

# The Top Half Times

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## CELEBRATING FOLK MUSIC IN THE CENTRE

### WELCOME

Welcome to this, the first edition of  
*THE TOP HALF TIMES*.

This quality rag is the mouthpiece of the Central Australian Folk Society, herein after called the 'Folkies'. Or should that read 'wrinklies' by their ages?

### 39<sup>th</sup> TOP HALF FOLK FESTIVAL

The Folkies are gearing up to host the 39th TOP HALF FOLK FESTIVAL at Glen Helen Resort, June 5<sup>th</sup> to 8th 2009. It truly will be a memorable occasion whether you choose to participate or just sit back and relax with the family and enjoy the whole festival experience.

If you 'Finke' you've had enough dust and petrol fumes for one lifetime, come on out to the clear air at Glen Helen. We suggest you contact Glen Helen early if you want to book a room. Phone No. is 8956 7489 and ask for either Colin or Shelagh and make sure you mention it's for the Folk Festival.

If you want any more details contact David Evans on 0418 519 211.

The St. Andrew's dinner is the first of many fund-raisers to be held over the coming 7 or 8 months to help pull it all together. Sorry, but only cash will be accepted from Scotsman. (Aren't you proud of yourselves for being involved?)

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The deaf will hear the clink of money.

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### HIGHLAND GAMES

Traditional Highland Games in Scotland date from the earliest days of clan gatherings-long before Scotland's written history. The various heavy sports - stone throwing, tossing the caber, tug-of-war, allowed men to demonstrate their physical prowess at the skills needed for battle and survival. Meanwhile, women showed off their finery and their dancing skills.

Today, these festivals take place year round, all over the world but, the best and most authentic Highland celebrations of Celtic traditions, sports and culture still take place in Scotland through summer and early autumn.

\*\*\*\*\*

May be best ye've ever seen,  
Be the worst ye'll ever see:

May the moose ne'er leave yer pantry,  
Wi' a tear drop in his e'n.

\*\*\*\*\*

A Scotsman took a girl for a taxi ride. She was so beautiful he could hardly keep his eyes on the meter!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Conan Doyle, writer and creator of Sherlock Holmes, was Scottish.

### SCOTSMEN

Your typical Scot is tall, heavysset, red hair and beard, short arms & deep pockets, wears a dress but never underpants, doesn't speak any known language, but after a few wee drams of 'single malt' is a little easier to understand. (unless you are a well known local Scottish Artist....Ed.)

He spends a lot of his waking hours hunting the 'Haggis', busking on street corners with his 'Bag Pipes' or 'Tossing his Caber' amongst the heather. He doesn't really appear to have any other uses.

\*\*\*\*\*

How many Scotsmen does it take to change a light bulb? "Och! It's not that dark!!!"

### HAGGIS

The Haggis is the only three legged animal known throughout the world. It is a very hard animal to hunt down, as a result, when one is killed, there is a great ritual involved in presenting it at table.

"The haggis season has begun,  
All over Scotland every gun,  
Is taken down with loving care,  
Though some prefer the haggis snare.  
For haggis are a wily lot  
That's why they are so seldom shot  
"We're the haggis, aye, hooray;  
We'll live until next hogmanay"

It's flying upside down and low  
The guns all fire, but they're too slow  
And though it's rather old and fat  
It's awfully hard to hit like that  
And as it flies off in the mist  
Great hairy clansmen shake their fists  
And scream their curses to the crags  
And stamp on empty haggis bags  
And so the haggis gets away  
To live until next hogmanay  
"We're the haggis, aye, horray;  
We'll live until next hogmanay".

\*\*\*\*\*

Double glazing is doing great business in Scotland in the hope the children cannot hear the ice-cream van when it comes around!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Did you hear about the thoughtful Scotsman who was heading out to the pub? He turned to his wee wife before leaving and said, "Jackie-put your hat and coat on" She replied, "Awe Iain that's nice you taking me to the pub?"

"Nah, just switching off the central heating afore I go.

\*\*\*\*\*

Most northerly point in Scotland on the Scottish mainland is Dunnet Head.

