

AUSSIE-SCOTS NEWS

NEWSLETTER , NO 99

October 2009 / November 2009



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."

Third of pupils off sick as swine flu sweeps city school

13 October 2009

SWINE flu has swept through one of Edinburgh's top private schools, hitting more than a third of its pupils.

A total of 160 youngsters have contracted the H1N1 virus at Merchiston Castle School, while up to ten staff members have also fallen ill.

A whole year group of around 60 children had to be sent home at the end of last week because more than half had swine flu, while the school – which offers boarding facilities – has brought in extra nursing cover and more beds for the ill pupils. Sporting and social events, including a harvest thanksgiving, have had to be cancelled. No-one has yet needed hospital treatment.

Merchiston Castle, an all boys school, described the virus as spreading like "wild fire". However, they believe the school is coming through the worst of the outbreak, which started a week ago with just 12 pupils.

Nigel Rickard, deputy headmaster, said: "Presently we have about 60 pupils off school, both boarding and day pupils. We feel that things are improving.

It was particularly bad last Thursday and Friday when we had to send one year group home as 50 per cent were affected.

"We have had to take on extra nursing cover and had to extend our health facilities within the school by providing more beds for the sick children.

"We have a medical centre in the school which is fully staffed by the fully qualified medical sisters and we have opened up an ancillary medical centre.

"Some boarding pupils have gone home, while others are being cared for in school. Generally we are keeping going but it's not been an easy time.

"One or two have had it worse than others and the maximum time off school has been one week, but no-one has needed hospital treatment. We had 120 pupils off at the height.

"It's highly contagious and despite the fact we have very strict health policies with cleaning hands, inevitably in close proximity in a school, it spreads around like wild fire and any school would find it difficult to contain."

The virus has hit the older boys harder, with pupils aged between 13 and 15 being the most vulnerable.

Children displaying symptoms of sore throats and high temperatures have to be free of symptoms for 48 hours before returning to the school in a bid to reduce the spread of the virus.

Last week it emerged that a quarter of pupils at Linlithgow Academy have been off sick amid an outbreak of swine flu.

Around 300 children failed to make it in to lessons after the town was hit by the H1N1 virus.

West Lothian Council has written to all parents of pupils in the area to provide advice on dealing with flu-like symptoms.

However, fears of the arrival of the second wave of swine flu to the Lothians appear to have been eased in the past week.

The number of people reporting to their GP with flu-like symptoms has dropped, with only around 500 people attending last week.

Royal Bank of Scotland to share art collection with public

Monday, October 12, 2009 |

The Royal Bank of Scotland says it will open the doors on its art collection, considered one of the largest private repositories of postwar British art, with highly prized works by the likes of David Hockney, L.S. Lowry, Joshua Reynolds and Patrick Caulfield. The Guardian newspaper reports the bank has about 300 pieces tucked away in its vaults. It last exhibited some of those works in 2003, a showing of 40 paintings by Scottish artists in Manchester.

The collection has been under scrutiny recently ever since a government bailout that saved the bank from collapse. British taxpayers now own 70 per cent of the bank, and many — including Britain's Department of Culture — are pressuring the company to unveil its collection. "We are actively engaged in discussions about the art collection and considering options for sharing this more widely than we have in the past," a statement by the bank said.

According to the Guardian, RBS is in discussions with the National Galleries of Scotland, which oversees five galleries in Edinburgh, about loans and exhibitions. The bank has refused to divulge a full list of the works it owns or their estimated value. It would only reveal that about 40 pieces have "historical importance."

Andrew Ellis of the Public Catalogue Foundation, a non profit organization that photographs and chronicles 200,000 paintings in publicly owned collections, is urging the bank to consider putting images of the works online.

Ellis said it would be "an amazing showcase" of British art.

Dead famous Scots

FOR SOME of Scotland's most famous sons and daughters, common notoriety was easy enough to achieve during their lifetimes – particularly if they were the perpetrators or victims of grisly crimes – but true celebrity came only after their demise. The simple reason that Scots remember them is that their ghosts are believed to live on, haunting the forbidding castles and gloomy closes that now seem almost purpose built for a spot of paranormal activity.

Over the centuries, literally hundreds of spectres have been spotted all across Scotland – including headless horsemen, white, grey and green ladies, even whole squadrons of troops on the march.

