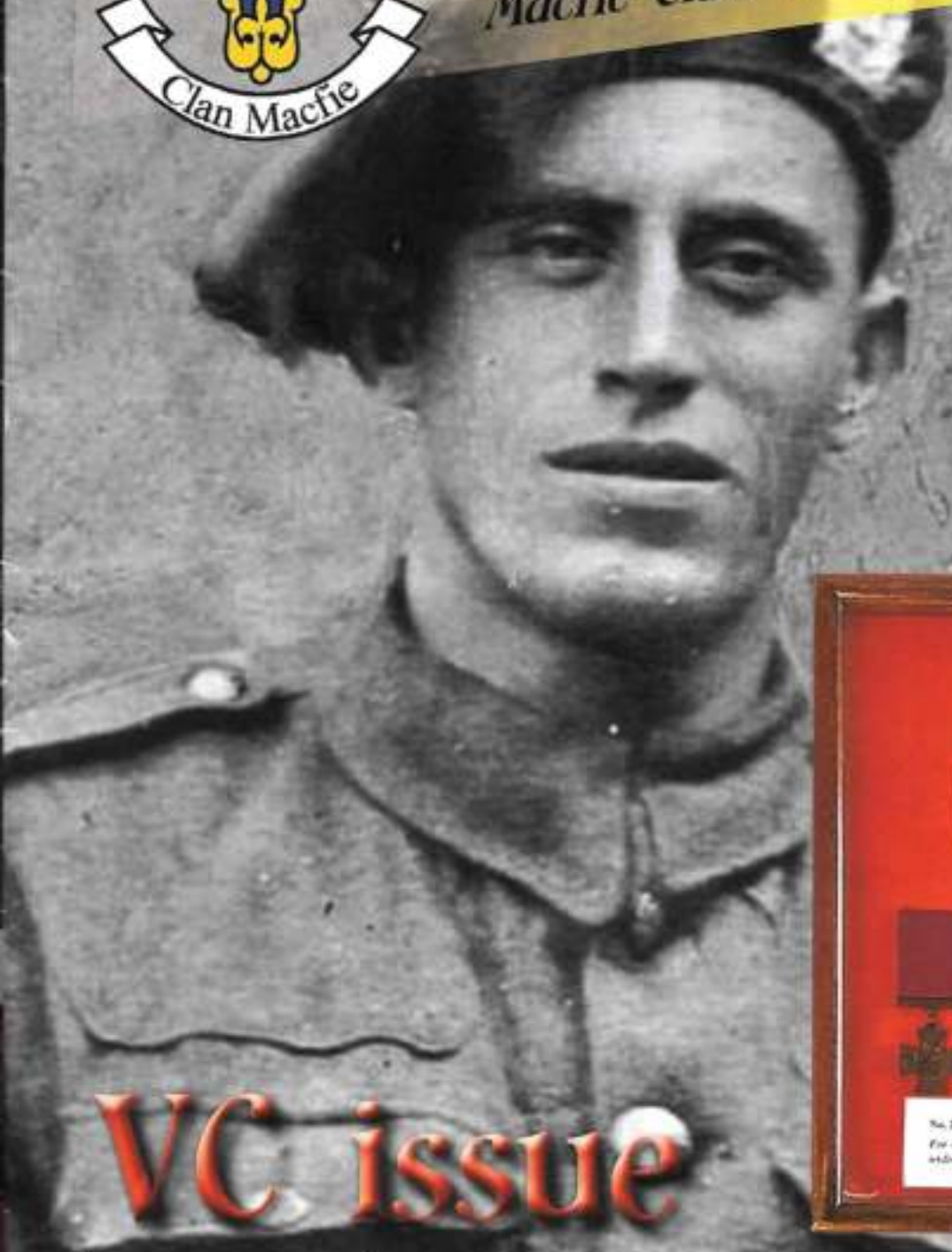




# THE DOWNUNDER

Journal of the  
Macfie Clan Society of Australia

Issue 143  
December 2020



## VC issue



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 PAGE

I hope that our members survived and were able to cope with the enforced isolation. With the various border closures, restrictions etc. due to the COVID virus we have all been affected. I hope that you all came through the time without any major problems. I look forward to attending some Highland games and similar functions when they resume.

I often have trouble getting enough articles for the Downunder. Last issue Kim McDuffie sent his family details, and for this issue Kenny McGuffie sent a booklet on their relative Lewis McGuffie VC. I really appreciate these submissions as they reflect what our members or their forebears do and achieved – keep them coming. Only 100 Victoria crosses have been awarded to Australians since its inception (now 101 with Teddy Sheehan)

On the back page is a copy of a print signed by 10 Australian recipients of this award, as well as General Sir John Monash and the artist Will Dyson. I have also included the calligraphy I received for my 50th wedding anniversary, written and illustrated by my wife.

What do you do with your copy of Downunder after you have read it? Why not give it to someone who may want to join the Clan Society; or why not gift it to the local library, or leave it in the doctors surgery?

We have a stock of past issues. Perhaps they could be sent to those likely to become members of the clan Society. Do you know anyone with an interest in family history or the clan? The Society welcomes other septs and I have listed the names in the magazine.

Membership growth is essential to the society and, as with almost every organisation I know, we should seek new members.

