

'...Young, Hopeful Men...'

HENRY HECTOR McFIE

OBE, MLC, 1869-1957

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The Life of 'Fighting Mac'

**Devonport tailor, sportsman,
community leader & politician**

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Peter Henry MacFie

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## 'YOUNG HOPEFUL MEN' HENRY HECTOR McFIE 1869–1957

### Peter Henry MacFie

The life of Henry Hector McFie encapsulates the enthusiasm and formative years of the north-west coast of Tasmania. His life extends from the late Victorian era, through Federation, the growth of the communities centred on the Mersey River and the township of Devonport, two world wars, the Depression, to his death in 1957. Typical of his era, his political life included years of voluntary committee work on clubs and local government, failed attempts at national and state elections and success in winning and holding a state seat. A reputation for stubborn independence and support for regional issues earned him the title 'Fighting Mac'. His later conservative, liberal stance belied an early membership of the Australian Labor Party.

Henry McFie was born in Hobart in 1869. He was the son of Capt Edward (Teddy) MacFie, a master mariner, and Susan Crisp, and the grandson of Hector Macfie [sic], a tailor transported from the Isle of Bute in 1829, and Bridget Connor.<sup>1</sup> Henry was the third of six children.<sup>2</sup> He was educated at Broomfield's Private Academy, then McPhee's Model School, later the Battery Point State School. Then he was apprenticed to Redpath<sup>3</sup>, the 'well known Hobart tailor', of whom no information now appears to exist<sup>4</sup>. He then spent two years with A. Mathers and Co., the former drapery business, of Liverpool Street Hobart.<sup>5</sup> After travelling to the mainland working in his trade, he returned to Tasmania, and in 1886 worked for William Wells, a Quaker tailor, and friend of the Mathers, at the Don River Trading Company.<sup>6</sup> The next year he moved to West

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<sup>1</sup> Family records.

<sup>2</sup> The first three were registered as 'MacFie', the last three as 'McFie'; descendants have chosen either spelling.

<sup>3</sup> John Redpath, a tailor, gave evidence in a Hobart court case in October 1862. (*The Mercury*, 30 Oct 1862, p2, Law – Supreme Court – Criminal Sittings.) In 1868 he was listed at 22 Elizabeth St. *The Tasmanian Times*, 27 Oct 1868, p4, Directory (under 'Tailors'. In 1870 he moved to Launceston to work for Overell, McMillan and Hopkins as a 'first class cutter' – he took over the tailoring department. (*Launceston Examiner* 22 Feb 1870, p3). However, by August the following year he was back in business in Hobart, this time in Liverpool St. (*The Mercury* 10 Aug 1871, Page 1). John Redpath married Ellen Jarman on 30 June 1875 in Hobart (*Launceston Examiner* 10 Jul 1875, p4), and moved his business from Liverpool St in May 1876, (*Mercury* 19 May 1876 p1). He was still a tailor somewhere in Liverpool St, as he charged his apprentice, James Wilson, for being absent without leave in 1879. (*The Mercury* 9 Jan 1879) p2, City Police Court). In 1882 his wife was applying for a 'respectable girl, about 16'. The following year, she was advertising for a 'respectable girl, 14) and they were living at 37 Liverpool St. John Redpath was in partnership with Frank Vale but sold up in 1902, still in Liverpool St. (*The Mercury*, 13 Mar 1902, p3)

<sup>4</sup> Redpath tailors premises were 'situated in Liverpool St., where part of Palfreyman's Corner now stands. (*The Mercury*, 6 Apr 1943, p4. Obituary – Mr William Monks.

<sup>5</sup> *Cyclopaedia of Tasmania, Hobart, 1899, vol 2, p262.*

<sup>6</sup> Gardam, Faye, *Sawdust, Sail and Sweat*, Devonport. 1996, p110.

Devonport, then called Formby, and opened a tailoring business that ran from 1887 to 1940.

