

AUSSIE-SCOTS NEWS

NEWSLETTER , NO 95

February 2009 / March 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."

Five Scottish "Ghost Towns" Predicted

Business research company Experian has forecast that five Scottish towns will be blighted by widespread retail shop closures as the credit crunch bites harder. Clydebank, Kirkintilloch, Rutherglen, Cumbernauld and Kilmarnock are expected to suffer the biggest fall-out and become "ghost towns" as they already have empty premises on their main shopping streets and are most reliant on chain stores that have folded in recent months. The business research company is predicting that one in seven shops will be empty by the end of this year. The Scottish Retail Consortium also fears that, unlike previous recessions, Scotland would not buck the slump as so many of the country's high streets now have UK-wide chain stores. High streets and shopping centres that relied on foot traffic from now-defunct chains such as Woolworths, Dolcis and Stead & Simpson were particularly vulnerable. It is expected that smaller retail destinations will be worst affected. On a brighter note, some high-street giants, including Debenhams, John Lewis, Next and Co-op reported better than expected results over the Christmas period.

Woolworths Stores Close

All Woolworth stores in Scotland and all the stores in England closed by the end of December as a result of the UK company going into administration with debts amounting to £385 million. It was nearly 100 years ago that American F W Woolworth opened his first UK store. The brand became a well known sight in many towns and cities. The Woolworths Group in the UK separated from its American parent in 1982. Across the UK, the 807 outlets began major clearance sales offering "up to 50% off" to get rid of all stock before they closed down. A number of the premises in good locations are likely to be taken over by other retailers, who will not want either stock or fitments. The loss of Woolworths is the most high-profile High Street casualty of the present economic downturn - so far.

Good Times Ahead for Scottish Tourism

Amid all the doom and gloom of financial crises, economic slow-downs and struggling businesses, there are reports that hotel owners around the country are expe-

riencing a surge in business, with bookings up compared to last year. The decline in the value of the pound, especially against the Euro and the US dollar means that tourists are finding prices in Scotland going down when exchange rates are taken into account. And the lower cost of fuel means that touring in Scotland is cheaper than it was last year.

One of Scotland's important sources of tourists is from England and Wales. As the cost of European holidays rocket (due to the adverse exchange rate for such trips) and the amount available for discretionary spending such as holidays declines, more people are turning to breaks that don't involve leaving the UK. The Year of Scottish Homecoming is also bound to increase the number of visitors from abroad.

Scotland Attracts People From Rest of UK

We often bemoan the "brain drain" of people from Scotland who move to jobs in other parts of the UK, particularly the South East of England. But an investigation by the Bank of Scotland shows that 542,524 people moved to Scotland from other parts of the UK between 1998 and 2007. While 385,767 left, Scotland's population grew by a net 157,757 over that period, an increase of 3%. The Bank of Scotland report was based on data sourced from the 2008 Population Trends published by the Office for National Statistics.



GREAT SCOTTISH ENTERTAINERS

John Henry Anderson (1814 – 1874) was a professional magician, born in The Mearns, Scotland. Anderson is credited with helping bring the art of magic from street performances into theatres and presenting magic performances to entertain and delight the audience.

Orphaned at the age of ten, Anderson started his career appearing on the stage with a travelling dramatic company in 1830. At seventeen, he began performing magic and in 1837, at the age of twenty-three, he performed at the castle of Lord Panmure, whose endorsement of Anderson inspired him to put a touring show together which lasted for three years. In 1840 Anderson settled in London, opening the New Strand Theatre. Sir Walter Scott is said to have given him the stage name, The Great Wizard of the North.

Anderson's success came from his extensive use of advertising and popular shows which captivated his audience. The Wizard was committed to philanthropy and expert showmanship, making him one of the earliest magicians to attain a high level of world renown. Anderson declared: "It is the duty of all magicians to give entertainment," and he was not content to perform an illusion to simply demonstrate that he could accomplish something that the audience could not explain. If the effect was not enthusiastically received, Anderson would remove it from his act. Anderson is famous for a lifetime of successful performances of the bullet catch illusion. Although he did not invent the trick, he made it widely popular and several of his rivals copied Anderson's version in their own shows.

In 1842, Anderson married Hannah Longherst from Aberdeen, an assistant with his show. The following year their son John Henry Jr. was born. In 1845, Anderson's mistress Miss Prentice gave birth to Philip Prentice Anderson, but died in childbirth. Anderson, however, supported the child for his entire life. Anderson would also have two daughters who assisted in their father's show and later became successful magicians, and a second illegitimate son with a member of his touring troupe. 1845 also saw the completion of Anderson's second theatre, the City Theatre in Glasgow. In November, only four months after opening, the theatre burned and Anderson's financial losses were considerable. Through the aid of his show business friends, Anderson was able to launch a new show at London's Covent Garden Theatre in 1846 and then toured Europe the following year, travelling to Hamburg, Stockholm, and St. Petersburg, where he met Czar Nicholas, who arranged a command performance for Anderson after an awkward chance meeting.

