LETTER FROM WILLIAM WALLACE
survives over 700 years

AUSTRALIAN PIPER
hits the UK charts

CELTIC FESTIVAL
a family affair

WORLD PORRIDGE DAY
more than oats, water and salt

Win concert tickets and CDs!
EVERY year, some anonymous person in our neighbourhood leaves a note in all the letterboxes telling us that Halloween is approaching, that it is an American tradition that has just caught on in Australia and that children will be knocking on our doors wanting ‘candy’. Every year, I want to find this person and explain to him or her that we do know that Halloween is always celebrated on October 31 (but thanks for the reminder) and that the tradition of entertaining for sweets, or trick or treating for candy, did not originate in America. The Celtic year was determined by the growing seasons. The festival of Samhain (sah-win) marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter or the darker half of the year. It also symbolised the boundary between the world of the living and the world of the dead - October 31 is also known as All Souls Day. Bonfires and neep lanterns with a candle inside are supposed to ward off evil spirits, for as we know from Robert Burns’ poem *Halloween* it’s all about the supernatural, witches, spirits and fire. No matter where it is celebrated, Halloween is just a bit of fun for kids to get dressed up and take home a swag of sweets, but it’s good to reflect on how the seasons, and people’s belief in the supernatural, once ruled their lives. Many traditions, sadly, are fast disappearing from our lives. As well as CDs we have tickets to win to the latest Queensland Pops Orchestra concert in Brisbane - see page 3 for details and get in early. Til next month.

Carmel
**EVENTS**

**AUSTRALIAN** piper and composer Roddy MacDonald will have good reason to celebrate at the much-anticipated *Best Of The Pops* concert this month.

In addition to his official role as Lone Piper for the conclusion of the 2016 world-renowned Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo – a position normally reserved for holders of the British Army’s Pipe Majors Certificate – Roddy was also invited to become Pipe Major of the Tattoo’s resident Pipes and Drums (Pipers Trail).

Roddy is the first Australian to be the official Lone Piper for the Edinburgh Tattoo’s *Television Night*, which is broadcast each year on BBC Television. His performance at this prestigious event has been captured for posterity – it has already been released on DVD in Britain, and will be screened in Australia by the ABC later this year.

A composer as well as a performer for the past forty-plus years, Roddy’s compositions have been played by symphony orchestras all over the world (including Brisbane’s Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Queensland Pops Orchestra), as well as by pipe, folk and rock bands both in Australia and internationally. One of his more recent works, *The Fallen*, was originally written to remember the Australian soldiers who lost their lives in battle in Afghanistan and Iraq. *The Fallen* was first performed in Brisbane by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra for the ANZAC Centenary in 2015.

This moving piece of music recently caught the attention of one of Scotland’s most successful folk/rock groups, The Red Hot Chilli Pipers, who have enjoyed considerable success on the UK pop music circuit. They decided to join forces with the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) pipe band to record a single in recognition of the 9/11 anniversary. Scottish piper Willie Armstrong, who retired from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in March this year, paired up with FDNY fire-fighter and pipe major Jimmy Lee in Scotland last month to record Roddy MacDonald’s *The Fallen* (renamed 343 *The Fallen*, in memory of the 343 fire officers who lost their lives in the World Trade Centre on September 11, 2001). The single has already shot to Number Two on the iTunes charts in the UK, and the BBC video clip that accompanies the track has had over 1.8 million views, just in the first week of release.

Money raised from this single will be divided between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Family Support Trust and The FDNY Pipes and Drums. Roddy happened to be in the UK when the final touches of the 343 *The Fallen* recording were being made. He is honoured to be guest performer on both the recording and the accompanying video release. This year marks the tenth anniversary of Roddy’s appointment as the official piper of the Governor of Queensland. He is also Pipe Major of the Queensland Police Pipes and Drums, and a Captain in the Australian Army Reserve.

Roddy MacDonald will be a special guest artist for the Queensland Pops Orchestra’s showcase concert series, *Best Of The Pops*, at QPAC on Saturday October 8 at 2.30 and 7.30 p.m. Bookings to www.qpac.com.au.

~Chris Patrick

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**WIN TICKETS!**

*Scots News Magazine has THREE DOUBLE TICKETS to the 2.30pm *Best of the Pops* Concert at the Concert Hall, QPAC in Brisbane on October 8. TO WIN simply email scotsnews@iinet.net.au with ‘Best of the Pops Tickets’ in the subject line. Entries must be in by Wednesday October 5.