On 12 October 1892, Henry married Hannah Elizabeth Chapman, one of the seventeen children of William Chapman, Devonport harbour master and pilot. William had arrived at Torquay in 1855 and, with his sons, operated a barge service, punting goods from the upper reaches of the Mersey to larger ships waiting near Torquay. Another daughter married William Holyman.<sup>7</sup> Henry and Hannah had a family of five surviving children, Chloris<sup>8</sup> (1894), Hector<sup>9</sup> (1896), Mynie (1898), Malcolm (?) and Douglas (1906).<sup>10</sup>

A keen sportsman, Henry was on the inaugural committee of a number of associations. As a member of the Devonport Rowing Club he rescued a young coxswain, Nevin Burt, in 1894.<sup>11</sup> In 1896 he captained the newly-formed Devonport Cycling Club.<sup>12</sup> Men and women rode bicycles into the countryside including Wesley Vale and Latrobe.<sup>13</sup> At Devonport the Club held a Chinese lantern parade and fancy dress costumes... worn by some riders, together with the lanterns loaned by Mr Draeger, made a pretty spectacle, though a potato was thrown hitting one rider in the eye.<sup>14</sup>

Photographs of the Cycling Club reveal its members belonged to the local small business community. A group shows E. Norris, with his father, William, painters and decorators; Henry H. McFie, tailor; E. A. U. Padfield, proprietor of the Residential Family Club overlooking the Mersey River; D. A. Nicholls, draper, Catholic supporter and member of the Devonport Town Board (DTB), who with H. H. McFie was influential in pushing for the new Town Hall; Charles Cowle, son of a local businessman, and T. A. Laurence, a Pharmaceutical and Dispensing Chemist, who shared shops adjoining McFie's.<sup>15</sup>

In 1896 Henry co-founded and acted as secretary for the Devonport Progress Association, which developed the Oval as a sports ground and bike track.<sup>16</sup>

He also co-founded and captained the Mersey Football Club. A report following a football match at East Devonport reveals the 'fighting' qualities of the local matches. During the first game of June 1897, a constable had trouble keeping the 'heavy crowd back' and the *Post* suggested the ground needed to be roped off. Two weeks later a repeat game between Devonport and Mersey at East Devonport was conducted with 'extreme latitude', and was an 'exhibition in brutality'.

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<sup>7</sup> Ramsay, Charles, *With the Pioneers*, Devonport, 1995, p208.

<sup>8</sup> Chloris Janet Susan Haines

<sup>9</sup> Henry Hector MacFie, known as Hector. He died May 23 1982, aged 83.

<sup>10</sup> Family records, pers comm.

<sup>11</sup> *CT* op cit, p262

<sup>12</sup> *ibid*, p262

<sup>13</sup> Ramsay, p265

<sup>14</sup> *NW Post* 16/11/97, p2

<sup>15</sup> Family records, *CT* vols 1-2, Devon Historical Soc., Devonport 1890, Devonport, nd.

<sup>16</sup> Ramsay, op cit p248

The game was fought with such stubbornness and determination that it only needed a few nullah-nullahs in the hands of some of the players to give those unacquainted with the warfare of aboriginals a fair idea of a tribal fight. During the game a couple of players met to settle an old score, but after some wrestling, not strictly in the Greco-Roman style, they were separated. They came to blows later on, and it is probable that one will carry for a few days the 'trophy' he received.

The 'Merseyites' lost: 3 goals 14 behinds, 32 points, to 2 goals 1 behind, 13 points. Best players listed were Roberts, Henry, Ferguson, McFie and E. Norris until injured.<sup>17</sup> A few days later a well-attended meeting of the North West Football Association met to discuss the 'conduct at recent matches' of two players. H. H. McFie, who did not appear, was disqualified for 12 months, and William Sayer, a relative by marriage, was suspended for one month.<sup>18</sup>

Henry's sporting prowess did not always match his enthusiasm. In 1897 he batted at the tail for the Devonport Cricket Club, scoring two runs in each of three games against Latrobe.

The Annual Friendly Societies Demonstration, consisting of 'athletic and bicycle sports' was held at the Recreation Ground on Easter Monday and included members of the Don Oddfellows, the Rechabites and the Protestant Alliance lodges who were appointed as office bearers under secretary H. P. Fannon, a local builder. Henry McFie was one of several handicappers and assisted with the social committee.<sup>19</sup>

W. G. Curwon marshalled the procession headed by the Devonport Brass Band, then followed the Don Oddfellows with their handsome banner, Protestant Alliance also with their banner and Rechabites in regalia of their order.

People arrived by train and horse-drawn vehicles. As the sun came out women changed from winter clothes. The running track ran down hill but was 'rolled and smooth as a billiard table'. Refreshment included a temperance booth operated by G. S. Eastman, and entertainment included a man with a 'spinning jenny', and the Devonport Brass Band played 'bright tunes'. Competition included cycle, track and chopping races.