In 1849, Anderson returned to London to perform for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. The following year, Anderson toured America, Canada, Australia, and Hawaii. Upon returning to Britain, Anderson found that he had a rival in fellow magician Robert Houdin, so he returned to America in 1853 and performed in Boston. An illusion involving Anderson's dispensing of various alcoholic beverages to the audience caused a legal controversy regarding temperance in that city.

In 1854, John Henry held a farewell performance in Aberdeen. The success of this show was enough to inspire Anderson not to retire. Rather, he began to concentrate his efforts on exposing Spiritualism fraud. In his shows, he used his daughters to duplicate spiritualist effects. Anderson was one of the magicians of his day who exposed the frauds of the Davenport Brothers. The show played at the Lyceum in London and then moved to Covent Garden in 1855. The following year, after a gala performance, the theatre caught fire, destroying all of Anderson's properties and bankrupting him for the second time in his professional career.

In 1859, after a brief period as an actor, Anderson began another world tour. In 1862, at the age of eighteen, John Henry Jr. left his father's troupe and began his own independent career as a conjuror. This started a bitter feud between father and son and the two never spoke again. Greatly in debt, Anderson returned to England in 1864. He would tour once more in 1866. Anderson died in 1874. He was buried next to his mother in Aberdeen. Magician Harry Houdini, who was born in the same year as Anderson's death, revered Anderson as one of his inspirations and in 1909 arranged for the upkeep of the gravesite, which had fallen into disrepair.



Harry Gordon (11 July 1893 – January, 1957) was a popular Scottish entertainer, comedian and impressionist, touring throughout Scotland and further afield. From the 1920s through the 1950s Gordon also produced a large number of recordings, including several under assumed names. He was known as the Laird of Inversnecky, a fictional Scottish town he used in his comic routines.

Harry Gordon was born in Aberdeen as Alexander Gordon, one of five sons and a daughter. He attended King Street and Central schools, before leaving for work as an insurance clerk to help with the family finances. His first public appearance on stage may have occurred at age 12 as Princess Chrysanthemum at Gilcomston Parish Church. By the time he was fifteen years old, he decided to pursue a full-time career as an entertainer. He began to develop his stage skills at various venues in northeast Scotland.

An important turning-point in his career was the 1909 formation of a Pierrot troupe, with whom Gordon played in many open-air performances. The company formed in the village of Banchory, which influenced Gordon's most famous creation, Inversnecky. Gordon began to appear at many theatres in northeast Scotland and did seaside shows in the summer. He was physically unfit for active service in World War I but participated in the war effort as an entertainer.

After the war Gordon often performed in Aberdeen at His Majesty's Theatre and the Beach Pavilion, originally a wooden concert hall which was replaced in 1928 by a more permanent structure. Gordon often was the master of ceremonies at the Beach Pavilion and eventually leased the theatre himself before its closure in 1941. He had a homely and chatty style, establishing an intimate rapport with his audience. With his Doric accent and local knowledge he became one of Scotland's most popular entertainers. He also appeared many times before the microphone of the BBC's local radio station in Aberdeen, 2BD, which operated between 1923 and 1929. In 1956 he suffered a severe attack of influenza, and died in the Royal Infirmary at Glasgow in January, 1957. His work is still remembered and has formed the basis of a one-man stage show about his career.

100 Pipers

Wi' a hundred pipers, an' a', an' a',
Wi' a hundred pipers, an' a', an' a',
We'll up an' gie them a blaw, a blaw,
Wi' a hundred pipers, an' a', an' a'.
O it's owre the border awa', awa'
It's owre the border awa', awa',
We'll on an' we'll march to Carlisle ha'
Wi' its yetts, its castle an' a', an' a'.

Chorus:

Wi' a hundred pipers, an' a', an' a',
Wi' a hundred pipers, an' a', an' a',
We'll up an' gie them a blaw, a blaw
Wi' a hundred pipers, an' a', an' a'.

O! our sodger lads looked braw, looked braw,
Wi' their tartan kilts an' a', an' a',
Wi' their bonnets an' feathers an' glitt'rin'
gear,
An' pibrochs sounding loud and clear.
Will they a' return to their ain dear glen?
Will they a' return oor Heilan' men?
Second sighted Sandy looked fu' wae.
An' mithers grat when they march'd away.

