



McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand



Newsletter December 2008

From the Presidents Pen

It doesn't seem that long ago we were saying hello at the AGM and now Xmas has arrived so quickly.

While there is not much to add from our late October edition I can say we have been busy.

The Lord Lyon has confirmed the appointment of Iain McPhee from Scotland as replacement for Sandy McPhie as Clan Commander. This means that any one who Sandy had appointed as an office holder within the Clan, no longer retains that position. Iain as the new Commander will appoint his own Clan office holders. We thanked Sandy for his work over the many years he served as Clan Commander and wished both him and Helen well in their retirement.

On the home front I have been appointed to a new role in the Ministry of Health here in Wellington and started work there on 10 November. I am pleased to say that it has been a goal of mine which has happened through the result of many years of hard work from the sector base through to this level. I hope to be able to have an effective role within the area of Māori population health as Senior Policy Analyst, Harm Minimisation, which includes alcohol, and drugs and tobacco, key health areas for us all.

We have our Clan 25 years celebration booked for 17-19 July 2009 in Masterton and hope to have a draft programme in the March newsletter. The annual Turakina Highland Games will be held on 31 January with a full day programme. This is always an

enjoyable day which it would be good for as many of us to attend as possible.

On behalf of the committee and the newsletter team we wish everyone a good festive season, and an enjoyable time being together with family and friends.

Fiona and I also will be home this year if you are in Wellington.

Kia Ora,
David

Wee Scottish Tale.

A man is cupping his hand to scoop water from a Highland burn.

A Gamekeeper shouts, 'Dinnae drink thon waater! It's foo' ae coo's sheet an' pish!' The man replies, 'My Good fellow, I'm English.

Could you repeat that in English for me' The keeper replies, 'I said, use two hands, you will spill less that way!!!



Notes from the Editors

As members have probably guessed, those on the editorail team are finding it hard to get this newsletter to you in a timely way. We apologise for this, but hope you will understand that three of the team work full time, one travels extensively, and all have other committments out side of work and the Clan. So we ask for you patience here . The year has been extremely busy for many people and we hope that everyone can find time to relax over the summer Christmans break and go restored with energy into the new Year



Bliadhna Mhath Ur dhuibh uile! Happy New Year to you.

Clan and Society

Due to the efforts of Dr Earle Douglas MacPhee from Canada, Clan Macfie (the Clan) was recognised as an active Clan on 27 May 1981. Clan societies are completely different to, and separate from, a Clan. In those countries where there are Clan societies, the Clan Commander usually appoints a Clan Commissioner to represent him. That person is usually an armiger of the Clan. He also makes appointments to a number of other committees and positions such as a Clan Council, Clan Treasurer, Keeper of the Clan Records and Clan Piper.

An armiger of Clan Macfie is a person who has been granted a coat of arms which has been registered in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland. There are some 23 armigers in Clan Macfie globally.

A derbhfine is a type of committee composed of a minimum of nine(9) armigers of the Clan. A gilfine consists of usually seven(7) such people. The system is basically feudal, even totalitarian, but in our modern day and age, proceedings are conducted in as democratic a manner as possible. When a derbhfine is convened with the purpose of say, appointing a commander, each armiger should convey the opinions or feelings of his or her extended family to the Lord Lyon. Proceedings are mostly by correspondence.

On 28 March 2008 the Lord Lyon gave permission for Clan Macfie to convene an ad hoc derbhfine to select a suitable candidate for nomination to him by petition for appointment as a new Cean Cath (Commander). Clan Armigers were canvassed to see if any of them were willing to be considered for nomination for appointment. If more than one wished to be considered, a ballot or ballots would have been held among the armigers until the derbhfine agreed on one candidate. Support would have been sought from the armigers by way of petition to the Lord Lyon seeking the appointment. Appointment is not automatic.

Iain McFie of Scotland was the only person nominated and after deliberations the derbhfine forwarded a report to the Lord Lyon on 11 August recommending his appointment. The Lord Lyon recognised Iain as the new Cean Cath of Clan Macfie and has confirmed the appointment. While not part of derbhfine deliberations each clan society globally was invited to show support for the nomination. This was done by the President of the McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand.

