

# 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 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.

## Congratulations on 41 years



Congratulations on 41 years of *the Scottish Banner*, may it continue for another 41 plus years. I would like to say a very big thank you for forwarding the May issue of *the Scottish Banner*, our postie commented when she handed it to me by saying "Special delivery from *the Scottish Banner*". I have been getting *the Banner* now for about 8-10 years and hate to miss a copy. I love *the Banner* and read everything. I have even contributed to *Scotpourri* and *What's in a Name*. My husband is from Keith in Scotland and we have been over to Scotland before and would love to return.

I would also like to give my sincere congratulations on Valerie's retirement, may she enjoy it.

Mrs C Bruce  
Jennings, NSW  
Australia

## The Scottish Banner is a Clyde Built Bridge

Dear Valerie & Sean,

I must admit that rather than putting the kettle on the boil, I tend to pour a glass of wine to accompany my monthly read of *The Banner*. Our subscription was a much appreciated gift from Archie & Rena Davidson (originally from Motherwell and Fort Augustus respectively).

Valerie, I met you briefly at the Sarasota Games in 2014 when I went 'walk about' with Jimmy McIntosh while Joyce was judging the bands.

It was a pleasure meeting you and I deeply admire the effort you and your

family have put in to keeping us all up to date and connected to a place that many of our families left....not because they wanted to, but because they had to.

Your latest publication is, as always, engaging and informative. It would be wonderful however to know the location of each of the Bothys in the article's photos (*Bothy Bagging*, *Scottish Banner*, July, 2017).

Thank you again Valerie for your enormous contribution to all of us of Scottish heritage. *The Scottish Banner* is a Clyde Built Bridge to our heritage and homeland.

Thank you.

Alex (Alexandra) Macdonell & Derek Davidson (former Executive Director New Hampshire Highland Games) USA

**Ed note: Thank you Alex for such a kind note and not all Bothy locations were provided to us as many do not have any accurate address descriptions in remote locations. We are honoured to be considered Clyde built!**

## Read every word

We would like to renew *the Banner* for another two years. Just love the paper. We would like to go back "home" to Forres and Brodie but need to win the lottery first. Instead we have *the Scottish Banner* and read every word.

Hermione & Robert Duncan  
Barcaldine, Queensland  
Australia

**Ed note: Thank you for your note and we hope you win that lottery and get back to Scotland, but glad to hear we help fill the Scottish void until your numbers come in.**

## St. Andrew's First Aid



Recently we attended the Weary Dunlop Foundation Service in Melbourne, it was the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his birth. The Guest Speaker was Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston, AK, AFC (Ret'd) and the Dunlop Appeal was launched by the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer, MP, Minister for Revenue and Financial Services.

I attended representing SAFAA, paying our respects to the man who was our first patron and responsible for bringing us out from Scotland in 1976.

Weary Dunlop is an Australian icon, Wallaby, and former WW2 POW Surgeon who endured the hardships of the Thai-Burma Railroad POW Camps under the Japanese Imperial Army as the Commanding Officer (after he refused the opportunity to evacuate from Java to stay and care for his patients), respected and loved by all Australians, so much so he was accorded a State Funeral upon his death in 1993.

This was the first time that our Pipes and Drums played in public.

David Alexander-Fleming, JP  
Chief Commissioner  
St. Andrew's First Aid Australia  
Victoria, Australia

**Ed note: Congratulations to everyone at St Andrew's First Aid and thank you for the great work you do.**

## Bullard

I am trying to trace my late mother's maiden name Bullard, I believe it is Scottish. Where should I start?

Thank you.  
David Sheridan  
E-mail: [davidsheridan200@bigpond.com](mailto:davidsheridan200@bigpond.com)

## A monthly breath of Scotland

I think it's great that we will be able to read *the Scottish Banner* online. However, I pass mine on to a dear Scottish friend who is 97 years young and in long term care. She is the one person with home I talk in the "Mither tongue".

I, myself, just turned 95, and I guess it's true, old habits die hard, as I still prefer to hold the printed word in my hand.

It's 70 years since I left Bonnie Scotland and it's lovely to get a breath of it every month, thanks to the staff at *the Scottish Banner*.

Thank you and may I wish you continued success.

Sincerely,  
Agnes Loosmore  
Canada

**Ed note: Thank you Agnes for your kind comments and whether it be print or digital we are glad you are enjoying the paper and we are happy to offer both choices to our readers across the world.**

## George Ritchie Mackie-Dundee

As I am travelling to Dundee early October 2017, am curious to know if there are any relatives still living in the area (or buried there) who are in any way connected to my great grandfather?

He was George Ritchie Mackie, born on November 3, 1865 in Dundee, Angus. His parents were Robert Mackie and Margaret Miller who were age 39 and 38 respectfully when he was born. He had a sister Elizabeth, born about 1868 and a brother, William, who also emigrated to Grafton, NSW (Australia), where they went into business together. William died on 7 November in Grafton when George was 46 years of age.

George lived in St Andrew, Angus in 1871 and was a third class engineer. He married Catherine Susannah Venador (French) Oct 23 1894 and they had a son Louis. He emigrated with Louis 1900 and married Alice Helena Waldon in 1901, Sydney NSW when he was 36 years old. They had six children, Neville Robert being my grandfather.

George died in 1939 in Cowper (near Grafton) NSW aged 74.

Someone may know more regarding his sister, Elizabeth Mackie or his parents Robert Mackie and Margaret Miller.

I am looking forward to visiting Dundee enormously as my grandfather was very proud of his Scottish heritage and so am I!

Rhonda Beresford  
Australia  
Email: [rhondaberesford@gmail.com](mailto:rhondaberesford@gmail.com)

## Glasgow Central Station Tours



A few months ago *the Banner* published an article about Glasgow Central Station Tours. Today I was very fortunate to be able to take this tour. I would highly recommend the tour to anyone visiting Glasgow. It was very informative and entertaining. Paul is a very enthusiastic guide with a lot of knowledge about the history of the Station. Paul was a wee bit surprised to hear that we heard about the tour in Australia but he remembered being interviewed by Sean, he asked us to say hello and send his regards to Sean.

Such a great experience.  
Jean Buchanan  
Victoria, Australia

**Ed note: Thanks for sharing this with us Jean and this tour is an incredible way to learn not only about one of Glasgow's great buildings but also its amazing social history.**

## SENT TO OUR FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGES

(Send us your photos or letters via social media)

### Flower of Scotland



Taken in our backyard in Canada.  
Theresa & François Ouellette  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada

### The Tyndall Bruce Monument



This was taken just inside the Tyndall Bruce Monument.  
Kenny Bruce Photography  
Scotland