



# Scot Pourri



Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history? Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Our letters page is a very popular and active one and many readers have been assisted across the world by fellow passionate Scots. Please keep letters under 200 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters, photos and any other items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned. We prefer letters to be emailed to your nearest office or please visit our on line Scotpourri form at [www.scottishbanner.com](http://www.scottishbanner.com), alternatively you may post or fax your letters to us. Please ensure you include your full contact details, when emailing it is best to include your post address for those without internet access.

This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part! Thanks to all our readers from around the world who have made this such a special page.



## Getting Through To Dougie

I was very interested in reading about Dougie's wee problem (March 2011). It should not be a big problem as most dogs are expert at reading body language rather than the spoken language. So by using hand and body language the message can usually be got across. Also they usually respond quickly to a whistled command (even if whistled in Gaelic). I have two dogs which are reasonably fluent in Gaelic well as Beurla (English). Every day I walk them both around the local park and riverside and give them all my commands in Gaelic. I get some funny looks from the locals when I shout things like "Thig air mo chul" or "Suidhe".

The elder dog is a Border Collie called Luath who was born on "9/11" and has been a disaster ever since. She is fascinated by wheels and will spend hours sitting watching a wheel in case it moves whereupon she will attack it trying to bite it. Embarrassingly she will sometimes do it to a passing cyclist if I do not catch her in time. The younger dog, Ruairidh is a Huntaway a New Zealand breed of working dog bred for their barking ability and agility in the high sheep station terrain.



Ritchie with Luath and Ruairidh

The shepherd will set them out after the sheep and the dog will get above them and bark away until the sheep start to move down the hill. The shepherd always knows where the sheep and dog are from the continual barking sound. I think the sheep are glad to come down to get away from the noise of the barking. Huntaways are supposed to only bark on command but unfortunately Ruairidh has not been able to master that part of the lesson and will bark at anything. However he is a beautiful looking dog with a marvelous gentle nature. Both dogs have been quite traumatised by the earthquakes we have been experiencing here in Christchurch. The pioneering spirit has been recalled as we learn to live again without electricity, running water and flushing toilets. It is like camping at home but the novelty wears off after a while especially with all the aftershocks we have been experiencing.

Incidentally, anyone wishing to teach their dogs, cats, budgerigars or pet tortoise to obey Gaelic commands should visit <http://scotgaelic.tripod.com/Dog.html>

Keep up the good work at the Scottish Banner but Readers please don't boast about passing the paper on to friends and relatives. It does not help the Banner's finances. So tell them to get their own subscription or better still buy them one for their next birthday or Christmas present. Alba gu brath.

Ritchie Mein (formerly of Nairn)  
Christchurch, New Zealand

Ed note: Thank you for your note Ritchie and we hope you and all Christchurch residents recover from the terrible earthquakes as quickly as possible.

## Dementia- The Duke of Hamilton

I would like to applaud the Banner on the beautiful story written by the Duchess on her husband and what he suffered while in the stages of Dementia, I can't imagine someone like him being treated like he was, and understand Lady Kay having a hard time living with these last memories of her beloved husband. I applaud her for coming forward with her story and trust that this will never happen to someone else.

Sincerely

Rebecca Stevens

USA

## Scots Set The Standard

I was born in southern Ireland and have always deeply admired the Scottish people because of their Christian love for one another, their friendship, their integrity, their patriotism and their total commitment to their own magnificent and beautiful culture and music, which they foster and encourage worldwide. They are an example to the whole Celtic world. The behaviour of Scottish people is inspiring to behold, and it is not surprising that they are admired in all countries. I wish them complete success in everything they do now and in the future.

I have always supported Scottish cultural festivals and I had the opportunity to attend the recent 25th annual Berwick Highland Gathering, it was a great day. I also picked up a copy of the Scottish Banner, which I found to be full of wonderful information about Scottish history and culture.

I was not born in Scotland but would now like to subscribe to the Scottish Banner and look forward to it each month.

James P MacManus

Cranbourne, Victoria, Australia

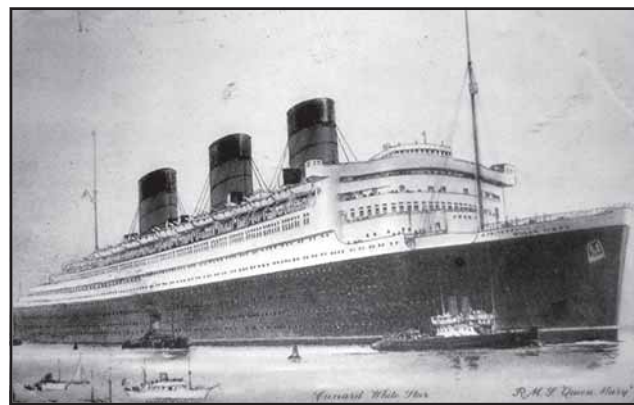
## Memories Of A Ship To Remember

In a recent edition of the Scottish Banner, I read about the ship, the first Queen Mary.

