traditions and folklore.

I hope to attend the Geelong and Ringwood games with our clan tent. If any member would like our old tent let me know and I will discuss a method of transporting it to you. We acquired it from Clan Johnson some time ago, It is about 3 metres square and in reasonable condition.

At the last BGM we sought approval to acquire some Macfie tartan for conversion to cloaks, table runners, place mats and other items. This is progressing.

A short time ago we celebrated Australia Day. Who was the benefactor of our nation? Captain Arthur Phillip (later Admiral) for his navigation skills bringing the largest number of people across the world. A feat that has never been equalled. Major Lachlan Macquarie who built the foundation of our nation, or maybe Henry Parkes who is regarded as the Father of Federation.

Perhaps you have a major benefactor in your family! Let us have the details for Clan members to read and boast about.

In This Issue:

Presidents message	2	Ship "David Clarke"	10
Lachlan Macquarie	3-6	Commander's News	11-12
Order of Australia medals	7	Scottish Events	13
Tartan Day	8	Scottish News	14
Donations	9	Clan Office Bearers	15

Front cover: *Colonsay view*

Rear cover: *Colonsay Hall at Christmas*

Major General Lachlan Macquarie, “Father of Australia”.



Lachlan Macquarie was born January 31st 1762 on the island of Ulva off the coast of the Isle of Mull in the Inner Hebrides, a chain of islands off the West Coast of Scotland. He was a gentleman of the Scottish Highland family Clan MacQuarrie which possessed Ulva, Staffa, and a region of the Isle of Mull for over one thousand years, and his forebears were buried on Iona. Clan MacQuarrie is one of the four oldest Highland clans and can trace its ancestry to 9th century Kenneth MacAlpine, the first King of Scots. Governor Macquarie's father, a "man of Intelligence, polite, and much of the world", supposedly attained the age of 103 years, dying on 4 January 1818. His mother was the daughter of a Maclaine chieftain who owned a castle on the Isle of Mull.

Major General Lachlan Macquarie, a British Army officer and colonial administrator served as the fifth and last autocratic Governor of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821 and had a leading role in the social, economic and architectural development of the colony. On 8 May 1809 Macquarie was appointed Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of New South Wales and its dependencies. He left for the colony on 22 May 1809, on HMS Dromedary, accompanied by HMS Hindostan. The 73rd

Regiment of Foot, came with him on the two ships. He arrived on 28 December at Sydney Cove and landed officially on 31 December, taking up his duties on the following day.

In making this appointment, the British government changed its practice of appointing naval officers as governor and chose an army commander in the hope that he could secure the co-operation of the unruly New South Wales Corps. Aided by the fact he arrived in New South Wales at the head of his own unit of regular troops, Macquarie was unchallenged by the New South Wales Corps, whose members had become settled in farming, commerce and trade. He appointed John Campbell as his secretary. Macquarie was promoted to Colonel in 1810, Brigadier in 1811 and Major-General in 1813, while serving as governor.

As governor, Macquarie's first task was to restore orderly, lawful government and discipline in the colony following the Rum Rebellion of 1808 against Governor William Bligh. Macquarie was ordered by the British government to arrest two of the leaders of the Rum Rebellion, John Macarthur and Major George Johnston. However, by the time that Macquarie arrived in Sydney, both Macarthur and Johnston had already sailed for England to defend themselves.

Macquarie immediately set about cancelling the various initiatives taken by the rebel government—for example, all "pardons, leases and land grants" made by the rebels were revoked (although many were later re-issued). Macquarie took control of the colony, breaking the power of the Army officers such as John Macarthur, who had been the colony's de facto ruler since Bligh's overthrow. He was "the last British proconsul sent to run New South Wales as a military autocracy".

In 1812, the first detailed inquiry into the convict system in Australia by a Select Committee on Transportation, supported in general Macquarie's liberal policies.] However, the committee thought that fewer tickets of leave should be issued and opposed the governor having the power to grant pardons. The committee concluded that the colony should be made as prosperous as possible so as to provide work for the convicts and to encourage them to become settlers after being given their freedom.

On a visit of inspection to the settlement of Hobart Town on the Derwent River in Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) in November 1811, Macquarie was appalled at the ramshackle arrangement of the town and ordered the government surveyor James Meehan to survey a regular street layout. This survey determined the form of the current centre of the city of Hobart.

