

# McPhee Clan Society

of New Zealand

**Newsletter**

**September 2011**



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**2011 / 2012**

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## **From the President**

It is amazing to think that it has been a year since the big earthquake in Christchurch. Where has the time flown?? Watching the news as they once again report on the devastation felt by those down there, my heart goes out to them. I was reminded by my daughter the other day that we should be thankful for what we have as you never know how long you are going to have it, and Christchurch shows testament to that. But Christchurch's earthquake also shows us that with sheer determination and courage (and a bit of Number 8 wire here and there), even the most horrific of situations can be turned around into a positive.



As you will all probably remember, I had endeavoured to have quarterly meetings / gatherings with our committee and wider membership but the current work climate has meant that this has been a very difficult goal to aspire to. In saying this however, I want you to clear your diaries on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November as I am calling a meeting in Tauranga. Time and place will be advised nearer to the date and I look forward to seeing everyone there.

With the up and coming election, our thoughts are continually drawn to looking at what we see our country as being in the coming term of office. By electing candidates and party members, we strive to make sure that we have provided our contribution as to how we think our society and our governance system should look and how we are to move forward. In the spirit of this, I have had many discussions with my family over the last couple of weeks, as to where they see Clan McPhee going in the future. And so I now turn this question over to you. Where do you see Clan McPhee in two years? Any ideas / goals / suggestions are all welcome as it is our membership that helps to shape who we are and what we do. I wait with baited breath for your responses!

*'S e am beul a labhras, ach an gnìomh a dhearbhas.  
(It is the mouth that speaks, but the deed that proves.)*

*Kris Marsh*  
President

## Around the Regions

### Auckland

The Auckland Representative is springing into Spring by organising a luncheon to get clan members together so we can all get to know each other.

I spoke with Ann Durham recently. She is very proud of her eldest grandson, Matthew Flatt, who has just graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dunedin. She is also very proud of her grandson, 13 year old Michael, who is now competing in National competitions of ice hockey.

Harry and I decided for our wedding anniversary we would treat ourselves to a trip on the Overlander train from Auckland to Wellington and had a marvellous weekend, enjoying the winter sights of the Central Plateau and the tourist attractions we experienced in Wellington.

*Denise Maidment*

### Bay of Plenty

It's funny how some of us do our education in our later years, instead of at school. I have lately completed the Mauri Ora free on-line courses in –

- 1 Mauri Ora – which looks at the history of NZ and explores the basics of the life and times of the Maori culture.
- 2 Papa Ako – this is designed to help you develop learning and study skills and consider a range of career opportunities.
- 3 Papa Whairawa – a financial literacy program (how to look after your money!)

These all came with resources ie CD's; DVD's and journals that you can keep for future reference.

I learnt many things and am delighted with my new knowledge. I have now started a Travel and Tourism course with some components being done in a classroom in Tauranga city. This will give me qualifications to be a travel agent.

*Carrol McPhee*

*Great stuff Carrol – good luck for your new career  
- Ed.*

### Invercargill

To all the Kith and Kin out there looking for work, don't give up. I have finally entered the work force after a 5 year absence. For the month of June I had applied for 30 jobs!

The saying is - For those who wait, good things do come. My job description is "Funeral Director – Embalmer" (*may I never meet Kin folk at work.*)

Query to all members, a question I'm asking myself is – “What are the Clan's goals for the next 3 to 5 years? What are members wanting??”

*Diane Alexander*

### Wairarapa

Warmest congratulations to Bruce Arcus (another founding NZ member) who has been honoured by the annual Charles Rooking Carter Awards in Carterton, for a Voluntary Community Services Award.

Bruce has been involved in judging (along with his wife, Joy) horse sports, shows and events for 40 plus years. Consequently, he has become involved in the on-going maintenance of grounds, arenas, competition jumps, courses and buildings.

Bruce's award has been for his continued work for the Wairarapa Pastoral and Agricultural Society at Clareville Showgrounds. He was the overseer of the building of the new Tom Bubb Lounge, gifted from the Bubb estate, he has spent many hours at working bees on the Stock Pavilion, of which the stables now bear the name of Arcus Stables. He was made a Life Member of the Wairarapa P & A Society a few years ago.

Bruce was also awarded a Life Member of the Masterton Golden Shears at the AGM earlier this year, after being a time-keeper for just on 50 years – *and still going strong.*

Well done Bruce and well done Carterton.

