

# 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.

## The Robert Burns Club of Camperdown



The Robert Burns Club of Camperdown had a busy week of celebrating the 259<sup>th</sup> birthday of Scotland's bard. The Robbie Burns Memorial Plate was won by "Fill The Flute" at Camperdown Cup race day on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Club president John Menzies had the honour of presenting the plate to the horses connections. Later in the week on the Bards birthday, local performers Angela Preiss, Michelle Benjamin and Don Grieve hosted an afternoon of entertainment in the Camperdown Botanic Gardens.

*Chris Maguire,  
Robert Burns Club of Camperdown  
Camperdown, Victoria  
Australia*

## Melville Castle



This past summer my wife and I visited family in Dumbarton. Before leaving Winnipeg I booked two rooms at Melville Castle near Edinburgh. My wife and I were joined by my two sisters (from Dumbarton). We spent a lovely day in Edinburgh. The highlight was staying at the castle where many Royals had stayed and maybe some of our forebears. We learned that there was a lot of history to the Melville name. I grew up in Dumbarton, left in 1967 with my wife and two kids (Karen and Jeffrey). Been in

Canada since, with the exception of a six year spell working in Bangladesh.

In regard to the interview with the world travelling piper (*The First Piper, Scottish Banner*, August, 2017). When I was in Bangladesh one of our expats (Lever Bros manager and a Scot) was leaving after four years. I contacted the Chittagong police department and was able to get their pipe band (yes) to come to Ian's leaving party. They had some different names for some tunes. They had been originally taught by servicemen from WW2. When these guys paraded in to the yard, playing *Scotland the Brave*, Ian was absolutely blown away. I guess my point is that you can find Scotland everywhere. I will never forget that moment.

*Jack Melville  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Canada*

**Ed note: Thanks Jack for sharing your stories of Scotland and Scots abroad. Scotland is all over the world and we are certainly lucky for that!**

## South African Scots



Wow!! This is an exciting publication. What do you need to get interest in South Africa to publish a South African edition? Maybe that's a simple question to a more complex project but at last I see something which can bring together the various elements of Scots (and generally Celtic) activities and interest throughout the country. We have Pipe Bands, Highland Dancing, Scottish Country Dancing in all the main centres, as well as Caledonian and Scottish Associations. Unfortunately, the latter organisations are declining and many have closed over the years but the Cape Town Callies continues to GROW!!!

My point is that there are many Scots and descendants of Scots in South Africa who, I'm sure, would benefit from a publication like this and it would also be a catalyst in bringing many in the South African Scottish diaspora together to celebrate Scotland again. It's amazing that, when talking to South Africans generally about the Cape Town Callies, how many say that they have Scottish roots. Just as an aside, the number of weddings in the Afrikaans families that have tartan and kilts as the main dress code is quite amazing!

I have to say that the Cape Town Caledonian Society is a registered Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) and its objectives are to bring together Scots and others who love Scotland and, in the long run, assist members when the need arises as well as offering an interesting and fun event or function on a monthly basis – including, of course, St Andrew's Nicht and Burns Nicht – and we promote other functions, not presented by the Society, that will be of interest to members and friends of the Society. We maintain close contact with the Irish and Welsh associations to try to keep the Celtic traditions alive and well.

Personally, I have no publishing background but have put together newsletters styled "The Cape Caledonian" in the past. The Scottish Banner is SO much better (no argument there) and is just the publication that is needed in South Africa. That's the simple but, I suppose, the selfish reasons for having a South African Edition. However, if the interesting stories and information that I've seen in the December 2017 edition you kindly sent to me is anything to go by, I know that all Scots and friends would love to be able to have access to it all at an affordable price.

*Stuart Munro  
Chief – Cape Town Caledonian Society  
Cape Town, South Africa*

**Ed note: Thanks Stuart for such an enthusiastic letter and glad you are enjoying the Scottish Banner. Whilst we are not planning a South African edition you can, regardless of where you live, subscribe to our print or digital editions to keep up to date with the international Scottish community.**

## Sons of Scotland Pipe Band Burns Supper



The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band from Ottawa, Canada, had the honour of performing at the last dinner held by their Benefactors, The Sons of Scotland - Camp Argyll No. 26 – as part of their 127<sup>th</sup> Burns Dinner and Banquet, the largest and longest running in Eastern Ontario. The band put on a concert with guest highland dancers from the Katharine Robinson School of Dance, celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2018, and the Pipe Major added in a special tune written for long time member of the Camp and officer in the Cameron Highlanders Regiment in Ottawa, Ms Joyce Bremner who passed away in August at the age of 86.

The band made its debut in 1896 as part of this special evening, and are proud to have been on hand to play for these past 122 years. Both organizations are proud of their work and heritage, and the pipe band will continue to support the Celtic arts in the Ottawa region and beyond.

*More information on the camp is at  
<http://sonsofscotland.com/about-us/history>  
Bethany Bissaillon  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada*

## The Massacre of Glencoe

I have just watch a movie about "The Massacre of Glencoe" and I must admit being named Ronald Bruce MacDonald (my Mother's name) Marsonet, which means the second son of the God of War and Madness. I am a bit conflicted and if you knew more of my story (I was born in Fort William, Ontario, Canada and my

brother was named Robert because he was born on January 25, 1950 in the shadow of a mountain called Mt. McKay with a lake from which we got our drinking water called Loch Lomond). If you knew the rest of my story related to the Campbell's in this city you would understand my conflict. By the way my Italian grandmother on my father's side was named Angela Furlan (a Gallic name), a name from which I have been told by her relatives was the of a origin of the name McFarlane (McFurlan) plus I am a cousin of a Pisces man named Fisher (related to the Campbell clan) who caused me great pain and suffering. I must admit this night will be a rather difficult one to process in my mind.

Scotland I hope to visit you soon, maybe to stay as a Celtic Scot and Franco/Italian Gaul, I must see Scotland before I pass, especially Iona.

*Ronald Bruce MacDonald (Marsonet)  
Ontario, Canada*

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## The University of the Highlands and Islands



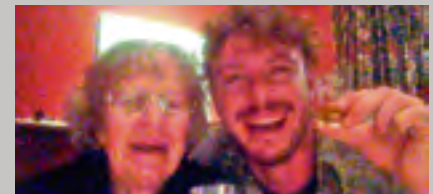
We thought you'd like to see and hear this... all the way from the Outer Hebrides, where we have made a series of short films all about the people and places around the BA Applied Music UHI course here at Lews Castle College on Benbecula and the Isle of South Uist. You can view at: [www.facebook.com/appliedmusicUHI](http://www.facebook.com/appliedmusicUHI) TrixPix Media Isle of South Uist, Scotland

## Glencoe



That tree and the 3 sisters of Glencoe. *Carolynn Wilson  
Scotland Up Close*

## Fond memories of a grandson



Old mate Christine here is moving out of the house she's been in for the last 34 years. Many a fond memory in this ol' spot with Gran, including learning the piano from her.

I'll try to keep up your monthly supply of *the Scottish Banner*, Gran, whether they stock them near your next pad or not. *Slàinte mhath,  
Andrew Gunn  
Auckland, New Zealand*