One of the most haunted places in Scotland is reputed to be Glamis Castle, longtime home of the late Queen Mother. It is haunted by "Earl Beardie", the hirsute Fourth Earl of Crawford, who is said to have played dice with the devil – and lost his soul in the process. The sound of rattling dice has been – allegedly – heard in the castle as the ethereal Earl wanders around, doubtless bemoaning his fate. Glamis is also said to be home to the Grey Lady – the Lady of Glamis accused of being a witch and burnt at the stake in the 16th century.



The village of Corstorphine, now a suburb of Edinburgh, also has its own colourful female ghost – the White Lady of Corstorphine. She was Lady Christian Nimmo, who was married to an affluent merchant but was rather fond of meeting her lover, James Forrester, under the local sycamore tree – a landmark which survived until storms in 1998.

Lady Nimmo killed Forrester with a sword, after an argument sparked by his drunkenness. She was beheaded in 1679, but has apparently been seen wandering around wearing a white robe and carrying a sword covered in blood.

Another of Edinburgh's most famous spooks is that of Major Thomas Weir, a preacher and captain of the Town Guard who was burnt at the stake in 1670 after confessing to crimes including witchcraft and incest with his sister, Grizel. After his death, it is claimed he appeared in Victoria Street, riding on a headless black horse engulfed with flames. A ghost of Grizel has also been spotted, her face set in a hideous silent scream.

A similar apparition of a "death coach", usually with headless horses but no driver, is said to have haunted the city's Royal Mile. Sentries keeping guard at Edinburgh Castle have also reported a ghostly squadron of troops marching there, the legend dates back to the 17th century. A headless drummer is also supposed to appear when the castle is in danger of being attacked – this ghost was first reported around 1650, when Oliver Cromwell was preparing to besiege Edinburgh.

This castle is so spooky that there are reports not just of hauntings above ground, but below too. A piper sent to explore a tunnel underneath the Royal Mile, thought to lead from the castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, stopped piping halfway down and was never seen again. Legend has it that you can still hear the distant strain of his pipes.



One of the most celebrated ghosts of all is undoubtedly a woman who would have been remembered anyway – Mary, Queen of Scots – but the apparitions certainly add to her allure.

Mary's ghost has been spotted at a number of castles around the country, Craggan, Hermitage, Loch Leven and Stirling, where a separate ghost known as the "green lady" is said to be a servant who once saved Mary when her bedclothes caught fire.

Mary's hauntings are not confined to Scotland. She is also reputed to hover around several sites in Derbyshire and Staffordshire in England – she was held captive at Babington Hall in Derby, on the orders of her cousin Elizabeth I, and later beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle.

But Mary's tragic death only sealed her place in Scotland's romantic history.



Mary's deathmask

THE hope of sunken treasure has persuaded a Scottish aristocrat to undertake an ambitious search for a Spanish Armada galleon that sank 400 years ago. The 13th Duke of Argyll, Sir Torquhil Ian Campbell, has brought in a team of divers to survey the waters off Mull for the remains of the wreck believed to have lain there since 1588. The truth surrounding the sinking of the vessel, believed to be carrying £30 million of gold, in Tobermory Bay is shrouded in mystery. Some say it was San Juan de Sicilia, a troop carrier, others claim it was the Almirante di Florencia, laden with Spanish gold and treasure, which blew up in the bay where it was sheltering after the Armada's defeat. Mull was given to the duke's family in 1641. Sir Torquhil is not the first member of his family to try to find the ship. He said: "Generations of my family have been trying to find the wreck of the Spanish galleon for hundreds of years and, with advances in underwater exploration, I may be able to find some answers. It's part of our heritage and would be of great historical interest if we were able to prove that a galleon from the Spanish Armada is in Tobermory Bay." He claimed that any discovery could be turned into a Scottish attraction "as important as the Mary Rose". However, despite two weeks of surveying, he says his team have found "nothing but mud". And local historian Olive Brown was doubtful that they would find any gold doubloons: "There have been bits and pieces of wood and pottery found, but no gold. This team think they are going to crack it, and good luck to them."

The cause of the ship's sinking has been disputed. One theory is that Mull's leading clan chief, Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart Castle, blew up the ship to take the treasure, but in detonating the vessel's gunpowder, sent it, the crew and the treasure to the seabed. Historians have also blamed an English agent attempting to prevent the Spanish Armada regrouping for another attack.

Others claim that the island's residents blew it up for trying to leave without paying its dues. Some suggest it was an accident.

The diving team is working 50 yards offshore, initially using sonar equipment to guide their dawn-to-dusk search. Mark Horton, an archeologist and presenter on the BBC TV series *Coast*, said: "If he can find it then that would be good going, but you can be sure that at the time it sank, as long as it wasn't too deep, locals would have known where it was and scavenged whatever they could."