*Judy Cundy*

### Apology

As your new Secretary/Treasurer I have a **BIG** apology to make. When giving the details and amounts for the subs to Judy for our last newsletter, I made a typing mistake and instead of putting in \$25 for the “Family Membership I put in \$20 as being the subs due for this current year.



For those of you that have paid the extra \$5.00 a **BIG** Thank you.

Please accept my apologies.

*Mary McPhee*  
Secretary / Treasurer

## Clan Gift to Sandy and Helen McPhie



**Sandy with 'The Nikau'**

The thoughtful and much appreciated "thank you" gift from the McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand arrived yesterday along with its very warm hearted accompanying letter. Thank you so much.

The Nikau now has a prominent place in our family room at Glenvale and, as you say, is a warm reminder of my long association with the New Zealand Macfies during my time as Clan Commander. An association which was most enjoyable for me for many reasons, including friendships established, and now is so fittingly acknowledged by your gift. Thank you all.

For several reasons it is now unlikely that we will be able to manage another trip to New Zealand, more's the pity, but our fond memories of our visits there and our contacts with so many New Zealand cousins will be with us always.

Helen joins with me in sending best wishes to everyone.

*Sandy*



## Visit to Sandy and Helen McPhie in Toowoomba

Having known Sandy and Helen since 1993 and met up with them on several occasions apart from Clan Parliaments, we felt it was time to visit them again. Our last visit was in February 2008 in Townsville prior to Sandy's formal retirement as Clan Commander. We had not returned to Queensland since then and they are once again resident in Toowoomba.

As we were having a holiday in Noosa, it was an opportune time to renew our friendship and that is what we did, spending the day, talking family and Clan matters (Sandy is the Australian Clan Commissioner), where we both see the Clan going from here, the flags and banners of the different Societies etc.

During our visit we presented a gift to Sandy and Helen in thanks for their friendship, from ourselves and the NZ Clan Society. They were briefed that there may be another presentation coming sometime in the near future.



**Sandy and Helen McPhie**

Sandy is now at the grand age of 82 and looks well for it, must be Helen's care. He asked to be remembered to his friends and welcomes contact from Society members.

*James and Mary McPhee*

## Talking with DON McPHEE

**Foundation member of McPhee Family Clan Society of NZ 1984**

**President of McPhee Family Clan Society of NZ**

**1987 - 1991**

**Patron McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand**

**2004 - 2006**

Earlier in the year the Editorial Team received a card from Don's family advising us of Don's present situation as he is now living at Radius Peppertree Care Centre, 107 Roberts Line, in Palmerston North. I took the opportunity to visit Don last month and we chatted about living in a care facility.

We knew that Don has now unfortunately lost his sight completely, and it was great to see him at our AGM in May with daughter Susan and Clarence Price.

Don first lost the sight in one eye back in April 2008, quite suddenly when a small particle of plaque made its home in the retina. Apart from having to adjust his bowling angles slightly, Don managed to continue with his normal activities – he was at the Bowling Club most days and enjoyed the RSA on Saturday night with dining, music and dancing. But then, almost to the day in April 2009, the same thing happened in the other eye.

Adjustments this time were huge – but Don managed in his own home with meals-on-wheels delivered, a woman who came in and did the housework, laundry etc, friends who helped where they could, and with two daughters (both living in Wellington), taking turns to be with their father most weekends. Routines established in the next twelve months became normal as Don developed his listening and memory skills (talking books are a great invention), then Don had a heart attack.

After five days in hospital rehab, he was sent to Peppertree Care Centre for reassessment. Son Blair came home after nine years in England, and joined in the conference meeting with daughters Susan and Barbara, along with five medical personnel - resulting in the decision to apply for residency at Peppertree, which has both residential and hospital facilities. Don (reluctantly at the time) agreed, with two

conditions: (a) that he was able to keep the same room (handy to the bathroom, the dining room and the front door), and (b) he keep the special electronic bed, as he has a chronic back. The Head Nurse said she would discuss the bed later, but after nearly 18 months of changing angles at the touch of a button, they still haven't had that discussion!

Susan and Clarence have now shifted to Palmerston North so are able to assist more easily, and his good friend Joan, is a frequent visitor, runs errands (including talking book supplies) and is in constant touch by phone. Within the confines of his room, he is very competent.

