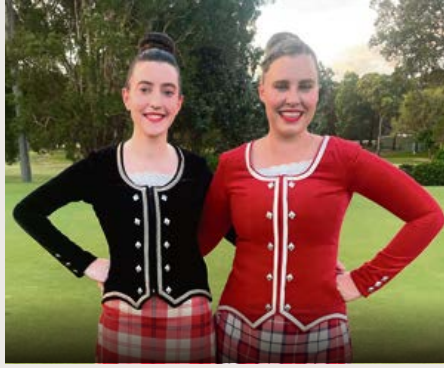


SCOT POURRI

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?

Bribie Island Golf Club Burns Night



On Saturday 25 January 2025, the Bribie Island Golf Club Restaurant - Vernazza Ristorante - hosted a Burns Supper.

The evening commenced with guests arriving to the familiar tunes being performed on bagpipes by piper Jim Lowe. Rhonda Binnie, daughter of two Scottish migrants from Glasgow and Kilsyth, MC'd the evening and commenced with a short history of the Bard. This was followed by the *Selkirk Grace* read by the Head Chef Brian Stott, who hails from Dundee. As the guests were enjoying their Cock-a-Leekee Soup, they were entertained by a lovely dup of dancers from Scotia Highland Dancing.

The girls performed the *Highland Fling*, *Sean Truibhas* and *Wilt Thou Go To The Barracks Johnnie*. Following the dancers, Jim Lowe piped in the Haggis accompanying the chef and then Stuart MacPherson delivered the *Address to the Haggis* followed by our distinguished guest - Lord Steven Burns - a direct

descendent of the Bard, giving the Toast to the Haggis. Many of the Scots present said it was the best haggis they had ever had and those who chose the sausages were equally impressed with their meals.

After the main course, Jean (of Clan Gordon) & Jim Binnie (of Clan MacBain) proposed the *Toast to the Lassies* and the *Toast to the Laddies* and they were followed up by the beautiful young singer - Neve Wintersgill - who had the whole crowd singing along to *Loch Lomond*, *Flower of Scotland* and *Scotland the Brave*. Stuart MacPherson (of Clan MacPherson) and Ally Hannon (of Clan Sinclair) read a few of Burns best known poems including *Ae Fond Kiss*; *A Man's a Man for a' That* and *McPherson's Farewell*. A scrumptious dessert of raspberry trifle was served and then Neve was back and with all guests upstanding, she led them all in a rendition of *Auld Lang's Syne* to end the formal part of the evening. For those who chose to stay on, a selection of Highland country dancing tunes were played.

To see footage from the evening, head to Bribie Island Golf Club Vernal Ristorante Facebook page. If you would like to join in on the celebrations in 2026, please follow the Facebook and get in early as this year's event was sold out back in November.

Kind Regards
Rhonda Binnie CSTD
Queensland, Australia

Starry nights



Stars can't shine without darkness... Went out to attempt to get the Northern Lights, instead ended up doing some astrophotography. Not bad for the first attempt in a long time (and thanks to my sidekick brother for giving me some tips).
Colfin Captures Portpatrick, Scotland

Glasgow

Just to say I have been to Glasgow three times in my 90 years. It was also the home of my great grandfather for a short time, before he came to the USA in 1860's, I remember him well. Once on a ship up the Clyde and twice into the airport for a trip around all of Scotland. And I have also been a member of St. Andrews Society for many years here in USA.

Ronald Esler
USA

Cambuskenneth Abbey



The historic Cambuskenneth Abbey - founded in about 1140 by King David I to serve Stirling Castle, which stands a short distance to the west. It was the scene of Robert the Bruce's parliaments in 1314 and 1326, and the burial place of James III and Margaret of Denmark in the 1480s.

Jamie Taylor Photography
Scotland

Happy Saint Patrick's Day

I am sending you my Saint Patrick's Day poem for everyone to read, thank you and keep up the brilliant work you all do.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day

*It's Saint Patrick's Day and
Everyone is Irish today
And we'll have some fun along the way*

*Green shamrocks and a colourful rainbow
In the clear blue sky
And the shiny pots of gold are in sight
And we'll sing and dance
All through Saint Patrick's night*

*From Tokyo to New York to old
Wicklow Town and on to Australia*

*With classical Irish
Music fills the air
And all the little leprechauns
Are dancing and jumping
Up in the air and the little children
Are having so much fun*

*And I love Saint Patrick's Day and
I'm playing the fiddle on
This special Irish day and
The people are matching through the
Streets celebrating Saint Patrick's Day*

*And the little children
Are running up and down
And chanting Saint Patrick*

*And we'll drink Guinness
And whiskey
All through the night*

*So may the love and luck
Of the Irish be
With you all today on this very
special and loving
And peaceful happy Saint Patrick's Day.*

David P Carroll

Annie Lennox



What a joy it was to read about one of my favourite singers of all time, Annie Lennox (*the Scottish Banner*, January, 2025). I very much knew Annie hailed from Aberdeen however did not know she suffered from agoraphobia. Annie Lennox is clearly in a class of her own when it comes to her commitment to social issues and Scotland should be proud of one of their great daughters, perhaps those values she has were instilled in growing up in Scotland? The music of Annie Lennox and the Eurythmics is still as great today to listen to as it was in the 80s and 90s, even my kids have told me she is 'not that bad', which is a massive compliment from my teenagers!

I feel privileged to have Scottish ancestry and enjoy reading *the Scottish Banner* to keep connected to my roots.

Jennifer Clark
Calgary, Alberta
Canada

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Calton Hill



Calton Hill on a sunny day in Edinburgh. Yes, we do have a couple of sunny days here in Edinburgh every year!
Craig Duncan Photography

Horsing around in the Highlands



Blending in, in the Highlands.
Fly - Caledonia

Forth Bridge



Above the rails of the Forth Bridge.
Kilted Photographer

Glencoe



Black Rock Cottage blending in with the winter landscape of Glencoe.
Soul of Alba Photography

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!