Chorus:

O! wha' is foremos o' a', o' a',
Oh wha' is foremost o' a', o' a',
Bonnie Charlie the King o' us a', hurrah!
Wi' his hundred pipers an' a', an' a'.
His bonnet and feathers he's waving high,
His prancing steed maist seems to fly,
The nor' win' plays wi' his curly hair,
While the pipers play wi'an unco flare.

Chorus:

The Esk was swollen sae red an' sae deep,
But shouther to shouther the brave lads keep;
Twa thousand swam owre to fell English
ground
An' danced themselves dry to the pibroch's
sound.
Dumfoun'er'd the English saw, they saw,
Dumfoun'er'd they heard the blaw, the blaw,
Dumfoun'er'd they a' ran awa', awa',
Frae the hundred pipers an' a', an' a'.

Chorus:

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SCOTTISH BRAGGING PAGE

Robert Burns (25 January 1759 – 21 July 1796) (also known as Rabbie Burns, Scotland's favourite son, the Ploughman Poet, the Bard of Ayrshire and in Scotland as simply The Bard was a poet and a lyricist. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland, and is celebrated worldwide. He is the best known of the poets who have written in the Scots language, although much of his writing is also in English and a 'light' Scots dialect, accessible to an audience beyond Scotland. He also wrote in standard English, and in these pieces, his political or civil commentary is often at its most blunt.

He is regarded as a pioneer of the Romantic movement and after his death became a great source of inspiration to the founders of both liberalism and socialism. A cultural icon in Scotland and among the Scottish Diaspora around the world, celebration of his life and work became almost a national charismatic cult during the 19th and 20th centuries, and his influence has long been strong on Scottish literature.

As well as making original compositions, Burns also collected folk songs from across Scotland, often revising or adapting them. His poem (and song) Auld Lang Syne is often sung at Hogmanay (New Year), and Scots Wha Hae served for a long time as an unofficial national anthem of the country. Other poems and songs of Burns that remain well-known across the world today, include A Red, Red Rose, A Man's A Man for A' That, To a Louse, To a Mouse, The Battle of Sherramuir, and Ae Fond Kiss.

He is generally classified as a proto-Romantic poet, and he influenced William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Percy Bysshe Shelley greatly. The Edinburgh literati worked to sentimentalise Burns during his life and after his death, dismissing his education by calling him a "heaven-taught ploughman." Burns would influence later Scottish writers, especially Hugh MacDiarmid, who fought to dismantle the sentimental cult that had dominated Scottish literature in MacDiarmid's opinion.

Burns Night, effectively a second national day, is celebrated on 25 January with Burns suppers around the world, and is still more widely observed than the official national day, Saint Andrew's Day. The format of Burns suppers has not changed since Robert's death in 1796. The basic format starts with a general welcome and announcements followed with the Selkirk Grace. After the grace comes the piping and cutting of the haggis, where Robert's famous Address To a Haggis is read and the haggis is cut open. The event usually allows for people to start eating just after the haggis is presented. This is when the reading called the "immortal memory", an overview of Robert's life and work, is given; the event usually concludes with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.



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Radar - **Sir Robert Watson-Watt (1892-1973)**

Born in Brechin as Watson Watt (without the hyphen) and a direct descendant of the inventor James Watt, he developed an early interest in radio waves. After World War I, Watson Watt began to look into how aircraft could be detected by the distortion of radio signals. The basic principles of radio-wave reflection and electromagnetic waves had been established by another Scot, James Clerk Maxwell. "Radar" was short for "radio detecting and ranging" and radar development was first started elsewhere. But Watt created the first workable radar system, turning the theory into one of the most important war-winning weapons. Watson Watt became the superintendent of the radio division of the National Physics Laboratory in Teddington. By 1936 his radio stations were able to detect aircraft up to 70 miles away.

It was due to the network of radar stations he proposed that the over-stretched resources of the RAF were able to be in the right place at the right time, as Luftwaffe aircraft streamed over the English Channel during the Battle of Britain from August to October 1940. Watt went on to develop airborne interception radar that helped night fighters detect attacking bombers in the dark. In 1942 Watson-Watt (he had hyphenated his name by this time) was awarded a knighthood.

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Alexander MacRae (circa 1890-1938)

Alexander MacRae was born around 1890 in Kyle of Lochalsh in north-west Scotland. In 1910 he emigrated from his home near Loch Kishorn to Australia. He was already married to a local girl and they later had five sons and a daughter. His wife died in 1925, giving birth to their only daughter. MacRae himself died on November 30 1938 - St. Andrews Day.