The biggest thing Don misses is people. He has always been a 'people person' and contributes a large percentage to any relationship. He said it had taken a long time to accept that he will not see anything again and could get quite depressed, but he is putting his people skills to good use. When the staff at Peppertree realised

Don was such a 'people person' they asked if he would visit a resident in the hospital wing who didn't have many visitors. That was such a success, they suggested another person to visit and so the list grew until he "blew the whistle". He loves feeling valued, as we all do, so it's been very therapeutic for him.

Another occasion was when a blind man was domiciled in the opposite room, and the staff asked Don if he would help in guiding him around the complex, a task Don took on with much commitment – the blind leading the blind so to speak.

Meals are generally very good with a roast each week, and he sits at the same table with the same people for each meal. His best friend at Peppertree, is Rodd – a bloody league loving Aussie mate - with whom Don has great



**Don McPhee 2008**

discussions in the dining room, about politics, sport, strategies on the running of Peppertree, and every other topical issue. Frances, who sits at his table, gives him explicit directions as soon as she sees Don enter the room. It has been known for Rodd to introduce the members to new chums as "this one is deaf, this one blind and I am stupid" For morning and afternoon teas they can sit anywhere and Don often joins other friends.

It has taken a while to get used to the early tea time of 5pm but with nearly 60 residents in each part of the complex to bed down for the night, it is quite understandable. Don finds the staff are mostly very pleasant, but is blatantly critical with those who can't talk or understand English, and those who assume he is stupid and / or deaf. Nevertheless, his patience with other people is admirable and he encourages them to introduce themselves by name and to speak quietly and slowly.

As Don is not as active as he was when sighted, a physio has shown him an exercise routine which he diligently follows in the corridor outside his room, using the hand rail for balance. He has even passed that on to the receptionist Kristine, (*whom Don calls Rachel – the Rachel*

*Hunter of Peppertree!*) as she has recently had a mild stroke and Don insists she exercise on a daily routine.

Don picks the general activities he joins in with – mainly the listening things but does get special treatment for the bowls. He bowls to the voice and gets some remarkable heads at times.

Rugby is still a very strong passion – having been a player, referee, coach, member of the National Executive Panel of Rugby Referees, and in 1998 was President of the Referee's Association of New Zealand. As you may well imagine, Don still has plenty of opinion on the game and especially of the referees. Sometimes he even rings Willie Losé at Radio Sport to enlighten his listeners. We are told to listen out for "Fred from Feilding".

After a couple of hours listening to Don discuss his new life, I feel he is still the man with his cup half full, despite the handicap he now has. I just hope there will be top commentators on the radio for the Rugby World Cup for people such as Don.

If you are ever in the vicinity, Don would love you to visit.

*The Editor*

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## McPheeWee Corner

### Sewing on a wee button

Angus Broon of Glasgow, Scotland, comes to the little lady of the house exclaiming, "Maggie, cud ya be sewin on a wee button that's come off of me fly? I can't button me pants." "Oh Angus, I've got me hands in the dishpan, go up the stairs and see if Mrs. MacDonald could be helpin ya with it."

About 5 minutes later, there's a terrible crash, a bang, a bit of yelling and the sound of a body falling down the stairs.

Walking back in the door with a blackened eye and a bloody nose comes Angus. The little lady looks at him and says, "My god, what happened to ya? Did you ask her like I told you?"

"Aye," says Angus. "I asked her to sew on the wee button, an she did, everything was goin' fine but when she bent doon to bite off the wee thread, Mr MacDonald walked in."



### Point to Ponder

When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work, because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that is the beginning of the end of any nation.

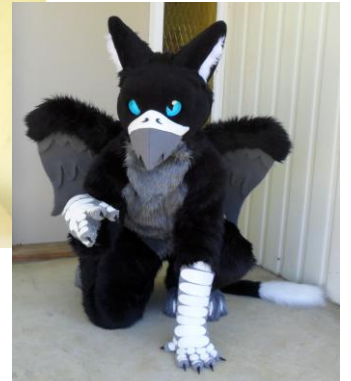
# W O W



**Toxic-Plush**



**Kriminal (Raptor)**



**Grissas (Griffin)**

We can claim a real entrepreneur in our clan – Joy and Bruce Arcus’s (*founding members of the NZ Clan*) grand-daughter Juliet Arcus of Masterton who had an entry in the 2011 World of Wearable Arts (WOW) show, which has just been held in Wellington. A great achievement as only 170 finalists are selected from over 300 entries world-wide.