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Front cover: *Sgt McGuffie and his medals*

Back cover :A print signed by 10 Australian VC winners as well as General John Monash and the artist Will Dyson. My wife's calligraphy of our family for our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary

# Clan Macfie MEMBER'S PROFILE

**Douglas John McPhee**

**Jennifer Mary Hutchins (Q 95-914)**

**Gregory Donald McPhee N94-872**

**A**S far back as we can find in our family tree, is the early 1800s, when it all started with Duncan McPhee marrying Mary Cameron and producing John. Great, great, grandfather John married Mary McColl and our great grandfather Dugald was born in Fort William in 1848. Dugald came to Australia 1869 and married Margaret Crooks in Talbot, Victoria, in 1874.

Dugald and Mary then had our grandfather Talbot Augustus, so named because he was born in Talbot in August 1884! We don't know if this was a Scottish tradition or not, but can surely understand why Talbot was known as Mac to his mates.

Talbot married Ellen Sarah Armstrong in Forbes NSW in 1913 and they had John Armstrong in 1914 (killed in WW2: New Guinea 1942), Heather (1916-1972), Donald (1919-2004 and our father) and Nell Barry (1924- 2011 and the only one to have a middle name). Talbot was a bank manager for the Commercial Banking Company and he and his family lived in places such as Brisbane Qld, Bowraville NSW, Lismore NSW, Daylesford Vic, Yarram Vic and lastly South Melbourne Vic.

Whilst our father, Donald, was in charge of a prisoner-of-war camp for Italian prisoners just outside Orbost Vic, he met and married Hannah Raymond Russell (Raye) in 1948. After they married, they lived in Melbourne where Don worked for the British and Australian Tobacco Co. Doug was born there in 1950 and they then took a bold move to country Victoria, to a small town in South Gippsland called Buffalo. They owned and operated McPhees' Farm and Building Supplies store for nearly 20 years, and were well respected members of the community. Greg and Jenny were the first twins born in the Foster hospital in 1953.

After schooling at Gippsland Grammar School in Sale, Doug joined the CBC Bank just like his

grandfather and mother. He realised he wanted a "life outdoors", so he went to work on the oil rigs in Bass Strait, Singapore and Western Australia. He caught back up with the family on the Gold Coast in 1972 and married Helen Maiden in 1981. They had a son, Russell, in 1982,(who married Marlis Ryan in 2011; they both now live on the Gold Coast). Doug then bought his own business, Tugun Family Superstore, in 1984. This was also the year that his daughter Amanda was born. Amanda now lives and works in Sydney. Doug explored other jobs such as concrete/soil testing and bar work and is now retired and living in the Gold Coast suburb of Tugun.

Jenny and Greg had a very happy childhood growing up and going to Leongatha High School in rural Victoria. Their mother and father decided on another very bold move of selling the shop in Buffalo and purchasing "The Bahamas" Motel in Coolangatta Qld. This was just as they finished high school in 1970. You can imagine what a culture shock it was for two 17-year-olds coming out of a town with a population of 25 in very rural Victoria, to end up in the City of Gold Coast living across the road from one of its major night spots!

Their first job was with the Commonwealth Bank, which their father Don organised, as he played golf with the Bank Manager. Greg started in Tweed Heads NSW branch and Jenny two weeks later in Coolangatta Qld branch. The dynamic duo had to split up from there as Greg was transferred south into NSW and Jenny north into Qld.

Jenny, being the oldest by half-an-hour, gets to tell her story first:

Life in the bank in Coolangatta was enjoyable and in the early 1970s Jenny was selected as one of the first female tellers to perform "male duties". She had a wonderful experience travelling overseas to Britain and Europe in 1975, but then found it difficult to resettle on her return, so ended up joining the Commonwealth Bank's relieving staff. It was an interesting and

*(continued over page)*

most enjoyable lifestyle, being based in Brisbane and also spending a lot of time moving around south-east Queensland. She then met Roger Hutchins who was also working in the bank, and whose family had recently emigrated from England. They married in 1979 and lived and worked in Brisbane. Their son Brad was born in 1985 and daughter Tanya in 1987. Jenny and Roger have lived in Carindale in Brisbane for 33 years. Both children have spent many years travelling overseas and they now live on the Gold Coast. Roger is happily retired and Jenny has worked as a teacher's aide at a local primary school for the past 22 years. Like so many Aussies, they love to travel overseas whenever they can and are grateful for so many wonderful and happy life experiences and memories.

Greg worked with the bank for 10 years, in northern NSW, Papua New Guinea and finished in Sydney. He then took up a sales role with AMP Society, where he found his calling in sales. He spent 20 years in a variety of sales representative roles. Greg worked with his brother Doug on the Gold Coast (Tugun) for three years. He married Maxine Swanson in Newcastle in 1989 and had two children:

Sarah in 1991 and Lachlan in 1993. After he and Maxine separated in 2000 he moved to Urunga, NSW, and bought the local Thrifty Link hardware store. Greg married Christine Witchard in 2012 and after getting out of the hardware store business they moved to the Gold Coast in 2015 and now live in Coomera, Qld (near the theme parks). Greg now works at BWS selling grog. Greg's daughter Sarah and partner Jeremy Adams live in Portland NSW. His son Lachlan and partner Ashley Hick live in Maitland NSW.

In 2019 Greg and Christine had the pleasure of spending a month overseas, including 10 days in Scotland. They looked at old grave sites for relatives near Fort William (alas, to no avail). They also visited the Isles of Skye & Arran, and went through the highlands (just magical!). Visiting the Culloden battlefield, they realised how the slaughter of the Clans made a giant hole in the ranks of Clan Macfie. Three days spent with Australian friends at The Royal An Lochan in Tighnabruaich was a highlight of the trip.