THE FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

I've heard the lilting, at our yowe-milking,
Lasses a-lilting, before the dawn o' day;
But now they are moaning, on ilka green loaning:
The Flowers o' the Forest are a' wede away.

At buchts in the morning, nae blythe lads are scorning
The lasses are lonely, and dowie, and wae;
Nae daffin', nae gabbin', but sighing and sabbing,
Ilk ane lifts her leglen and hies away.

In hairst, at the shearing, nae youths now are jeering
The bandsters are lyart, and runkled and grey
At fair, or at preaching, nae wooing, nae fleeching —
The Flowers o' the Forest are a' wede away.

At e'en, at the gloaming, nae swankies are roaming
'Bout stacks wi' the lasses at bogle to play;
But ilk ane sits drearie, lamenting her dearie
The Flowers o' the Forest are a' wede away.

Dule and wae to the order, sent our lads to the border
The English, for aince, by guile wan the day:
The Flowers o' the Forest, that foucht aye the foremost
The pride o' our land, are cauld in the clay.

We hear nae mair lilting at our yowe-milking,
Women and bairns are heartless and wae;
Sighing and moaning on ilka green loaning
The Flowers o' the Forest are a' wede away.

Humour

Hamish was building a garden shed and he ran out of nails so he went to the hardware store to buy some more.

"How long do you want them?" asked the storekeeper.

"Oh, I need to keep them," replied Hamish.

McDougal bought two tickets for the lottery. He won five million pounds.

"How do you feel about your big win?" asked a newspaper reporter.

"Disappointed," said McDougal, "My other ticket didn't win anything."

The following was seen on a poster in Argyll:
DRINK IS YOUR ENEMY.

Adjacent to this was another poster which said:
LOVE YOUR ENEMY.

'I hear you're a great believer in free speech.'

'I am that, Angus.

'Well, do you mind if I use your phone?'

A LITTLE PIECE OF SCOTLAND

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Refrigerators

James Harrison, who emigrated to Australia from Scotland, invented a cooling system for a brewery in Bendigo, in 1851. He had noticed that ether had a cooling effect on metals, and so he pumped it through pipes. As the ether evaporated it took heat from its surroundings to provide the latent heat of evaporation. His idea was used in the first refrigerated ship, the SS Strathleven, which carried a cargo of meat from Australia to England, a voyage of several months, in 1876. Refrigeration was a major force in the economic development of both Australia and New Zealand.

Scottish Built

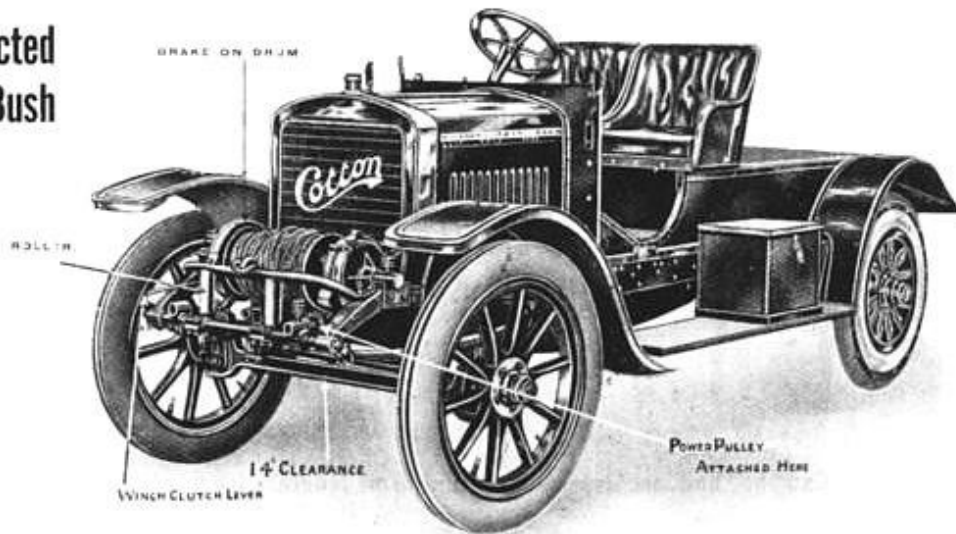
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In 1910 this was available to Australians. The rear seat could be removed and an optional tray dropped on giving Aussies a ute 20 years before the other false claimants. It came fully equipped with powered winch and power takeoff points for other machinery. In other words an all purpose vehicle for the Australian bush. Only a Landrover was better equipped 38 years later. G'd on ya, Scots.

