

AUSSIE-SCOTS NEWS

NEWSLETTER , NO 127

July – August 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."



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18th INTERNATIONAL TARTAN DAY KING GEORGE SQUARE

5TH JULY 2014



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Heroines of Scotland



Agnes Randolph, Countess of Dunbar and March

(c1312–1369), known as **Black Agnes** for her dark hair and eyes, and sallow complexion, was the wife of Patrick, 9th Earl of Dunbar and March. She is buried in the vault near Mordington House.

She was the daughter of Thomas Randolph, 1st Earl of Moray, nephew and companion-in-arms of Robert the Bruce and Moray's wife, Isabel Stewart, herself a daughter of John Stewart of Bonkyl.^[1]

Agnes became renowned for her heroic defence of Dunbar Castle against an English attack by the William Montagu, 1st Earl of Salisbury, which began on 13 January 1338 and ended on June 10, 1338.

The Siege of Dunbar

This attack took place during the conflict which arose when Edward Balliol, with English backing, attempted to seize the Scottish crown from David II. Patrick Dunbar was fighting in the far-off Scottish army when English forces besieged his home, the great castle of Dunbar in East Lothian. Patrick's wife, the Lady Agnes, was left alone with only a retinue of servants and a few guards to meet the English siege, but she refused to surrender the fortress, by one account declaring that

"Of Scotland's King I haud my house, I pay him meat and fee, And I will keep my gude auld house, while my house will keep me."

Women occasionally commanded besieged mediaeval garrisons, for if the lord of a castle were away his wife might be left in charge; but Agnes's is one of the few sieges which has been widely remembered. Though considered one of the ablest commanders of his day, Salisbury was obliged to lift his fruitless siege of Dunbar castle after nearly five months without success.

Salisbury began the siege with a bombardment by catapults, sending huge rocks and lead shot against the ramparts of Dunbar. Lady Agnes responded by having her maids dress in their Sunday best; she then led them to the outer walls, where with their handkerchiefs they nonchalantly and slightly dusted away the damage from the bombardment. She would also taunt the English from her walls and berate her garrison to make them fight harder.^[2]

Montague next assaulted the castle with his battering ram. Agnes had a huge boulder, captured from an earlier attack, dropped over the walls which smashed the English assault machinery. According to one story, at one point during the siege, the English captured Agnes's brother John Randolph, 3rd Earl of Moray, and paraded him in front of the castle with a rope round his neck, threatening to hang him if she did not surrender. She told them to go ahead, as she would then inherit the Earldom of Moray. John survived this brinkmanship. However, this story may be a later invention, as she was not heir to the earldom.

On June 10, 1338, William Montague ordered his army to withdraw, leaving Lady Agnes in sole possession of her castle. She is remembered in a ballad which attributes these words to Montague:

"Cam I early, cam I late, I found Agnes at the gate."





Clan Fraser society of Australia
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A WEE BIT O' SCOTLAND



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DID YOU KNOW THE FOLLOWING ABOUT SCOTLAND

1. The official animal of Scotland is the **Unicorn**.

2. The **shortest scheduled flight** in the world is one-and-a-half miles long from Westray to Papa Westray in the Orkney Islands of Scotland. The journey takes 1 minute 14 seconds to complete.

3. Scotland has approximately **790 islands**, 130 of which are inhabited.

4. The Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae (pictured below), on the island of Orkney, is the **oldest building in Britain**, dating from 3100 BC.



5. The Hamilton Mausoleum in South Lanarkshire has the **longest echo** of any man-made structure in the world; a whole 15 seconds.

6. Scotland has more than **600 square miles of freshwater lakes**, including the famous Loch Ness.

7. The capital of Scotland, **Edinburgh**, is only its second largest city, after Glasgow.

8. Edinburgh was the first city in the world which had its own fire brigade.

9. Like Rome, Edinburgh (pictured below) was **built on seven hills** and the capital has more listed buildings than anywhere in the world.



10. Scotland had its own monarch until 1603. After Elizabeth I died, **James VI of Scotland** also became James I of England, ruling both countries.

11. St Andrews Links is considered the **"home of golf"**; the sport has been played there since the 15th century.

12. **Queen Victoria** is reputed to have smoked cigarettes during her visits to the Highlands of Scotland to keep away midges.

13. Edinburgh was home to Skye terrier **Grey Friar's Bobby**, who captured the hearts of the nation by sitting on the grave of his dead owner for 14 years.