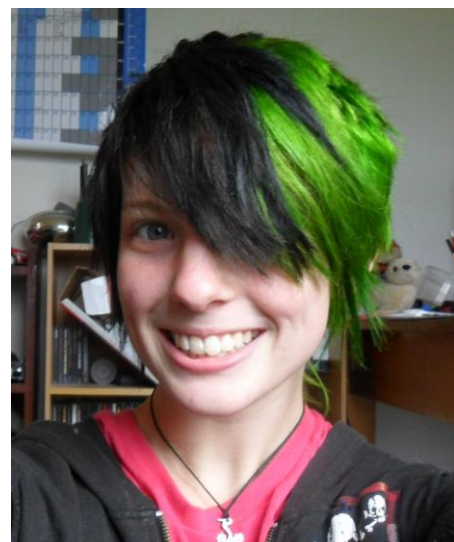
I quote, “In its 3<sup>rd</sup> decade, the most creative event on the international design, fashion and costume calendar. The ‘must see’ show for close on 50,000 people every year who come to Wellington, the creative capital of New Zealand.”

Juliet entered the Open Section where “there are no thematic boundaries and the design has complete freedom in concept construction and materials. A high degree of originality and innovation is encouraged.”

Juliet first started making animal costumes for fun at the age of 13 years. She won a couple of prizes at Masterton’s Makoura College’s Wearable Art Show, which she called a “good ego boost”. After 2-3 years working in different fields, she started her own costume business called “Sparky Can Do”. Solely using the internet for advertising, she developed a good website and collected customers. Check out [www.sparkycando.com](http://www.sparkycando.com)

The last two weeks of completing her WOW costume were rather hectic but it was all worth it to get the call that her entry was accepted. Her entry was a dinosaur creature with 2 legs, a tail and skull-like head with antenna. A fake pair of legs on the back gave the appearance of a Dino-creature and rider. Named “Toxic-Plush” it was entered into the American Express Section of WOW 2011.

Although it did not win a prize, Juliet felt rewarded by having her entry accepted; and is still deciding if she will enter again, as the work load was so enormous.



**Juliet Reneé Arcus**

## Ulf Macfie Hagman - Obituary

1927 - 2011

We were greatly saddened to learn of the death of **Ulf Macfie Hagman**, of Uddevalla, Sweden. Ulf had been ill for some time and resigned his post as Commissioner of Clan Macfie in Scandinavia in 2008 due to his poor health.

In 1977, Ulf was on Colonsay while Dr. Earle and others were attending the International Clan Gathering in Edinburgh. He had spent many years trying to locate and resurrect what was to become the Standing Stone. Ulf re-erected the Stone on the 5th of May 1977, and a few stalwarts attended a dedication service on the 9th of May.

This was, and still is, a magical moment for us all. (A full account of Ulf's trials and tribulations in finding the Stone may be found in Sheila Duffy's book, *Colonsay*.)

When Dr. Earle put out the call for Macfies all over the world to become Armigers, Ulf did just that. Related to the "sugar Macfies," he was able to provide the necessary family history establishing his credentials to become an Armiger.



Ulf was a sea-going engineer and had many fine tales to relate. His home in Uddevalla, which Bob, Fiona and I were privileged to visit, was crammed with Macfie memorabilia.

We send our deepest sympathies to Nanna and all the family.

*Iain McFie*  
**Commander of Clan Macfie**

## Macfie Standing Stone, Colonsay



Wording on the Macfie Standing Stone,  
Colonsay

### Carragh Mhic a Phi

In **1623 Malcolm**, last chief of our clan was murdered at this stone by a renegade MacDonald.

Damaged over the centuries it was repaired by **Ulf Macfie Hagman**, Sweden, **Charles MacPhee**, Australia and **Duncan MacPhee**, Scotland. The plot of ground was given to the Clan Macfie by Lord Strathcona and fenced by gifts from clan folk.

On **10 May 1977 Ulf Hagman** and **Dr Earle MacPhee**, Canada, a clan historian, dedicated the memorial to our clan.

Colonsay men Hugh McDougall, Angus Clark, Duncan McDougall, Peter MacAllister, Dion Alexander assisted in the project.

