



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 150 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/pg/pourri.php>, 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.

You Can Find It in the "Banner"

I am writing to say how happy I am that the Island of Skye has a Gaelic speaking college on it. Although I can't speak the language myself, it is nice to know that the young people of today have a chance to learn their own language.

I am also happy that Sir Sean Connery has got a Friends of Scotland-Alba House in New York City. That is wonderful and the pictures in the Scottish Banner are really very lovely.

Also Matthew C Newsome FSA Scot gets all the information on the tartans, it really is so interesting. I never knew there was so much history to do with tartans and the kilt, thank you so much.

Please keep up the good work of the Scottish Banner, it really is a good paper.

*Rose May Aitkenhead
Palmerston North
New Zealand*

Falkirk Wheel

I have been receiving the Scottish Banner for some ten years now and I look forward eagerly to its arrival. I am a descendant of both the Harris and Walker lines and played in pipe bands and took part in highland dancing, and still do in my seventies.

You have many interesting articles and I would be interested in information or an article of the Falkirk Wheel, this seems to be a Scottish masterpiece and a very unique piece of engineering.

*GA Harris
53 Marion St
Tugan, Queensland
4224, Australia.*

Glasgow Memories

I recently received your excellent publication (fourth hand I believe) from my parents. Mum enjoyed the extract from John Cairney's book about Williamson Street as she had an Aunt who lived there. I was only nine when we emigrated from Glasgow to Australia in

1958 but I still retain a lot of memories of my birth place. We lived in Malcolm Street, Parkhead off Springfield Road, unfortunately it no longer exists as Bars (the makers of the Iron Brew) extended towards Celtic Park and three or four streets have disappeared.

Last year I was doing a DVD for my sister's 50th birthday and wanted some photos of the Tenement buildings that we lived in, couldn't find the ones with the oriel windows. Having a computer I did a Google search and came across a wonderful web site Glesga Pals <http://www.glesga.ukpals.com/index.htm> photos, stories, recipes and more. In this site I found one of my old school photos and from that I now have contact with school chums in Canada and Scotland and now 50 years later we have started our own blog site for Newlands Primary School on Springfield Road <http://newlandsprimary.blogspot.com/> with old and new photos of Parkhead and stories.

If any of your readers have internet access I do recommend the above sites.

I will also be passing the Banner onto a local lady who was born in Lennox Castle.

*Slainte
Stewart Merrilees
78 Bullcamp Road
Nanango, Qld 4615
Australia.*

Australian National Tartan

I recently read the editorial by Greg Hackett (Sunday Herald March, 4, 2007) in relation to the Australian National Tartan and would like to add to his enthusiasm on the subject.

I have had the chance to inspect this tartan at a venue recently and as one who has a strong alliance with my Scottish past I would like to congratulate the designer on the beautiful and balanced set which incorporates all that is Australian.

The designer has

researched and incorporated the very foundations of this country and I might add travelled the extra mile in having consulted with the Federal Government on the issues.

It appears to me that this action has ensured the Australian National Tartan will be viewed by Australians as a tartan that we can call our own.

Congratulations are in order for a job well done.

A proud Australian-aye.

*Lyndall Stuart McLean
Wendouree,
Victoria
Australia*

Mc Leman

Recently you had a column about the McLeman family. There is website that your readers might wish to check out:

www.macleman.org. On this site the family is traced back to a Donald Mcleman who was in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and resided in Avoch on the Black Isle prior to 1759. The family agrees with your conclusion that the name is a variant for Lamont. However, another possibility is that the name is a variant for MacLennan.

Supporting this is the fact that MacLennan was one of the four most frequently found names in Avoch and that the MacLennans are found throughout South-western part of the Black Isle.

*John MacLennan
No address supplied*

Land O' the Leaf

Could you please enlighten me on the words of a song "The Land O the Leaf". Just where is this land. I have heard two versions but they just don't fit rightly into the words. I'm taking these words from a song book printed in 1921.

Maybe someone can put me right?

*J Onion
15 View St
Cessnock, NSW
2325, Australia*

Morgan Academy

My friends gave me a copy of The Scottish Banner newspaper Volume 31 No. 2, and I saw a photograph of a class in Clepington Primary School which I

I married John Stratton in Dundee in 1953. We left Dundee in 1955 to live in Glenrothes in Fife. Four children later, we emigrated to South

contact. One is Margaret McKenzie (nee Lindsay) who was my bridesmaid and the other is Dorothy Price (Dot) who lived at Stobswell. Oh! How thrilled I would be to hear



attended. I didn't recognize any of the students but it gave me the idea of sending a photograph of my class in Morgan Academy, hoping that someone will recognize me and respond. My name then was Alison Lewis, three from the left in the second row. I lived in Baxter Park Terrace and two others in that photograph, David Reid and Florence Findlay, also lived in the Terrace. That was a long time ago!

Australia where my fifth child was born. As I get older the more I love Scotland and all things connected.

Recently I have been tracing family using Genes Reunited on the Internet and I have had great success on my mother's side. Her family come from the East Coast; Stonehaven down to Dundee.

Two other people I recall with great affection but with whom I have no

from them and about their lives. I have loved living in South Australia enjoying the moderate climate - plenty of sun, but needing a lot more rain!

*Regards,
Alison Stratton
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Carinya Street
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alisons33@bigpond.com*

Banner Cheer

A friend noticed I was a bit lonely sitting outside so he brought me over the "Banner" to read. I was amazed to see some information I was looking for. I am not able to get about much and it was great to see some information that could help cheer me up.

It has been a great pleasure reading the "Banner" mailbag.
*Janet McGarrigle
Valley View, Adelaide
South Australia*

Lost relatives McCulloch

I am trying to trace relatives of Helen & Hugh McCulloch, born Troon, Scotland. Hugh was my grandfather John's brother. I know Helen & Hugh and their two sons are all deceased (1879-1948).

James Hastings McCulloch had two sons Stuart who would be 72 years also Gordon 67 years if alive today.

Mathew Irving McCulloch had two daughters Lois Helen McCulloch 75 years and Janice 71 years if alive today.

These are the last link in of genealogy for our McCulloch family tree. I know it was Thornbury, Victoria they settled in, since then I have been amazed at so many McCulloch's in and around the area.

I have enjoyed reading your newspaper and hopefully a reader might be able to help and finalise this hunt.

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