In 1814 a Second Charter of Justice was issued for New South Wales. It defined how the civil court system was to be structured. Three new Courts of Civil Judicature were to be established in New South Wales: the Governor's Court, the Lieutenant-Governor's Court and the Supreme Court. Jeffrey Hart Bent, the brother of the Judge Advocate, arrived in the colony as the first judge of the new Supreme Court. Macquarie's relationship with the new Court was never harmonious. The brothers Bent, in their key legal positions, quickly became opponents of the Governor, and personal antipathy affected decisions on both sides. Like most of the

governors before him, Macquarie's noble ideals were undermined by harsh realities and constant opposition. In 1816 he enforced his new proclamation against trespassing on the Government Domain by having three trespassers (all free settlers) flogged. This incident was one of several of which Bent and others complained to the British Government as examples of Macquarie's authoritarian excesses. As a result, Macquarie was censured by Lord Bathurst, the Secretary of State for Colonies, and in 1819 Commissioner John Thomas Bigge was sent to enquire into affairs in New South Wales.

Despite opposition from the British government, Macquarie encouraged the creation of the colony's first bank, the Bank of New South Wales. Established in 1817 in Macquarie Place, in Sydney premises leased from Mary Reibey. It was established under the economic regime of Governor Lachlan Macquarie (responsible for transitioning the penal settlement of Sydney into a capitalist economy). At the time, the colony of Sydney had not been supplied with currency; instead barter and promissory notes were the payment method of choice. Governor Macquarie himself used cattle and rum as payment for the construction of Sydney Hospital and the road from Sydney to Liverpool. The suggestion of establishing a bank was raised in March 1810; but it wasn't until November 1816 that a meeting was held to discuss the real possibility of such a proposal, and in February 1817 seven directors of the bank were elected.

Macquarie is credited with producing the first official currency specifically for circulation in Australia. Foreign coins were common in the early years of the New South Wales colony but much of this coin left the colony as a result of trade with visiting merchant ships. To secure a reliable supply of coins, in 1812 Macquarie purchased 40,000 Spanish dollar coins and had a convicted forger named William Henshall cut the centres out of the coins and counter stamp them to

distinguish them as belonging to the colony of New South Wales and prevent them being useful elsewhere. The central plug (known as a "dump") was valued at 15 pence and the rim (known as a holey dollar) became a five-shilling piece. A canny profit for a Scot. {Current value for these is Holey dollar \$495,000, dump \$175,000

Macquarie was the greatest sponsor of exploration the colony had yet seen. In 1813 he authorised Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson's successful crossing of the Blue Mountains where they found the great plains of the interior. There he ordered the establishment of Bathurst, Australia's first inland city. He appointed John Oxley as surveyor-general and sent him on expeditions up the coast of New South Wales and inland to find new rivers and new lands for settlement. Oxley discovered the rich Northern Rivers and New England regions of New South Wales, and in what is now Queensland. He explored the present site of Brisbane.

The street layout of modern central Sydney is based upon a street plan established by Macquarie. The colony's most prestigious buildings were built on Macquarie Street. Some of these still stand today. What has survived of the Georgian 'Rum Hospital' serves as the Parliament House of the state of New South Wales. It is probable that the hospital was designed by Macquarie himself, in collaboration with his wife. The building's wide verandas were evidently inspired by Macquarie's familiarity with English colonial architecture in India. The elaborate stables which Macquarie commissioned for Government House are part of the modern structure housing the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Both of these buildings were constructed by Macquarie in defiance of the British government's ban on expensive public building projects in the colony and reflect the tension between Macquarie's vision of Sydney as a Georgian city and the British government's view of the colony as a dumping ground for convicts to be financed as cheaply as possible.

Macquarie's policies, especially his championing of the emancipists and the lavish expenditure of government money on public works, aroused opposition both in the colony and in London, where the government still saw New South Wales as fundamentally a penal colony. His statement, in a letter to the Colonial Secretary, that "free settlers in general are by far the most discontented persons in the country" and that "emancipated convicts, or persons become free by servitude, made in many instances the best description of settlers", was much held against him.

Leaders of the free settler community complained to London about Macquarie's policies, and in 1819 the government appointed an English judge, John Bigge, to visit New South Wales and report on its administration. Bigge generally agreed with the settlers' criticisms, and his reports on the colony led to Macquarie's resignation in 1821; he had, however, served longer than any other Governor. Bigge also recommended that no governor should again be allowed to rule as an autocrat, and in 1824 the New South Wales Legislative Council, Australia's first legislative body, was appointed to advise the governor.

