

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?

The Highland Military Tattoo



We were saddened to learn that the Fort George Tattoo is no longer going to be held. The only military tattoo in the Highlands. What an incredible loss to the community. In 2016, we had the privilege of attending the Fort George Tattoo, on what turned out to be a wild, windy, rainy and cold night. And my goodness, how the warmth and welcome of the military personnel, current, and retired made up for the weather!

Being averse to large crowds, the Fort George Tattoo was the perfect option for us. Many of the same acts as the Edinburgh Tattoo, a marvellous, atmospheric location, and so many advantages. We drove to Fort George, and found parking within an easy walk of the Fort. Arriving early we were met by the 'postman' - a serving soldier, who delighted in telling us the history of the Fort and its inhabitants, and giving us hints on what to look for. And on a practical level, toilets were easily accessible, and the seating was manageable for someone with mobility issues. We had plenty of time to walk around the marquees lining the grassed area before the Tattoo commenced. Each of the marquees was the location of a different group of serving or returned defence personnel. We spoke to the people who looked after soldiers who were vision impaired, those who found energy and solace in riding motor bikes, a group for former soldiers who had lost limbs as a result of their military service, a young man who along with his support

Labrador, were being 'trained' to live with severe PTSD. We spoke to partners of defence force members, and heard the most incredible stories of life, heartache, and hope. And of course, there was the lady who made clothes out of uniforms which were no longer required, for teddy bears, which she then sold, with all proceeds being directed back into a fund for the welfare of soldiers and their families. Oh yes, and the army cook, who had specially made 'Cullen Skink' pies, and his conversation. We had not known so many different support organisations existed, and wondered whether the same sort of supports were available for Australian defence forces personnel also. The impact of war and efforts for peace have many ramifications. Everyone wanted to talk, and we were only too happy to listen. We even heard of a few folk who had at one time or another thought of migrating to Australia - but the thought of so many things that could kill you (snakes, sharks, spiders, mosquitoes, etc), had put them off! We did try to set the record straight!! And that was all before the Tattoo itself. The local gentry and honoured guests marched in, a veritable sea of the most wonderful tartans and Harris tweeds. All close enough to see without binoculars! 'Battles' between different Battalions were 'fought' with energy and grit. The choir comprised of soldiers wives was amazing, even though they were the act who had to contend with the worst of the weather. And the bands were brilliant. I could go on. For atmosphere, and the experience of a lifetime without all the crowds of the Edinburgh Tattoo, the Fort George Tattoo would be difficult to beat. It is a shame it will not continue. Thank you to everyone at the Fort who made our attendance at the Fort George Tattoo such a wonderful and memorable experience. Congratulations, and well done all of you. *Roger Key Grovedale, Victoria Australia*

Ed. note: Thank you Roger for sharing your experience with us at the Highland Military Tattoo, a great event we hope can come back.

Clan Donald Forum in New Zealand



Photo: Neil Macdonald Commissioner Qld, Norman Macdonald Commissioner Vic, Lachlan Macdonald High Commissioner Australia, Pamela McDonald Commissioner WA, Alan Macdonald High Commissioner NZ, Elwyn Mart Commissioner South Island and Tom Macdonald Commissioner North Island.

February 2013 saw the inaugural Clan Donald Australasia get together in Auckland, under the auspices of The High Commissioner for Clan Donald NZ Mr Harold MacIsaac, ably assisted by Ms Pamela McDonald President of Clan Donald WA.

The aims and aspirations which Harold held were that the forums were intended to

encourage interaction, exchange ideas, and foster involvement in Clan activities, both in our own states, territories and across the Tasman.

Sadly, Harold MacIsaac fell ill, and passed away prior to the next forum which was hosted by Clan Donald Australia, during March 2016 at Geelong in Victoria.

Following on from Geelong, Clan Donald NZ held a forum in March 2018, in Christchurch, which had a number of members of the Clan from Australia crossing "the ditch", recently.

I would like, on behalf of Mr Lachlan Macdonald High Commissioner Clan Donald Australia, the CDA State Commissioners and delegates, to extend our congratulations to the team from Clan Donald Canterbury, who put together an interesting program for the attendees, and hope that we in Australia can emulate their success in future.

Jan Macdonald Secretary, Clan Donald Australia

Where is Scotland?

You asked readers to write if they knew of any places outside of Scotland with Scottish names.

In my area, in the outer Northeast of Melbourne, there is a suburb named Macleod. Many of the streets around Macleod, also have Scottish names. To list some, there is a Skye Street, Strathalan Road, Dunvegan Crescent, and Stewart Terrace.

The suburb I went to High School in, is called St Helena. In St Helena, there are streets named Caledonia Drive, Glen Katherine Drive, Angus Court, and MacDhui Avenue.

Scott McPhee, Briar Hill, Victoria Australia

A wee touch with our ain folk

Many thanks for the first issue of our new online version of *The Banner*. Most happy to oblige with the new system; everyone's "doing it" and we are happy to comply.

Best wishes for health of Miss Valerie or whoever owns the situation that has created this necessary change. Please keep us posted, for our continued prayers. Whatever the form, it's great to continue our connection with *the Scottish Banner*, and a wee touch with our ain folk. Wish that we had a supply of some newsprint paper, to keep the original feeling at hand. All the same, our love and thanks to all involved.

Bruce and Janet Wallace Wethersfield, Connecticut USA

Ed note: Thank you Bruce and Janet for your kind letter and for all the North American subscribers who have transferred their subscriptions with us.

St Andrew's First Aid



Please find attached a photo of our first aid post at the Ringwood Highland Games in Melbourne. SAFAA was proud to be a sponsor of the Games as well as providing the first aid and an additional marquee for the main oval.

Pictured with Simon Abney-Hastings, the Earl of Loudoun are first aiders Jordan Wilkinson, Peter Barker and Iain Townsley.

The Earl is the Patron of the Games and serves as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of St Andrew's First Aid Australia.

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

Digital subscription

Just received our first digital copy of *the Scottish Banner*, it looks great. Colors are bright and beautiful. Really impressed. Keep up the good work. We have enjoyed *the Banner* for many years.

Jim and Jean Vennard Delaware (formerly of Glasgow) USA

Culloden Moor



I would like to have my say on the building development application at Culloden Moor (*Scottish Banner*, June, 2018). Being a conservation area and a national memorial my husband and myself are outraged at the proposal of houses being built on Culloden Moor. It is incredibly stupid and short sighted, a preposterous decision. Culloden is a sacred place. How would those people like if a housing estate was built on their sacred ground?

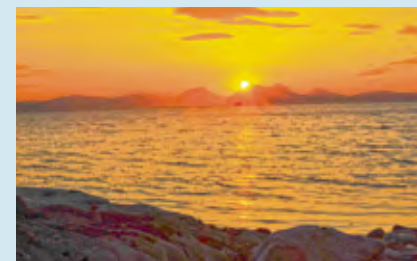
Cheryl Bruce Jennings, NSW Australia

Ed note: Thanks for sharing your views Cheryl and we would like to hear more readers views on this controversial issue.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send your photos or letters via social media

Jura sunset



GN Photogaphy Clydebank, Glasgow Scotland

Coo selfie



Sent by Robert Gibb Scotland

Buachaille Etive Mòr



The unmistakable Stob Dearg at Buachaille Etive Mòr, Glencoe and Black Rock Cottage.

A View From My Camera Midlothian, Scotland