14. Scotland is currently the **second largest country in the UK**, after England.

15. The highest point in Scotland is **Ben Nevis**, (pictured right) at 4,406ft (1343m)





DID YOU KNOW THE FOLLOWING ABOUT SCOTLAND



16. The motto of Scotland is "**Nemo me impune lacessit**", or: "No one provokes me with impunity". It is used by the Order of the Thistle and on later versions of the Royal coat of arms.

17. The country is a favourite with the **Royal family**, who holiday at Balmoral castle in Royal Deeside.

18. In the north east of the country, girls are called "**quines**" and boys "**louns**".

19. The very first recorded appearance of the elusive **Loch Ness Monster** occurred in 565 AD, when a "water beast" attacked one of St. Columba's followers in the loch. ""



20. Scottish city **Aberdeen** is known as Europe's oil capital, or the "Granite City".

21. The deepest loch in Scotland, **Loch Morar**, reaches 1,077ft (328m) down and is ranked the seventeenth deepest lake in the world.

22. Scotland's smallest distillery, Edradour in **Pitlochry**, has 100,000 visitors per year but produces just 90,000 litres Of malt whisky.

23. It is home to the **oldest tree in Europe** (pictured right), a twisted yew which has stood in Fortingall for 3,000 years. According to local legend, Pontius Pilate was born in its shade and played there as a child



24. The **raincoat was invented** in 1824 in Scotland by Charles Macintosh, a chemist born in Glasgow. In Great Britain, the garment is still called a "Mac".

25. The official religion of Scotland is **Christianity**, with churches traditionally being called "kirks".

26. Scotland gained independence in 1314, after **Robert the Bruce** (pictured right) defeated the English army at the Battle of Bannockburn.



27. The Kingdom of Scotland remained as an independent state until 1 May 1707, when the **Acts of Union** joined it with England, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

28. Since July 1, 1999, **Scotland has its own parliament**, for the first time since 1707.

29. The country has an **area of 30,414 square miles** (78,772 km²)

30. The total **population is around 5.2 million**, around 8.5 per cent of the UK's population.

31. The country has approximately **167.5 people living per square mile**.

32. There are **as many Scottish people living in North America as in Scotland**, with censuses in the United States and Canada identifying around five million people claiming Scottish ancestry.





DID YOU KNOW THE FOLLOWING ABOUT SCOTLAND



33. The country still has its **own legal system**, separate from England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Juries can return verdict of “guilty”, “not guilty” and “not proven.”

34. The Bank of Scotland, founded in 1695, is the **oldest surviving bank in the UK**. It was also the first bank in Europe to print its own bank notes.

35. Famous Scottish inventions include the **television**, developed by John Logie Baird in 1925, the **telephone** by Alexander Graham Bell (pictured right) in 1876 and **penicillin**, by Alexander Fleming in 1928.



36. The **first teaching hospital in America**, the Baltimore Infirmary was founded by a Glasgow surgeon, Granville Sharp Pattison, in 1816.

37. Scotland has **three officially recognised languages**: English, Scots and Scottish Gaelic, with just one per cent of the population using the last.

38. It is home to **19 universities and institutes of higher education**, including St Andrews, where the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge met. They returned last year.

39. Scotland has about the **same land area as the Czech Republic**, the United Arab Emirates, Panama, the US state of Maine, or the Japanese island of Hokkaido.

40. The two first **Prime Ministers of Canada**, John A. Macdonald (1815-1891) and Alexander Mackenzie (1822-1892), were Scottish.

41. One of Scotland's most famous products, **whisky**, was actually invented in China. It was first distilled by monks in Ireland in the early 15th century, before reaching Scotland 100 years later.

42. The most infamous Scottish dish is **haggis** normally made with the heart, liver, and lungs of a sheep, traditionally boiled in the animal's stomach. It is not known where it originated.

43. Scotland has spawned some of the **greatest thinkers** of the modern age, including Adam Smith, James Watt, David Hume and John Stuart Mill.

44. Notable Scottish inventions include the method of **logarithms**(1614), **tarmac** (1820) and the **pneumatic tyre** (1887).

45. Many of Scotland's most famous inventions – **kilts, tartans and bagpipes** - were actually developed elsewhere. Kilts originated in Ireland, tartans have been found in Bronze Age central Europe and bagpipes are thought to have come from ancient central Asia.

46. Famous names from Scottish literature include: **Sir Walter Scott, Lord Byron** and **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**.

48. The flower of Scotland is the **thistle**.

49. Scotland has the **highest proportion of redheads in the world**. Around 13 per cent of the population has red hair, with 40 per cent carrying the recessive gene.

50. The **first official international football match** was played at the West of Scotland Cricket Club in Partick in 1872, between Scotland and England.



