

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?

Maintaining Scottish heritage and culture

I would like to outline a few thoughts regarding the difficulties I see in maintaining Scottish heritage and culture, in this day and age.

My main concern, these days, is the lack of younger people joining clan societies and similar organisations. I know that Clan Leslie of Australia and New Zealand, Society of St Andrew and Toowoomba Caledonian Society, are finding it difficult to attract young people to their ranks, and I am sure that many other clubs have seen the same trend. In our busy communities, folk have more to occupy their time than we did 50, 40, 30 or even 20 years ago, so I know it is hard. But we must keep trying!

Australia is a multi-cultural society, and I find that a lot of attention is given to cultures which have arrived here in recent times. We must maintain interest in our Celtic cultures, and for this, I congratulate the organisers of such organisations as the Scottish Australian Heritage Council, the Celtic Council of Australia and Clans Congress, as well as the many Clan Societies out there.

In my particular case, as Commissioner for Clan Leslie, Australia and New Zealand, I feel that our Clan Society is slowly fading, and we will probably find it necessary to integrate with the Clan Leslie Society International, based in North America. While this will allow us to remain in touch with fellow clansmen, we will, of necessity, lose our local "down-under" identity, to a certain extent.

Your excellent publication keeps Scottish affairs to the fore, and through you, I would like to encourage all those of Scots descent to seek out their clan society, or their local Scottish club, join up, help out, and ensure that our great Scottish heritage and traditions are maintained.

Malcolm Leslie D.Ua.
Commissioner
Clan Leslie, Australia & New Zealand

Ed note: Thank you Malcolm for your note and this issue is being felt by Scottish groups across the world. We would love to hear how Clans, societies, bands, groups and clubs are tackling this issue and we will share experiences and initiatives so Scottish interest groups around the world can keep prospering.

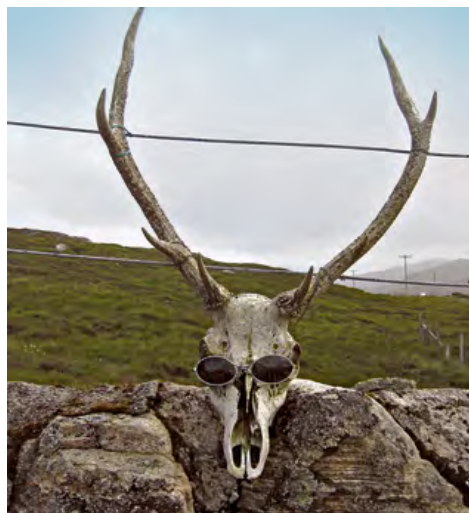
Billy Connolly film release

We are so delighted to have won the tickets and can't thank *the Scottish Banner* enough. We have been buying *the Banner* since migrating to Australia in January 1999 and haven't missed a copy. The paper offers so much valuable information into the past, present and future of Scotland, you keep us in touch with the country we are so proud of.

To everybody who work at *the Scottish Banner*, thank you for all the sterling work that you do, your work is so appreciated.

Kindest regards,
Frank and Liz Keith
Sydney, NSW
Australia

Isle of Lewis



Hope you are well and surviving our cold summer unlike Scotland this year. This photo my husband David took a while ago in Lewis perhaps captures the feeling of Scots in the summer.

Trudi Mackenzie

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



What a joy to read about The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in your October issue (*A Letter from Edinburgh-The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo*).

I have been so very fortunate to attend this event and was blown away by the pageantry and spectacle of it all. The feeling of international friendship was evident on the Esplanade and amongst the guests in their seats. Scotland is rightly proud to host such an event with such an incredible history. I was interested to learn the Tattoo will celebrate 70 years next year, what an achievement and I have now decided I will return for the Tattoo's 70th which will no doubt be another amazing celebration!

Congratulations Edinburgh Military Tattoo and thank you *Scottish Banner* for a great read.

Elizabeth Whaite
Calgary, Alberta
Canada

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send your photos or letters via social media



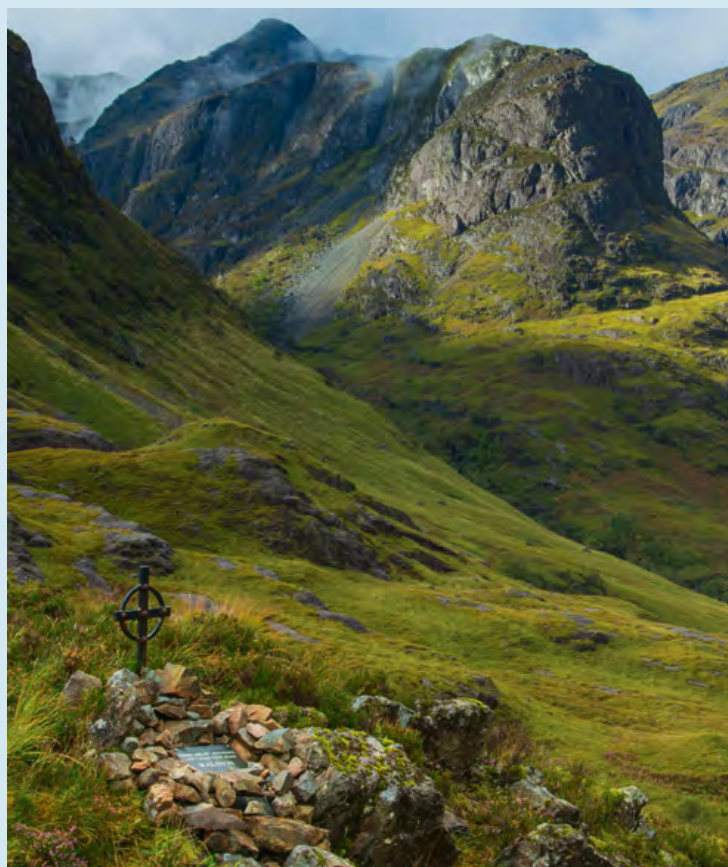
Autumn in Glasgow



Autumn is here in Glasgow, Glasgow Cathedral and The Necropolis.

GN Photography
Scotland

Ralston Cairn



These are my mountains and I have come home- Ralston Cairn.

A View From My Camera
Scotland

Newhaven



Sunset at Newhaven in #Edinburgh last night.

Shutter Bug Shots