

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, 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.

John Cairney



Hello Sean,
We enjoyed reading your article about your uncle John Cairney (*the Scottish Banner*, January, 2018). We have been a great fan of your uncle since the 1960's when we first

heard him do his Robert Burns concert. We had it on an old audio tape which was played so much it finally unravelled on us but you were kind enough to get it for us on a CD a few years ago. We are glad to say we have now added 3 different DVD's to our collection as well as the book called *The Man Who Played Burns* which was an autobiographical journey of John Cairney and was a most interesting read. You also had an article in *the Banner* about how the Russians love the works of Robert Burns. Back in the 1960's we bought a book by Ian Nimmo which was brought out by the weekly Scotsman and inside the back cover was a record of a Russian children's choir singing *A Man's a man for a' that*. You also mention that Russia brought out a stamp of Robert Burns which I thought you might be interested to see as I have one in my stamp collection.

Just love reading *the Scottish Banner*, keep up the good work.
Jessie Nicol
Queensland, Australia

Ed note: Thanks Jessie for your note and John is still being creative as ever with his art and writing in his beloved Glasgow.

What's in a name

Thanks for writing this article in the November issue. I have struggled with confirming my Scottish ancestry, because my ancestors came to America in the 1700's and the spelling of my last name has changed from the original. I recently received my DNA analysis from ancestry.com: 78% Great Britain, 7% Iberian Peninsula, 6% Ireland, 3% Finland, 3% West Europe, 1% East Europe, 1% Scandinavia, less than 1% Italy/Greece - almost a perfect match to your article. I feel more Scottish now!
Donald C McGlohon
Greenville, NC
USA

Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta



Eileen and Eddie Lyon with Clan Chief, Robin Neill Lochneil Malcolm.

My husband and I recently made the long haul from Sydney, Australia to attend the Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta, USA as the Clan Chief of MacCallum/Malcolm was the Chief of the Gathering and had come from Scotland.

It was a wonderful Gathering in a lovely setting with the Clan and Societies' tents and entertainment stages set amongst the tall forest trees. The sight of 104 Clan and 21 Pipe Bands on the meadow for the Tartan Parade was amazing. There were so many activities going on over the two days it was not possible to visit them all, but the atmosphere was very Scottish.

The North American MacCallum/Malcolm Society members as well as others were so friendly and made us two Aussies feel very welcome - of course it is probably the little bit of Scottish in them! I recommend that every Aussie Scot should attend at least one of these Gatherings in USA to have a great experience.

Thank you Stone Mountain Gathering Committee for an experience which will not to be forgotten.

Eileen Lyon
MacCallum/Malcolm Society of
Australia & New Zealand
Maroubra, NSW
Australia

Ed note: Thanks Eileen for sharing your story and glad you had a great time at Stone Mountain Games and thanks also for stopping by our tent to say hello!

Serendipity & Diaspora

I found myself in Masterton New Zealand on November 30th 2017, after a very long absence, to record my oral history. I was born there, the last of six, to my mother from Newburgh, Fife and father from Port-nahaven, Islay (arr. NZ early 1900's). By chance, I picked up the November 2017 issue of *The Banner* from a wee newsagent in this small town on the other side of the world. Had recently visited my son in Victoria, Australia, near the town of Daylesford, prior to his major operation for cancer of the tongue. Back home reading (and relishing) all the news in the magazine on Saturday 2nd December and imagine my surprise to find on pg. 13 the notice advertising the "65th Daylesford Highland Gathering". They would be meeting at that very same moment in Australia as I was reading the advertisement. My son would no doubt have been present there just as I was reading about it!

Thank you to *the Scottish Banner* for such a wealth of information and memories of my Scots connections including my wife, married 63 years ago in Edinburgh.

Scotland Forever!!
Peter Angus MacGillivray-aged 87 yrs.
Palmerston North
New Zealand

St. Andrew's First Aid



Enclosed is a photo of one of our first aid event teams prepared for a day's volunteering at the Kilsyth Chelodina Festival. Three of our first aiders are in their clan kilts adding the Scottish flavour to the event. Pictured are Max Sheehy, Chief Operations Officer Marcus Byron and Jay Mackley. They are joined by the Chief Commissioner David Fleming, JP who was thrilled to see the Scottish variation to the uniform.

David Alexander-Fleming, JP
Chief Commissioner
St. Andrew's First Aid
Australian Headquarters

Ed note: Thank you David for the great work St. Andrew's First Aid do for the community.

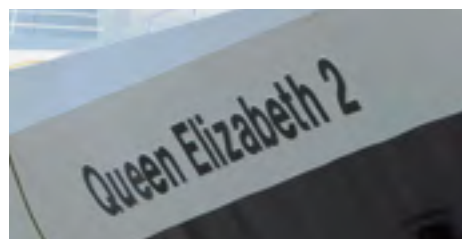
Piper recognition



I was given a plaque at our Lodge on December 12th for service of 20 years as a piper. I am also Care Officer, this involves reporting on the health and well-being of members and their families.

I hope to get another one in 20 years from now!
Des Ross
Australia

The QE2



I really enjoyed reading the article regarding the QE2 (*The End of an Era, Live on TV, Scottish Banner*, October, 2017) written by David McVey as it brought up the memory of my first sighting of the ship. As I lived in Clydebank from 1960-1964, so I knew quite a few people who worked at John Brown's shipyard. I came to live in Australia in 1964 and in the year 2000 I finally had the chance to sail on a 'leg' of her world tour. My husband and I flew to Hawaii a few days before she was due to dock there.

On our last day in Honolulu we took a minibus tour to Pearl Harbour. One of the passengers, who had commandeered the whole back row for himself, talked incessantly in a very loud voice all the way there. He complained the whole way that it was too hot or too cold-we were going too fast or too

slow and he knew absolutely everything. I thought a visit to Pearl Harbour-which was very moving and interesting-might calm him down a bit, but it was not to be and on our way back we had a repeat performance, much to the dismay of the other passengers. Driving into Honolulu we went onto the coast road, turned a corner and lo and behold there she was-QE2-right in front of us and looking every bit a Queen. What a sight.

Well the man from the back seat yells "Wow look at that, wow!" I had great pleasure in standing up and saying "That is the QE2 which was proudly built in Clydebank, Scotland and this afternoon we will be embarking on it to sail to Auckland." There was silence from the back seat and the only sound to be heard was the tittering from the other passengers trying desperately to repress their laughter.

What a wonderful trip that was. In 2001 and 2003 we did different 'legs' and enjoyed them so much too. We have been on a few cruises since then including the Queen Mary on her first voyage to Sydney and sailed to Dubai, but I must say I loved the QE2 the best-I felt I was home.

Anne Koomen
The Patch, Victoria
Australia

Ed note: Thanks Ann for sharing this memory with us and you are so lucky to have experienced such a fine ship.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



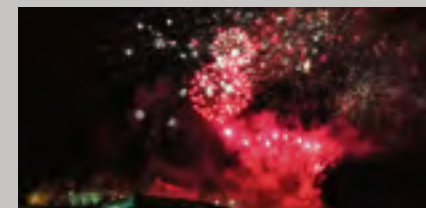
Send your photos or letters via social media

Winter in the Highlands



A winter capture at Buachaille Etive Mòr.
Carolynn Wilson
Scotland

Happy Hogmanay



There were two great firework displays from Stirling Castle esplanade at 9pm and 12am.

Happy Hogmanay!
Robert Gibb
Scotland

A view from the Borders



Here is an image of the Scottish Borders hills around my home town of the Royal Burgh of Selkirk was taken just before the end of the year.

Bryan Johnson
Scotland