If you haven't been to Scotland yet, put it on your bucket list.

## THE VICTORIA CROSS



**D**URING the Crimean War the French would issue their Legion of Honour to all ranks for outstanding heroism. The British equivalent was the Order of the Bath, which was only available to senior officers. Junior officers and other ranks would receive a promotion and mention in the Generals' despatches.

With growing dissatisfaction back home at this inequality as a result of war correspondents' reports, especially those of William Howard Russell of The Times, Queen Victoria and members of

Parliament took notice. One member, Captain Thomas Scobell made a speech in which he said *"An Order of Merit should be awarded to persons serving in the army or navy for distinguished and prominent personal gallantry. Every grade from the highest to the lowest may be admitted."*

A month later the Secretary of State for War, the Duke of Newcastle, added that it should be "a new decoration, open to all ranks, for a single act of valour in the face of the enemy"

(Right): The *casabel*, from which the Victoria Cross is cast.

The design was developed with the involvement of the Queen. Indeed, she changed the suggested inscription from "For the Brave" to "For Valour". Valour indicates courage and boldness in battle, whereas Brave indicates courage or endurance under any circumstance. She did not want anyone to think that only those who receive the medal were the brave men in battle.

Legend has it that all Victoria Crosses are made from cannons captured at the Crimea. They actually come from a *casabel* cut from a Chinese cannon at Woolwich Barracks. The *casabel*, is the part at the rear of a muzzle-loading cannon to which arresting ropes are attached to deal with the violent recoil.

The remaining section of the cannon is kept under security as tight as that for the Crown Jewels. The medals, made in batches of 12, were originally struck, but the metal was so hard the dies kept cracking. They are now cast. Owing to this each medal is slightly different and the differences are used to identify them and reject fakes. The record is retained by the jewellers, Hancocks of London, and records every medal issued and these identifying marks.

Of the 1,360 Victoria Crosses so far awarded, three soldiers have been awarded it twice, one being Charles Upham from New Zealand. One hundred and one have been awarded to Australians. In 1975 Australia changed from Imperial awards to Australia's own Award System. It was only in 1991 that the Victoria Cross for Australia replaced the original award.

The four awards of this medal were presented by our Governor General Quentin Bryce. Three were to the recipients and the fourth posthumously to the family of Corporal Cameron Baird. It remains the highest bravery ward in our award system. Since writing this Able Seaman Edward Sheehan of HMAS Armidale has also been awarded a Victoria Cross. He is the 102nd recipient.



It remains the highest ward in our honours system and is awarded for an act of conspicuous bravery under enemy fire. It precedes all other awards, no matter how many others the recipient has been given. The post nominals "VC" also precede all others. The military regard it so highly that instead of the wearer saluting his superior officers, the superior officer salutes the recipient and the recipient then returns the salute.

The equivalent award, for similar acts not under enemy fire is the George Cross. This is awarded to both military and civilian recipients.

Sixty-six Australian Victoria Crosses are held at the Australian War memorial in Canberra. Were they to be sold, each would likely sell for \$1 to 1.5 million dollars.

## The first Australian Victoria Cross

Commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the winning of the first Victoria Cross presented in Australia.



THE PRESENTATION

PTE Frederick Whirlpool • 3 Bombay European Fusiliers  
Won at Jhansi (India) 2nd May 1858 • Presented Albert Park  
Victoria 20th June 1861 • Died Windsor NSW 24th June 1899

Clan Society member Kenny McGuffie sent this article about his forebear who was awarded a Victoria Cross in the First World War.

## Sergeant Louis McGuffie VC

**T**HE *London Gazette* of 13 December 1918 provides the citation for the award of the Victoria Cross to Louis McGuffie:

*"For most conspicuous bravery and resourceful leadership under heavy fire near Wytschaete on 28th September, 1918. During the advance to Piccadilly Farm, he, single-handed, entered several enemy dugouts and took many prisoners, and during subsequent operations dealt similarly with dugout after dugout, forcing one officer and twenty-five other ranks to surrender. During the consolidation of the first objective he pursued and brought back several of the enemy who were slipping away, and he was also instrumental in rescuing some British soldiers who were being led off as prisoners. Later in the day, when in command of a platoon, he led it with the utmost dash and resource, capturing many prisoners. This very gallant*



Sergeant Louis McGuffie VC

*soldier was subsequently killed by a shell."*

In G.F. Scott Elliot's book, *War History of the 5th Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers*, a little more detail of just what happened is found. In fact, Louis McGuffie showed exceptional courage and initiative on three separate occasions that day. Around 5.30am, "during the storming of [Piccadilly Farm] Sergeant McGuffie distinguished himself. His platoon commander was killed; he then took command, stormed several dugouts, and captured fully a dozen German prisoners, including two officers" (p 263). Around 7.30am, "after Cairns had arrived at the St Eloi Road, Sergeant McGuffie saw a party of British prisoners being led off by a Bosche guard. Disregarding the possible consequences, he dashed out, disarmed the Bosche escort single-handed, and released all the prisoners, who belong to another battalion" (p 264). Then, "later in the day, when the Germans were holding up our advance by machine gun fire from a pillbox, he again ran forward and fired several rifle grenades through a loophole. Thus the pillbox and its garrison were captured".