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**PIPERS AND DRUMMERS WANTED**

*for Pipes and Drums*  
**National Servicemen’s Memorial Band Inc**

The band practises at Gallipoli Army Barracks in Brisbane on Wednesday nights from 6.30pm to 9pm. You do not have to be an ex-service person to become a member of the band. Players of all levels, including learners, would be welcome. Uniforms and tuition are provided free of charge.

Contact Pipe Majors John on 0425 824 299 or Ian on 0413 610 575.
CHILDREN can learn a lot about their heritage as well as having fun at the Celtic Festival of Queensland to be held in Railway Street Helidon (about 100 km west of Brisbane) on **Sunday November 6**.

The event is hosted by the Celtic Historians Association Inc which aims to conduct study and research and help educate future generations about the history of Celtic ancestry. The organisation’s secretary, Tony Williams, said the festival attracts a lot of families.

“The major focus with the festival is the children who attend,” Mr Williams said. “We have free children’s workshops, children’s activities, children’s theatre, dance demonstrations and children’s musical groups.

“The festival is a good old-fashioned street festival where we get to close the whole street and have stallholders set up on both sides.”

The festival kicks off at 10m with a massed pipes display which leads into a program of live music and dancing on the centre stage until 3pm.

“We have Highland Games activities at the start of the day and a medieval re-enactment group with a static display and sword fighting displays, as well as a fighter school for anyone who wants to have a go.”

The Glencoe Medieval Re-enactment Group showcases weaponry, clothing, food and feasting and the history of skills and people from 900 to 1599AD.

Visit the Celtic Festival of Queensland Facebook page for further information.

In the Celtic Village area there will be a variety of displays including a knight’s fighter school.
Enjoy this family trilogy based on real people, places and events.

Go back to a time when fear and superstition, and the power of the kirk, ruled the lives of hard working people whose displacement changed their way of life forever.

The family moved to the miners’ rows. Men faced daily dangers deep below the ground. Women raised large families in two-room houses and watched their children die.

The family is involved in two world wars and experiences difficulties. When a young man emigrates to Australia, he leaves behind hundreds of years of family history to start a new life.

When Anna and Bob McAllister are diagnosed with terminal diseases, they decide to take a cruise - and not return. Set in Brisbane and the South Pacific, this novella raises some controversial issues.

Visit www.scottishbooks.webs.com

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Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in Australia

DIRECT from Edinburgh, the World Famous Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards will be touring Australia in October and November.

A star military band as featured on the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will feature 25 musicians, dancers and singers in full ceremonial uniform live on-stage. Continuing the celebrations of Her Majesty the Queen’s 90th Birthday, the band will perform a series of special concerts in capital cities and major regional centres.

The Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards will perform classic pipe tunes along with modern arrangements and give an insight into the talent and stature of this great Scottish band.

Brisbane audiences can see them perform at the Concert Hall, Queensland Performing Arts Centre on Wednesday October 12. Bookings to qpac.com.au. Check with your local theatre for performances times and bookings in regional centres.

BRISBANE Boys’ College Pipe Band will join with local musicians and dancers to present the Sounds of Scotland variety concert at the College Hall, Kensington Terrace Toowong on Friday October 14 from 7pm.

Enjoy the Address to the Haggis, food, drinks and Scottish stalls prior to the concert from 5.30pm.

For further information contact Stevie Stanley at sstanley@bbc.qld.edu.au.

Scots News October, 2016
THE little village of Carrbridge, below the Monadhliath Mountains, is part of the scenic Cairngorms National Park. Famous for its 18th century packhorse bridge, the River Dulnain snakes its way through this picturesque village before emptying into the River Spey.

For the past 23 years it has also been famous as the home of the annual World Porridge Making Championship which draws competitors from across the globe to compete for the Golden Spurtle trophy (below right).

On Monday October 10, World Porridge Day, competitors from all walks of life will gather in Carrbridge to create new and interesting recipes using oats as the staple ingredient. While the trophy is much sought after, there is a serious side to the competition.

From a tin shed in the Argyll area of the Scottish Highlands, a charity is making a difference in some of the poorest countries across the globe by feeding needy children.