He is considered by historians to have had a crucial influence on the transition of New South Wales from a penal colony to a free settlement and therefore to have played a major role in the shaping of Australian society in the early nineteenth century. He is commemorated by Macquarie University in Sydney. On 15th August 1820, shortly before his return to England, he ordered all traffic on New South Wales roads to keep to the left. Macquarie formally adopted the name Australia which was suggested by Matthew Flinders, but was first used in an official despatch by Macquarie in 1817.

Macquarie returned to Scotland, and died in London in 1824 and was buried on the Isle of Mull in a mausoleum near Salen with his wife, daughter and son. The grave is maintained by the National Trust of Australia and is inscribed:

"The Father of Australia"



TO: Clan Representatives

The acclaimed international spectacular, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is coming to Sydney, the ANZ Stadium, from 17 to 19 October 2019.

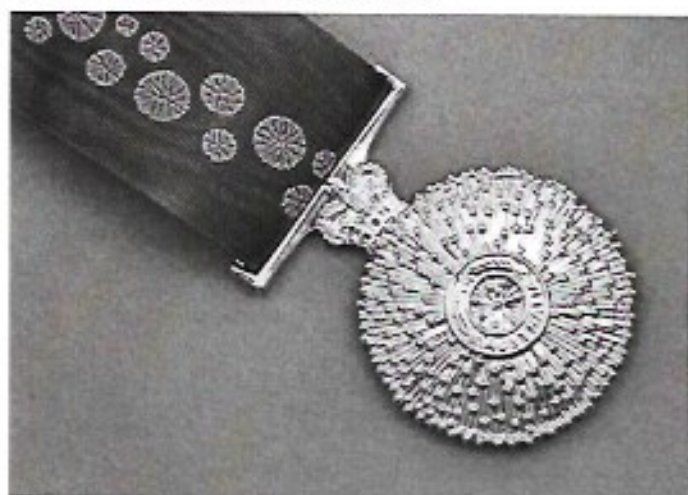
In 2017, the clans were involved in taking the salute at the start of each performance at Edinburgh Castle. It was a thrilling occasion. We are planning to do this for the Sydney performances. The SAHC is considering arranging a group on one night for all those clans that do not have an organized group in Australia.

More details about clan arrangements will follow soon.

It's time to rally your clan folk!

GENERAL NEWS

Congratulations to all recipients of awards on Australia Day.



Mrs June McPHIE, OAM Cooma NSW For service to the law.

Extract of details announced with the award Law Society of New South Wales: • President, 2006.. • Solicitor, Cooma, New South Wales, since 1991. She is also an, Honorary Life Member, Law Society of New South Wales, 2017. • Fellow and Emeritus Member, The College of Law

Mr Simon John DUFFY, AM Rozelle NSW For significant service to wildlife conservation, and to the rehabilitation of primates in Africa.

Taronga Conservation Society Australia: Director, Wildlife Conservation and Science, since 2009. Manager, Backyard to Bush immersive zoo precincts. Developed the Roar and Snore experience.. Life Member. Centre for Primate Rehabilitation LWIRO, Democratic Republic of Congo: Member

**Mr David Ian Mac PHAIL, OAM Wendouree VIC
For service to the community through social welfare organisations.** • Casework Volunteer, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, since 2010. • Member, Ballarat Friends of Ainaro Community. • Member, Ballarat Branch, Rural Australians for Refugees, current. • Member, Ballarat Branch, Australia East Timor Association, 1999-2017

Mrs Jane Newton SMYTH, OAM Narrabundah ACT

For service to the community of Canberra. Canberra Mothercraft Society • President, 2011-2014. • Board Member, since Community Representative, Emergency Management Committee, ACT Emergency Services Authority, 2003. . • Author, *Storytelling with Young Children*

Mr Peter Thomas SMYTH, OAM Maffra VIC For service to the community through social welfare initiatives.

St Vincent de Paul Society • Volunteer, since 1960s. • President, Maffra Conference, 1980s. • Member, St Mary's Catholic Parish, Maffra, since 1980s. • Member, St Joseph's Parish, Orbost, 1960s-1970s. Awards and recognition includes: • Quiet Achiever Award, Rotary Club of Maffra, 2010.

Do you know someone in your community who should be nominated for this award?

