

# 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?

## Ottawa Platinum Jubilee celebrations



The downtown Ottawa Sparks Street came alive on May 21 and 22 to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen and it was quite the party! Pipe Major Bethany Bisailion from the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band put together a show with dancers from the Katharine Robinson, Schiehallion and Stirling Highland Dance Schools, the Ottawa Branch of the Royal Scottish

Country Dance Society, guest pipers from three cities, singers Kevin Offord, Ellen MacIsaac, and Johnny Vegas. There were jubilee cupcakes and a massed band march to celebrate National Tartan Day, and Ottawa Corgis of Ottawa represented The Queen's favourite dogs! It was a wonderful celebration, and one we will always remember!  
*Bethany Bisailion*  
*The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band*  
*Ottawa, Ontario*  
*Canada*  
[www.sospb.com](http://www.sospb.com)

## Tartan Day



On July 1<sup>st</sup> Australians and New Zealanders with Scottish connections will celebrate our own Tartan Day. This date commemorates the day on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1782 that the monstrous 1746 Act of Proscription against the wearing of Highland Dress was repealed. This was largely due to the efforts of James Graham, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Montrose, so let's all celebrate by donning our tartan and wear it with pride on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

As an ancient Scottish ex-pat, I would like to express my appreciation of *the Scottish Banner* which is my monthly antidote to yearning for my birthplace, sadly an impossible dream. So, thank you Sean and your team, long may the *Scottish Banner* continue to fly!

*Jenny Graham*  
*Tasmania, Australia*

**Ed note: Thanks Jenny and we wish all our readers across Australia and New Zealand a very Happy Tartan Day!**

## The Slate Islands



Just received May's *Scottish Banner* and what a delight to see the article on the Slate Islands. My paternal Great Grandparents came from Seil. They moved to Glasgow at the end of the 1800's. My Great Grandfather

and his brother were the islands shoemakers and toolmakers, all the slate workers shoes were 'made to measure' to ensure comfort.

They moved to Oban Drive in Glasgow and Great Grandfather and his brother opened a shoemaking and repair shop in Maryhill Road. My mother and her siblings all had their shoes 'made to measure' when they were school children. When they passed away, they were taken back to Seil and buried in the Angel Hill Cemetery, which was the cemetery for Seil. They were the last of our family to do so.

Going back further in time my Grandmother owned the house where the men changed out of their kilts into trousers to cross to the mainland. Doing the reverse on return, the house still stands today facing The Bridge Over the Atlantic.

That is my family's connection to the Slate Islands. Thank you for a wonderful article.

*Carol Mitchell*  
*Auckland, New Zealand*

**Ed note: Thank you Carol for sharing your family story with us and glad this article was special for you.**

## The Last on Bell Rock



Thank you for such an interesting article in the June edition. I have seen this lighthouse on previous trips and actually have an interest in lighthouses in general. Reading about the last Principal Lighthouse Keeper of the Bell Rock Lighthouse I found both fascinating and nostalgic. We live in such a modern and

automated world it is so interesting to read about a career that is now obsolete due to advances in our technology.

I love everything about Scotland and have visited many times before, and now feel ready to visit again in 2023. I also attend a variety of Highland Games here in California and enjoy the great friendship to be had and sharing my Scottish culture with pride to my friends who I bring along.

Thanks *Scottish Banner* for such an informative mix of news and stories every month, I would not be without it.

*Keith McCormick*  
*San Jose, California*  
*USA*

## Culloden Battlefield



My husband and myself have visited Scotland twice, in 1987 and 2010. We stayed with my husband's brother and sister-in-law, John and Irene Bruce. We visited Culloden Battlefield both times and found it very spiritual, fascinating and very eerie. I could almost envisage the battle, the howls, yells, screams, the clash of swords and boom of canons in use on that fateful day in April 1645.

I myself would recommend anyone visiting Scotland at anytime to visit Culloden Moor and feel the experience. I thoroughly enjoyed it both times.

I remain a loyal reader,  
*Cheryl Bruce*  
*Jennings, NSW*  
*Australia*

## SNP disparaging kilts

SNP policy is to racially discriminate against Indigenous Scottish kids in school, ban kilts and abuse them with cultural-marxist indoctrination.

[www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/scottish-news/snp-want-ban-kilt-scottish-26983361](http://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/scottish-news/snp-want-ban-kilt-scottish-26983361)

*Joshua Markham*  
*E-mail: joshmarkham1@hotmail.com*

## Pen pal wanted

My name is Shayne Hudson and I'm from Evans Head (but now living in Sydney), just up the road from Maclean at a small wee town in northern NSW. My mum Helen Hudson Donagher was born in a snow blizzard in Glasgow Scotland many years ago before she and the family came to Australia. I noticed when I visited Maclean the town that there are family clan names on the telegraph poles up that way including the Sinclair Clan and our family clan name. Do they still do the marches with bagpipes and the caber toss in Maclean?

I have bagpipes though unfortunately they were brought from off the internet and were set up on me as they came from Portugal instead of handmade bagpipes from Glasgow.

I would be interested in a Scottish pen pal and if they write to me then I can write back to say a happy hello just like old days and we could share stories and songs and poems and photos please.

*Shayne Hudson Donagher*  
*122 Kareela Avenue*  
*Penrith, NSW*  
*2750*  
*Australia*  
*Email: surfygoesoff1@gmail.com*

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Sent to our Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts-send us your photos or letters via social media (#ScottishBanner or #TheBanner):

### Caerlaverock Castle



*Mik Coia*

### Castle Stalker



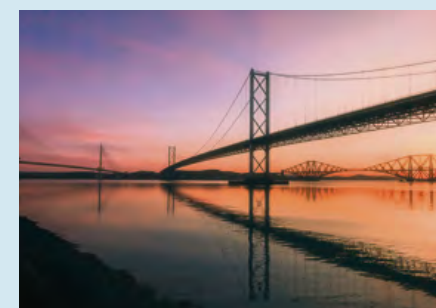
Castle Stalker, Argyll, the rail track was used to deliver goods to the Castle.  
*Ronald Stokes*

### Highland Coo



Who needs a pot of gold when you have your family!  
*The Kilted Photographer*

### The Forth Bridges



The Forth Bridges at sunrise.  
*Aye Spy Photography*