Mary’s Meals provides daily school meals for over one million hungry children, 400,000 of whom live in Malawi in south-east Africa. The provision of a daily meal attracts children to the classroom where they can gain a basic education that can provide an escape route from poverty.

World Porridge Day is a major fundraising event for Mary’s Meals so that they can continue to provide a daily mug of maize-based ‘likuni phala’ (similar to porridge) to these disadvantaged children.

For further information about the charity visit marymeals.org.uk and to see past porridge-making competition winners visit www.goldensurtle.com.
ONE of the few relics remaining of Scotland’s great hero William Wallace is a letter he sent after the victory over the English at the battle of Stirling Bridge, to the mayor of Lübeck inviting German merchants to begin trading directly with Scotland, since the ports were no longer under English control.

Originally thought to have been destroyed in World War II, the letter was found intact in a Lübeck museum and, after some campaigning, it has been given to the Museum of Scotland ‘on loan’.

The ‘Lübeck letter’, as it has become known, was discovered preserved in the Lübeck archives in the 1820s. In 1942, Lübeck (on the Baltic coast of Germany) was attacked by Allied aircraft. As a result, the town’s archives, including the letter, were moved to a salt mine for safety. At the end of the war, the Soviet army took the papers east. The archives were later handed over to the archive administration of East Germany, but the medieval documents were not among the records. It was assumed that they had been lost.

In the 1970s, Lübeck documents were found in the archives of the USSR. In 1990, after some negotiation, the town’s medieval records, including the letter from Wallace, were returned to Lübeck.

The front of the seal on the letter bears the lion rampant, a traditional emblem of the Scottish monarchy. The back of the seal shows a bow and string with a protruding arrow held by two ringers which is thought to be William Wallace’s own seal, and is the only impression known to exist. The design suggests that he practised archery.

There is debate about whether the letter should reside in Scotland or with the people of Lübeck.

Dr Alan Borthwick from the National Records of Scotland translated the letter in 2012.

Andrew de Murray and William Wallace, leaders of the army of the kingdom of Scotland, and the community of the same kingdom, to their worthy, discreet and beloved friends the mayors and communes of Lübeck and Hamburg, greeting, and increase always of sincere friendship.

It has been intimated to us by trustworthy merchants of the said kingdom of Scotland that you by your own goodwill are giving counsel, help and favour in all causes and business concerning us and our merchants, although our merits had not deserved this, and therefore all the more are we bound to you to give you thanks and a worthy recompense, to do which we are willing to be obliged to you; and we ask you that you will make it be proclaimed amongst your merchants that they can have secure access to all ports of the kingdom of Scotland with their merchandise since the kingdom of Scotland, thanks be to God, has by arms been recovered from the power of the English. Farewell.

Given at Haddington in Scotland on the 11th day of October in the year of grace one thousand two hundred and ninety seven.

We request moreover that you will see fit to forward the business of John Burnet and John Frere, our merchants, just as you wish us to forward the business of your merchants. Farewell. Given as before.
COMPETITION

TO win one of FOUR CDs from the John Hocknull Collection, simply choose the CD you would like to win, send an email to scotsnews@iinet.net.au by Friday October 7 and in the subject line write ‘competition’ - and the name of the CD you would like to win.