**An Australian who has performed
outstanding or dedicated service to an
industry, association or community is
eligible.**

**The award was first started in February 1975
and has two divisions, Military and General.**

**The ribbon is blue with a central strip of
golden wattle flower designs. The military
division is identified by a golden stripe on
each side of the ribbon**

**There are several levels of this award and
each level has a quota except for the medal
division.**

Knight / Dame	AK /AD
Companion	AC
Officer	AO
Member	AM
Medal	OAM

**If you know someone who may be eligible
Contact the office of the Governor General
in Canberra.**

TARTAN DAY

Three million Australians are either Scottish or of Scottish descent.

International Tartan Day in Australia is celebrated on a local basis in most states on July 1 (or by some community organisations on the nearest Sunday), the anniversary of the Repeal Proclamation of 1782 annulling the Act of Proscription of 1747, which had made wearing tartan an offense punishable with up to seven years' transportation.

According to Scottish House secretary Moyna Scotland, the tendency to disguise Scottish associations was mirrored in Australia: 'Scots did what they were told to do when they came to Australia assimilate and integrate and they almost disappeared. Consequently one aim of Tartan Day is to help Australians reconnect with their Scottish ancestry. A tartan revival started in 1822, and now many of the Australian States as well as the Commonwealth of Australia itself have their own tartans.

In 1989 the Scottish Australian Heritage Council began to encourage Australians to wear tartan on July 1, when more than half a million Australians gather for a celebration of Scottish heritage, combining nostalgia with Australian citizenship ceremonies, and fundraising for charitable causes such as drought assistance. Australians without a family tartan

are invited to wear the Royal Stewart tartan or the military tartan of the Black Watch.

Tartan articles worn on the day include hats, ties and socks. There are many pipe band associations in both Australia and New Zealand, some originating in disbanded Second World War army battalions, and almost 30 heritage events in Australia alone. Some clans, notably the McLeod's of South Australia, come together in private events to honour their chief, recite Burns, consume haggis and take part in Highland dancing. A butcher in Maclean, New South Wales, 'the Scottish town in Australia', reportedly celebrates the day by selling haggisburgers.

Since 2001 the Scottish Australian Heritage Council and Australian branch of the Scottish National Party have petitioned Canberra for federal recognition of International Tartan Day to celebrate the Scottish contribution to Australian history, including the influence of Scottish radicalism on the trade union movement and the Labor Party, and Australia's allegedly 'egalitarian and meritocratic society. In 2008 Linda Fabiani, the then Scottish culture minister, floated a proposal to expand the Australian event into an official Scotland Week as part of the Scottish government's international business strategy.

