

# 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 online 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.

and their descendants live in SA, WA and the NT too! Unfortunately, it also seems to be a two way street. Despite SA being, according to a demographic study a while back, one of the most Scottish places in the world, only behind two Canadian Provinces, this State has steadily failed to demonstrate this into the futures. There are now only three main Societies and one of these has decided to back-pedal from a full Caledonian Society to one that focuses on music. There is also only one Highland Games of any note. All is not lost though as there is a multitude of activities that relate to our Scottish past, but most of these are carried out by non-Scottish bodies, involvement with which is not seen as relevant to the societies. A very sad state of affairs indeed that the coverage of the Tapestry exhibition can only help.

Ron Layton

Crafer, South Australia

**Ed note: Thanks Ron for your letter and there are some great Scottish groups in South Australia doing good work and glad you enjoyed the Tapestry on its Australian visit.**

## Lewis's Department Store

While reading my March issue of *the Banner*, I read in *Kings & Castles and Dirty Wee Rascals*, the article on Lewis's famous department store. This brought back many memories for me as my first visit to the stores was with my Grandmother when I was seven years old -all the way back to 1935! One of the clearest things I recall seeing was a reminder to eat lunch at their cafe. There was a reminder too that Jack Chapman and his band would be playing there daily. While I do not recall my father playing at this store, I do remember his many years playing with the band. He would often play at night in a ballroom called The Albert. My father's name was Bill Thomson and he played the trumpet. I wonder if anyone remembers Jack Champman Band? I used to love my visits to the famous store on Argyll Street, especially at Christmas time.

Edna Livingstone

Simcoe, Ontario  
Canada

## John Orkney

Whilst researching the family tree of the man who built my house in 1873 (and many other houses on my island - Bute) I came across an article in the June 2007 issue from a Helen Elsworthy from Picton, NSW, Australia. Helen said that she had been to Bute researching her Orkney family. I would love to get in touch with her as I live in the house that her relative designed and built all those years ago. Can you help?

Margaret Williams

Rosehill, Rothesay

Isle of Bute, Scotland

Email: [margaret\\_is@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret_is@btinternet.com)

## Thane

Some people are of Celtic bent and some are more bent. Thanes were tenants of the Crown from Teutonic history in eastern provinces and the word may be also tanist "elected chief waiting" as

in Dublin Parliament's Tanaiste deputy PM. Sanskrit, a brother language to Gaelic, does not use tantu in this way but Persian horse-tribes shipped horses to Sri Lanka 2300 years ago. Persian words appear in Malay language and Old Java language had about 50% Sanskrit. In Java the word tanda meant "headman" and tantu was "Buddhist world-order". Thani were village rulers in Bali where Persian gold rings with Kharoshti script from 1900 years ago have been excavated. A boat load of Javanese royals escaped in 1222 and probably arrived in Bundjalung country north NSW. And Tendi in another Aboriginal country are the 12 men of 18 clans who elected a chief. They have a Ringbalin ceremony for a strong warrior which is "rainig am bailceach" in Gaelic.

John Welch

Australia

## The Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington



The Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington (SSGB) celebrated Tartan Day 3 April 2016 at Kroger East in Bloomington, IN. The public was welcomed by SSGB members willing to help with all their interests. Southern Indiana Pipers and the Scottish Country Dancers of Greater Bloomington entertained.

Polly Bruce Tilford  
Clerk of Scottish Society of  
Greater Bloomington  
Bloomington, IN  
USA

## Tartan Day Ottawa



The sun was shining on a great day in Ottawa where the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band and guest players from Montreal and Toronto were joined by highland and step dancers from across the Ottawa region, and Gaelic choir Ar N-Oran who helped celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> annual Tartan Day. In its 10<sup>th</sup> year, this show was a classic Celtic celebration, with a great audience of hundreds who came along in their tartans and joined in the fun! We had 91 tartans on display, and many folks were on hand to wish Her Majesty The Queen a happy

90<sup>th</sup> birthday with personal videos and a big singing of *Happy Birthday!* It was a wonderful day, and we are so grateful to so many for their support and fellowship.

Bethany Bisailion

Sons of Scotland Pipe Band

Ottawa, Ontario

Canada

## Galbraith Stores

I receive *the Scottish Banner* each month and in the April issue there was a letter from Robert Bradshaw regarding Galbraith Stores. I was born and raised in the west end of Paisley and close by where I lived there was two branches of Galbraith Stores. My father managed one of these stores for some years and I shopped there. I well remember my dad speak about his younger days, making deliveries to private homes in the area saying Christmas and New Year were really busy. It's just so lovely to read this letter which brings back wonderful memories.

Mrs. W Zanetich

Freshwater, Queensland

Australia

## Won't throw out a copy

My son and I both enjoy reading *the Scottish Banner*, my son Daniel won't throw any of them out. We are going back to Scotland next year, when I go back I feel I have come home. My parents came from Kirkcaldy.

Thank you.

Grace Taylor

Tumbi Umbi, NSW

Australia

## McInnis

My parents are traveling to Scotland in July and my father was looking for some information or some direction on how to find out about some relatives. The name he has is Donald McInnis from South Uist-1798 to 1867. His father's name is believed to be Patrick, possibly born 1750. Any direction or help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank You.

Hugh MacInnis

Sydney, Cape Breton

Nova Scotia, Canada

Email: [h.macinnis@hotmail.com](mailto:h.macinnis@hotmail.com)

## The Proclaimers

What a great night was had at the Proclaimers performance in Brisbane. The audience were participating to the fullest and dancing in the aisles. We live 430 kilometres from Brisbane and would have travelled five hundred miles or even walked 500 more just to be there. Last Saturday I attended a Gathering of the Masonic Clans in Brisbane. I estimate some 200 with Scottish heritage, many wearing a kilt, enjoyed the formal ceremony followed with partners at a banquet that included, pipers, haggis (correctly presented with a wee dram and the "Ode to a Haggis") supplemented with a fine display of Scottish dancing. It was great to see editions of *the Scottish Banner* available on the night for those who have not been aware of its value.

Peter J. McMurtrie

Goondiwindi, Queensland

Australia

**Ed note: Congratulations Peter to you and all the winners of our Proclaimers ticket giveaway from our April issue.**

## Looking for pipers & drummers



Are you a piper? A drummer? Do you want to take part in the Perth 200th anniversary celebrations? Well, then we'd like to hear from you! We'd like to put together a group of pipers and drummers to create the Perth Bicentennial Band! The Perth 200 Blast from the Past Homecoming weekend is taking place from July 22-24, 2016. If you are a piper or drummer, you can be part of the tattoo and parade, which is set for Saturday, July 23. Please note your band affiliation if you belong to one, and if you are a piper, snare, bass or tenor drummer. We hope you can take part, and be part of our wonderful history - parade starts at 10 am, tattoo at 12 noon in downtown Perth, Ontario.

Perth 200th Anniversary Celebrations

Perth Town Hall:

80 Gore Street E.

Perth, Ontario

K7H 1H9, Canada

W: [www.perth200.ca](http://www.perth200.ca)

P: 613-267-3311

## Scots live here too

It was great to see the article on the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry at Burnside in the April edition of *the Scottish Banner*. I have been getting *the Banner* for some time now and have noted how rare it is for something west of the Great Divide to feature. Scots