MORE PRIZES! Brisbane readers can win concert tickets - see page 3 for details.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CD: TOGAIDH MI MO SHEOLTA (Along the Road Less Travelled)</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARTIST: Margaret Stewart</td>
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<td>CATEGORY: Gaelic Song</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELEASED: 2008</td>
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<td>ABOUT: Margaret hails from the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. The album includes an ancient walking song, an Ossianic ballad, a Jacobite epic, humorous songs from Lewis and Uist, love songs, a MacDonald praise song, lullaby, two emigrants songs and much more.</td>
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<th>CD: OFF THE MAP</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARTIST: Archie Fisher and Garnet Rogers</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATEGORY: Singers and Songwriters</td>
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<td>RELEASED: 2004</td>
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<td>In 1985 Scottish folk singer Archie Fisher and instrumental Garnet Rogers teamed up to tour Canada and America. The tour was a huge success and the recorded concert tracks feature on this CD. Combines the best of Archie’s vocal and songwriting talents with Garnet's instrumental accompaniment.</td>
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<th>CD: STEM THE TIDE</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARTIST: The Paul McKenna Band</td>
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<td>CATEGORY: Groups</td>
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<td>RELEASED: 2011</td>
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<td>ABOUT: Traditional music as well as original songs and tunes from this dynamic young five-piece led by singer Paul McKenna. Their exciting sound is created through outstanding vocals, driving guitar and bouzouki, intense fiddle playing, a warm pairing of flute and whistles, and dynamic bodhrán and percussion. Their first album (self-titled) won them Best Up And Coming Artist Of The Year at the Scots Trad Music Awards in 2009, and received critical acclaim.</td>
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<th>CD: THE CLEAR STREAM (Guitar music from Scotland and beyond)</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARTIST: Various</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATEGORY: Compilations</td>
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<td>RELEASED: 2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 TRACKS: Kate Dalrymple * Accrington McBride’s Set * Roslin Castle * My Love Is Like A Red, Red Rose Set * Lady Lothian’s Lilt Set * Zagreb * My Home Town * Leaving Stor * She Of Many Names * Old Long Syne * Vigo * Da Day Dawns Set * Gille Callum Set * Sleep Dearie Sleep Set * The Battle Of Waterloo * Enfin Set * The Voddy Girders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABOUT: Featuring the guitar playing of Tony Cuffe, Jack Evans, Dick Gaughan, Rob MacKillop, Tony McManus (with Alain Genty and Soig Siberil), Brian McNeill and Innes Watson. The aim of this album project was to record guitar tracks by some of Scotland’s finest exponents of the instrument.</td>
</tr>
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ANDREW Petrie was born in Fifeshire, Scotland in 1798 and trained as an architect and builder in Edinburgh. He set up his own business and in 1831 was one of the Scottish mechanics brought to Sydney on the Stirling Castle by John Dunmore Lang as the nucleus of a new force of free workers.

He accepted a post as a clerk in the Ordnance Department in Sydney, and when there was an urgent appeal from Moreton Bay for a competent builder to repair crumbling structures, Petrie was sent there as a clerk of works.

His first important task was to repair the mechanism of the windmill which had never worked. His general duty was the supervision of prisoners engaged in making necessities such as soap and nails, and in building.

His work took him to several convict outposts and gave him a taste for travel and exploration. His private journeys soon added to knowledge of the immediate environs of the settlement.

When the convict station was removed in 1839, Petrie saw the opportunity of building a free community, and he and his family remained to contribute to its formation. He was able to pursue his interests as a builder and architect.

He was the first white man to climb Mount Beerwah, one of the Glass House Mountains seen by James Cook in Queensland, and he was also the first to bring back samples of the Bunya pine tree.

In 1842, with a small party in a boat, he discovered the Mary River and brought back to the settlement two ‘wild white men’, James Davis or ‘Duramboi’ and David Bracewell or ‘Wandi’.

Petrie lost his eyesight in 1848, because of inefficient surgery after an attack of sandy blight, but he kept control over his business and was still able to design ferry landings and a bridge over Breakfast Creek. When plans were explained to him, he ordered the necessary quantities of material and was even able to check the performance of his building workers - he used his cane if he was not satisfied with their work.

Together with his wife Mary Cuthbertson (whom he married in Edinburgh in 1821) he had nine sons and one daughter. With advancing years he handed over more and more control to his eldest son, John Petrie, who became first mayor of Brisbane. His fourth son, Thomas, gained much knowledge of the Aboriginal tribes and their customs and languages.

The Petries’ house was one of the social centres of Brisbane and readily offered accommodation to squatters coming from the outback, especially in the days before Brisbane had inns. Andrew Petrie was known for his generosity to people who were down on their luck and was always willing to help out with food and work.

Petrie Bight, Petrie Terrace, the suburb of Petrie and Petrie Mansions are all named after Andrew Petrie and his sons.

PHOTOS: Andrew Petrie (above) and Andrew Petrie’s house at the corner of Queen and Wharf Streets, Brisbane, circa 1859 (below).
LETTERS

KNOCKSHINNOCH REMEMBERED

YOUR story about the mining diaster at Knockshinnoch in New Cumnock in Scotland is a timely reminder for us all to stop and remember the nation’s history. Scotland relied heavily on the mining industry in the 18th and 19th centuries and the conditions in which some of the early miners worked were inhumane. When a tragedy like this happens, with so many lives lost and others mentally and physically scarred for life, it is not just the people immediately involved but their families and the whole community that feel the loss. We must remember and honour those who have gone before us so that we can fully appreciate the freedom and safety we have now in our lives.