Louis joined the 35th Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers, following the Galloway volunteer rifle companies from neighbouring towns that formed the Regiment. Louis and his Battalion embarked on the *Mauretania* and arrived at the island of Lemnos on 28 May. After a short stay there, the 1st/5th King's Own Scottish Borderers, part of the 155th Infantry Brigade, landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 6 June 1915. Here they were engaged in trench warfare against the Turks until February 1916, when they sailed to Port Said and took up the defence of the Suez Canal and a railway line being laid from Egypt to Palestine. They took part in the Battle of Romani and then advanced across the desert to Palestine, engaging in the second and third Battles of Gaza before seizing key positions in Jerusalem. After the German offensive in Spring 1918 they sailed from Egypt and landed in France on 11 April, joining the line at Vimy.

Moved to France, the battalion fought its way through France and into Belgium. As the war entered its final weeks, the 1st/5th were fighting near the strategically important town of Wytschaete, not far from Ypres. It was here that Louis, having risen to the rank of Acting Sergeant, engaged in the action that would win him the Victoria Cross. The *Battalion War Diary* records that action: "28

September: At 5.25am our barrage came down along the front of the old French trench and along the Light Railway for 200 [yards] to the West of the broad gauge railway. The barrage, after 5 minutes, advanced at a rate of 100 [yards] each three minutes."

Louis was in a trench system at Bayernwald. As an interesting aside, Adolf Hitler had been a runner in this trench system earlier in 1918, had been part of the German attacks on British positions and had won the Iron Cross.

Only a week after his brave exploits, on 4 October, while at Wytschaete, Louis McGuffie was killed. Scott Elliot provides us with a little more background to the circumstances of Louis's death: "It was here that Sergeant Louis McGuffie was killed, and this intrepid fighter never knew that he had won the most coveted honour that a soldier can possess" (p 267). Again, the *Battalion War Diary* gives some background to Louis's final days:

"30 September, Wytschaete. Rain fell all day and again the men had a bad time. Efforts were made and 4 hot meals and a rum ration were provided. A good deal of corrugated iron was found and 16 waterproof sheets and the men were more comfortable.

"3 October, Zandvoorde. A quiet day with a bright autumn sun. The men brightened up considerably. Communications in the wood improved".

Louis McGuffie was laid to rest at Zandvoorde British Cemetery, 8 miles from Ypres. The cemetery was made after the Armistice, when remains were brought in from the battlefields of the area. A total of 1,583 servicemen of the First World War are buried or commemorated there, of which 1,135 are unidentified. Louis's gravestone carries his name, regimental crest and a representation of the Victoria Cross. It also carries, at its foot, a personal message from his family and a line taken from Alfred, Lord Tennyson's poem "Break, Break, Break".

John Sadler gives his opinion of the VC award: "McGuffie deserved the VC," he says, "It is difficult to get to know officers and NCOs due to the high rate of change. At Wormhout he arranged my departure. I shall always remember his coolness and disregard for the German machine guns when he stood on the edge of the shell-hole". (*Tommy At War 1914-1918: The Soldier's Own Stories* p 184).

The November 1918 Armistice silenced the guns of the "War to End All Wars". Louis McGuffie had died

just days before the guns became silent. Wigtown had lost around 50 local men; many more had returned home damaged physically or mentally – not least Louis's two brothers. Raymond had lost an arm; Edward John had been wounded in the ankle.

After the Armistice, on 21 December 1918, the *Galloway Gazette* announced the award of the Victoria Cross to Louis. A month later it reported that Catherine McGuffie had been invited to Buckingham Palace to receive the medal from the King, and carried copies of the "letters to her: Victoria Cross". Mrs McGuffie did not have the money to travel to London to accept the Victoria Cross personally. In a gesture typical of the generosity of Wigtown's citizens a public collection paid for her trip. On her return to Wigtown she was met at the railway station by the whole town and paraded to the County Buildings with the town band playing in her honour. The local Council also agreed to provide some money to help support her.

The *Galloway Gazette* (10 May 1919) reported:

*"Provost Shaw said that it occurred to him that the County Council, being the most important body, might be willing to give general approval to a project which they had in hand in Wigtown, and the individual members might give their personal support to it. They were raising a small fund for the benefit of the widowed mother of the Wigtown VC winner. He was the only one in the county who had succeeded in winning that great distinction, and, unfortunately, he had been killed within a few days after his meritorious deeds. The meeting approved of the project."*

## PRESENT DAY

In August 2013 the Government announced that commemorative paving stones would be laid in the home towns of every UK soldier awarded a Victoria Cross during World War 1. Six hundred and twenty-eight VCs were awarded to 627 recipients during the war, 68 of them to Scots. The commemorative stone for Louis McGuffie will be located at the entrance to the town gardens, opposite the County Buildings. In addition, townsfolk have felt it appropriate to name the town's gardens after Louis and commissioned an entrance gateway from local artist Jack Sloan.

*Kenny McGuffie*



# GENERAL NEWS

## VALE

Advice has been received that the following members have died:

**Ian Robert McPhee** of Canberra died 22 March 2020 aged 91

**Judith Ann McPhee** also of Canberra died 02 February 2019 aged 85

**David McAfee** Room 324 IRT Howard Holt 1-25 Acacia Rd Kirralee died Feb from cancer 0409307710

**Bob McPhee** Queensland member and Clan Piper for many years. Bob passed away in Longreach, where he resided at the Pioneer Nursing Home. His funeral was held in Longreach on Tuesday, December 1.