DONATIONS to the Clan Society

Member	Name	Surname	Suburb	Member	Name	Surname	Suburb
A01-962	Gwen	Hubert	PEARCE	S96-912	Ann	Leask	MCLAREN VALE
N74-024	Andrew	McPhee	BAULKHAM HILLS	S78-387	Ian .	McPhee	KIDMAN PARK
N77-254	Michael & Mary	McPhee	VAUCLUSE	S78-389	Nigel	McPhee	LOCKLEYS
N89-718	Marie	Tattam	MOREE	N93-825	Bruce	McFee	CHIANGMAI
N06-1023	Phillip & Freya	McPhee	ALLAMBIE HTS	V08-1069	David	McPhee	NORTH RINGWOOD
N08-1059	Ashley	McPhee	BALGOWLAH	V08-1070	Ian	McPhee	COLLINGWOOD
N74-004	Lyndsay	Armstrong	ROSE BAY	V85-552	John	McPhee	DONCASTER EAST
N81-496	Ian	McPhee	FRENCHS FOREST	V89-716	Jan	Harper	PORT MELBOURNE
N92-779	Robyn	Hancox	WOLLSTONECRAFT	T05-1002	Julie	Peters	PORT MELBOURNE
N07-1049	Andrew	Pardoe	BUNDANOON	V09-1076	Norman	McPhee	RINGWOOD
N04-990	Margaret	Barnes	DRUMMOYNE	V76-218	Fr. Mathew	McPhee	MIDDLE PARK
N12-1087	Karen	Law	SAN REMO	V04-988	Anthony	Gartland	BOX HILL SOUTH
N94-872	Greg	McPhee	TWEED HEADS SOUTH	V14-1094	Marie Joyce	Jackson-Nation	WARRAGUL
N02-964	Marion	McPhee	MAROUBRA	V74-056	Ian	McPhee	ROSANNA
N74-059	Barbara	Smythe	TURRAMURRA	V07-1048	Hadyn	McPhie	MIRBOO NORTH
N74-079	Barbara	McPhee	KURRI KURRI	V88-652	Keith & Anne	McPhee	GLEN WAVERLEY
N76-162	Beryl	McPhie	NOWRA	V88-669	Kim	McDuffie	MILFORD GRANGE
N77-322	Marelle	Lee	LENNOX HEAD	V06-1037	Simon	McPhee	NARRE WARREN
N80-474	Trish	McPhee	SEAFORTH	V77-333	Ian	McPhee	SHEPPARTON EAST
N91-749	Bruce & Dorothy	Taylor	YAGOONA	V82-508	Jennifer	Robertson	MERINO
N95-901	Joyce	McPhee	BONNELLS BAY	V08-1057	Beverley	Knowles	BALWYN
N77-352	Ross & Joyce	McPhee	WEST PYMBLE	A93-793	Kelly	Ross	SUBIACO
N84-544	Russell	Mattocks	BALGOWLAH	W13-1090	Jaque	Van Buren	SCARBOROUGH
V77-357	Glen & Glenda	McPhee	PUKEKOHE	W88-662	Trevor & Rhonda	McPhee	BALCATT
Z10-1079	Erina	Wood	MASTERTON 5810	W75-129	Anscar	McPhee OSB	NEW NORCIA
Q91-760	Betty	Garrard	NAMBOUR	W99-944	Jillian & Alan	King	PEARSALL
Q08-1065	Alison E	Siddins	GOONDIWINDI	V83-527	Elizabeth	Bates	MUNRO
Q08-1072	Ewen	McPhee	EMERALD	Q94-870	Cecil	Kirby	BRASSALL
Q17-1096	Joel	McPhee	BANYO	N91-766	Helen	McPhie	TAMBOURINE MT.
V76-176	Dale & Rachel	McPhie	WOODY POINT	Q97-921	Dorothy	Murphy	CURRUMBIN
N82-506	Janet	Mackay	BRACKEN RIDGE	Q77-261	Kevin	McPhee	OAK BEACH
Q74-084	Nevell	McPhee	VICTORIA POINT	Q77-350	Roger	McPhee	BROOKFIELD
Q76-148	Rae	Wear	COOCHIEMUDLO ISL.	Q77-235	Donald	Knowles	YEPPON
Q99-943	Robyn	Young	BIRKDALE	Q08-1073	Sharron	Benett	COOLUM BEACH
Q77-328	Keith	McPhee	TARRAGINDI	S77-287	Lorraine	McPhee	TOOWOOMBA
Q91-765	Jean	Rushbrooke	EAGLE HEIGHTS	Q76-163	Lyndal	Wallace	HAWTHORNE
Q74-037	Duncan	McPhee	BROOKFIELD				

Clan Macfie

News

**From Iain Morris McFie, Ceann Cath
Coulintyre, Kineraig, Kingussie, PH21 1LX, Scotland
E-mail: imcfie103@btinternet.com**

December 2018

Greetings from the geographical centre of Scotland. Yes, I'm still in Newtonmore. As you will have been aware from the last Clan Macfie News, Fiona and I have been on the lookout for a house that could accommodate us both, as well as my current inabilities, and is also close to much of our family in the Glasgow area. We thought that we had found a house in Neilston, East Renfrewshire, that looked very promising, but after a detailed survey it became apparent that the property would require too much remedial work to make it entirely safe and habitable. So, the search goes on.

I have again been in communication with The Lord Lyon. He is not in agreement with my submission that Andrew Duffy should act as my in-lieu commander. Therefore, all decisions in reference to the Clan that need to be made by me will be made by me, and Andrew will act as my Personal Assistant (P.A.), an important part of the Clan Secretariat.

I have received several enquiries since the Clan Parliament in Stirling, both written and verbal, directly and indirectly about issues concerning my leadership of the Clan, and also the management of the Clan. Therefore, so that the majority of folks are kept up to date I have included the following:

I have no intention of becoming Clan Chief of Clan Macfie or changing the current form of governance of the Clan to that of a hereditary chief.

I have reviewed my position as Commander of the Clan and I am not ready to change this as yet. I will continue to review my position and I will update the Clan as and when there are any changes to my situation. Therefore, obviously, there have been no Clan Commander Succession measures taken as yet.

