

AUSSIE-SCOTS NEWS

NEWSLETTER , NO 125

March-April 2014

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."



Sunday 20TH April 2014 NO AUSSIE-SCOT'S MEETING DUE TO EASTER

***None but
the brave...***





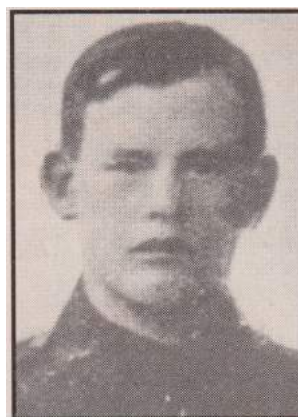
A FEW OF THE 158 SCOTTISH VC WINNERS UP TO AND INCLUDING 1996



Sergeant John McAuley – repulsed German attacks then carried wounded commander to safety.



■ **Temporary Lieutenant David MacIntyre** from Islay, also won his medal in 1918 when he led his troops against enemy machine gun nests and won an important stretch of front, capturing numerous prisoners and weaponry.



■ **Private Hugh McIver** from Linwood, Renfrewshire, won his medal while a company runner on the Western Front in 1918. He had carried messages under withering machine gun fire and killed half a dozen of the enemy in one action, also taking 20 prisoners.



■ **Private Charles Melvin** from Kirriemuir was fighting the Turks in Mesopotamia when he won his V.C. in April, 1917. Wielding a bayonet he made a one man charge on a trench filled with the enemy, killing several, taking prisoners and sending the rest into retreat before returning to his lines across no-man's land.



■ **Private Henry May**, from Glasgow, won his medal in France in 1914 when he rescued fellow wounded Cameronians under heavy fire during the First Battle of Ypres.



■ **Sergeant John Hannah**, from Paisley, won his medal in Belgium in 1940 when he stayed aboard his blazing plane and fought fires with his bare hands.



■ **Commander Anthony Miers** won his medal on board his submarine 'Torbay' in the Mediterranean in 1942 when he spent 17 hours in enemy occupied Corfu harbour sinking convoy merchantmen.



■ **Temporary Lieutenant Colonel Lorne Campbell**, from Argyllshire, won his medal during the Battle of Wadi Akarit in North Africa in 1943. His inspirational leadership helped a Highland brigade hold a vital bridgehead against Rommel's Afrika Korps.



■ **Flight Lieutenant William Reid** from Baillieston won his medal in 1943 in the skies over Germany when his Lancaster bomber was severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Despite being badly wounded, he completed the bombing run.



■ **Private James Stokes**, a former warehouse storeman from Glasgow, won his medal in the Rhineland in 1945. Despite being repeatedly wounded, he refused to retire to the rear, continued attacking and died 20 yards from the retreating enemy line.



Piper Bill Millin Statue at Sword beach





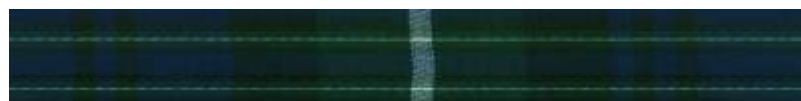
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**A LITTLE PIECE
 OF SCOTLAND**
 RADIO 4EB ---- 98.1 FM
2.15PM-4.30PM

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

"NOW REACHING A WIDER LISTENING AUDIENCE
 AND PLAYING REQUESTS"

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No. of Players : Three

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 Vocals**

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The kilt versus trews circa 1931 from David Niven's (English born) book 'The Moons a balloon'

When I sat for the final exams I discovered with pleasure mixed with surprise that they came quite easily to me and as I had also accumulated a very nice bonus of marks for being an Under-officer, my entry into the Argylls seemed purely a formality. Everything in the garden was beautiful – a fatal situation for me.

Just before the end of term, all cadets who were graduating were given a War Office form to fill in: 'Name in order of preference three regiments into which you desire to be commissioned.' I wrote as follows:

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

The Black Watch

And then for some reason which I never fully understood, possibly because it was the only one of the six Highland Regiments that wore trews instead of the kilt, I wrote,

Anything but the Highland Light Infantry.

Somebody at the War Office was funnier than I was and I was promptly commissioned into the Highland Light Infantry.

