

# AUSSIE-SCOTS NEWS

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A publication of the AUSTRALIAN SCOTTISH COMMUNITY (Qld) Inc.

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*OUR AIM: "To collaborate with other Scottish and Celtic Groups to maintain, promote and advance the Scots culture and Heritage in Australia."*



*To our members we wish you a very  
Merry Christmas  
And a wonderful  
New Year*

*From  
Your new committee  
Jan, Darcy, Lyn, Tom, Vic and  
Janette and our outgoing secretary  
Margaret who will be missed.*

## YULETIDE CUSTOMS OF OLD SCOTLAND

Christmas & New Year were equally welcomed by Scots before the Reformation of the 16th-17th centuries. All the customs of both festivals stem from that time.

The name comes from the Scandinavians, for whom 'Yultid' was the festival celebrated at the twelfth month, being the twelfth name of Odin, who was supposed to come to earth in December, disguised in a hooded cloak. He would sit awhile at the fire-sides listening to the people, and where there was want he left a gift of bread or coins. (Strains of Father Christmas here!)

Christmas was often known as Nollaig Beag, Little Christmas. The custom was to celebrate the Birth of Christ with all solemnity, the festivities began a few days later, and spilled into New Year and Twelfth Night, which was known as 'Little Christmas'. However, the French often called Christmas colloquially, 'Homme est né' (Man is Born) which is thought by some scholars to be the origin of the word, 'Hogmanay', stemming from the time of the 'Auld Alliance'.

The Reformation hit Scotland as hard as everywhere else. By 1583, Bakers who made the Yulebreads were fined, their punishment could be lessened if they gave the names of their customers!

In 1638 the General Assembly in Edinburgh tried to abolish Yuletide.

While the same things were going on south of the border, with the Restoration of the Monarchy came the restoration of Christmas. In Scotland, the rigid laws of the new Kirk still frowned upon Christmas celebration, so it stayed underground. Only the High church and the Catholics kept the old traditions going.

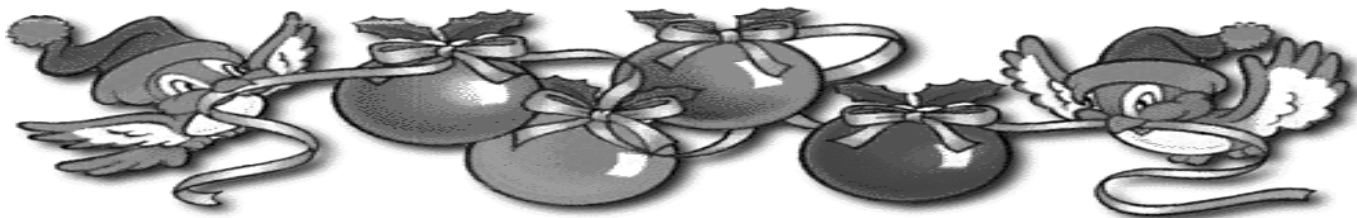
In England many of the symbolisms and earlier religious elements were lost, and it took the intrepid Victorian historians to gather together the remnants and re-establish Christmas, an effort which was helped by the strongly Christmas orientated Royal family with its German Prince Consort. The Reformation in Germany had hardly touched Christmas at all, and Prince Albert brought it all to the public eye.

English custom was not particularly accepted by Scotland. The inherent need to celebrate came out in Scotland as a great revival of the New Year celebrations. In fact, hardly changed at all because Old Christmas comprised three days of solemn Tribune, church services, fasting and hard work. Church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Followed by a day of Charity on the Feast of Stephen and which we now call Boxing Day. No-one would have thought much about parties and frolics until after these days were over. Then the solemnity gave way to joyous and often rowdy celebration and holiday under the name of 'Homme est né' or Hogmanay.

