



# 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.



## Moffats Found

Two or three years ago I wrote hoping for a wee miracle to contact descendants of Robert Murray Moffat and his wife Jessie (nee McCombie) who migrated to Australia May 1866. June 2007, you reprinted my letter. In May 2008, I received a reply - one whole branch of the Moffat descendants in Australia now found. Thank you for publishing my letter - wonderful page and magazine.

Regards

Betty Smeulders

Australia

Email:

Betty266@bigpond.com

## Burns Authority Wanted

I'm looking for the best Burn's Dinner authority in New England that will be free for the weekend of the New Hampshire Highland Games September 19, 20 and 21, 2008. I would like to include a seminar on How to Plan a Burn's Dinner that will cover some of the history, the formal and informal formats, and the Address to the Haggis presentation. The seminars last an hour and are presented once per day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Benefits include stipend, housing admission.

Bill Budde

Coordinator

Scottish Genealogy,

History and Culture

Seminars

New Hampshire Highland Games

142A Munn Terrace

Arlington, VT, USA 05250

(802) 375-9296

[bbudde@verizon.net](mailto:bbudde@verizon.net)

## Looking For Robert Ireland Moffatt

Hi I'm Jane from Fife Scotland, researching my family tree. Looking for my cousin Robert Ireland Moffatt emigrated to Australia in 1960 upon the Fairsky, any reader out there help me??

Jane Criag

Fife, Scotland

Email:

bluebell3717@aol.com

## Loch Ness bid for World Heritage Status

Loch Ness and the Great Glen, one of world's natural wonders, is launching a bid to become a World Heritage Site. If successful, the bid will position Loch Ness and the Great Glen alongside the Grand Canyon, Great Barrier Reef, The Taj Mahal and Scotland's own New Lanark and the Old City of Edinburgh, as one of 830 of the world's finest heritage sites.

Your readers may be interested in signing a petition to back the bid for Loch Ness to be awarded World Heritage Status. The petition has just gone live and can be found at the following web - address:

[www.gopetition.com/online/18760.html](http://www.gopetition.com/online/18760.html)  
Or visit [www.visitlochness.com](http://www.visitlochness.com), a site which may be of interest to readers, especially those with an interest in / may be planning a trip to the Loch Ness area.

Fran Davidson

Loch Ness Exhibition

Centre

Drumnadrochit, Loch Ness

Scotland

## Gaelic Society For Perth, Western Australia

It is hoped to form in Perth, Western Australia, a Society for Scottish Gaelic speakers, learners and would-be learners, similar to those already established in the Eastern States. If you fit into one of those three categories, would you like to belong to such a society? If so, register your interest with me on (08) 9457 1945. Once the extent of the interest has been established, a meeting can be called to discuss the formation of the Society and the manner in which it will operate. Information is also available on the study courses being used in Scotland and Australia.

Shirley F R Oliver

Perth, Western Australia

Email:

[olivetree@westnet.com.au](mailto:olivetree@westnet.com.au)

## Isle of Jura With The MacCormick Islets In The Foreground



Many thanks for the copy of the "Banner" which arrived today. You have given the West Highland sunset pride of place. I've had some email contacts as a result expressing appreciation.

Here is another one of Jura taken from where I live—but this time by daylight. The small islets in the foreground are the MacCormick isles (links with St. Columba), and Jura is in the background. You will know that the weather isn't always as nice as on this shot!!

Best wishes to you and all at the "Banner".

Bill McCondichie

Achnamara

Argyll Scotland.

**Ed. note:** Thank you Bill for another wonderful shot of your part of the world!

Imagine waking up to this view every morning!

## Stone of Scone

I admit to some confusion after reading editor Valerie Cairney's enthusiasms over the movie portraying the recent history of the "Stone of Scone".

She was fascinated by the "heroic deeds" of the four students led by Ian Hamilton who forced their way into Westminster Abbey and removed the Stone.

She unfortunately neglected to mention that in their over-eagerness, they also actually BROKE the Stone itself during their exploit, a matter of some very serious nature if indeed it is actually the valuable historic artifact it is claimed to be.

It was always my understanding that the very canny Scots, being fully aware of King Edward's intention to remove their significant precious artifact, spirited the REAL Stone of Scone away to a secret hiding place and presented him with a substitute fake.

I simply cannot imagine the proud and indignant Scots meekly handing over such a significant piece of Scottish history without a fight, ...or at least a trick up their sleeves!

Can anyone else shed any light on this matter, ...I know it negates a great deal of modern patriotism promoted in the movie, but if indeed the above story is true, then that piece of rock at the centre of the movie is little more than just that, and the location of the REAL Stone is an even more exciting story awaiting to be told.

Where is the REAL one?

Barry Parker

Australia

Email: [theboys@koee.com.au](mailto:theboys@koee.com.au)

## Keeping A Wee Bit of Scotland Alive

I just received my copy today. I do look forward to receiving the paper each month. I am enclosing an order form for a gift subscription for a Happy Birthday gift for my aunt. I know she will enjoy the paper as much as I do.

My father was born in Kirkintilloch, since he is now gone your paper keeps my Scottish pride alive. The person I am ordering this for is my Dads youngest sister and I know she will love it as much as I do.

Thank you for keeping a wee bit of Scotland alive for me each month.

Maureen (Carr) Taranto

1009 Dot St

Windsor, Ontario, Canada

## Lost Scottish Australian Pen Pal

I am trying to find Betty ?, born 6<sup>th</sup> of July 1938 in either Glasgow or Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland. Maternal Grandfather was David "Daw" White of Galston.

In 1954 she lived with her parents and young sister at 66 Bangor St. Guildford, NSW, Australia and worked at a bank in the city.

Any information please contact:

James Shankland

1 Burns Ave.

Mauchline, Ayrshire

Scotland

Email:

[jimshankland@aol.com](mailto:jimshankland@aol.com)

## Help To Contact Newarthill Resident

I would like to make contact with a gentleman living in Newarthill near Motherwell who at one time regularly exchanged correspondence and music with Ed Wilson here in Auckland. The only name I have is Alastair but I know that he has an extensive library of recorded music of the 19-20s, 30s, 40, 50s and possibly later and I feel sure that because of this would be well known in and around Newarthill.

If he or someone who knows him receives my message I would like him to write me.

Fred Waller

PO Box 48119

Blockhouse Bay

Auckland

New Zealand

## Looking for Patricia Dick

I am looking for a Patricia Dick (nee Maginnis). She has a son Peter, a sister Ruth and a brother Denis. They would like to contact her. They believe she was a teacher in the Vancouver area in the 50's. I am her cousin Margaret living in Ontario. Please respond to e-mail address: [maireadmccrae@yahoo.com](mailto:maireadmccrae@yahoo.com) with the subject Margaret.

Thanks,

Margaret

Ontario, Canada