Meanwhile Henry's mercer and clothier's shop was booming. He moved from Stewart to Rooke Street and shared a building of two shops with T. A. Laurence's pharmacy. He described himself as a 'ladies' and gentlemen's merchant tailor'. Having the 'principal trade in the business... Mr McFie superintends the cutting himself, and has half a dozen hands employed. He has all his own materials, and is the owner of the premises he now occupies in Rooke Street, having had them built to order.'<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> *NW Post* 29/6/97 p6

<sup>18</sup> *NW Post* 3/7/97

<sup>19</sup> *NW Post* 17/2/98 p2

<sup>20</sup> *CT* vol 2 p262

The round of the noteworthy shops at Devonport would be incomplete without a visit to McFie's tailoring establishment in Stewart St Mr McFie has also profited by a recent visit to Melbourne and has added to his stock a large quantity of tweeds and coatings [sic].<sup>21</sup>

In May 1898 he advertised, 'Bannockburn Irish tweed, and Waverley tweed Chesterfield overcoats'. By 1899 he was 'a ladies' and gentleman's merchant tailor who employed 12 hands and supervised them himself.<sup>22</sup> At this time he co-founded the Devonport Chamber of Commerce.<sup>23</sup>

Each morning, dressed immaculately, he walked from his home, *Rothsay*, in Stewart St, after Hannah placed a flower in the button-hole of his coat at their front gate.<sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> Older residents recall him standing in the doorway of his tailoring business, ramrod stiff and twirling his waxed moustache.

He initiated the Devonport Musical and Literary Society, later the Eisteddfod, which met in the Giblin Hall until it was destroyed by fire.<sup>26</sup> In 1898 he won a seat on the Devonport Town Board where he argued for basic facilities in the young township. A committee led by chairman John Luck met Premier Braddon over building a new bridge over the Mersey River. McFie was indignant that the government had budgeted for only a ferry service.

Issues big and small caught his attention. In May 1898 he wanted street signs, and pointed out the need for a public urinal and wanted a 'double pan system and 7 acres outside town as depot'.<sup>27</sup>

In 1898 McFie was involved in the fervour of four 'political events': the early activity of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) and the Workers' Political League; the Federation movement, actively promoted by the Australian Natives' Association (ANA); Queen Victoria's Jubilee; and the Boer War Patriotic Committee.

Federation was actively promoted by the *North West Post*:

Members of the Australian Natives' Association have struck the true note as regards the federal question, and seem likely to carry the Southern Cross to victory... from first to last members of the ANA have been enthusiastic in the struggle for national life... and spared no effort

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<sup>21</sup> *NW Post* 23/12/97 p2 'around the shops.'

<sup>22</sup> *CT* vol 2 p262

<sup>23</sup> Bennett & Bennett, *Biographical Register of the Tasmanian Parliament*, Canberra, 1980, p107

<sup>24</sup> Pers rem, Henry Hector McFie II, grandson, b 1919

<sup>25</sup> The name of their home repeated the name of their first-born son who died in infancy (Rothsea Douglas Edward Mcfie), and also the birth-place of his transported grandfather and fellow tailor, Hector Macfie.

<sup>26</sup> *CT* op cit, p262

<sup>27</sup> *ibid*

in the struggle to secure the Federal Bill... friends of Federation should band together throughout Tasmania.<sup>28</sup>

Braddon addressed a local meeting. The Formby Hall was packed with an 'enthusiastic audience among whom were a number of ladies to hear an address on Federation by Premier Braddon [which was] received with prolonged applause'.<sup>29</sup>

In May 1898 the Devonport Federation League (DFL) was established, with a committee that included nearly all the small businessmen of West and East Devonport, and with Henry McFie as secretary-treasurer. The League was supported by local member, John Henry, MHA. The branch was affiliated to the Federation League of Northern Tasmania, and its secretary, J. H. Keating, encouraged them: 'Launceston Federalists felicitate Devonport patriots in taking steps to secure the adoption of the Commonwealth Bill'.<sup>30</sup> The district was mapped out and every voter was asked to record a vote. Henry travelled to and communicated with 'outlying districts', including Kentish and Barrington.<sup>31</sup> Electoral rolls were received and voters lobbied. 'Devonport Federation League [is] leaving no stone unturned to ensure a heavy poll in the electorate on Friday... sending out to each elector a circular setting forth advantages of Federation, accompanied by a specimen ballot paper as to how to vote "yes"'. Over a thousand were sent.<sup>32</sup>

On 'Federation Sunday', before the vote, church ministers were urged to use the pulpit in support of Federation. Most did, and caused concerned letters in local papers. But a Wesleyan, capturing the mood of the era, wrote enthusiastically.