Being intended by the reformed church, as a day of prayer, the puritanical elements gradually closed in on all those who defied the new laws and continued their festivities. In England soldiers were chosen especially for their noses a long nose was thought to be able to sniff out the spices in the Christmas Baking better! In Scotland the Bakers were encouraged to bake in-form on their customers. In their attempts to stamp out frivolity, they prescribed that Christmas would be a working day. So it became the custom to work over Christmas.

This prevailed throughout the whole of Britain, especially in the working classes. Until 40 years ago postmen, bakers, transport workers, and medical staff were commonly expected to work, but because of the Victorian revival of Christmas in England, many other establishments closed, while in Scotland shops and many offices stayed open.

However, this did not mean that people did not celebrate Christmas. Often they would go to Church before work, or at Lunchtime, or in the evening. They would have a Christmas Tree and a Christmas Dinner and children went to bed expecting that kindly old gentleman to call with a gift or two.



*This is our 100th issue. Hard to believe. At this point I would like to thank Margaret for all the hard work she has put into the Australian Scottish Community. She has worn many caps in her service on the management committee and has excelled in all she has done. I was honoured when she asked me to take over as editor of the newsletter two years ago. From all of us Margaret we thank you for all you have done. We appreciate your good work. You will be hard to replace.*

## Scottish Christmas Traditions

### FIRST FOOTERS

It was and still is the custom for a stranger to enter the house after midnight on New Years Eve/Day. There were taboos about the luck such a stranger would bring, especially in the days of hospitality to travelling strangers. A fair haired visitor was considered bad luck in most areas, partly due to the in-fighting between the dark scots and the fair Norse invaders. However, in Christian times, a fair haired man was considered very lucky providing his name was Andrew! Because St Andrew is the Patron Saint of Scotland. A woman is considered taboo still in many areas!

The Firstfooter must make an offering, a **HANSEL**. This can be food, drink or fuel for the fire. The ritual which have grown up around this custom are many. An offering of food or drink must be accepted by sharing it with everyone present, including the visitor. Fuel, must be placed onto the fire by the visitor with the words 'A Good New Year to one and all and many may you see'. In todays often fireless society the fuel is usually presented as a polished piece of coal, or wood which can be preserved for the year as an ornament.

### Divination customs - Ashes, Bull, Cailleach

There are a number of ancient divination customs associated with Scottish Christmas tradition. One involves checking the cold **ashes** the morning after the Christmas fire. A foot shape facing the door was said to be foretelling a death in the family, while a foot facing into the room meant a new arrival.

Another was the ceremonial burning of Old Winter, the **Cailleach**. A piece of wood was carved roughly to represent the face of an old woman, then named as the Spirit of Winter, the Cailleach. This was placed onto a good fire to burn away, and all the family gathered had to watch to the end. The burning symbolised the ending of all the bad luck and enmities etc of the old year, with a fresh start.

### Black Bun.

Originally Twelfth Night Cake. It is a very rich fruit cake, almost solid with fruit, almonds, spices and the ingredients are bound together with plenty of Whisky. The stiff mixture is put into a cake tin lined with a rich short pastry and baked.

This takes the place of the even more ancient **Sun Cakes**. A legacy from Scotland's close associations with Scandinavia. Sun cakes were baked with a hole in the centre and symmetrical lines around, representing the rays of the Sun. This pattern is now found on the modern Scottish Shortbread, and has been misidentified as convenient slices marked onto the shortbread!

Late this year Ben and Ann Power flew out of Brisbane on their way to Scotland. We sort of have an empty hole in our lives. Eventually all of the Gaelic Dream Team will find their way to Scotland to a new life. Ben and Ann have found a very nice home there and Remy is spending his Christmas with them. Snow is falling heavily and black ice coats the roads. One temperature reading I saw gave them a high of -1 degree and a low of -7 degrees and you know what. Given the chance I would be there right now. You can always get warm getting cool is another matter. Nice to see Scotland getting back to it's normal weather for this time of year. I remember almost fifty years ago with snow over the tops of the telephone poles in Yorkshire. It was the same in 1967 with snow at the tops of our French doors in Cambridge. I wish them well in the Auld country.