I remember it well - just as though it were yesterday.

It sailed down the River Clyde to the James Watt Shipyard in Greenock from John Browns Shipyard in Clydebank to have some finishing touches done.

It was a great day and we were let out of school to



go up to the public park in Port Glasgow, where the chip came from.

Later, in 1947, I sailed on her with an aunt from Southampton - something I never thought I would do. It was wonderful.

Jenny Balogh

Dearborn,

Michigan,

U.S.A.

## School Reunion in Glasgow

We are arranging a school reunion to mark the 50th anniversary of us leaving school. This is the first reunion to be held for this school.

Being in a deprived part of Glasgow a lot of former pupils emigrated to Canada, America, and Australia. We were therefore wondering if there would be any possibility of some editorial for the reunion within your group The Reunion is being held with the help of Friends Reunited. The School is Lambhill Street Secondary School, in Kinning Park, on the southside of Glasgow, very close to the old docks.

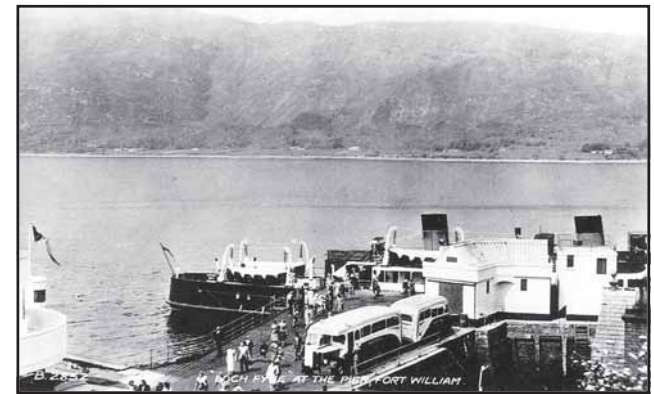
Bill Crew

Glasgow, Scotland

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## MacBraynes Ferries

After reading the March edition on page 8 the article by Dr Ken B Moody *A View from the Surgery-Island Doctor*. The picture in the article shows MacBraynes for Scotland. I was born in Inverloch Village and grew up to the age of 12 in Fort William. A great treat was to go on the Loch Fyne to Oban ferry. The attached picture would be the early fifties showing the pier at Fort William with the ferry and busses, all MacBraynes.



Ferry at the pier, Fort William

My father always quoted this little poem:

*The Earth belongs to the lord*

*And all it contains*

*Excepting for the Western Isles*

*And that belongs to MacBraynes*

On a recent trip back to Scotland in 2010 we were still looked after on the rather much larger ferries of MacBraynes. The old buses had a great smell, I remember going on holidays to Nairn, Forres and Inverness.

Regards to any folk that shares my memories.

See you at the games.

David Mackenzie

Melbourne, Victoria

Australia

## The Red Hot Chilli Pipers

Thank you for your article on The Red Hot Chilli Pipers (March 2011). I was fortunate enough to see this great band during the Year of Homecoming in 2009 and what a breath of fresh air they are! I love traditional piping don't get me wrong but to see these guys blend the pipes with pop as well as Scottish traditional classics was smashing. We Scots overseas don't hear much about the band unfortunately so it is great to see *the Scottish Banner* highlight one of what must be Scotland's hottest piping acts today.

I loved the cover of your March issue and it brought back great memories of my visit to Scotland in 2009.

Lang may your lum reek and your bagrock!

Fiona Johnstone

Toronto, Ontario

Canada

## John Dunmore Lang

A member of Trinity Lutheran Church Historical Society brought Ben Wilkie's piece of John Dunmore Lang (Vol 34, No. 8 February 2011) to the groups attention. The article is of topical interest to us on the grounds that J.D Lang played an indirect but nevertheless important role in the formation of the Lutheran Church in Victoria.

Dr Lang had recruited a young German, Matthias Goethe, as a teacher for his Australian College. Recognising his religious potential, Lang ordained him a Presbyterian minister and Goethe became the first pastor of Melbourne's Lutheran congregation. Lang also arranged for missionaries to work alongside Aborigines at Morton Bay.

For these reasons there are some eighteen references to J.D Lang in Trinity's sesquicentenary history.

H.D Mees

East Melbourne, Victoria

Australia