

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 Scots are here!



G'day or should I say fit like? (I'm polishing up my Doric to work with my new associate). Please find attached a picture at the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival which took place in Wingham, NSW in June. The photo is of me giving the Jamie Fraser salute during the opening ceremony. I plan to do this every year from now on. It might be worth noting it in *the Scottish Banner* and encouraging other festivals to take up the idea too.

Cheers, slàinte etc.
Wade King
Wingham, NSW
Australia

Ed note: Great idea Wade and we would love to hear from other Scottish events doing unique concepts.

Expat photo appeal

I'm trying to complete a music video project and need some expat help For an explanation please see: www.facebook.com/ForeverHame Appreciate if you can circulate.
John Dawson
Aberdeen, Scotland
Email: johndaw@btinternet.com

Enjoy the Scottish Banner

This is a letter of appreciation. I buy *the Scottish Banner* to take with me when I see a nursing sister I used to work under. She is now a resident of the nursing home she had a large hand in running in Sydney, Australia. She grew up in Port Glasgow and Aberdeen, before she moved with her parents to Australia. That is she met her Czech, immigrant, husband. Let's call my friend, 'Jane'. This is not her real name (she has asked me not to use it) but the name of my first 'girlfriend', Jane Cameron. We were in kindergarten together, part of the English School in Vienna. My father was originally from there, but escaped in 1938 when the Nazi regime took over (with a good deal of Austrian support). He got to New Zealand-Aotearoa, where he married my Ngaire Head, who grew up in the rather Scottish South Island. Jane's parents, Jack and Margaret, were Scottish. I am not sure why Jane and I were inseparable, but we were. So Sr Jane, not her real name, and myself very much enjoy *the Scottish Banner*. It is very much a nostalgia trip for both of us. That is because I also worked in Scotland, in Montrose. That is between Aberdeen and Dundee, in a factory run by 'Chivers' or actually Cadbury. That and Eskfoods (Montrose is on the River Esk besides being a seaside town) have both closed down. I love the Scottish accent(s) and typically Scottish traditions, kilts and cabers and those celebrations beginning with 'K'. And of course, the wit of so many Scots that leaves the English for dead. Maybe it is the hardship that so many Scots have been through that has created that.

There is so much I miss about Scotland, especially when I visit Sr Jane. Thanks again for *the Scottish Banner*.
Stephen Langford OT (Order of Timor)
Paddington, NSW
Australia

Scotland's K66



Dear Sean,
I am belatedly catching up on the July edition in which you rightly celebrate your 45th anniversary – well done is all I can say. Many congratulations on the enduring success of *the Scottissh Banner*, your parents would be very proud of you and your continuing achievements.

Prompted by your editorial and article on K66 (*Get your kicks on Scotland's K66, Scottish Banner, July, 2021*), I effectively covered K66 before its recent formal introduction. I can only echo the comments in the K66 article; I really enjoyed my stay and travels in Kintyre. The McCartney family farm is still owned by Sir Paul and the memorial to Linda in Campbeltown testifies to their love of the region and the region's love of the McCartney family.

I have been fortunate to be able to travel to Scotland every year over the past decade or so, the last such trip was in 2019. It is a shame to realise that, like many, each passing virus-impacted year, reduces the number of prospective trips down the track.

Again, very well done on the continuing success of *the Scottish Banner* and here's to your enjoyment of *The Mull of Kintyre*, hopefully in the not-too-distant future, both visual and aural.

Cheers,
Stewart Campbell

Ed note: Thank you Stewart for your note and we really hope we can all get back to Scotland soon.

Scotland's Castle Corridor



I particularly enjoyed this article (*Scotland's Castle Corridor, Scottish Banner, August, 2021*) as I have been studying the building of the seaway castles on the west coast of the Scottish mainland and the Inner and Outer Hebrides for several years. The last chief of the Clan MacNeil, Ian Roderick Macneil made a personal study of Galley Castles and looked for similarity in structures in the Orkneys and Outer Hebrides.

In 2015 a conference was held on the island of Barra and a number of leading researchers gave papers. Following the conference the Islands Book Trust published a book of the papers edited by Paula Martin and I have a copy of this book.

The castles covered in this book extend from the Orkneys, Western Isles, Inner Hebrides, the west mainland coast castles, Galloway and Ireland. There is a wealth of information in this book.

Sailing down the sound of Mull provides an excellent view of the power of the

local clans with Aros and Duart castles on the isle of Mull and Mingary and Ardtornish on the opposite bank. Further along as one approaches Oban there are Dunollie and Dunstaffnage castles.

Kind regards,
John MacNeil

Wailing widow Falls

*Wailing widow falls
Veils of a tumbling rushing
stream fall over scree as
in a dream, launched to
spray the vertical drop
with no hand of nature
to call it to stop.*

*Streams of water the widow's
tears the consequence of
realised fears, a son in
fullest bloody chase neer
saw the drop over the
waters race.*

*A hunter's mind with thought
of kill took no notice of the
rush of the waters spill, he
followed the hind down the
darkest drop and the tears
that followed never stopped.*

*Now the tears there flow over
scree and hill and the widow's
veils tumble still, in the mist
and rain when the cold winds
blow the widow in her veils
will surely show.*

*Kit Duddy
kitspoems
Caithness, Sutherland
Scotland*

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



Coo



Great to finally get a wee bit of sunshine.
*Scotdrone
Scotland*

Castle Stalker



Stalker Castle on Loch Linhe in Appin.
Ronald Stokes

Mull of Galloway Lighthouse



Mik Coia

The Wallace Monument



The magnificent Wallace Monument in Stirling. Definitely worth climbing the 246 steps to the top for the magnificent views.
*Charles McGuigan
Scotland*