The running of any form or sort of group in the modern climate takes a considerable amount of work, effort and organisation. Therefore, and taking into consideration my current situation, I decided to enlist help. This help and assistance is provided by some of my closest family and associates and they now constitute the Clan Secretariat. I am very much indebted to this small group of Clan's folk for all their continued hard work and support.

With reference to the Clan Macfie Trust and Trustees, it was a great shame that the Trust and Clan were let down by the legal representatives employed to look after it. This left the Trustees in a very awkward and embarrassing situation, and one that they were not aware of for some time. Luckily this situation has been acknowledged and we are now trying to rectify it. There are currently two (2) new prospective Trustees in the pipeline, Andrew Duffy, from Scotland and Pär-Magnus Hagman from Sweden. Once they have taken up office then we can get on with the re-establishment of the Trust in its correct role.

The Trust itself does not currently appear to require modification in any way. Also with regard to the Clan Trustees, I have been asked "Why aren't the Clan Trustees managing the Clan?" Well the answer to that is very simple, the Trustees are there to manage the Clan's assets; i.e. the plot of land on the Isle of Colonsay, not to manage the Clan. Reclaiming the plot of land on the Isle of Colonsay is part and parcel of the readjustment of the situation of the Trustees and is the next step to be taken after the acceptance of the new Trustees, which I hope will take place very soon.

As to the financial accounts of the Trust, the funds are currently not of any great amount, and in fact the details of the financial accounts of the Trust are not required to be published. Let me put it this way, Fiona and I won't be dashing off for a luxury holiday in Monte Carlo with the Trust proceeds any time soon...or a wet weekend in Blackpool, for that matter!

In view of the recent extreme weather conditions in the United States, our thoughts and prayers are with everyone in North and South Carolina as well as the surrounding areas, especially our Clan members.

If you have any queries or ideas for the good of the Clan, please contact Andrew Duffy, email address is dhubhsith@aol.com.

*Iain Morris McFie
Ceann-Cath 3*

HUMOUR ????????

Tony Abbott, the Australian Prime Minister, is being shown around a hospital. Towards the end of the visit, he is shown into a ward with a number of people with no obvious signs of injury or disease. He goes to greet the first patient and the chap replies: "Fair fa' your honest sonsie face, great chieftain e' the puddin' race! Aboon them a' ye take your place, Painch, tripe, or thairm; Weel are ye wordy o' a grace as lang's my arm." Tony, being somewhat confused (as usual), goes to the next patient and greets him. The patient replies: "Some hae meat, and canna eat, and some wad eat that want it, but we hae meat and can eat, and sae the Lord be thankit." The third starts rattling off as follows: "Wee sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie, O, what a panic's in thy breastie! Thou need na start awa sae hasty, wi bickering brattle! I wad be laith to rin an chase thee, wi murdering pattle!" Tony turns to the doctor accompanying him and asks what sort of ward is this. A mental ward? "No," replies the doctor, "It's the Burns Unit."

GENEALOGY

A Request for Knowledge

Can you help?

Macfie Clan members might include descendants of the "David Clark" (the first ship to bring assisted immigrants direct to Port Phillip) in October 1839. The passengers were all Scots; although none of the passengers had our Clan name, some may have married into your Clan. I would like to publicise a reunion to mark the 180th anniversary, below is a paragraph which could be suitable for newsletter or other ways by which you communicate with your members.

If you wish, I could also send one or two attachments (if your email system permits attachments):

- A sheet which could go on a notice board or circulated (it has more information than the paragraph below).
- A PowerPoint screen which could be projected at your meetings.

Descendants of passengers who arrived on the "David Clark" (the first ship to bring assisted immigrants direct to Port Phillip) in October 1839 are invited to attend a reunion to mark the 180th anniversary. This will be held on Sunday 27 October 2019 at Gulf Station, Yarra Glen, Victoria (historic farm, once owned by William Bell, one of the passengers).