*Historic Ormiston House*

will be open for inspection and Devonshire Teas on Sundays - 12 noon to 4pm from 7<sup>th</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2010 including the following 'Special Event Days' when it will open from 10.30am to 4.00pm

May 16<sup>th</sup> Highland/Celtic Celebration  
June 6<sup>th</sup> Porsche Club of Qld (Inc) Concours  
June 27<sup>th</sup> Camellia Day  
July 25<sup>th</sup> Rolls Royce Concours d'Elegance  
August 8<sup>th</sup> Mercedes Benz Concours d'Elegance  
August 29<sup>th</sup> Spring Garden Party

Admission: Adult \$5.00/Child \$1.00  
Devonshire Tea: Adult \$4.00/Child \$2.00

**"Music Beneath the Stars"**

will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2010  
Recognised as the birthplace of the Australian sugar Industry Historic Ormiston House with its spacious grounds overlooking Moreton Bay is regarded as one of the finest examples of colonial architecture in Queensland. You are invited to organize a picnic, enjoy a Devonshire Tea and inspect the House which is a treasure trove of early Australian history For information, weekday Club, Coach or School tour bookings:  
Honorary Administrator Meg O'Driscoll Ph/Fax 07) 3824 1285

Ormiston House 07) 3286 1425 or 0417 717 481  
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## SCOTTISH BRAGGING PAGE

### Monte Rey aka J M Fyfe or Montgomery Fyffe

Born James Montgomery Fyfe on October 5th 1900, Monte Rey as he later became known did not truly begin his singing career until he was 26 years old, relatively late in showbiz!

Having been sponsored by the Duchess Of Montrose and the film star Jack Buchanan amongst others he decided to take classical singing seriously and left for Milan, Italy to study under singing teacher Briano Onielo (who comically turned out to be an Irishman named Brian O'Neil)!!!

As Montgomery Fyffe he appeared in many prestigious London venues such as the Albert Hall and the Wigmore Hall. The second list below includes all the songs Monte recorded under the Fyffe name but finally by 1934 he had become the Monte Rey that we all remember so well! Joining Geraldo after a series of successful radio shows he stayed with him until 1939 alongside working with Joe Loss until 1941. During this period Monte also undertook a series of recordings for transmission by Radio Luxembourg which comprise arguably his finest body of work. The second list features five Scottish songs including a glorious version of Annie Laurie.....there was not a dry eye in the house when he closed with this number!