Let us therefore, rise unitedly, and leave no stone unturned that will aid in making a nation arise under the Southern Cross in 'unity, peace, and concord'.<sup>33</sup>

Of the final vote the *Post* reported,

We have pleasure of conveying to our readers the grand and glorious tidings that the great battle of Australian Federation has been fought and won, in this island, with 11,000 ayes, 2,532 noes. In Devonport, Latrobe and West Devon 1,532 ayes and 44 noes. West Devonport 175 yes 3 no, East Devonport 73 yes 1 no.<sup>34</sup>

Throughout the campaign, as secretary of the DFL branch, Henry corresponded with and hosted J. H. Keating, and Herbert Nicholls, of the Southern Tasmanian Federal League. Of three letters surviving, one from H. Nicholls, dated 31/7/99, reads,

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<sup>28</sup> NW *Post* 24/3/98

<sup>29</sup> NW *Post* 28/4/98

<sup>30</sup> NW *Pots* 12/5/98 p3-4

<sup>31</sup> NW *Post* 14/5/98 p3

<sup>32</sup> NW *Post* 31/5/98 p3

<sup>33</sup> NW *Post* 28/5/98 p3

<sup>34</sup> NW *Post* 41/6/99 p5

Dear McFie,

Thank you for your note and the *Post*. They have got an excellent report. [I] Congratulate you upon your vote, I expect the increase was wholly the result of your own hard work and enthusiasm, and I shall not easily forget the splendid reception the people of Devonport gave me. I have never in my life walked in to a strange place and felt so much and so soon as if I was among old friends.

I have no time to fulfil my promise re 'Hare System' for a day or two. The colonial addresses will probably go before the House of Commons Feb next, then the Lords, then the Queen proclaims the Commonwealth, sends the Gov Gen and the elections for a parliament begin. That parliament ought to be sitting by the end of 1900...

Give my best regards to Murray, Goslin & co.

The optimism of the Federation movement comes out in Nicholls' letter.

Do not forget to look me up if you come to Hobart. We may feel very proud of the result of your work, and I hope that all over Tassy it will result, as it is here, in young fellows coming to the front.

You must have young hopeful men to work on advancing the country and though many people haven't yet realised it, Tas is now coming ahead with better chances than she has ever had before.

Yours paternally, Herbert Nicholls<sup>35</sup>

Henry's interest in politics was apparently increased by the Federation campaign. In reply to a request for advice, Nicholls advised the budding politician,

As an introduction to Tasmanian politics the Public Works statement and the treasurer's budget speech are about the best beginning. Read the leaders in all the papers every day and try to think where you could correct their view in your own mind... in speaking practice it is very important, I should think, that what you want particularly to acquire is deliberation.

Make up your mind not to utter a sound until you have thought of the words that will suit the occasion and the moment. Of course it does not do to be too deliberate... but it is best to begin by speaking slowly.

There is excellent effect in reading speeches of good men. The published speeches of Sir Henry Parkes, being Australian, would suit you as well as any.

Try to speak among strangers... there is nothing makes the beginner's path harder than the sight of a hall full of familiar faces.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Family papers

<sup>36</sup> *ibid*; Nicholls was later a Tasmanian senator.

A letter dated 8/8/1899 from Keating, known as a 'brilliant legal advocate', refers to the neglect of his professional practice during the Federation campaign; 'I never left the office before midnight and rarely before one and often as late as two and three o'clock...He also wished to be remembered to that 'prince of hosts, Goslin.'<sup>37 38 39</sup>

The move toward Federation coincided with plans of the Devonport Town Board to light the town. In the meantime, it was considering placing a few kerosene lamps around town as at Ulverstone.<sup>40</sup> In May 1898 Henry moved 'that the town be lighted', initially using a coal powered gas lighted system. Despite being the youngest member of the steering committee, he was also the chairman.<sup>41</sup> The committee's actions culminated in Mrs McFie officially opening the Devonport Electric Light Scheme on 15 June 1904, when she was presented with an inscribed electric kettle. A photo reveals that the committee was composed of George Lofts, town engineer, G. A. Turner, R. C. Greens, W. P. Innis JP, J. H. Innis, H. H. McFie and John Luck, DTB chairman.<sup>42</sup>