To receive information as plans are settled, email now to davidclark1839@gmail.com.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Australian Celtic Festival Website: www.australiancelticfestival.com

When: May 2 - 5, 2019 Where: Glen Innis, NSW

Berry Celtic Festival

When: May 2019 Where: Berry Showground, Hazelbury Park, Berry, NSW

Ringwood Highland Games & Celtic Festival

When: March 31, 2019 Where: East Ringwood Sports Ground Corner, East Ringwood, Victoria
Website: <http://ringwoodhighlandgames.org.au/>

National Celtic Festival

When: June 7 - 10, 2019 Where: Portarlington, Victoria

Website: www.nationalcelticfestival.com

Beechworth Celtic Festival

When: November 2019 Where: Beechworth, Victoria

Website: www.beechworthcelticfestival.com.au

Kernewek Lowender

When: May 13 - 19, 2019 - A Biennial Event

Where: Copper Coast Cornish Festival, Yorke Peninsula, South Australia

Website: www.kernewek.org

Mount Barker Scottish Highland Gathering

When: February 17, 2019 Where: Mount Barker Showgrounds, South Australia

Website: <http://www.mtbarkerscots.org/>

Annual Bundanoon Highland Gathering

When: April 6, 2019 Where: Bundanoon, New South Wales

Website: <http://www.brigadoon.net.au/>

Annual International Tartan Day

When: July 2019 Where: King George Square, Brisbane, Queensland

Website: <http://www.aussie-scots.org.au/>

Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival

When: June 2019 Where: Wingham, NSW

Website: <http://www.manninghistorical.org/bonniewingham2017.html/>

Maclean Highland Gathering

When: March 2019 Where: Showgrounds and Civic Hall, Maclean, NSW

Website: <http://www.macleanhighlandgathering.com.au/>

Aberdeen Highland Games

When: July 6, 2019 Where: Aberdeen, Upper Hunter Valley, NSW

Website: <http://www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com/>

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Events for the Diary

Ringwood Highland Games & Celtic Festival

When: March 31, 2019 Where: Selkirk Reserve Wantirna,
Visit the Macfie Clan tent, and join with other Clan members in this fantastic Day
Website: <http://ringwoodhighlandgames.org.au/>

The Scots College Pipes and Drums Association in conjunction with the NSW branch of Pipe Bands Australia Scottish Highland Gathering to **Sydney on Sunday 31 March 2019**. The Scot's College provides a perfect setting for a memorable gathering.

Geelong Highland Gathering

When: March 17, 2019 Where: Goldsworthy Reserve, Geelong, Victoria
Website: <http://www.geelonghighlandgathering.org.au/>

Disclaimer & Note

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SCOTLAND NEWS

Colonsay Postie Keith Rutherford retires; after 100,000 miles on only 12 miles of road on Colonsay



Mr Rutherford taking a break at the Post Office

A postman is taking a well-earned rest after clocking up an incredible 100,000 mile journey delivering the mail on an island with only 12 miles of road. Keith Rutherford, 70, who took over the mail run on Colonsay in 1985, "semi-retired" – but will still deliver the mail on Wednesdays to give his successor a day off.

Mr Rutherford knows every inch of the circular road round the Inner Hebridean island, which is home to 120 people. In all weathers his Royal Mail duties have also included delivering the post to the four inhabitants of Oronsay, a tidal island which is connected to Colonsay at low tide. Mr Rutherford, whose outstanding contribution to Colonsay has been highlighted by Argyll MP Brendan O'Hara in an Early Day Motion to Parliament, has made many midnight deliveries to fit in with the tides. He said: "I have seen other people, who were getting into a wee bit of difficulty getting across from Oronsay over the years, and I have had to pick them up." Mr Rutherford added that his own late-night mail

drops were stopped, on the orders of Royal Mail, after he found himself stranded overnight, unable to cross The Strand, which separates Oronsay from Colonsay. He said: "It was one of those inky nights and I made two attempts coming back from Oronsay, I tried to position the vehicle to where I thought it should be going – but the rocks look different in the dark. "The third time I tried, the tide was coming in and I couldn't see where the tyre marks were, I did a U-turn and went the wrong way, I had to stay there all night."

Although there is only 12 miles of road on Colonsay, the myriad of tracks and the 11-mile return trip to Oronsay means the post run usually clocks up 30 to 36 miles a day. Mr Rutherford has used a variety of vehicles, including a Land Rover and postbus to deliver the mail over the years.

He said: "When I had the Land Rover, that did 35,000 miles and the next two did about 30,000 miles – I have probably driven about 100,000 miles here on Colonsay." Mr Rutherford is from Derby but after meeting a local girl, Mary, who he went on to marry in 1975, he and his late wife settled on the island and he worked in the gardens of Colonsay House.



Mr Rutherford's van parked at the Post Office on Colonsay



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COLONSAY HALL, AT CHRISTMAS

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Send the article to Peter
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