

# 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?

## Geelong Highland Gathering permanently cancelled



So sad, this was such an iconic event for Geelong and was pleased to have attended for the many years. I just hope in the near future, that community will feel the lose of this event and build together to make this happen. I only wish I could help but unfortunately just not old enough!

A very big thank you to all former committee members and volunteers. The Gathering has and always been a part of Geelong's life. I don't know what to do with myself on the last Sunday of March.

Tom Welsh  
Victoria, Australia

## Clan MacNeil Association of Australia needs help in ensuring the continuation of the Australian association

I am now writing to you concerning some urgency to find one or two persons who may be willing to help with the future of the Clan MacNeil Association of Australia. The Clan MacNeil has a well- documented history going back to 1492 in both the Outer Hebrides of Scotland and on the island of Gigha in Argyll. During the period of the Lord of the Isles and his council of clan leaders, there was a clan chief member representing the island of Barra and a clan chief representing the island of Gigha. Both communities had different Norse ancestry. As records of births, marriages and deaths were established in parishes the writing of the names were sometimes in Latin and mostly in early English. Many errors occurred as the writer did not understand the Gaelic local pronunciation and wrote what he had heard. As a result we have many variation of the early name origins. A list of names identified today is attached to this letter.

In recent years the descendants of the MacNeil and McNeill families who migrated to other parts of Scotland, Ireland, England, Canada, America, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia. Local clan associations have been established in America, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. In Australia our association currently has a membership represented in all Australian states and the Northern Territory, America, New Zealand and the Solomon Islands. Many of our members are now in their senior years and are no longer able to participate in some activities as they could at a younger age.

Our constitution provides that the association should have: President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer, Piper, Genealogist/ historian and Editor of the clan newsletter.

While I hold the position as president at the moment, and Alex Buchanan is the administrator of the Clan MacNeil global DNA Ancestry project, all other positions are vacant and I would appreciate hearing from any person who would like to talk with me able their interest in assisting us with the above positions.

Yours aye,  
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Australia  
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## Clan Forbes



Conveners Stephanie Perez and Bart Forbes hosted the Clan Forbes tent at the Sherman (Texas) Celtic Festival and Highland Games. To find out what events the Clan will be at or if you are interested in hosting a Clan Forbes tent at your local gathering, games, or festival, please see: [www.clan-forbes.org](http://www.clan-forbes.org)

Clan Forbes  
USA

## Culloden Lecture

This year's National Trust for Scotland/1745 Association Annual Culloden Lecture, delivered as part of last weekend's annual commemoration marking the 277<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last battle fought on British soil, can now be seen on YouTube. Following a short introduction by the 1745 Association's President, the Very Rev'd Dr Emsley Nimmo, and a tribute to the Association's previous Chairman, the eminent military historian Dr Christopher Duffy who passed away in November, the current Chair Michael Nevin applies Prospect Theory developed by Nobel Prize Winner Daniel Kahneman and his colleague Amos Tversky to assess seven strategic decisions that led to Culloden, as follows:

1. July 1745: Confirmation Bias and the decision to instigate the Rising.
2. August 1745: Loss Aversion, the Sunk Cost fallacy and the decision to continue the Rising after the loss of the 'Elisabeth'.
3. October 30<sup>th</sup> 1745: Decision Framing, the Allais Paradox and the decision to advance into England.
4. December 5<sup>th</sup> 1745: Ambiguity Aversion, the Ellsberg Paradox and the decision to retreat from Derby.
5. December 19<sup>th</sup> 1745: The Endowment Effect and the decision to leave a garrison in Carlisle.
6. February 1746: The Affect Heuristic and the decision to retreat into the Highlands.
7. April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 1746: Optimism Bias, the Night March on Nairn and the decision to stand at Culloden.

Conclusion: Bonnie Prince Charlie Syndrome

The 33-minute presentation is now available on YouTube with sub-titles if required at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cqc-IxbREkU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cqc-IxbREkU)  
N.B.: the YouTube video is of the presentation only, not the subsequent discussion and Q&A, as under the 1745 Association's conventions these are conducted under Chatham House rules.  
Michael Niven  
1745 Association, Scotland

## National Tartan Day, Ottawa



The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band were very pleased to welcome many friends to Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Sunday, April 23 to help them celebrate their 15<sup>th</sup> annual National Tartan Day celebrations in style, and on a grey day that felt reminiscent of Scotland's famous weather. Pipers, drummers, singers, dancers and even corgis graced the Hill in a show that was fun and very well attended – and we look forward to next year's celebration.

Bethany Bisailion  
Sons of Scotland Pipe Band  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada  
[www.sospb.com](http://www.sospb.com)

## International Review of Scottish Studies



Greetings from the Scottish Studies Foundation. We are delighted to let you know that a Special Jacobite Issue of the International Review of Scottish Studies (Volume 47, 2022), is now available in pdf format and can be accessed here: [www.irss.uoguelph.ca/index.php/irss/issue/view/462/89](http://www.irss.uoguelph.ca/index.php/irss/issue/view/462/89)

The International Review of Scottish Studies (IRSS) is the leading interdisciplinary journal for international scholarship on Scottish history and culture, with a mission to create a space for scholars of all career levels exploring Scotland's past and present. This issue is the last to be published by the Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph which is pleased to announce an ambitious new direction for its production. Starting later in 2023, the journal will be published by Edinburgh University Press (EUP) with two issues being produced each year. It is hoped that the prestige associated with EUP and the doubling in the number of issues will attract more submissions and provide the opportunity for issues to be built around specific themes. We will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

Best wishes and thanks for your support.  
David Hunter  
President, Scottish Studies Foundation  
Ontario, Canada  
[www.scottishstudies.com](http://www.scottishstudies.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):

### Ratray Head Lighthouse



The images from Rattray Head Lighthouse. Decided to take a trip to here with the Mrs. We camped in the car which is surprisingly comfy and warm if kitted out right. Sunrise was pretty average, but the waves were amazing!  
AJ Landscape Photographer

### The Forth Bridge



The Forth Bridge through the Anchor.  
Tam Eadie - IG: @eadietam

### Edinburgh in spring



Cherry blossoms on Princes Street, Edinburgh.  
Chasing the Long Road

### Castle Campbell



Stunning shot of Castle Campbell.  
The Kilted Photographer