

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?

Hunter Valley Scottish Club Burns Night Supper 2026

The Hunter Valley Scottish Club (HVSC) Burns Night Supper was a wonderful evening filled with rich Scottish traditions and outstanding entertainment. We were honoured to welcome our special VIP, Malcolm Buchanan from Scottish Australian Heritage Council, who kindly presented Graham Adams with a special gift recognition of his remarkable dedication as a piper and tutor, celebrating over 65 years of experience.

Guests were treated to fantastic entertainment throughout the night, including the talented Highlander Celtic Rock Band, The United Miners Pipe Band, Newcastle Highland Dancers, and the talented young man Lachlan King. For the first time, we were also delighted to have Richard Brown from *The Tartan Trail Podcast* join us, along with professional photographer Megan Gael to capture the evening's special moments.



Graham Adams and Malcolm Buchanan.

The raffle of 15 amazing hampers organised by Linda Baer was a fantastic success. A special thank you also goes to Stephen Snedden of Snedden Contracting for the kind donation of a beautiful handcrafted Sgian Dubh for our silent auction.

Our President, Andrew MacPherson, extends his sincere thanks to Secretary Linda Baer and the dedicated HVSC committee for organising such a memorable successful Scottish night.

Linda Baer
Secretary, Hunter Valley Scottish Club
NSW, Australia

Call to Pipers



The Rotary Club of Berry invite pipers to perform at the annual Berry Celtic Festival, to be held this year on the 23rd of May 2026. This invitation extends to any piper experienced in playing a range of familiar Scottish Pipe tunes who wishes to be involved in the festival's street parade and massed bands performance. This invitation presents an excellent opportunity for pipers to be involved in a combined public performance with very reputable pipe bands from around the region at a very popular Celtic Festival.

Registration, tickets and more information is available through the Humanitix ticketing platform
<https://humanitix.com/au/events/au--berry--2535>

The Rotary Club of Berry
Berry, NSW
Australia

Smile

My Scottish grandmother had this poem in her room and thought I would share with your readers.

Smile

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too,

I walked around the corner
And someone saw my grin
When they smiled, I realised
I'd passed it on to them,

I thought about my smile and then
I realised its worth
A single smile like mine could travel
Right around the world,

If you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic-quick
And get the world infected!

Thank you, *Scottish Banner*, for all the smiles you brought my grandmother every month.

Kris Chapman
Buffalo, New York
USA

Ed note: Thank you Kris for sending this, which has made us smile.

100 Pipers Project



2026 marks the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion, and with that comes a celebration that everyone can take part in. The '100 Pipers Project' was created to encourage pipers and drummers in our country to get into their local Legion and play a tune or two. They are asked to contact their Legion, set up a performance – be it inside or out – anytime this year, and send us a photo once done. From a solo piper or drummer to a full band – all are encouraged to take part.

Using the contact form on the Sons of Scotland website, we will list the proposed performances until the goal of 100 Legions is met. With 1350 Legions Canada-wide, we know that there are lots of opportunities to visit your Legion and make this part of your year, and theirs. With free membership all year, the Royal Canadian Legions need and deserve our support. And with this project, we can share our great music with them.

Please visit our website at www.sospb.com and go to the 'Royal Canadian Legion' page for all the details, and to see who's signed up and ready to play!

Thank you,

Bethany Bisailion
Sons of Scotland Pipe Band
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Thank you for sharing this great project with us for a great organisation and hope many take up the call.

Gunsmith

Regarding David McVey's article on 007 James Bond's pistol (*007's Glasgow Gunsmith, the Scottish Banner, March, 2026*). My father, BRIG. Clarence McKee, was C.O. of Canada's 1st Corps Army Signals all through their battles in Sicily and Italy in 1943-'45. He carried at first a 1st War Smith & Weston massive .455 very heavy revolver; an unnecessary large weapon he felt. So, he told one of his junior officers to tell a dispatch rider to take a small pistol from a captured Italian infantryman. This was done within a few days – a neat little 'pistole Baretta' of .32 calibre – in, of course, a beautiful Italian leather holster.

He used to just carry it in a uniform or coat pocket – ideal for a senior officer just in case situations called for him to encounter not-yet-overrun enemy. Just as he asked. He brought it home with him (after all, it wasn't an 'issue!'), and I, a returned Naval officer, tried it out. As Mr. McVey and Ian Flemming noted, it wasn't much of a pistol – very inaccurate even at close range, and anyway fortunately he had no occasion to actually use it. Interestingly, on its butt was a metal disk saying it was actually a NAVAL weapon – 'RM – Regio Marina!' Fires a North American colt .32 rim fired ammo. I turned it in about 15 years ago as requested by local police in exchange for a small camera, to 'get guns off the street.' I can see why Bond (and Flemming) wanted a better weapon!

Fraser Murray McKee
Commander, RCNR (Ret'd)
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Thank you, Fraser, for sharing this interesting piece of your family history.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Loch Etive



Stunning reflections on Loch Etive.
Mik Coia

Highlands



You take the high road...
Fly – Caledonia

The Kelpies



The magic of The Kelpies.
The Kilted Photographer

Edinburgh



Incredible Edinburgh!
Ryans Photography