**Long lives well spent helping Clan Society activities**

## IAN MCPHEE'S BUSY YEAR

Past President Ian McPhee has had a particularly busy year in 2019, which has prevented him from taking part in activities for the Society. In addition to riding a bike across Holland from Maastricht to Amsterdam, he travelled extensively in England before driving to Scotland.

In Scotland, Ian travelled and worked to promote *The Naked Clansmen on Mull & Iona 1700-1860*, which is a new book he has written. The completion and publication of the book this year, is the culmination of several years of research covering a topic he is passionate about: Scottish history. Ian reports that the book was well received, with a number of bookshops stocking copies. Currently it is under review by Historic Scotland, to ascertain if they will keep it in some of their outlets.

In addition to an extended period in Holland and a working trip to the United Kingdom, Ian also spent time in Singapore and Malaysia during October and November. He looks forward to a more relaxed 2020 and resuming a more active role in our Society's affairs.

## HIGHLAND TITLES

Noticed a mention in the media: "I always get an upgrade on my travel, especially international travel. Why? I purchased a HIGHLAND Title and had it put on my passport. A number of Airport staff recognise that a LORD or LADY must be important and deserving of an upgrade."

## VISIT YOUTUBE

Happened upon a You tube video of an American Sports broadcaster and former Gridiron player of note, interviewing Mason Cox from Collingwood. Interesting viewing!

## ARE YOU A McFIE?

### CLAN MACFIE SURNAMES

The following names are recognised by the Commander of Clan MacFie, Ceann-Cath Iain Morris McFie, as being current acceptable surname spellings for members of the Clan. Variations in the spelling of these names are acceptable. Mac/Mc prefixes are considered to be interchangeable.

ATHEY, ATHIE, CATHEY, CATHIE

COFFEE, COFFEY DUFFEE DUFFIE

DUFFEY DUFFY FEE GUFFEY

GUFFIE HAFHEY HAFFIE MacAFEE

MacAFIE MacCAFFER MacCAFFREY  
MacCAFFIE

MacCATHEY MacCATHIE MacCUIISH  
MacDUFFEE

MacDUFFIE MacDUFFEY MacDUFFY  
MacDUFFIN

MacFEE MacFIE MacGUFFEY MacGUFFIE

MacGUFFIN MacHAFFIE MacHAFFY MacPHEE

MacPHIE MacVEE MacVIE MAHAFFEY

MEHAFFEY PHEE PHIE

In addition, the Clan Commander recognises the historical links Clan MacFie had with the Macdonald Lords of the Isles, Clan Cameron in Lochaber and a branch of the MacNicol family in Glenorchy. More recently, the close links established with Clan MacFie by the Thorburn family in Sweden and the Brew family in New Zealand are also acknowledged by the Clan Commander.



# McPhie and Pipers Awarded the Victoria Cross

**James McPhie** was 23 years old, and a corporal in the 416th (Edinburgh) Field Company, Corps of Royal Engineers, British Army during the First World War when he was awarded the VC. On 14 October 1918 at the Canal de la Sensée near Aubencheul-au-Bac, Nord, France, Corporal McPhie was with a party of sappers maintaining a cork float bridge, which when our infantry started to cross it just before dawn began to break away and sink. Corporal McPhie jumped into the water and tried to hold the cork and timbers together. This proved impossible, so he swam back and collected the materials for repair. Although it was daylight and the bridge was under close fire, he then led the way to the bridge, axe in hand. He was severely wounded and died almost at once. However, the bridge was kept open and 1/2nd Battalion London Regiment were able to maintain their bridgehead on the opposite bank until relieved.

**Piper Daniel Laidlaw** won the Victoria Cross for his actions at The Battle of Loos, the largest British battle on the Western Front in 1915. His Citation: *London Gazette*, 18 November, 1915:

*For most conspicuous bravery prior to an assault on German trenches near Loos and Hill 70 on 25th September 1915. During the worst of the bombardment, when the attack was about to commence, Piper Laidlaw, seeing that his company was somewhat shaken from the effects of gas, with absolute coolness and disregard of danger, mounted the parapet, marched up and down and played the company out of the trench. The effect of his splendid example was immediate, and the company dashed out to the assault. Piper Laidlaw continued playing his pipes till he was wounded.*

**James (Jimmy) Cleland Richardson VC** (25 November 1895 – 8/9 October 1916) was a Canadian recipient of the Victoria Cross.

During the Battle of the Ancre Heights on 8 October 1916 at Regina Trench, Somme, France, the company was held up by very strong wire and came under intense fire. Piper Richardson, who had obtained permission to play the company 'over the top' strode up and down outside the wire playing his pipes, which so inspired the company that the wire was rushed and the position captured. Later the piper was detailed to take back a wounded comrade and

some prisoners, but after proceeding some distance he insisted on turning back to recover his pipes which he had left behind. He was never seen again.