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A Scotsman, an Englishman and an Irishman were in a bar and had just started on a new round when a fly landed in each glass of beer. The Englishman took his out on the blade of his Swiss Army knife. The Irishman blew his away in a cloud of froth. The Scotsman lifted his one up carefully by the wings and held it above his glass. "Go on, spit it out, ye wee devil," he growled.

Why do all Scots have a sense of humour?
Because it's free.

What do you call a Scottish parrot?
A macaw.

Have you heard about the Scotsman who gave a present of fifty pounds each to an Englishman, an Irishman and a Welshman?
Nor has anyone else.

A Scots woman goes in a dry cleaning shop and says to the shop owner, "Can I sit down for a wee while, I have a bairn."

The posh shop owner replies, "I'm sorry, we don't repair scorched clothing."

John McDougal heard about a doctor who charged ten pounds for the first consultation but only three pounds for every subsequent visit. So he walked into the doctor's surgery and announced, 'Here I am again, doctor.'
'Just keep up the treatment I prescribed last time,' said the doctor, who was also a Scotsman.

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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



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A Scottish Chemistry Teacher is doing an experiment for his class. He takes a pound coin out of his wallet, drops it in a beaker of acid and asks, "Now class, will this Pound coin be dissolved by the acid?"

One pupil puts his hand up. "No sir, it definitely will not!"

The teacher smiles, "That's right, lad - well done! Now, can you explain why?"

The boy smiles back, "Well, if the acid was going to dissolve your coin, you would have used a penny."



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

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This Scottish bloke goes on a skiing holiday to Canada.

After a hard day on the slopes he retires to a bar at the bottom of the mountain. After about five or six whiskys, he looks up and notices a stuffed animal with antlers on the wall.

He asks the barman, "What the hell is that?"

The barman says, "It's a Moose."

The Scottish chap says, "Hoots man! How big are the cats?"

After having dug to a depth of 1000 meters last year, English scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 1000 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 1000 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the English, in the weeks that followed, Scottish scientists dug to a depth of 2000 meters and shortly after headlines in the UK newspapers read; Scottish archaeologists have found traces of 2000 year old fibre-optic cable and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech digital communications network a thousand years earlier than the English.

One week later, Irish newspapers reported the following: After digging as deep as 5000 meters in a County Mayo bog, Irish scientists have found absolutely nothing. They, therefore, have concluded that 5000 years ago, Ireland's inhabitants were already using wireless technology.



KYLES OF BUTE BANNATYNE



THE BIRKS OF ABERFELDY



DIARY DATES 2014

TARTAN DAY

KING GEORGE SQUARE

SATURDAY 5TH JULY 2014

9AM TO 4 PM

Sunday 20th July 2014 Australian Scottish Community (Qld)

Our monthly meeting for this date has had to be

Cancelled

Next meeting

Sunday 17th August 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 21st September 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

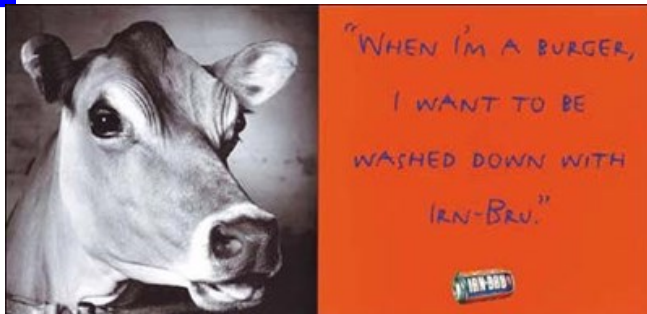
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A recent study conducted by Glasgow University found that the average Scotsman walks about 900 miles a year.

Another study by the Scottish Medical Association found that Scotsmen drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year.

This means, on average, Scotsmen get about 41 miles to the gallon.

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Chilling statistics have revealed that weapons including meat cleavers and knuckle-dusters have been removed from Scottish schools.

One teacher said: "To be fair, we only ever use them in self-defence."

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"Young Donald, " said the angry father from the top of the stairs, " didn't I just hear the clock strike four when you brought my daughter in ? "

" You did, " admitted Donald. " It was going to strike eleven, but I grabbed it and held the gong so it wouldn't disturb you."

The father muttered, " Why didn't I think of that one in my courting days ! "

-----0-----

The English General got a case of cold feet before the battle against the Highlanders. Calling his command together, he said: " Men, we're going to get beaten, but you must fight as bravely as you can. If worse comes to worst, run for it; as for me, I'm a little lame, so I'll start now. "

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