Another Highland opinion of trews, 1942 by Neil McCallum 'Journey with a pistol'

We arrived at a battalion encamped near the airport at Daba. It was resting after Alamein and Rear Division had sent us as reinforcements. An officer mess tent had been erected and we were introduced to the officers of the battalion as they came in for tea. They received us with courteous smiles and frigid behaviour. The Commanding Officer greeted us exquisitely and distantly. We were not, it was enquired politely, commissioned into their regiment? We were not entitled to wear their badge? No, we replied, we were officers of other regiments, but Rear Division had sent us as reinforcements. They smiled again, silently, and their politeness became even colder. We were strangers to their particular tradition, foreigners who were not permitted to wear the tartan of their design.

After tea we walked over the desert to where our bed-rolls were lying on the sand. There was a small bivouac nearby, inhabited by the adjutant. We went there to make an issue of this regimental tradition which sneered at reinforcements whose cap badges did not carry the correct Gaelic motto.

As we came near the tent we heard the adjutant speaking on the field telephone. "Hello, hello, is that Rear Div? Look here, about those officers you sent us. Yes, they're here. But the Old Man says he made it perfectly clear that he has no use for people who are not commissioned into this regiment. He says he won't keep them. They don't even wear kilts but those tartan trouser things. Shall I send them back? No, quite definitely he doesn't want them."

We walked away unobserved and sat on our bed-rolls. On the far side of the airport, with its smashed burned-out planes, there was a road on which transport was moving, bringing up the supplies of war. In the past few months Australians, Greeks, Canadians, South Africans, French, had been fighting together in this country. Yet we were now bumping against a clan system which had been nominally destroyed by Butcher Cumberland in 1746. We had discovered in a twentieth-century Armageddon a Highland Lieutenant-Colonel, desperate for reinforcements to replace his killed and wounded officers, who would not allow Lowland Scots to fight beside him. And the half-colonel spoke with the accents of Mayfair.





This one also is by David Niven when he was in "The Highland Light Infantry" in Malta

'Sixty' Smith, who had become my friend and advisor, was ill in hospital. It had started with sandfly fever, then complications and now he was much more sick than anybody realised. Pleurisy had set in and there was no question of him sailing home with the rest of us. I went to see him the day before we embarked on the troopship and was shocked by his appearance.

'Would you ask the Colonel a favour for me, sorr? Would ye ask if the battalion could march a wee bit oot the road on their way tae the Dock so I can hear the pipes for the last time—it's nae far..about five minutes.'