MacRae established a company, MacRae Hosiery, in 1914 on Bondi Beach, Sydney, but changed the name later to MacRae Knitting Mills as he began to expand into swimwear. The brand name initially was "Fortitude" - taken from the motto of the clan MacRae. Its Racerback brand was one of the first figure hugging designs specifically created for athletes rather than just fashion. The name "Speedo" was adopted in 1928 after an employee, Captain Jim Parsonson, won a company competition with the slogan "Speed on in your Speedos". Legendary Swedish swimmer Arne Borg wore a Speedo and set a new world record shortly after and Australian Clare Dennis won gold in the 200-metre breaststroke in the 1932 Olympics, setting a new Olympic record. She narrowly escaped disqualification when a protest was lodged against her "inappropriate" costume on the grounds that it exposed too much of her shoulder blade! In the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936 an Australian men's swim team all wore Speedo, including a new, "daring", bare-chested swimming shorts design.

After World War II (during which production switched to materials such as mosquito nets), Speedo swimsuits began to be sold again. Their "two-piece" bikini was initially banned by Australian beach inspectors! MacRae Knitting Mills became a public company on the Sydney stock exchange in 1951 and four years later Speedo introduced nylon into the fabric for its competitive swimwear. It was widely used in the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne and of the 54 countries competing in swimming events at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, 52 of them used Speedos. By that time the company had expanded rapidly, frequently in the forefront of development of the use of new fabrics such as lycra and the latest Speedo Fastskin LZR Racer. Since the top swimmers tend to use Speedo swimwear, it is hardly surprising that it has become "the world's fastest swimsuit". In the 2008 Olympics, Speedo was reported to have offered Michael Phelps a \$1-million bonus for matching Mark Spitz's 1972 record of seven Olympic gold medals in the 1972 Olympics (Spitz wore Speedo swimming trunks then too).

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DIARY DATES 2009

Saturday 17th January Burns Supper Irish Club \$49 per head.
Contact Rowena 3848 9588 or Mavis 3849 8271

Sunday 18th January Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Sausage Sizzle. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, 27 Josling St, Toowong. (Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, look for Aussie Scots Sign. 12 mid-day Sausage Sizzle. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary

Saturday 24th January Burns Supper Brisbane Clans Gaythorne RSL Samford Road Mitchelton (entry and car park at back) \$30 a head RSVP 14/1 Contact Kate Wyse on 3369 2232

Saturday 24th January Burns Supper Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band cnr Lion & Moffat Sts Ipswich. \$30 per ticket 7.30PM to Late RSVP by 18/1

Sunday 25th January 250th Anniversary of the Birth of Robert Burns Scotland's greatest bard. A peaceful gathering will be held at the Burns' statue Centenary Park, Corner of Ann and Wickham Streets Fortitude Valley 10.00.am—11.30am Bring your friends and pass on this message. Contact Trevor Campbell 3359 6662

Sunday 31st January Burns Supper All Seasons Function Centre cnr. North and Tor Sts. Toowoomba 7pm for 7.30pm start 3 course meal \$40 prepaid tp PO Box 20 Toowoomba contact secretary on 46301272 Toowoomba Caledonian Society and Burns Club Inc. and of St Andrew of Scotland Darling Downs branch.

Sunday 15th February Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Sausage Sizzle. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, 27 Josling St, Toowong. (Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, look for Aussie Scots Sign. 12 mid-day Sausage Sizzle. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary

Sunday 8th March Celtic Day Beenleigh Historical Society
Contact Andrea 0409 554 304 or 3807 0330

Sunday 15 March Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc. Sausage Sizzle. Toowong Community Meeting Rooms, 27 Josling St, Toowong. (Benson Rd end of Perrin Park, look for Aussie Scots Sign. 12 mid-day Sausage Sizzle. Meeting starts 1 pm. Finishing time must be 3.00 pm. Apologies to the Secretary

Saturday 18th April 3PM and 7 PM and Sunday 19th April 2PM
Ipswich Tattoo Tunes of Glory Ipswich Civic Hall cnr Limestone & Nicholas Sts Ipswich tickets A reserve Adults \$45 Concession \$40 students (16) \$30 groups 10+ \$40 B reserve Adults \$40 Concession \$35 students (16) \$25 groups 10+ \$35

Sunday 5th July TARTAN DAY SOUTHBANK BRISBANE

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HISTORIC ORMISTON HOUSE

2009 CALENDAR

MARCH 1ST HIGHLAND CELTIC DAY

MAY 10TH HERITAGE DAY AND MOTHER'S DAY

JUNE 28TH CAMELIA DAY

JULY 26TH RR Concours d'Elegance

AUGUST 9TH MB Concours d'Elegance

AUGUST 23RD SPRING GARDEN PARTY

OCTOBER 3RD "MUSIC BENEATH THE STARS"

There was a young Scotsman named Fisher
Who was fishing for fish in a fissure.
Then a cod, with a grin,
Pulled the fisherman in.
Now they're fishing the fissure for Fisher.

There was an old lady of Tranent
Whose nose was remarkably bent
One day they supposed
She followed her nose
For no one knew which way she went

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