

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?

Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.2 Novice Juvenile B World Champions



Photo: Facebook.

Over 200 bands competed across 9 grades at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. This year, 4 Victorian bands ventured over to Glasgow to share their music - Old Scotch Pipes and Drums (Grade 3B), Ambulance Victoria Pipes and Drums (Grade 4B), Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.1 (Novice Juvenile A), and Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.2 (Novice Juvenile B). Well done to all bands. To have so many bands play in the World's is simply fabulous and a reflection of the vibrant pipe band community in Victoria. A huge congratulations to Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.2 band who have been crowned Novice Juvenile B World Champions! A simply brilliant result.

Due to an administrative error all the results for Novice B were withdrawn from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) website. As many will now be aware, the results announced for this grade on the day were subsequently deemed erroneous as they had been entered incorrectly. After an urgent review of all results, the RSPBA has just announced corrected results for Novice B and Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.2 were declared World Champions. And true champions they are. In their qualifying heat the band scored 1st from all four judges (1,1,1,1). In the final, they scored three 1st and a 2nd (1,1,2,1).

Of course, there will be tremendous excitement at Scotch College. I am sure there will now be huge celebrations for the boys, staff, tutors and band families. Pipe Bands Victoria certainly looks forward to acknowledging the band's World Championship success at a contest during the upcoming season.

Congratulations also to Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.1 band coming 3rd in Novice A, just pipped for 2nd place by 1 point by West Lothian Schools. The No.1 band's Drum Corps placed 1st at the European Championships (held in Perth) the week prior, coming 2nd at the World's. A fabulous result too. This is the 2nd year in a row that a World Championship title has come back to Victoria, with Haileybury (Grade 3B) and Scots School Albury (Grade 4B) winning their grades last year.

Again, well done to Scotch College Pipes and Drums - both No.2 and No.1 bands. We so look forward to hearing you play across the 2024-25 Victorian Contest Season.

My congratulations also to:

- Old Scotch Pipes and Drums placed 14th (out of 22) in Grade 3B, with a tied score for 12th and 13th preferred back to Ensemble. Well done Old Scotch!!
- Ambulance Victoria Pipes and Drums (Grade 4B) played in the qualifying heats on Saturday morning, but didn't quite make the finals. You did us proud. It's about being there.

You know we'd love to see you in the contest circle locally again!! (Hint: look at the new Grade 4B rule for "shared" players).

I extend my final congratulations to Australian bands:

- Grade 2: Pipe Band Club - 3rd
- Grade 3B: Brisbane Boys Old Collegians Pipe Band - 8th
- Grade 4B: New South Wales Highlanders played in the qualifying heats
- Novice A: Brisbane Boys College Pipe Band - 4th

Karen J Wallace
Chair, Pipe Bands Victoria
Australia

Ed note: Thank you for your great round up of Australian bands at the Worlds this year. Our September issue went to press before the administrative error was announced. The Scottish Banner joins you in congratulating not only Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.2 for their great result, but also all the international bands that travelled to Glasgow and represented their home nations so well.

and imposing battlements, Caerlaverock has been the scene of numerous historical sieges and battles, echoing the tumultuous history of the Scotland-England border.

Did you know? Caerlaverock was the stronghold of the Maxwell family and even withstood a siege by the mighty King Edward I of England in 1300. Despite its formidable defences, the castle eventually succumbed but still stands majestically today, surrounded by a nature reserve that is as peaceful as the castle's past was war-torn.

Thomas Lamont
The Kilted Photographer
Falkirk, Scotland

Caerlaverock Castle



Nestled in the southern reaches of Scotland, this unique triangular fortress has stood as a testament to medieval military architecture since the 13th century. With its moat, twin-towered gatehouse,

Halloween



Wi' fire banked up, nice and reddy;
When aw the weans are washed and fed
And pit aw' tae cosy bed,
Save wee Jock.
He's jined the spirits o' the dead
This late o'clock.

As clouds across the moon did wander
Hoolets screamed their mournful render,
Spirits of the after-world did enter
Wee Jocky's life.
Spirits of all kinds and gender,
This Halloween strife.

Warlocks by their hunert came
An ghosties tae, jined in the game
Wi others yet of equal fame.
"Wa's like us!"
An' uninvited spirits came
By spectral bus.

Blackened ghouls wi' brownies came
And other yins o' equal fame
Joined wizards, bodachs wantin name.
A richt strawmash!
A vulgar mix in hellish vein,
Aw jined the bash.

"Fu fa ma crummocks," Jocky said.
"This hellum, bellum blows ma head.
A think a'll tak me back tae bed.
What think ye?"
Synne Jock he finished wi' the dead
In time fur tea.

Kennedy Smith
Scotland

Thank you

As past president of the Federation for Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia I wish to thank you for the wonderful job you do with *the Scottish Banner*. As *ceann tìghe* (chieftain) and *emeritus* representative for Clan Lamont's Chief, Peter Noel Lamont of that Ilk, on the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, I would also like to thank you.

Dr George Burden
Nova Scotia, Canada

Ed note: Thank you Dr Burden for your kind note of thanks, much appreciated from leaders of the international Scottish community.

The World Pipe Band Championships



Thank you *Scottish Banner* for the round up of the 2024 World Pipe Band Championships. It is always great to read about the day and see the results. Your September cover is also a brilliant choice and it is so

heartening to see our next generation keeping the culture and traditions alive. I feel it is so important to let our kids, and grandkids, know about the past of their bloodline. As we Scots moved around the globe we have given much to the world, including some of our customs. But regardless of how far back you go with it, if Scotland is in you it's in you!

I enjoy reading about all the news and events you offer and thank you again for this issue which celebrated the best in pipes and drums.

Yours aye,
George Buchanan
Melbourne, Florida
USA

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Crail



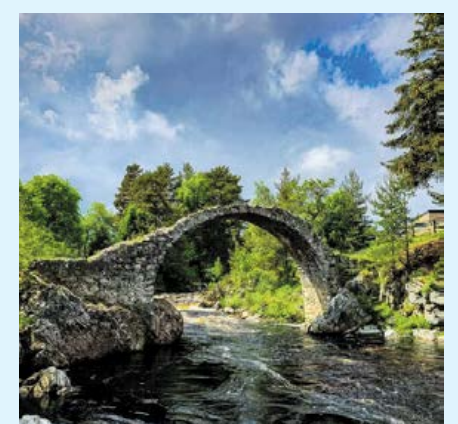
The historic fishing village of Crail in the East Neuk of Fife.
Fly - Caledonia

Isle of Lewis



Stunning day at Tiumpan Head, Isle of Lewis.
Mik Coia

Carrbridge Packhorse Bridge



Carrbridge Packhorse Bridge, also known as Coffin Bridge, is a bridge in the village of Carrbridge. The bridge was built in 1717 to allow funeral processions to reach Duthil Church by crossing the River Dulnain.
Eadietam

East Lothian



Lovely day at Bass Rock, from Berwick Law, in East Lothian.
Derek A Grist

Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Please keep letters under 300 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters can be emailed to info@scottishbanner.com or online at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us, alternatively you may post your letters to us (items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned). Please ensure you include your full contact details should you require a reply. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part!