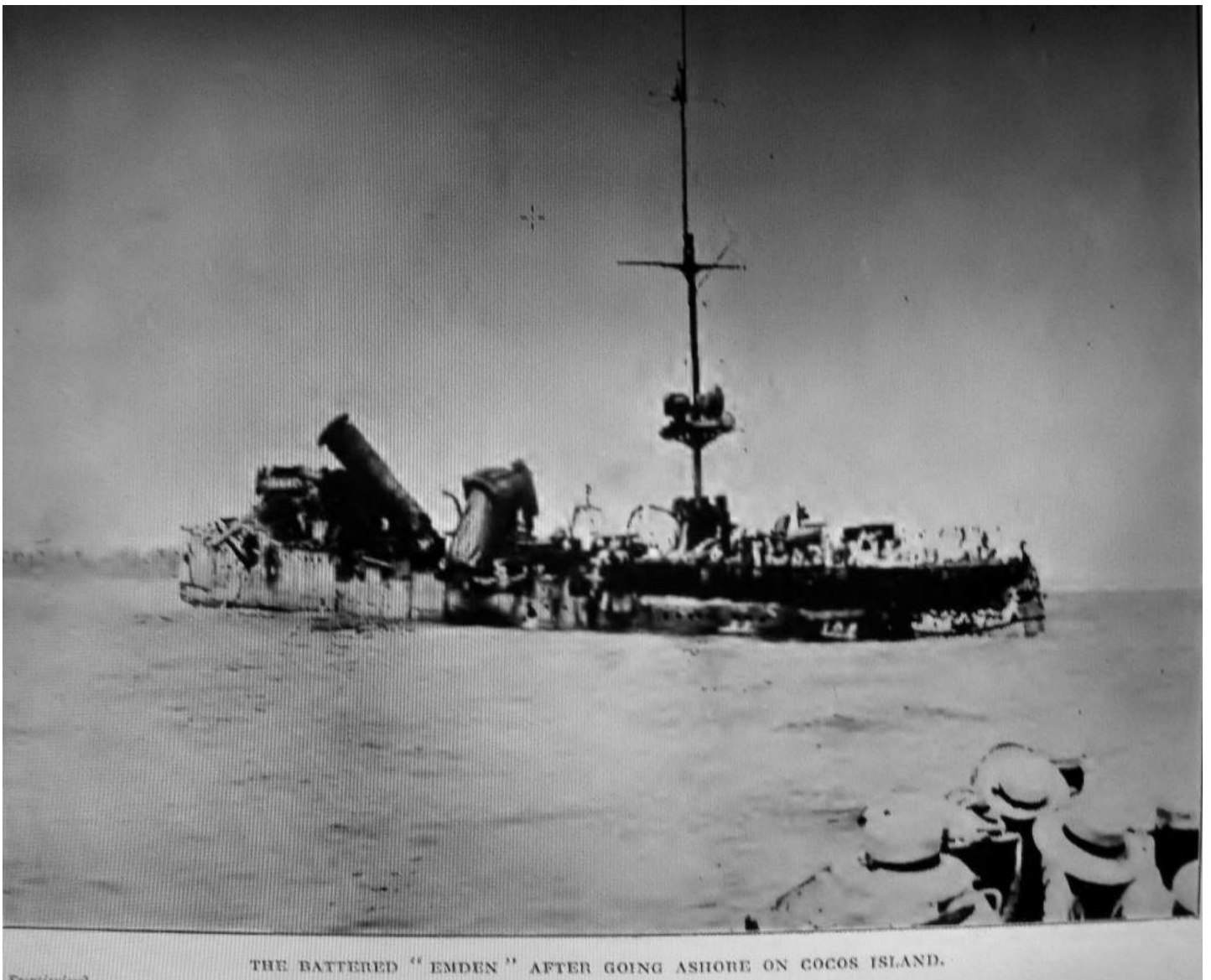
I suddenly felt chilly in the warm little room. 'What the hell are you talking about, Sixty?...hearing the pipes for the last time?' 'Becos I'm gonna dee,' Sixty replied quietly and I found it impossible to look into his clouded eyes.

The Weasel was oddly sympathetic to the request and when he gave me the answer he told me the Colonel had added that he would like me to be with the old man when the troops passed the hospital the following day.

It was late afternoon when they passed and the sun was golden on the church spires that Sixty could see from his bed. In the distance he could hear the swinging march 'Wi' a Hundred Pipers...' and he asked me to prop him up in his bed. Nearer and nearer came the battalion and as he lifted his head to listen, he must have been thinking of a whole lifetime in the regiment he had joined as a boy. Just before the column reached the hospital, the tune changed to the regimental march—'Scotland the Brave' - and tears of pride slid down his granite cheeks. He sat bolt upright till the last stirring notes faded away in the distance, then he slid down into his bed and turned his face to the wall.

That night Sixty died.

The German ship 'Emden' after meeting the Glasgow built HMAS Sydney near the Cocos Islands 1914



THE BATTERED "EMDEN" AFTER GOING ASHORE ON COCOS ISLAND.



