



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 <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.

Riding of the Marches

I read the article in the March 2009 issue, entitled "Edinburgh Is No One Horse Town". I found it very interesting reading of the 'Riding of the Marches'.

After the war my husband's cousin was the first 'Honest Lad' in Musselburgh, to be in the 'Riding of the Marches'. His name was Archibald (Archie) Moffat, and he lived in Musselburgh. We cannot recall the name of the 'Honest Lass', but both she and Archie were elected by the townspeople.

An older brother of Archie built and decorated an archway for the town. He also decorated Archie's house, which was well admired by the towns-people. Archie was the youngest of a large family and we felt this quite an achievement for him.

Sorry I do not have a photograph of this.

Mrs. Elizabeth Godfrey
Cheshire,
England

Burns Statue Vandalised

You may not be aware but the statue of Robert Burns at the Camperdown Botanic Gardens was vandalised last month. This statue is one of the oldest Burns statues in existence and is recognised as historically significant.

Not long after a story featured in the local Camperdown Chronicle based on research done concerning the statue. It was desecrated by a senseless act of vandalism. The statue has been removed by Corangamite Shire and put into safe storage. As yet it has not been determined when it will be repaired or where it will be sited.

It has even been proposed that a replica take its place and the original put on display in Melbourne. An action like this would be an attack on Camperdown's Heritage.

As all Scots are proud of our heritage, no matter where we live.

This statue must remain in Camperdown.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Maguire

Camperdown, Victoria
Australia

Heritage and Haggis

Congratulations on publishing such an informative paper about all things Scottish. Though based in Glasgow, Scotland I always find news-stories in the 'Banner' that haven't reached me before. Why is it that at the heart of the matter we don't acknowledge the detail? Rather, being at least one step removed makes engaging in news easier or more accessible?

Many of your readers coming to Scotland this year to enjoy the Homecoming 2009 celebrations may find it useful to know about Doors Open Days. Held on weekends in September, this is the biggest architectural and heritage festival held throughout Scotland that involves a team of over 5000 volunteers and local co-ordinators who manage 900 events. Doors Open Days gives visitors free access to hundreds of fascinating buildings, you can explore places that are normally closed to the public. Some open up once a year, some just once in a lifetime... And it's FREE.

The full programme is available on our website www.doorsopendays.org.uk

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Even More Memories of Three Bishop Terrace Brae

My uncle, Jim Boyd, very kindly sent me your February 2008 edition with the article by Kay Lucas - 'Memories of Three Bishop Terrace Brae' and the letter on your Scot Pourri page in the March 2009 edition from Jacqueline Williamson. I was particularly thrilled because the article mentions my late and much loved mother - Jan Garland (nee Boyd). We lost my mother in 2004 after a brave fight against cancer at the terribly early age of 65. And so it was especially lovely to hear of some of her escapades in her youth from one of her friends! My lovely grandparents, James and Netta Boyd, lived at Three Bishop Terrace Brae and I and my brother, Peter, were born in Rothesay and lived there with Mummy, Uncle Jim and our grandparents whilst my father Tony finished University at Glasgow Vet School. Apropos the 'rowing boat incident', I seem to remember that my great-aunt Betty Cormack owned the rowing boats at one point (although my memory might be playing tricks with me!) and the Lilac Looking on the front where she sold ice creams and sweets (so was a great favourite with my brother and I and our sister Eleanor who was born when we lived in Nairobi, Kenya!).

Thank you so much for bringing back such happy memories.

Best wishes
Andrina Hemming
Scotland

Can You Help With Family Names?

I have been enjoying the "Banner" along with my family for a long time.

I wonder if any of the 'Barclay' family still live in Heron, Illinois.

My grandmother, Violet Agnes Barclay McLeod Moore, was the sister of Alex Barclay.

I have a photo of Andrew Barclay, Alex's son, in his kilt. There was also a John Barclay who lived in Scotland. I believe he was in the Kirkcaldy area, where the family emigrated from.

I am also interested in a sister, Elizabeth MacBride of Montreal, Quebec, who I also knew. I would be interested in hearing from any of my cousins.

Would Ron Dempsey have any information on the Barclay name? Also possibly the name Traquari, and how this was transmitted to a family name?

Thank you.
Margaret McLeod Dejong
Box 271,
Seaforth, Ont. NOX 1W0
Canada

Clan Scott Australasia

Clan Scott Association of Australasia will be in Scotland. Meet Members of Clan Scott Australasia at the home coming in Edinburgh, also at the Border Gathering.

I as High Commissioner apologies for not attending, I had a stroke in October 2008.

We have six Members attending from Australia and our Scottish Member who lives in Fife will also be attending.

Lang May Your Lum Reek.

Jim Scott.

Victoria, Australia

Border Ridings

I think they are probably something left over from the great amount of Roman cavalry patrols done out of Hadrian's Wall.

Will Brown
Palmdale, CA
USA

You can view this month's and several past editions of Scotpourri online at www.scottishbanner.com and see why this is one of the most popular pages!

Dunedin, the Edinburgh of the South

Thank you for your story on Dunedin, the Edinburgh of the South (June 2009).

I have not visited Dunedin for a few years but know what a great place it is.

Dunedin is one of New Zealand's great destinations, and its Scottish past is very present!

I see pipers in the street and visited the Scottish shop there.

Nice to see a city outside of Scotland still so proud of its Scottish roots.

I plan to make a return visit this coming summer. I can certainly recommend this bit of Scotland in the Southern Hemisphere to everybody.

Alec Gordon

Nelson,

New Zealand

Can You Help With Custard Slices?

First and foremost I would like to thank you for the "Scottish Banner". Over the years it has kept me in touch with my homeland.

On our several trips to Great Britain, we have eaten Custard (cream) slices. I have tried to duplicate that delicacy without any success.

Maybe one of your readers can tell me how to make them. This would make my day. Thank you and God Bless.

Marge Thomas

15 North 21st

Lafayette, IND 47904

USA

Response To 'Applause For The Wee Lassie with The Voice'

I was interested in the article, "Applause For the Wee Lassie with the Voice", Page 5, Volume 32, Number 12, June 2009, Australasian Edition.

I noted Joyce Milne D'Auria's comment - "There is a cultural imperative in Scotland that stops you from getting a 'swalt head' or 'showing off' as they say - "Blessed are the meek" - is the moral instilled in youngsters.

In Australia - we, Aboriginal people also have this in our culture; which in turn has suppressed any leadership qualities in our youth! Our terms are 'big note' and 'big notin' your crack' - wonderful terms to supposedly keep them in line.

Example of usage: 'Hey, you big note, sit down and shut up.'

Or 'What are you big notin' your crack for?'

Let me also share with you why I smiled when I seen the Clans and their Emblems. I never knew my clan when growing up. I now know that on my father's side I am of the Bolgwin Bolgwin Clan group of the Gooreng Gooreng People. My Mum's people are Yidinji and we now know her clan group name (haven't memorized that one yet).

This was one of the good things that came out of the Native Title Act, here in Australia - well, for me anyway. The knowledge of my clan names and knowing my ancestral lands is priceless. This information came from the anthropological research - a legal requirements of a Native Title Claim.

I am fourth generation Aboriginal - I am Aboriginal, despite the other cultures I have been influenced with - a fusion of cultures, you might say. Thank you for your attention - and enjoy celebrating the CLANS.

Yours truly,

Colleen Johnson

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