(Adapted from 'The Downunder' Macfie Clan Society of Australia, Issue 111, Nov 2008).

Clan News

Rizpah Evans (daughter of President Dave) passed her state final exams and is now a registered nurse. Rizzie starts her post grade year on 26 Jan and is being paid to study as she has gained a position in Mental Health and has a choice - burns or plastics. Well done!!

2009 Clan Macfie. The 17th International Gathering of Clan Macfie and 10th Clan Macfie Parliament are scheduled to be held in Scotland in 2009. Details will be released through the Clan Macfie Secretariat in due course.

Oh Light , oh light – He ao, he ao – a book is born!

Wednesday 3 December was ' World Disability Day'. To a group of friends, family, contributors and supporters who gathered in Wellington that evening, it was the day when a dream became a reality. The book, 'Oh Light' was launched, a beautiful book of literary and artistic expressions on disability and spirituality.



This is a project of the Disability, Spirituality and Faith Network of Aotearoa New Zealand. These collected works illuminate not the differences between people of varied abilities but our shared humanity. Wisdom, humour, imagination, artistry - these are qualities which bind us together as a people. 'Oh Light' lifts us out of our preoccupation with difference, with right ways of being and wrong ways of being. It introduces the reader to a world where the human spirit gets on with job of living with grace and gratitude. There is definitely something in this book that will speak to you.

Find out more by visiting www.dsfnetwork.org. Copies can be obtained by contacting Clan member Carolyn Wadsworth at ericar@paradise.net.nz. Price: \$22.50 plus P & P. A wonderful gift for yourself and others



3 mighty fine young men! Clan member Kieran Evans NZ champ 800 metres with Nick Willis (Bronze medalist 2008 Olympic games) and Granddad Gil Evans

New site launched that may be of interest:

Claims to be the first major worldwide social network dedicated to everything Scottish, based in Edinburgh in Scotland. People can add events to the calendar, upload photos of Scotland and our

local area, chat with Scots and others about Scotland in the forums. May be worth a peek.

Turakina Highland Games – 31 January 2009 – Turakina NZ

The annual Turakina Highland Games will be held on 31 January. This is always a relaxed day with lots of pipes, dancing and other Scottish activities to enjoy. Each year a group of Clan members have descend on the grounds to catch up with kin, enjoy shared food and generally just absorb the atmosphere in this wonderful country setting. Come and join us at the McPhee tent.

Waipu Games – New Years day 2009, Waipu.

Sadly we will not have a tent at these games this New Years day but plans are already shaping up for attendance in 2010. It takes quite a lot of planning, (and cost), to get so far up the North Island – but once there, it is amazing. Those of us who went last year definitely want to go back, so encourage you to put this in your diary now for 2010

The Gathering Edinburgh, Holyrood Park Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th of July 2009



Keep up with they latest news visit the web site or contact

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Fax: (0463) 24-4338

Email: bob@becsystems.co.uk

Or...

<http://www.clangathering.org>

Subscriptions!

Treasurer Ann advises that there are quite a few members – 21 at last count - who have yet to pay their 2008-09 subscriptions. Please give the matter your attention as soon as possible.

Email President Dave if you want to check your sub status for this year. *Thank you*



Subscriptions

April 2008 to March 2009 are DUE

Family: \$25.00 (per household)

Single : \$15.00

Donation: \$ _____

TOTAL

Name:

Address:.....

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Telephone: (0) Mob:

Fax: E-Mail:

To keep the cost down, we encourage those who are able to, to receive the Newsletter by e-mail. Please indicate by ticking a box below and advise the format you prefer to receive it in

Yes No Format: (Word/Pdf).....

Post to the Treasurer:

**A Durham, 1/111 Florence Ave, Orewa, North
Auckland 0931, AUCKLAND**

Congratulations President Dave/ Rawiri on your new position as ...

Senior Policy Analyst - Harm Minimisation
Māori Population Health Group
Population Health Directorate
Ministry of Health
Wellington

Getting closer to the “big house” (Parliament) every day?

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