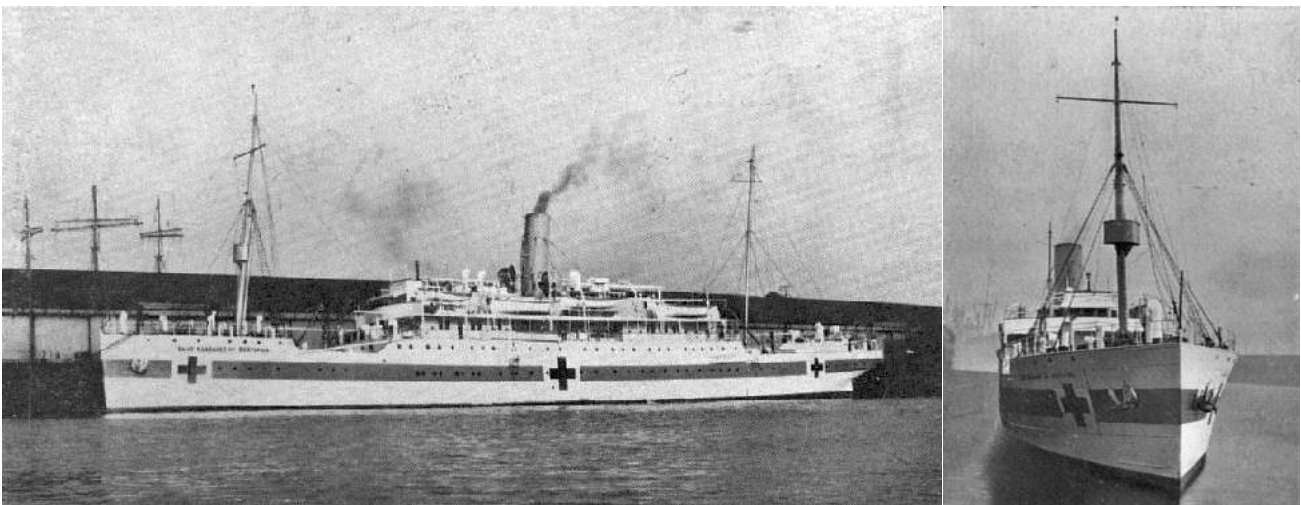
Sharing a love of motorbikes, two nurses who set up their own illegal dressing station: Mairi Chisholm and Elsie Klocker



Determined: Mairi Chisholm and Elsie Klocker set up their own illegal dressing station after having been discouraged by the number of men they were losing in the Flying Ambulance Corps in Belgium

Mairi Chisholm was a Scottish motorbike fanatic whose penchant for hairpin turns won her an invitation to join the Flying Ambulance Corps in Belgium. She and her biker-friend Elsie Klocker joined forces and were soon doing vital war-time work, ferrying wounded soldiers to a field hospital in Furnes. Mairi was also tasked with taking mutilated corpses to the mortuary.

Yet, discouraged by the number of men they were losing, Mairi and Elsie decided to leave the Corps. They found an abandoned cellar in Pervyse and set up their own illegal dressing station, just 100 yards from the trenches. With no affiliation to the Belgian Red Cross, they had to find their own supplies and support. Fortunately, Mairi and Elsie managed to be seconded to the Belgian troops stationed nearby. Together, they saved the lives of thousands of men on the Belgian Western Front - men who would have no doubt died on their way to the Corps hospital. Mairi was awarded the Belgian Order.



H.M.H.S. St MARGARET OF SCOTLAND

The Great War hospital ship St Margaret of Scotland was an unusual hospital ship in that it was staffed by Scottish doctors, nurses and orderlies because the nation had raised £22,000 to equip her



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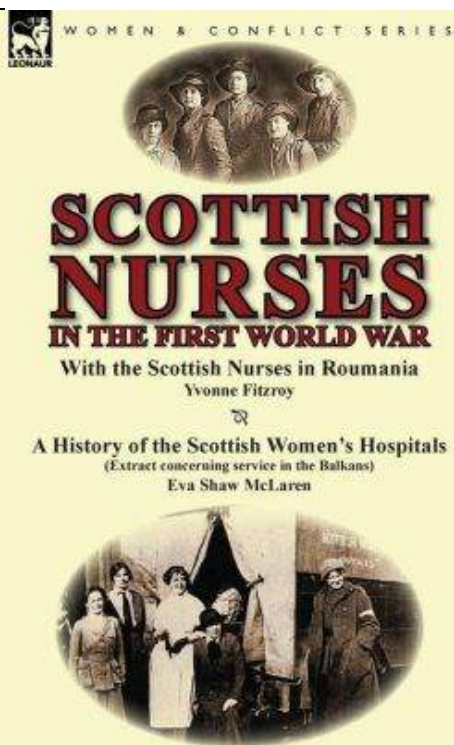
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'Special Event Days' House and grounds open
 10.30am to 4.00pm



Edith Cavell was a British nurse famous for treating countless soldiers, no matter their nationality, and helping as many as 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium during World War One.

She was sentenced to death and executed by a 16-man German firing squad on October 12, 1915

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Beginners Scottish Gaelic Class 2014

Location:

Brisbane Square Library

266 George Street

Brisbane 4000

Community Meeting Room (Ground Level).