### BAGPIPES

No-one really knows where the bagpipes originated from, sufficient to say they have been in Scotland since the 1400's. One wildly held view is that they were given to them by the Irish as a joke but the Scots didn't get the gag!

What's the difference between a set of bagpipes and a trampoline? You take your shoes off to jump on a trampoline.

What do you call 10 sets of bagpipes on the bottom of the sea? A start.

Why do 'bagpipers' always march when playing? Trying to get away from the bloody noise.

### WHISKY

There is always a stereotypical drunk Scot in Hollywood movies. This isn't fair, there should be three. It was once said that Scots would only drink Irish whiskey if they ran out of water. An old Scottish proverb states, "Never drink whisky with water and never drink water without whisky". In Scotland a seven course meal is a bottle of whisky and six cans of lager. A Scotsman was once rushed to hospital with glass splinters in his lower lip. He told the doctor he'd dropped half a bottle of whisky on the dining room floor!! Choose your company before you choose your drink.

### SELKIRK GRACE

Some hae meat and canna eat,  
And some wad eat that wean it,  
But we hae meat and we can eat,  
And sae the Lord be thankit.

\*\*\*\*\*

Scott called into see his friend Iain to find he was stripping the wall-paper from the walls.

Rather obviously, he remarked "you're decorating I see." to which Iain replied "Naw, I'm moving house."

A Scotsman went on a weeks holiday to England. He took a clean shirt and a 5 pound note and didn't change either of them.

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"Are ye looking for work Jock?"  
"Aint necessary-but I wouldna mind a job"

\*\*\*\*\*

Sign at St Andrew's golf course: 'Members will refrain from picking up lost balls till they stop rolling'

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The largest ship ever built in Scotland was the Queen Elizabeth, launched in 1938. The smaller QEII was launched by Queen Elizabeth in 1967.

\*\*\*\*\*

A Scottish mile is 1.984 yds compared to the norm of 1,760yds.





## STRANGE FACTS

The tartan cloth used for the original kilt measured some 2 yds. wide by 6 to 8 yds in length. This cloth was then wrapped around most of the body, it allowed freedom of movement, was warm, and by simply removing the belt could be removed and used as a blanket at night. This was all very well till, sometime during the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Scots became pillagers and rapists. Now, having this large cloth completely covering the body as pillagers was ok but the rapists found it very slow going getting dressed 'For Battle' as it were! As a result, the wild Highland Chief, Jock McFarquharson cut away the cloth that was intruding on his 'work' and threw it to the ground. Jock had in actual fact set the trend of wearing nothing under a kilt.

However, the following day, a German missionary, Baron Skipsey came upon Jocks abandoned camp and found the discarded cloth. He proceeded to stitch it together and when complete, put it on under his trousers.

When at last he returned to civilization (Germany) another missionary saw the Baron's newly acquired article of clothing and asked, "Where did you get that"? The Baron answered, "They're Jock's" and that, my friends is how our underpants are known to this day!

But wait, there's more.....

Poor missionary Skipsey had failed to wash the said piece of cloth before using it. As a result he suffered a bad fungal rash in his groin area. That is why it is known to this day as 'Jock Rot' or 'Jock Itch'!!

But wait, there's more.....

(No there's not, Ed....)

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All jokes aside, the Scots have a great sense of humour! It doesn't cost them anything!

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Scotland's population makes up less than 1/2 of 1% of the world's population, yet has been awarded 11% of all Nobel prizes.

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An Englishman entered a bar and stood beside a Scotsman. After a while they got chatting and the Scot asked, "where do you come from?" "I come from the finest country on earth" replied the Englishman. The Scot looked skeptical and replied "Are you? You have a damn funny accent for a Scotsman"

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## AULD LANG SYNE

Auld Lang Syne is a Scottish poem written by Robert Burns in 1788 and set to the tune of a traditional folk song. It is well-known in many English-speaking countries, and it is often sung to celebrate the start of the new year at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Day.