Along with the first list singing as Monte Rey the quality of his singing proves he deserves his place among the great tenors of the day such as John McCormack and Richard Tauber.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Donkey Serenade</li><li>2. One Day When We Were Young*</li><li>3. Così, Cosa* (with The Ovaltineys)</li><li>4. Alone* (with Geraldo &amp; His Gaucho Tango Orchestra)</li><li>5. Russian Rose</li><li>6. Beyond the Blue Horizon** (with The Ovaltineys)</li><li>7. Can I Forget You?*** 10. Te Quiero Dijiste* (with Geraldo &amp; His Gaucho Tango Orchestra)</li><li>11. Green Eyes</li><li>12. Grinzing*</li><li>13. Balloons (Who'll Buy My Nice Balloons?) (with The Ovaltineys)</li><li>14. One Song* (with Geraldo &amp; His Orchestra &amp; Chorus)</li><li>15. The Veteran's Song* (with The Ovaltineys)</li><li>16. Come Back My Love</li><li>17. Lamento Borincano (Cuban Moonlight)*</li><li>8. Vieni, Vieni* (with Phil Green - accordion)</li><li>9. Jerome Kern selection* (a) Lovely to Look At (b) Look for the Silver Lining (c) Dancing Time (d) Smoke Gets In Your Eyes (e) I Won't Dance (Vocalist: Monte Rey)</li><li>18. You Belong To My Heart (Solamente Una Vez)</li><li>19. Sweetheart, We'll Never Grow Old</li><li>20. 'Music for Madame' film selection* (a) I Want the World to Know (b) My Sweet Bambina (c) Music for Madame (Vocalist: Monte Rey)</li><li>21. Hasta Mañana (Come Around Some Other Day)</li><li>22. The Stars Will Remember (So Will I)</li><li>23. El Sombrero De Gaspar* (with The Ovaltineys and Phil Green -accordion)</li><li>24. Come to the Fair* (with The Ovaltineys)</li><li>25. Only A Rose* (with Geraldo &amp; His Orchestra)</li><li>26. Love Walked In* (with Geraldo &amp; His Orchestra)</li><li>27. Mia Canzon' D'Amore (My Song Of Love)</li><li>28. Lady Of Spain</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. L'Ultima Canzone*</li><li>2. Io Non Ho Che Una Povera Stanzetta* ('La Bohème') (Leoncavallo)</li><li>3. You Are My Heart's Delight*</li><li>4. Viens, Mina, Viens! (Lied Des Venezianischen Gondoliers)* (Acoustic recording)</li><li>5. Zueignung* (Acoustic recording)</li><li>6. Passing By*</li><li>7. Ae Fond Kiss*</li><li>8. The March Of The Cameron Men*</li><li>9. Vida Mia** (with Geraldo &amp; His Gaucho Tango Orchestra)</li><li>10. Shine Through My Dreams**</li><li>11. O Maiden, My Maiden*</li><li>12. Cara Mia*</li><li>13. Funiculi, Funiculà* (with chorus)</li><li>14. Torna A Surriento*</li><li>15. Believe Me, If All Those Endearing Young Charms*</li><li>16. The Rose Of Tralee**</li><li>17. Santa Lucia</li><li>18. Come To The Ball* (with chorus)</li><li>19. Where'Er You Walk* ('Semele')</li><li>20. Miserere* ('Il Trovatore') with soprano (Sung in English)</li><li>21. Ay, Ay, Ay*</li><li>22. Wien, Du Stadt Meiner Träume (Vienna, City Of My Dreams)* (with Geraldo &amp; His Gaucho Tango Orchestra)</li><li>23. The World Is Mine Tonight**</li><li>24. My Heart Will Never Sing Again**</li><li>25. Granada</li><li>26. O Sole Mio* (with Bert Waller - piano)</li><li>27. Scots Wha Hae* (with chorus)</li><li>28. Herding Song (with Albert Gordon - piano)</li><li>29. Annie Laurie* 'live' (with Joe Loss &amp; His Orchestra)</li></ol> |
|---|--|

**The music listed above is only some of his work. A very well known artist and popular in his time.**

**I have some of his work in my large music collection and I am actively seeking more LP records as this man does not deserve to fade away into obscurity. I am very happy to rate him with Richard Tauber, Josef Schmidt, Joseph Locke as one of the great Tenors of the 20th century, and one of the best singers to ever come out of Scotland.**

**You may hear him on 4EB FM in the very near future. Editor**

**Maira Anderson**, OBE (born 5 June 1938, Kirkintilloch, East Dunbartonshire) is a Scottish singer. Following an education at Lenzie Academy, Anderson quickly established herself at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow before getting her big break in the media after a successful audition at the BBC. She landed her first job in the media, presenting the radio programme *Can't Help Singing* where she sang with some prestigious names from the world of opera. She went on to make many appearances in the TV series *The White Heather Club* hosted by Andy Stewart. She went on to host her own television show, the popular *Maira Anderson Sings* which ran for several years. By 1970 she had signed up with the Decca Record Company, performed at the London Palladium and was hosting yet another show *Stars On Sunday* which ran from 1969 to 1977. Anderson has gone on to create many albums and is renowned for her charity work. In her early career Anderson made frequent appearances alongside fellow Scottish music stars, Kenneth McKellar and Andy Stewart. In the early 1980s she made a successful album of duets with Sir Harry Secombe. Her musical directors over the years have included Peter Knight, Peter Hope, Robert Docker, Robin Stapleton, Peggy O'Keefe, Bernard Sumner and Nick Ingman.

