

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?

Our Swedish Piper



Our son Tom Mackenzie in Sweden comes a close second to the article about Angus Smith (*The Arctic Piper, the Scottish Banner*, July, 2024) in your July issue. Thomas and his family have been living near Orebro, Sweden for the past six years and have sent the sound of pipes through the forests and lakes.

Since the locals have discovered they have a piper in the village, he has recently piped in the meat for their Midsummer festivities. Tom in the past has played with the Melbourne Highland Pipe Band, Frankston RSL Pipes and Drums and The Miners in Newcastle, NSW. Tom's wife Kylie is a marine biologist, and they have both spent time in Alaska predominantly around Anchorage and Seward. Being a Mackenzie, Tom wears the Mackenzie regimental kilt given to him when the Seaforth regiment was disbanded. Tom works as an engineer in Sweden for Orica Industries and at this stage continues to be a lone piper amongst the beautiful lakes and forests.

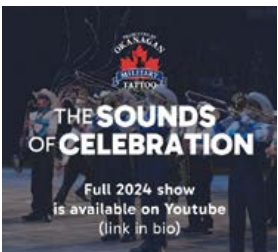
Tom's father is a proud Fort William man and together with his wife are committee members for Clan Mackenzie Australia.
**David & Trudi Mackenzie
Mornington, Victoria
Australia**

The Arctic Piper



It's lucky we are, to have gathered Angus (*Angus Smith – The Arctic Piper, the Scottish Banner*, July, 2024) into our fold those years ago. He has become a solid Alaskan, and we hold him high in our estimation. His goal is to be elected Lieutenant Governor of the State of Alaska. Perhaps one day we'll make that happen!
**Dennis Stephens, Piper
Fairbanks Red Hackle Pipe Band
Fairbanks, Alaska
USA**

Relive the Magic of "Sounds of Celebration"



We are thrilled to share the unforgettable moments from the "Sounds of Celebration" event that took place on May 25-26! From vibrant tunes to boundless energy, dancers, musicians, military bands, and marching troops created an electrifying atmosphere that filled our hearts with joy. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended the shows, making this event a resounding success! Your presence and enthusiasm were truly the driving force behind this magical event. A special thank you to everyone involved in organizing the shows and to all the talented performers. Your passion and dedication were the essence of this celebration.

Relive the magic and joy of this year's show from the comfort of your home. Don't miss out on the spectacular performances and

unforgettable moments. Head over to our YouTube channel and enjoy the celebration: www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsxsrHOI8FU

**Nick Zrazh
Okanagan Military Tattoo
British Columbia, Canada**

Happy birthday Scottish Banner

I have just put down my July issue and take note *the Banner* has just turned 48. I have been a reader for many years and each issue brings me a connection to the land of my birth and the global Scottish community. I know many people from around the world not only read *the Scottish Banner* but also contribute to it and that is what I love so much.

I enjoy the many articles and also the letters from folks across the globe. I have learnt much from these pages that I do not remember being taught in Scotland, maybe I was not paying attention! To reach 48 years in today's world is a great achievement and I would like to send my best to all the contributors and staff of *the Scottish Banner*. This lass from Glasgow wishes you many more years ahead!

**Irene Young
Auckland, New Zealand**

Ed note: Thank you Irene for your kind wishes and we also enjoy hearing from readers across the world, our readers make the Banner!

Victorian Band successes at the European Championships



Brisbane Boys College Old Collegians at the European Pipe Band Championships. Photo: Facebook.

Wonderful news from Scotland with great success for our Victorian bands competing at the European Pipe Band Championships on 11th August in the beautiful Scottish city of Perth.

Just fantastic results and, on behalf of us all, congratulations to all pipers, drummers, band tutors, Pipe Majors and Drum Sergeants

- Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.1, 7th in Novice A (11 bands in grade)
 - Scotch College Pipes and Drums No.2, 2nd in Novice B (20 bands in grade)
 - Old Scotch Pipes and Drums, 7th in Grade 3B (15 bands in grade)
- Victoria also sends congratulations to competing interstate bands:
- Brisbane Boys College Old Collegians, 4th in Grade 3B
 - Brisbane Boys College Pipe Band, 3rd in Novice A and 9TH in Novice B
 - The Pipe Band Club, 2nd in Grade 2. (14 bands in grade)

Fabulous results all round. You're doing Australia proud.

**Kind regards,
Karen Pipe Band Victoria Chair
Victoria, Australia**

Tae A Stick O' Liquorice



This poem Tae A Stick O' Liquorice in a way it recalls the shortage of sweets endured by kids during World War II - I remember it well!

Lang ago in times o' yore,
When passing Nan McGlashan's store,
I there did notice on the floor
(A' couldna miss);
For there to see ahint the door
A stick o' liquorice.

Sae stately there wi' shiny coat
In solemn-black as Colin's goat,
Saliva juices caught ma' throat
Just lookin' there.
I'd gie a tanner fur the lot
- I thought it fair.

Yet, mighty me, the shoppie's shut
Like a' the ithers in a rut.
It felt like punches tae ma gut;
Nae sugeralli?
I felt like saying, "tut oh tut,"
Or something similarly.

That nicht, Ah dreamt o' liquorice laces,
Sweetie pipes went through their paces;
Coal-black straps wi' funny faces;
Filled the nicht;
Aw as bad as Kelly's races
In a fecht.

Fu fa ma' crummocks, stone the crows,
As true as anybody knows,
Ye canna keep a guid man's brose –
Alicreashless
For that has got me by the nose
Tae ma' distressless.

Tak tent, guid freends a' tell ye aw,
Dinna sook lest ye should fa'
Wi stick o' liquorice atween yer jaw
Like yon posh birkie.
Yer wallies soon will rot awa,
A toothless turkey!

**Kennedy Smith
Scotland**

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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

Forth Bridge



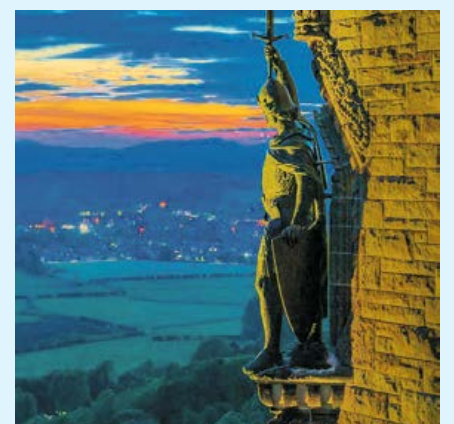
Reflections at the iconic Forth Bridge, opened in 1890. *Fly – Caledonia*

Heilan Coo



Things really are looking up!
J T Photography

Sir William Wallace



Sunset at the Wallace Statue, Stirling.
The Kilted Photographer

Glencoe



Sunset at Glencoe. IG: @eadietam

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@scottishsbanner.com or online at www.scottishsbanner.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!