# Extracts from 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of Clan Macfie News August 2011

## An Active and Honoured Clan

Welcome to the 60th edition of the Clan Macfie News!  
**This year our Clan also celebrates the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Clan's recognition by the Lord Lyon as once more an Active and Honoured Clan.**

We also celebrate our being the Honoured Clan at both the Charleston, South Carolina, and Scotland County, North Carolina, Highland Games in the United States.

**We will be forever indebted to Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee for his work in resurrecting the Clan as once again an "Active and Honoured Clan."**

**Additionally, the tireless work of our next two Commanders, Alexander "Sandy" Carpendale McPhie, and Iain Morris McFie, our current Ceann Cath, has kept the Clan alive and thriving as we continue to welcome Macfies all over the globe into the Clan.**

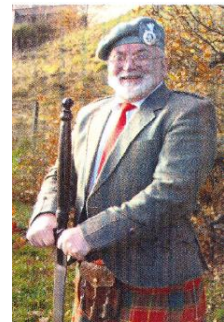
## Our Three Clan Commanders



**Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee**  
**November 1981**  
**to**  
**September 1982**



**Alexander "Sandy"**  
**Carpendale McPhie**  
**September 7, 1989**  
**to**  
**October 11, 2008**



**Iain Morris McFie**  
**October 12, 2008**  
**to present**

## Our First Commander

Dr. Earle MacPhee, the first Commander of Clan Macfie, was posted in Britain while serving in the Canadian military, and it was during that time that he carried out extensive research on the Macfies.

Many years later, in May 1977, the first International Gathering of the Clans was held in Edinburgh, Scotland. Dr. Earle met with Mr. Alan MacDuffie, the founder of the MacDuffie Society of America, as well as other Macfies who had attended the Gathering. They noted that of all the Clan stalls assembled, there was none for Clan Macfie. At a meeting of those present, the decision was made to set up a Macfie Clan Scottish Society.

At a subsequent meeting, Dr. Earle described how he was writing a history of the "protecting, firm, hardy, well enduring MacPhees." From then on, Dr. MacPhee actively began to pursue the idea of having a Commander for the Clan, as the last Chief, Malcolm, had been murdered on Colonsay in 1623. The Lyon Court responded positively to the good Doctor's appeal, and in November 1981 the Clan was decreed an active clan. Dr. Earle received the commission of Clan Commander, but he did not live long afterwards and died in September 1982.

(His research is available on the Clan Macfie Society website.)

*Note: the above is extracted from Sheila Duffy's booklet, How It All Began*



## The Lord Lyon, an Ancient Office

The Lord Lyon is Scotland's King of Arms, and the office has sole jurisdiction of all the nation's heraldic business. The post has existed since at least 1318, when an appointment of a Lord Lyon was recorded by King Robert the Bruce. It is the first written record of the office, making it the oldest college of arms in the world. However historians believe the position is far older – it incorporates the ancient Celtic office of High Sennachie, the official responsible for checking the genealogy of Scottish Kings.

Since 1592, the Lord Lyon has had responsibility for prosecuting people who use unauthorised Arms. An example would be the personal Arms of the Queen, which in Scotland is the Lion Rampant. While many people fly it at home or at soccer matches, technically they could be charged with contempt and thrown in jail.

Although acting as both a Judge and a Royal Court Official, Lord Lyon also has his own independent procurator fiscal. Since the late 17th century, the Lord Lyon has been responsible for keeping a register of all Coats of Arms – and deciding what Arms to grant to individuals or groups. As Malcolm, the last known hereditary Chief of the Macfies, died prior to this, no Arms were registered for the Clan Macfie.

According to Bartholemews, the publishers and printers, Moncreiff of that Ilk, when he was Lord Lyon, recognised a form of Arms for the unknown Chief of Clan Macfie which was derived from the grave slabs on Colonsay.



The Arms of  
**Iain Morris  
McFie**

Ceann-Cath  
Clan Macfie



The Arms of  
**James McPhee**  
Commissioner for  
New Zealand



### 18<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the International Clan Macfie

Charleston, South Carolina, USA  
15 – 18 September 2011

and

Laurinburg, North Carolina, USA  
Scotland County Highland Games  
30 Sept – 2 Oct 2011



If anyone from NZ attended these functions, please let the Editor know for inclusion in the December newsletter.