In 1905 H. H. McFie became a JP and then coroner and a member of the Licensing Board, where his Presbyterian leanings were no doubt put into practice.<sup>43</sup>

What was to become a gala event on the North-West Coast, the Devonport Show, began in 1906, with Henry as founder-chairman. In 1914, with the 'Great War' only two months old, over 7,000 people assembled. The Devonport Band and Steele Street Drum and Fife Band played. Exhibits and stock were handled by the Railway Department. The show was opened by the Premier, John Earle, introduced by Henry McFie, who was by then Warden of Devonport. 'While they had the Premier here they would take the opportunity of squeezing every concession out of him (Laughter)'. A 'great factor in this success is the energetic enthusiasm of the president, H. H. McFie, who is splendidly seconded by a committee of "live wires"'. During the War, Hannah McFie, assisted by her daughter, Mynie, and Queenie Finlayson, ran the Red Cross tea booth in a marquee, continuing the service for many years.<sup>44 45</sup>

Henry McFie pressed the need for a local Town Hall.

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<sup>37</sup> *ibid*

<sup>38</sup> John F. Goslin was proprietor of the Sea View Hotel, Devonport. Ramsay, p261.

<sup>39</sup> Keating later became a Senator and whip in the Barton and Deakin governments. Pike, D. (ed) *Aust Dictionary of Biography*, vol 9 p541

<sup>40</sup> *NW Post* 10/5/98 p2

<sup>41</sup> *NW Post* 26/5/98 p4

<sup>42</sup> A standard silver plated copper kettle, with a power plug inlet welded into its rear, bears the inscription, 'Presented to Mrs HH MacFie at the Official Opening, Devonport Electric Light Scheme, by Board Members and Staff, June 15 1906'.)

<sup>43</sup> *CT* op cit

<sup>44</sup> He continued in the role as chairman until 1948, when he retired – with a probable sigh of relief from other Society members – aged 79. Today he has the 'honour' of a pavilion for livestock named after him.)

<sup>45</sup> *Devonport City News, Advocate*, 28/11/14; family records

Mr McFie said it was a standing disgrace to Devonport that they should continue without a town hall. If ratepayers did vote against the hall, he thought the board justified in erecting it'.<sup>46</sup>

His fervent anti-bureaucratic attitudes are revealed over a proposal to fence in the Devonport Bluff and charge visitors. 'I hope the council will throw out the recommendation quick and lively'. He would move to 'pull it down jolly quick... [and] I strongly object to the proposition, as it interferes with the liberties of the people'. He was the only councillor to vote against the proposal.<sup>47</sup>

His fourth contest for a seat in Parliament, again unsuccessful, was against the sitting member, Nationalist H. A. Nicholls. It revealed his hectic life and the politics of the period. The month of the election his daughter, Chloris, married F. H. (Harry) Haines in the Devonport Presbyterian Church. On the day, he also attended the Devonport Show during the day and had coped with early wartime concerns.<sup>48</sup>

Nicholls, founder of the United Axemen's Association, used advertisements to ridicule the 'Labor Socialistic candidate, Mr McFie'. Henry attended an ALP rally at the Town Hall, where, with a 'good attendance, the chair was occupied by A. Heaton, President of the Workers' Political League. The chief speakers were J. A. Lyons, J. Hurst ANA activist, unionist, WWI soldier and recruiting officer, and Henry. All were accorded a hearty vote of thanks.<sup>49</sup> Nichols won the election convincingly, 799 to 160, his largest majority.

The *North-West Post's* editorial castigated the ALP candidate.

The result should be to show Mr McFie that the socialist doctrines of the party with which he has allied himself will not be swallowed in a community like that established on the NW coast and it is surprising that a man possessing the energy and ability that he does should be so slow to recognise the fact. The Labour dogma passes very well in large centres of population but in a community where a majority possess a stake in the country, it is not likely that action will be taken to reduce the value of their holdings.<sup>50</sup>

During the First World War, Henry acted as president of the Mersey Regatta Association and the Board of Advice for the Steele St Primary School. At a meeting with the State Treasurer, J. A. Lyons, he urged the establishment of the Devonport High School, which was finally achieved in 1918.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> *NW Post* 7/11/14, p3