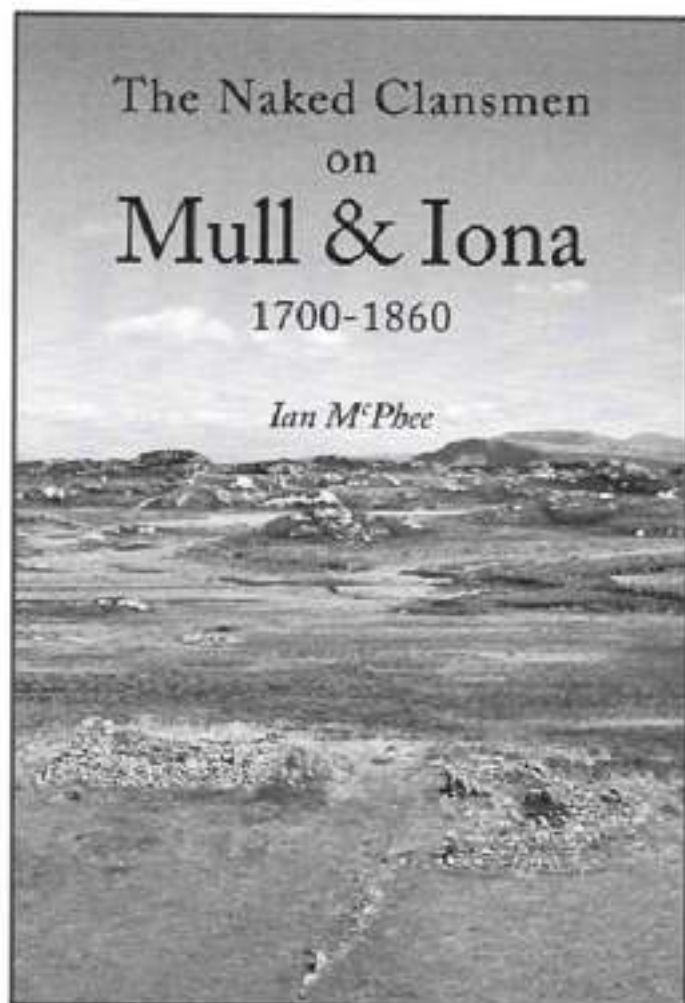
Richardson's bagpipes were believed to have been lost in the mud of the Somme for almost 90 years until 2002 when the Pipe Major of The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) responded to an Internet posting. He discovered that Ardvreck preparatory school in Crieff (Perthshire, Scotland) had possession of a set of bagpipes with the unique Lennox tartan on them, the same tartan used by the pipers of the 16th (Canadian Scottish) Battalion. A British Army Chaplain, Major Edward Yeld Bate, had found the pipes in 1917 and brought them back home after the war to a school in Scotland where he was a teacher. The pipes were unidentified for several decades, and served as a broken, mud-caked, and blood-stained reminder of an unknown piper from the Great War.

Andrew Winstanley of The Canadian Club and Pipe Major Roger McGuire were largely responsible for the investigative work into identifying Richardson's pipes. With the support of The Canadian Club and a group of patriotic citizens, Pipe Major McGuire travelled to Scotland in January 2003 to help identify the pipes that had been displayed at Ardvreck School for over seven decades. Tomas Christie, a parent of students there and also a piper, initiated the search for the origin of the pipes. Their collective effort led to conclusive evidence that identified the pipes as those played by Piper Richardson on that day in 1916. An anonymous donor facilitated the purchase of the pipes on behalf of the citizens of Canada. In October 2006, a party of dignitaries visited Scotland and received the pipes from the Headmaster of Ardvreck School for repatriation to Canada.[3]

On 8 November 2006, the bagpipes were officially repatriated when troops from The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) placed them at the British Columbia Legislature as a reminder of a generation's valour. They are currently on public display.

# The Naked Clansmen on Mull & Iona 1700-1860

A new Book by Past President Ian McPhee



**E**XTENSIVE research about ordinary Gaelic people has been done for this book, which contains material that hasn't been published before. It is primarily about the reorganisation of a society that includes the unprecedented displacement and removal of thousands of Highlanders from their homes in Scotland over a 75-year period between 1785 and 1860. That occurrence in the nation's history is known as the Highland Clearances.

To fully appreciate this period in Scottish history it is helpful to have some background knowledge about clanship and the Highland way of life. The first few chapters of this book give an insight into clan life at a time when clan warfare among the MacLeans, the MacDonalds, the Campbells and other clans in the Western Isles was rife. The rule of law gradually became the accepted norm during the 1700s, and by that time land ownership became more clearly defined. A description of those who owned and

lived on Highland land is provided, as are details of the traditional Highland way of life.

The Battle of Culloden in 1746, where rebellious Highlanders suffered a devastating defeat, was a defining moment in Scottish history. It heralded changes, the way justice was dispensed and how Gaelic people would live. Clansmen were prohibited from carrying weapons and wearing their traditional clothing. Clan chiefs morphed into landlords and ordinary clansmen faced a different future. The chapter about clan rebellion and demise closes the door on one era and opens the door to a new one for Gaelic Scotland.

Transformation and an era of improvement followed Culloden. The clansmen and clanswomen who form the core of this true story are typical of those who suffered when a declining clan system finally came to an end. It follows the transition of people who were displaced by the introduction of Lowland sheep and agricultural land reform in the Highlands. For some, emigration to Canada or the USA was an option. For others, it meant working as a cottar or leasing a small farm called a croft. Development of crofting communities and the lives of crofters and cottars is explained and viewed through the life and times of those who lived on the Duke of Argyll's estates on Mull and Iona.

People dependant on growing potatoes in crofting communities on Mull and Iona, like thousands of other Highland Scots, were marginalised as a result of isolation and poverty. Famine, caused by a disease that decimated potato crops in 1846, brought to a climax problems of overpopulation and unsustainable farming communities, where people lost their livelihoods and were evicted from their homes. Those who lived on the Argyll Estates on Mull and Iona were badly affected. How those people coped with their situation, how they were treated and what was done to save them from starvation is explained in several chapters.