There are tea/coffee making facilities in the community Room, just bring along a tea/coffee bag. Some people find the parking expensive.

To cut down on expense, some drive to a suitable train station and then catch the train to Central Station and walk up the Mall to the library.

Contact: Diane Lingard (07) 3269 1761/0407 158 781
 or email: dianelingard@optusnet.com.au

The classes are designed for people with no exposure to the

Gaelic who would like to be able to use some Gaelic phrases and make a little conversation in the language.

This is an initiative of the Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia

SEE DATES AND TIMES TO RIGHT →

The 'SOUNDS of
SCOTLAND' and 'IRELAND'.
 on THURSDAY evening
 Burnett River Radio 91.5FM
 7pm to 9pm
 Broadcasting to Gayndah and
 the Central Burnett
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(4th Sunday of

month)

Sundays:

23 February 2014,

23 March 2014,

27 April 2014,

25 May 2014,

22 June 2014,

27 July 2014,

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24 August 2014,

28 September 2014,

26 October 2014,

23 November 2014,

and 21 December 2014.

Beginners: 10:30am -12noon

Continuing: 12:30pm - 2:00pm

**A GREAT DAY OUT FOR
THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

Highland Celtic Celebration

SUNDAY 30 MARCH 11.00 am—4.00 pm

Featuring:

- Kathleen Proctor-Moore
- Ormiston Heritage Pipes & Drums
- Moreton Celtic Fiddlers
- Murrumba Scottish Terrier Mascots
- Jill Dobbs Scottish & Irish Dancers
- Queensland Scottish Volunteer Corps
- Cleveland Scottish Country Dancers

and more!



See our website for full
program details



Plus:

- All day BBQ
- Refreshments
- Displays
- Exhibitions



Admission:
Adult \$5/Child \$1

Entertainment from 11.00 am

QUEENSLAND MANX SOCIETY INC.

MANX CENTENARY CELEBRATION

HISTORIC ORMISTON HOUSE

277 WELLINGTON ST ORMISTON

SUNDAY 14TH. SEPTEMBER 2014

10.30 am. to 4.00 pm.

Admission – Adults \$5.00 / Children \$1.00

PROGRAMME

- 10.30 am. Lockyer Valley Celtic Pipe Band.
- 11.00 am. Folk Dancing "Dance Kaleidoscope"
- 11.30 Laxey Folk Singers
- 12.00 am. Official Opening
- 12.30 pm. Lockyer Valley Celtic Pipe Band
- 1.00 pm. Viking Mock Battle by Jorth Gar - NVG
- 1.45 pm. Folk Dancing "Dance Kaleidoscope"
- 2.15 Moreton Celtic Fiddlers
- 2.30 pm. Folk Redlands Concert
- 3.45 pm. Close

HOT FOOD - HOT COFFEE & COLD SOFT DRINKS

DEVONSHIRE TEAS, SANDWICHES, CAKES

DISPLAYS: Manx Memorabilia
TT motorcycles
Viking Lifestyle & Craftwork
Weaving & Craftwork

Picnic on the expansive lawns or take a leisurely stroll through the gardens. Inspect Heritage listed Ormiston House.

Enjoy a full programme of entertainment, wander around the stalls for great Christmas gifts and learn about the Isle of Man.

For further information about event coach bookings and timetable:

Manx Society: George 0421 210 222 Val 07 3273 178

Ormiston House: 07 3286 1425 0428 601 578

Email: ormiston.house@bigpond.com

Leonard Heron

(Allen George)