<sup>47</sup> *NW Post* 30/10/14 p4

<sup>48</sup> *NW Post* 22/10/14 p3

<sup>49</sup> *NW Post* 7/11/14 p2

<sup>50</sup> *NW Post* *ibid* p2

<sup>51</sup> *NW Post* 7/11/14 p3

McFie's allegiance to the ALP and his patriotism was, like that of so many others, torn apart by the issue of wartime conscription. He chose to ally himself with the conservative, and now unfashionable, pro-British view, but no doubt he felt the pain and division the issue caused. In 1917 local newspapers reported a severe break between the Devonport branch of the Workers' Political League and the state ALP. Branch president, and state leader of the ALP, J. A. Lyons, stepped down following support by the branch for pro-conscriptionists, Billy Hughes, the Prime Minister, former state premier, John Earle and C. R. Howroyd, MHA.<sup>52</sup> Henry McFie was voted into the chair.<sup>53</sup> Marilyn Lake claims Lyons was 'forced to step down in favour of H. H. McFie, a prominent conscriptionist.'<sup>54</sup> Lyons, had chosen to resign because the branch had not supported its President, however, and it was later dissolved by an ALP state council meeting in Launceston.<sup>55</sup>

Competition to oust King O'Malley from the seat of Darwin saw H. A. Nichols, Henry McFie's former foe, urging ALP defectors Billy Hughes, who refused, or C. R. Howroyd, who accepted, to stand.<sup>56</sup> The ALP nominated for the Senate Lieut. James Hurst, a returned and wounded soldier who had earlier addressed the WPL Devonport branch. The Darwin electorate, birth-place of the Labor Party, became the bastion of pro-conscriptionist support. Howroyd's victory lasted 5 days: he died of a heart attack in May 1917, caused, it seemed, by the tensions evoked by the issue.<sup>57</sup>

For the rest of his political life Henry McFie supported the Nationalist Party, finally winning the House of Assembly seat of Darwin, later Braddon, in 1925. He acted for some years as party whip.<sup>58</sup> He lost the seat in 1934 but regained it from 1941 until 1948.<sup>59</sup>

During the Depression, Hannah McFie ran a soup kitchen from her front verandah, serving 50 to 60 adults and children daily.<sup>60</sup> In 1939 Henry was awarded the OBE, owing perhaps in part to his friendship with J. A. Lyons.<sup>61</sup>

A trace of his severe Victorian-era manner survives in a congratulatory letter, the only one in his hand, when his grandson and namesake won the Military Cross for action in

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<sup>52</sup> Howroyd, a sharebroker and founder member of the ALP's Tasmanian branch, was one of many other Tasmanians who left the Party over Conscription. Bennett, p86.

<sup>53</sup> *Examiner* 6/1/17 p5

<sup>54</sup> Lake, Marilyn, *A Divided Society*, Melbourne, 1975, p87.

<sup>55</sup> *Examiner* 6/1/17 p5, & 10/1/17 p6

<sup>56</sup> Lake op cit p96-7

<sup>57</sup> op cit p100

<sup>58</sup> Bennett & Bennett, p106

<sup>59</sup> Bennett op cit

<sup>60</sup> Family records

<sup>61</sup> Family records

New Guinea in 1945.<sup>62</sup> 'Congratulations on Boy's Decoration', he wrote. 'What's Bred in the Bone Comes out in the Flesh'.<sup>63</sup>

In 1952 Henry and Hannah celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary. Old friends who paid tribute included A. Lillico, who knew them from the Don River Company days, Herbert Hayes, former MHA and senator, who 'praised Mr McFie's meritorious work in public life. His actions were not selfish but for the good of the community. His first thought was the public welfare.' McFie had lobbied John Butters to connect the Coast to the new electricity grid in the 1920s, lobbied to keep forests in government rather than private ownership, and marked out all Government land at East and West Devonport and made application for about 350 acres for recreation and parkland purposes.<sup>64</sup>

Predeceased by his wife by four years, Henry Hector McFie lived until 1958, formidably stern, upright and white haired, still with the stiff moustache, intimidating his ten-year-old great-grandson, who then knew none of the above detail. Nor did most other Tasmanians.<sup>65</sup>

Many of the organisations and events that he and others initiated survive and give life and character to the north-west coast community.

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<sup>62</sup> The author's father, H.H. McFie (II).