The process of community and personal eviction is told in more than one graphic account.

Evictions, a starving population and government policy led to an upsurge in Highland emigration. The role emigration played in the salvation of those starving from famine or evicted from their homes is an important part of the Highland story in Scotland that is covered in this book. It saw the birth of the charitable Highland and Island Emigration Society.

The Highland and Island Emigration Society assisted nearly 5000 Scottish Highlanders to emigrate to Australia. *The Naked Clansmen on Mull & Iona 1700 - 1860*, provides an extensive account of how this organisation came into being, how it operated, the problems it encountered and the benefits it bestowed on those lucky enough to be sponsored by it.

The author has tried to strike a balance between complexity, detail and simplicity, to produce a holistic, easy-to-read story about Highland life during a period of enormous change in the lives of ordinary Gaelic people. This approach has been taken not only for the benefit of those with some knowledge of Scottish history, but those not acquainted at all with Gaelic culture.

The book has a chronological order, nearly 400 reference notes, a glossary, 58 images, 11 appendices and an index. It has been published in the United Kingdom, where it retails for £20. A limited number of copies are available in Australia from Ian for \$37 plus postage. His details are listed on the page with the Society's office bearers.



**Message from  
Dr Joseph Morrow CBE QC FRSE  
Right Honourable the Lord Lyon**

At the end of a most difficult year may I take this opportunity to thank you for all the kindness you showed me.



Heralding  
Good Tidings  
of Joy!

Let me wish Every Blessing for 2021  
to you and yours.  
Upwards and Onwards!

*Joe Morrow,  
Lyon*

# The Last Word

You can hear the following Burns-inspired (To a Mouse) humorous and witty poem about the Corona Virus spoken by Scottish actor and director Denis Lawson on YouTube at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utiUY5AIHE>

## 'Tae a virus'

written by Willie Sinclair

Twa months ago, we didna ken,  
yer name or ocht about ye,  
But lots of things have changed since then,  
I really must salute ye.

Yer spreading rate is quite intense,  
yer feeding like a gannet,  
Disruption caused, is so immense,  
ye've shaken oor wee planet.

Corona used tae be a beer,  
they garnished it wae limes,  
But noo it's filled us awe wae fear,  
These days, are scary times.

Nae shakin hawns, or peckin lips,  
it's whit they awe advise,  
But scrub them weel, richt tae the tips,  
that's how we'll awe survive.

Just stay inside, the hoose, ye bide,  
Nae sneakin oot for strolls,  
Just check the lavvy every hoor,  
And stock-take, your, loo rolls.

Our holidays have been pit aff,  
Noo that's the Jet patter,  
Pit oan yer thermals, have a laugh,  
And paddle 'doon the waater'

Canary isles, no for a while,  
Nae need for suntan cream,  
And awe because o this wee bug,  
We ken tae be... 19.

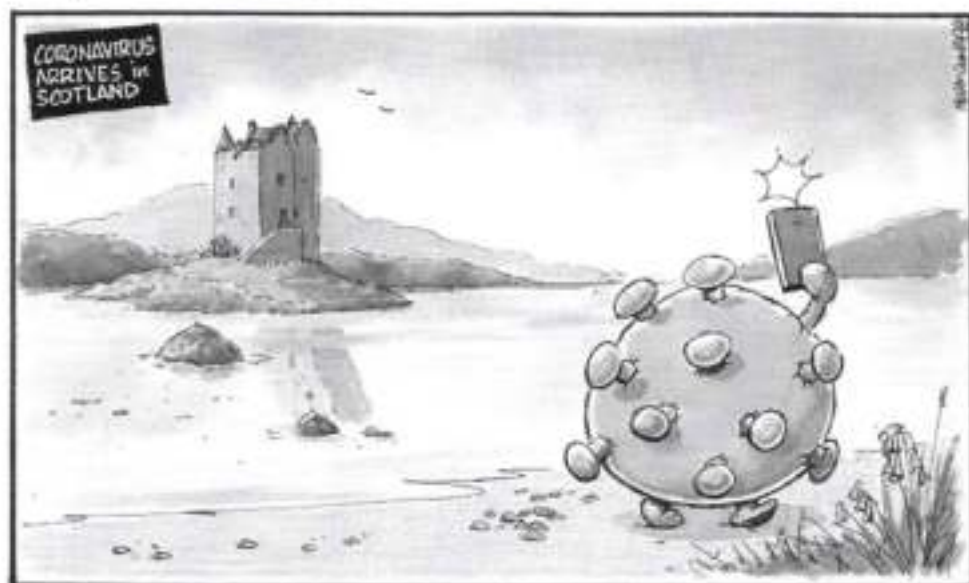
The boredom surely will set in,  
But have a read, or doodle,  
Or plan yer menu for the month,  
Wi 95 pot noodles.

When these run oot,  
just look about, A change, it would be nice,  
We've beans and pasta By the ton,  
and twenty stane o rice.

So dinny think yell wipe us oot,  
Aye true, a few have died  
Bubonic, bird flu, and Tb,

They came, they left, they tried.  
Ye might be gallus noo ma freen,  
As ye jump fae cup tae cup,  
But when we get oor vaccine made,  
Yer number will be up.