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## DIARY DATES 2010

**Sunday 17th January Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Sausage Sizzle. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. (Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 12 mid-day Sausage Sizzle. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary**

**Saturday 23rd January "Burns Supper and Dance" 6.30 for 7.00PM Gaythorne RSL Samford Rd Mitchelton Carpark and entrance at back. 3 course meal. **Pre paid bookings essential.** Closing 13th January Kate Wyse 3369 2232 Tickets \$30**

**Sunday 21st February Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Sausage Sizzle. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. (Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 12 mid-day Sausage Sizzle. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary**

The **2010 Tartan Spectacular** will be held in Caloundra on the beautiful Sunshine Coast on Easter Saturday, 3 April 2010  
Alex McConnell, Secretary  
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Media inquiries: Callum MacSween, +61 412 037 496  
[media@tartanspectacular.com](mailto:media@tartanspectacular.com). Any member who wishes to assist please let the President know .

**Sunday 4th April** Rathdowney Heritage Festival  
9AM to 5PM Lyn and I will attend this as Ian and Margaert will be attending the Tartan Spectacular in Caloundra. **Any member who wishes to assist please let the editor know.** We will need assistance with putting up the tents. Should be a good day as long as the rain stays away. Phone number on front or email editor at [editor@aussie-scots.org.au](mailto:editor@aussie-scots.org.au)



Join the Redlands Sporting Club Pipe Band for an evening of traditional Scottish dishes and culture at our Burns Supper Dance on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2010 at the Donald Simpson Centre (Cnr., Bloomfield St., & Russell St., Cleveland). Bookings are essential through Joy (3207 0928) or Gail (3286 5092). A licensed bar will be open. No B. Y. O is permitted. Adults \$15.00. Children under 16 free.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the Redlands Sporting Club Pipe Band on the evening of Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 at the Donald Simpson Centre, (Cnr., Bloomfield St., & Russell St., Cleveland). You can let your hair down on the dance floor and sit back and enjoy the displays of traditional Irish dancing by the Jill Dobbs School of Dancing and the pipes and drums by the host band. A licensed bar will be open. No B. Y. O is permitted. Bookings are essential through Joy (3207 0928) or Gail (3286 5092). Adults \$10.00. Children under 16 free.

Join the Redlands Sporting Club Pipe Band to celebrate the survival of the tartan at our Tartan Day Ceilidh on the evening of Saturday, 20th June, 2010 at the Donald Simpson Centre (Cnr., Bloomfield St., & Russell St., Cleveland). Bookings are essential through Joy (3207 0928) or Gail (3286 5092). A licensed bar will be open. No B. Y. O is permitted. Adults \$10.00. Children under 16 free.

Redlands Sporting Club Pipe Band invites you to celebrate the Celtic tradition of Halloween in costume-(optional); dance; fun & games & treats galore for the children. The function will be held around the 31<sup>st</sup> October. (Exact details to be provided in the future). Bookings are essential through Joy (3207 0928) or Gail (3286 5092). A licensed bar will be open. No B. Y. O is permitted. Adults \$10.00. Children \$2.00. Scare you later!

Join the Redlands Sporting Club Pipe Band to celebrate St. Andrew's Day in the relaxed atmosphere of a concert. The evening will include a great flow of traditional Scottish entertainment & of course the serving of Haggis. Bookings are essential through Joy (3207 0928) or Gail (3286 5092) for the evening of Saturday, the 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 at the Redlands Sporting Club (Anson Rd., Wellington Point).

Sweep the old year out and the new in at a Scottish Hogmanay hosted by the Redlands Sporting Club Pipe Band on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2010 at the Donald Simpson Centre (Cnr., Bloomfield St., & Russell St., Cleveland). Bookings are essential through Joy (3207 0928) or Gail (3286 5092). A licensed bar will be open. No B. Y. O is permitted. Adults \$10.00. Children under 16 free.

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