**Born 19th September 1945 -
Died 1st February
2014 Aged 68 years**

**Buried - Tuesday 11th Feb-
ruary 2014 Pinnaroo Lawn
Cemetery, Albany Creek,
Brisbane.**

**The Funeral Service was
Conducted by Jonathon
Heron (his Son)**

Rm Computer Solutions

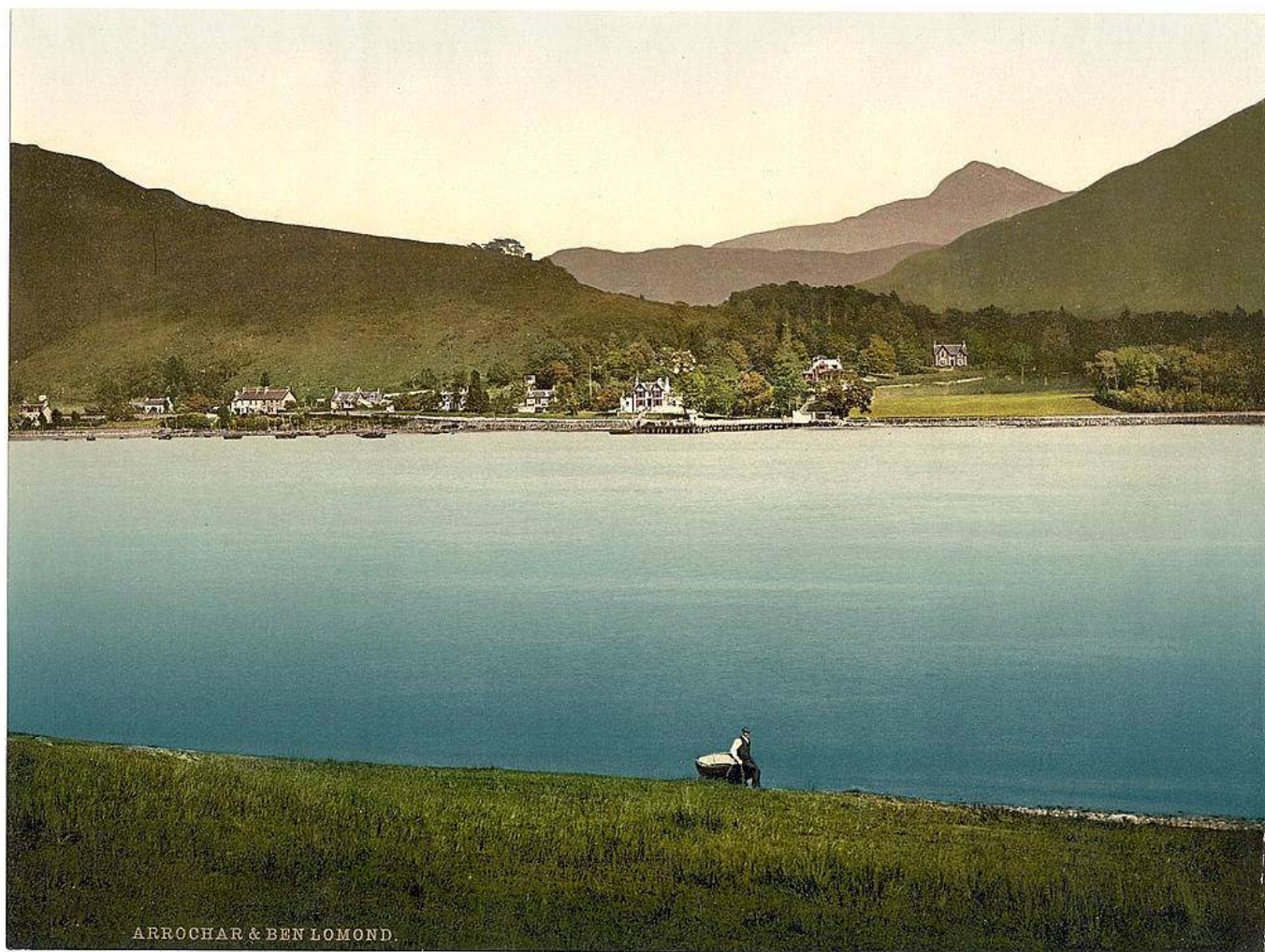
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DIARY DATES 2014
NO MEETING IN APRIL DUE TO A
CLASH WITH EASTER

Sunday 16th March 2014 Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 12 mid-day BYO lunch. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies 3359 8195

Sunday 30th March 2014 Ormiston House Highland Celtic Celebration 11AM –4 PM full setup from 9AM

Sunday 20TH April 2014 NO MEETING DUE TO EASTER

Sunday 18th May 2014 Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 12 mid-day BYO lunch. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm.

Apologies 3359 8195

Sunday 15th June 2014 Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, Josling St, Toowong. Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, 12 mid-day BYO lunch. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm.

Apologies 3359 8195



"IRN-BRU KEEPS ME
YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL,
UNLIKE MY DAUGHTER."

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