*With thanks to Scottish Australian Heritage Council*



# GENEALOGY



## National Records of Scotland

Preserving the past, Recording the present, Informing the future

### Migration

This section provides access to a range of migration statistics, including:

**Migration flows** – these measure the number of people moving to and from an area over a specific period, normally a year.

**Migrant 'stocks' (population by country of birth and nationality)** – these measure the size of the population (non-UK born and non-British nationals) at a particular point in time.

**Local area migration** – this brings together various migration-related indicators from different sources.

**Other migration statistics** – links to other information on migration, including statistics published by ONS, DWP and the Home Office.

**Background information** – to understand more about the data sources and methods used to estimate migration flows.

**Archive** – links to old reports and archived information.

### Enquiries and Suggestions

Please contact our Statistics Customer Services if you need any further information.

Email:

[statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk](mailto:statisticscustomerservices@nrscotland.gov.uk)

If you have comments or suggestions that would help us improve our outputs or our standards of service please contact:

Alan Ferrier, Senior Statistician,  
National Records of Scotland,  
Room 1/2/3, Ladywell House, Ladywell Road,  
Edinburgh. EH12 7TF.

### CLAN PARLIAMENT

The next Clan Macfie Gathering & Parliament will be held in 2023 – with the Parliament most likely to be held in Glasgow (1st-3rd September), followed by a Gathering on Colonsay, timed to commemorate the 400-year anniversary of the death of the last Macfie Clan Chief Malcolm, who died in 1623 on the Isle of Colonsay.

### NEW ZEALAND MCPHEE CLAN GATHERING

Dunedin 7-11 May 2021 Southern Cross Hotel

We are putting together a great weekend in true Scottish tradition to enjoy clanship and see the wonderful City of Dunedin. Let us know and make your bookings now!

Travel and accommodation bookings are up to members. Cheap airfares are available on an ad hoc basis, so keep an eye open. Rooms have been reserved at the Southern Cross Hotel. When booking mention McPhee Gathering.

Contact: 03 477 0752, or 0800 69 69 63 or

<https://reservations.scenichotelgroup.co.nz/107066#/accommodation/room>

Any questions, email: [tracka1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tracka1@xtra.co.nz)

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## Events for the Diary

See Notice on page 13.

**\*PLEASE CHECK WHETHER ANY EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OWING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

### 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.

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A Scottish sentiment



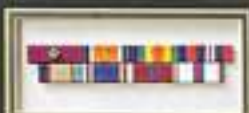
**O'** a' roads to joy in this world far an' wide  
**T**here's nane like th' blink o' your ain fireside;  
**S**o here's to a' lovers wi' hearts true an' tried,  
**M**ay their dreams come true an' ever abide.

©

Chapman.



**Victoria Cross**  
 The Victoria Cross (VC) is the highest military decoration awarded for valour "in the face of the enemy" to members of the armed forces of various Commonwealth countries, and previous British Empire territories. It may be awarded to a person of any rank, including serving and ex-servicemen, and post-war British Empire territories. It may be awarded to a person of any rank, including serving and ex-servicemen, and post-war British Empire territories. It may be awarded to a person of any rank, including serving and ex-servicemen, and post-war British Empire territories.



# MCPHEE FAMILY







# Clan MacFie News

Iain Morris MacFie, Ceann Cath

## Ceann-Cath's Remarks

**M**OST Clan members know by now that the writer has difficulty in providing written communication to Clan members, as well as others. As a consequence of my inability to maintain ongoing communication with my fellow Clan members, I have made the extremely difficult decision to step down as your Clan Commander. I will be working diligently, as I am able, with the Lord Lyon Court in commencing the process to elect a new Clan Commander. I'm sure that those of you who have known me over the years know what incredible sadness this brings me, but I wish to at all times keep the welfare of the Clan above all else.

I remain at present at Main's House, Newtonmore, and have no idea when I will be transferred to Neilston to live in my new home with Fiona. The COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to sweep the United Kingdom, has put my transfer by the United Healthcare System at the bottom of the "necessity" list. There have been a number of 'false starts' in connection with my moving to Neilston. When this shall eventually happen with all the Coronavirus stuff going on, is anybody's guess.

It was a wrench having to leave our home in Coulintyre. It was an excellent place to live. However, when the officials tell you, "We are going to flatten your house to make room for a new road," there is not a lot you can do to change the course of events.

It is also worth mentioning that when living in Coulintyre, many Macfies from all over the globe were guests. Fiona and I greatly enjoyed all our visits from Clan members throughout the world! The situation in Neilston is quite different as bedrooms are in very short supply.

We do have some exciting news. Based on the survey that accompanied the last Clan News, it was decided to have our next Parliament/Clan Gathering in 2023. The likely location will be the lovely city of Glasgow. It was suggested by many for its excellent location with easy travel to and fro. As have past Parliaments, this Gathering will most likely take place the first part of September to take advantage of lower airfares. This is the 400th anniversary of the death of our last Clan Chief Malcolm (1623 on Colonsay) and we feel it will be an excellent time to honour him. Although we hated to delay the Gathering an extra 2 years, we feel the uncertainty of travel, with the pandemic still raging, in this coming year makes developing long-term plans untenable. We hope you will all start making your travel plans now so that we can have a large Gathering to honour our last Clan Chief!

Please take care of each other.

Iain M McFie  
Ceann Cath



Commander Iain at the Standing Stone on Colonsay