

# 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?

## Killin

For Anne, David, Kim and James Gray.

Here the centuries run like seconds, skies of cloud  
and countless suns scud in time-lapse overhead.  
Long swathes of time etch their histories  
on the hillsides, the stones of the river bed...  
This valley gouged by ice felt one day  
the thaw begin, grew gradually green, inhabited –  
and echoes now this summer  
with the bleating of black-faced sheep.  
When did the last ice melt away and the glacier  
leave its footprint here, this small deep loch  
holding in silence its complement of brown trout  
and the elusive char? Such questions disappear in the wind  
whispering at night through Henry's wood, or dissolve  
in the brown water rounding old stones,  
the river's slow revenge on glacial imprisonment.  
Here the summer dark is brief and light,  
laughter and stories dance together in the Lodge ...  
but in Winter, if the mood is right,  
the ice will reassert itself and whip  
the length of glen to gale, from the blind  
face of Strone to Garrogi's spruce towers.  
Each winter brings this inkling back of what  
once was, a cold hackling in the early dark  
of how things were for time beyond remembering.

© Graham Wood

This poem was written for good friends of mine whose family have a lodge in the small glen near Loch Killin in the Monadhliath mountains. It is at the southern end of Loch Ness and is not to be confused with the other Killin, a village near Loch Tay. The poem celebrates the glacial origins of the glen

and the fact that on some days in winter, it is impossible to escape the memory of the ice. In Summer, the lodge is a very friendly place with extended family visiting from all over the world. And in any season, the glen and the loch display the stark beauty characteristic of the Scottish Highlands.

**Ed note:** Thanks Graham for sharing such an atmospheric piece with us.

### Looking to correspond with many like-minded people

Greetings from Adelaide, Australia. I have recently subscribed to this wonderful newspaper and am thoroughly enjoying each paper received monthly. I have also purchased a few CD's/clothing from this site also and am extremely pleased not just with the product selection and the prompt and safe delivery, but also the prompt replies to my enquiries. I will be travelling over to beautiful Scotland again in four weeks (this being my 4<sup>th</sup> trip) and this time heading to the Outer Hebrides, as well as Skye, Islay and the Orkneys. Looking forward to staying in the Bowmore Cottages again and tasting those peaty whisky's from Islay.

Would love to correspond with many like-minded people across the miles. I love music whisky, haggis, travelling, animals and photography. Favourite music: Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Runrig, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and Capercaille.

Rachel Hopkins

Adelaide, South Australia

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### Family of Bruce International



Family of Bruce International, Inc. had their AGM at Stone Mountain Highland Games on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Attending the AGM and visiting the Bruce tent site, were members from the following states: Kentucky, Georgia, Minnesota, New York, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Polly Bruce Tilford  
National Secretary, Family of Bruce International  
USA

**Ed note:** Great to see so many Bruce's come together.

### Kiwi's at Killara



The members of the Royal Country Dance Society at Killara had a wonderful fun day of dance at the Killara Hall on October 12<sup>th</sup> this year were fiddlers from New Zealand who are also guests at the Royal Military Tattoo in October in Sydney. All the dances were introduced by Jan McCubben from the Hunter Valley Branch (Gosford Class) and what a day we had. Some to the dancers came from Newcastle, Epping (Sydney) the southern highlands and the south coast. The wonderful dance orchestra were from

Auckland, New Zealand where they play for the Auckland branch of the RSCDS.

Robert Findley

Gosford Class Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Gosford, NSW

Australia

### My favourite paper

Please find enclosed my annual subscription renewal for my favourite paper *the Scottish Banner*. Whilst it is not due until next month, I want to ensure you have it well before, as I would hate to miss out on a single issue.

*The Banner* is always full of such interesting articles and I look forward to each copy monthly. It's a grand read from cover to cover-taking me back to my Scottish roots, of which I am so proud. Keep up your guid work!

In appreciation,

Mrs Margaret Benney

Craigieburn, Victoria

Australia

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send your photos or letters via social media



### The stag



Lovely stag at Glen Etive he was just amazing.

GN Photography

Scotland

### Glencoe



The ever atmospheric Glencoe before the unforecasted rain...

A View From My Camera

Scotland

### Schiltrom formation



Schiltrom formation on the Falkirk High Street. From this year's battle of Falkirk 1298 event with Britannia XIV Re-enactment.

The Society of John De Graeme

Falkirk, Scotland

### Scottish fiddle competition



Warming up for the Scottish fiddle competition at the Richmond Highland Games.

Clan Currie

USA