Ultrasound in Obstetrics - Ian Donald (1910-1987)

Ian Donald served with distinction as a medical officer in the RAF during the war and it was a conjunction of experience of radar and echo-sounding, a visit to the research department of engineering firm Babcock and Wilcox and what he described as "a continuing childish interest in machines, electronic and otherwise", that led him to develop ultrasound devices to scan internal organs. Prior to this they had been used in such areas as detecting flaws in metal. As Regius Professor of Midwifery at the University of Glasgow it was natural for him to use the devices to scan unborn babies. Early experiments were disappointing, but after diagnosing an ovarian cyst, there was no turning back.

Donald's article "Investigation of Abdominal Masses by Pulsed Ultrasound", published June 7, 1958 in the medical journal The Lancet, was one of the defining publications in the field. Ultrasound devices allowed doctors to monitor the growth and development of fetuses and have now become an every-day part of ante-natal care in particular. Mothers-to-be who see the ultrasound pictures of their babies moving before they are born are also delighted with the machines.

Famous Scottish entertainers

Campbell Eric 1879 – 1917. Born Dunoon, Argyll.

Actor. Most notable. Starred in silent Charlie Chaplin movies. The Rink (1916), The Pawnshop (1916), The Adventurer (1917), The Cure (1917), The Immigrant (1917), Easy Street (1917), Chase Me Charlie (1917). Often played the big bearded bad guy. Killed in car crash Los Angeles.

Garden Graham 1943 – present.

Born Aberdeen.

Actor, Comedian. Best known as one of the "Goodies" in the popular TV Series.

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DIARY DATES 2009

Sunday 18th October Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Sausage Sizzle. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, 27 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

Sunday 25th October 150 year celebration at God's Acre Beatty Rd Archerfield. Settlers in period dress, horses and wagons, music including a Pipe Band. Story telling. Period displays. Food available. Entry free into Brisbane's oldest private cemetery celebrations.

Sunday 25th October Helidon Celtic Festival main street 9am 3:30 pm Tent setup . Vic and Jeanette, Tom and Bill will be there.

Friday –Sunday 13th, 14th 15th November DUCKA-DANG gathering for Pipers and Drummers Linville Qld contact 0409896164 or by email— qcpb.secretary@y7mail.com

Sunday 15th November Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. 11.30 AM Sausage Sizzle. 12.30 AGM Meeting starts 1 pm. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, 27 Josling St, Toowong. (Benson Rd end of Perrin Park Sizzle. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary

Saturday 28th November Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Xmas Party - starts at 11 am - 3:30pm BYO drinks, BBQ Sausages and Steakettes + salads Desserts + Raffle Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, 27 Josling St, Toowong. (Benson Rd end of Perrin Park Phone in to Margaret, 3359 8195 if coming Slainte,

Monday 30th November St Andrews's Day

Disclaimer The Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc Newsletter is produced for the information of the members of the association and kindred Scottish organisations. It has been compiled with due care and in good faith from sources that are not necessarily the views of the executive and/or members of the Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc, and no responsibility attaches to the association.

Redlands Sporting Club Pipe Band invites you to celebrate the Celtic tradition of Halloween in costume-(optional); dance; fun & games; treats and much more at the Assembly Hall Smith St., Cleveland on Saturday, 31st Oct., 2009. Bookings are essential through Joy (3207 0928); Gail (3286 5092) or Eileen (3207 2545). 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); Gail (3286 5092) or Eileen (3207 2545) for the evening of Saturday, the 28th Nov., 2009 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 Thursday, 31st December, 2009 at the Donald Simpson Centre (Cnr., Bloomfield St., & Russell St., Cleveland). Bookings are essential through Joy (3207 0928); Gail (3286 5092) or Eileen (3207 2545). A licensed bar will be open. No B. Y. O is permitted. Adults \$10.00. Children under 16 free.

Old Sandy was dying. Tenderly, his wife Maggie knelt by his bedside and asked:

'Anything I can get you, Sandy?'

No reply.

'Have ye no' a last wish, Sandy?' Faintly, came the answer. . . 'a wee bit of yon boiled ham.'

'Wheesht, man,' said Maggie, 'ye ken fine that's for the funeral.'

How did the Grand Canyon come about?

A Scotsman lost a sixpence.

NEW WEBSITES

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www.rampantscotland.com/colour/supplement081011.htm

www.changinglight.co.uk

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