<sup>63</sup> Family records

<sup>64</sup> *Advocate* June 1952, family papers

<sup>65</sup> His son Hector McFie (1898-1980), the author's grandfather, became the Member of the Legislative Council for Mersey 1954-72.

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| Federation League of Northern Tasmania,..... | 6                  | Laurence, T.A. ....                           | 3, 4                               |
| Federation movement.....                     | 5, 7               | Licensing Board.....                          | 8                                  |
| Federation Sunday .....                      | 6                  | Lillico, A.....                               | 11                                 |
| Ferguson, ?.....                             | 4                  | Lofts, George .....                           | 8                                  |
| Fighting Mac .....                           | 2                  | Luck, John .....                              | 5, 8                               |
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| Formby .....                                 | See West Devonport | Macfie, Bridget (Mrs Hector) .....            | 2                                  |
| Formby Hall .....                            | 6                  | Macfie, Hector .....                          | 2                                  |
| Giblin Hall .....                            | 5                  | Mathers family .....                          | 2                                  |
| Goslin, John F.....                          | 7, 8               | Mathers, Andrew.....                          | 2                                  |
| Greens, R. C.....                            | 8                  | McFie, Captain Edward John.. See McFie, Teddy |                                    |
| Haines, Chloris (Mrs Harry) .....            | 9                  | McFie, Chloris .....                          | 3, See Haines, Chloris (Mrs Harry) |
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| Haines, Harry.....                           | 9                  | McFie, Hannah (Mrs Henry) ...                 | 3, 5, 8, 10, 11                    |
| Hayes, Herbert.....                          | 11                 | McFie, Hector .....                           | 3                                  |
| Heaton, A.....                               | 9                  | McFie, Henry Hector .....                     | 2                                  |
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| Henry, John .....                            | 6                  | McFie, Malcolm William.....                   | 3                                  |
| Holyman, William .....                       | 3                  | McFie, Mynie Lillian.....                     | 3, 8                               |
| Howroyd, Charles R.....                      | 10                 | McFie, Susan (Mrs Teddy).....                 | 2                                  |
| Hughes, Billy (William Morris) .....         | 10                 | McFie, Teddy .....                            | 2                                  |
| Hurst, James A. ....                         | 9, 10              | Mersey Football Club .....                    | 3                                  |
| Innis, J. H. ....                            | 8                  | Mersey Regatta Association .....              | 9                                  |
| Innis, W. P.....                             | 8                  | Nationalist Party .....                       | 10                                 |
| Isle of Bute .....                           | 2                  | Nicholls, D.A. ....                           | 3                                  |
| Justice of Peace.....                        | 8                  | Nicholls, H.A. ....                           | 9                                  |
| Keating, J.H. ....                           | 6, 8               | Nicholls, Herbert.....                        | 6, 7                               |
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|                                       |   |                                       |          |
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| Norris, William .....                 | 3 | Devonport High School .....           | 9        |
| North West Football Association ..... | 4 | McPhee's Model School .....           | 2        |
| Padfield, E.A.U. ....                 | 3 | Steele St Primary School .....        | 9        |
| Parkes, Sir Henry .....               | 7 | Southern Tasmanian Federal League.... | 6        |
| properties                            |   | Steele Street Drum and Fife Band..... | 8        |
| <i>Rothesay</i> .....                 | 5 | Stewart St., Devonport .....          | 4, 5     |
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| Queen Victoria .....                  | 7 | Turner, G. A.....                     | 8        |
| Queen Victoria's Jubilee .....        | 5 | Ulverstone.....                       | 8        |
| Rechabites .....                      | 4 | United Axemen's Association.....      | 9        |
| Recreation Ground .....               | 4 | vandalism.....                        | 3        |
| Red Cross.....                        | 8 | Warden of Devonport .....             | 8        |
| Redpath, John.....                    | 2 | Wells, William .....                  | 2        |
| Residential Family Club .....         | 3 | Wesley Vale .....                     | 3        |
| Roberts, ?.....                       | 4 | West Devon.....                       | 6        |
| Rooke St., Devonport .....            | 4 | West Devonport .....                  | 3, 6, 11 |
| Sayer, William.....                   | 4 | Workers' Political League.....        | 5, 9, 10 |
| schools                               |   | World War I.....                      | 9        |
| Battery Point State School.....       | 2 | WPL Devonport branch .....            | 10       |
| Broomfield's Private Academy,.....    | 2 |                                       |          |

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