The song's (Scots) title may be translated into English literally as "old long since", or more idiomatically, "long, long ago" or "days gone by"

## HISTORY

According to legend, in 832 A.D. King Oengus (II) (or King Angus) led the Picts and Scots in battle against the Angles under a king named Athelstan near modern day Athelstaneford in East Lothian. King Angus and his men were surrounded and he prayed for deliverance. During the night Saint Andrew, who was martyred on a saltire cross, appeared to Angus and assured him of victory. On the following morning a white saltire against the background of a blue sky appeared to both sides. The Picts and Scots were heartened by this, but the Angles lost confidence and were defeated. The saltire design has been the Scottish flag ever since.

## ENTERTAINMENT

If you enjoy the entertainment that has been provided for you this evening, raise your glasses to the following;

\*Colin Lillie\*

David Evans

Dave Oakes

Godfrey Taylor

\*Iain Campbell\*

\*Mary Evans\*

\*Morag McGrath\*

Nerys Evans

Sally Balfour

\*Scott Balfour\*

Ted Egan

If you didn't enjoy it, it was all arranged by Scott Balfour!

(You may not understand a word coming from the mouths of those marked with an \*) ('Cos I cant', Ed....)

## VISIT SCOTLAND

If you have ever felt like visiting Scotland, or felt it was time you returned home for another wee look, 2009 may be just the year for you.

Robert Burns has always been Scotland's beloved national poet and "favourite son" and in 2009 his 250th birthday will be the inspiration for something extraordinary:

*Homecoming Scotland*, a year-long celebration of all things Scottish. Throughout 2009, over 100 major events will pay homage to Scotland as the home of Burn's, Whisky, Golf, and Great Minds & Innovation.

For more info go to:

[www.cometoscotland.com.au](http://www.cometoscotland.com.au)

## SCOTTISH SURNAMES

The 12 most common surnames in Scotland, (2002) in order, are as follows;

Smith

Brown

Wilson

Thomson

Robertson

Campbell

Stewart

Anderson

MacDonald

Scott

McSherrin

MacEvans

## A MIGHTY SCOT

### JOHN McDOUALL STUART

John McD. Stuart was born in Dysart, Fife, Scotland, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1815, the youngest son of 9 children.

He arrived in Australia on January 21, 1839.

He did a lot of work as a draughtsman and surveyor, eventually going on Sturt's attempts to cross the continent from south to North. Stuart eventually succeeded in his own right on his 6<sup>th</sup> attempt (1861-1862) He sailed for England on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1864, a shell of his former self. He died, aged 50 years, 5<sup>th</sup> June 1866 and was buried at the nearby Kensal Green Cemetery

"In Stuart, Australia possessed a man cast in the mould of a hero - a man whose amazing persistence, indomitable courage, and unfailing common sense enabled him to succeed in a mighty task in which most others would have failed"

*T.G.H. Strehlow, reader in Australian Linguistics, University of Adelaide, 1967..*

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The word 'whisky' comes from a Gaelic translation of "Water of Life"

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King James, 1V. (1473-1513) was the last Scottish king to speak Gaelic.

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Scotland has given the British Isles the shortest place name, 'I' which is the Gaelic form of Iona, and the longest surname, MacGhillesatheanaich!

## STINGY SCOTS

I ask you, "what have the Scots ever given us?" Nothing much except:

*Telephone-Alexander Graham Bell*

*Television-John Logie Baird*

*Penicillin-Sir Alexander Fleming*

*Chloroform-Sir James Young Simpson*

*Steam Engine-James Watt*

*Fax Machine-Alexander Bain*

*Pneumatic Tyre-John Boyd Dunlop*

*Logarithms-John Napier*

*Tarmacadam-John Loudon McAdam*

*Waterproof Cloth-Charles MacIntosh*

..... and last but not least;

*copper wire when two of them were fighting over a penny!*

Talking of famous Scotsmen, actor and entertainer, Billy Connolly gave the world this little gem! "*Roses are red, violets are blue, I'm schizophrenic and so am I*"

\*\*\*\*\*

*7 out of 10 Scotsman have blue eyes.*

\*\*\*\*\*

I'd heard of a man named Burns-supposed to be a poet;

But, if he was, how come I don't know it?

They told me his work was very, very neat,

So I replied: "But who did he beat?"

*The boxing champion Muhammad Ali, on his visit to Burns Country in 1965.*



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