Peter Finlayson, Bundaberg formerly of Muirkirk, Scotland

(Well said, Peter. If you talk to anyone in New Cumnock today many will have relatives who were lost or injured in the mining cave in. My father worked at Knockshinnoch - he sailed for Australia in April 1950 and the disaster happened in September of that year. You may be interested to read my books Ours, Yours and Mines and Far Across The Sea which are set in the mining communities in and around Muirkirk and New Cumnock. Ed.)

SCOTS NEWS welcomes your letters and comments.
Send emails to the editor at scotsnews@iinet.net.au

WOMEN’S HISTORY

ON a recent trip to Glasgow I visited the Glasgow Women’s Library and saw this beautiful old umbrella stand which is said to have been painted by suffragettes being held in a nearby prison. The library is devoted to women’s history. I thought your readers might be interested to have a look at it.

Margaret Allardice, Mackay

STAN LAUREL A HARDY GLASWEGIAN

IT never ceases to amaze me how many famous people and inventions originated in Scotland. I enjoy your Scots in Oz section every month and marvel at the many Scots who brought their ingenuity and courage to Australia to help build it into the great nation that it is today. But to read in your latest magazine that comedian Stan Laurel grew up in Glasgow (Comedy legend grew up in Glasgow, Scots News Magazine September 2016) was certainly a surprise. While he was born in England, his formative years were spent in Scotland so we can claim his as one of oor ain!

Dominica Gray, Geebung

TATTOO WELL WORTH THE EFFORT

I was in Edinburgh for this year’s Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and it didn’t disappoint. I’ve always loved the pageantry of the pipes and drums and dancers and vocalists, but with all the added technical wizardry and fireworks it is an event that is something out of this world. As a third generation Scot living in Australia, and while I have visited Scotland before, I’ve only ever seen the Tattoo on television - what a dream to be there in the crowd and witness this spectacle. If any of your readers have this on their bucket list, I urge them to make it a reality. It’s well worth the effort.

Mark Sayers, Spring Hill

UNDERGROUND STORY

JUST wanted to let you know that I enjoyed my trip under the streets of Edinburgh in your book The Undertaker. I knew a lot of the places you mentioned.

Alan McCord, Tweed Heads

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WHAT’S ON IN OCTOBER

October 8 - Queensland Pops Orchestra presents Best of the Pops featuring pipe major Roddy MacDonald and a Celtic celebration at the Concert Hall, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Brisbane at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Bookings to qpac.com.au. **Win tickets**

October 10 - World Porridge Day.

October 12 - Royal Scots Dragoon Guards will perform at the Concert Hall, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Brisbane and throughout Queensland in October. Further information for Brisbane from www.qpac.com.au. Visit your local theatre for performance times and details.

October 14 - Sounds of Scotland Concert presented by Brisbane Boys’ College Pipe Band at Toowong in Brisbane. Tickets $16. Enquiries to Steven Stanley on 0400 953 126 or email sstanley@bbc.qld.edu.au.

October 16 - South Queensland Highland Dancing Championships at Bracken Ridge State School, Barfoot St, Bracken Ridge. Enquiries to 0438 510 890.

October 31 - Samhain Festival, also known as Halloween and All Souls’ Day.

Gaelic classes are held each month in Brisbane. Visit www.facebook.com/BrisbaneGaelic for details.

INTERSTATE IN 2016

VICTORIA
October 29 and 30 - Battle of Bannockburn Timeline Festival to be held in Bannockburn Australia featuring 300 re-enactors. Visit www.timeline.org.au.

CANBERRA
October 8 - Canberra Highland Gathering from 10am to 5pm at Kambah Oval, Kett Street, Kambah. Entry is free. Email enquiries to smbackett@ozemail.com.au or visit http://canberragathering.com.au

WHAT’S COMING UP

November 6 - Celtic Festival of Queensland at Helidon. Massed pipe bands, highland games and medieval re-enactment displays. Free event. Enquiries to 0408 889 841.

November 30 - St Andrew’s Day

December 31 - Hogmanay 2017


June 24 - anniversary of Battle of Bannockburn.

August 17 to 20 - Scots in the Bush at Boondooma Homestead.

INTERSTATE IN 2017

NEW SOUTH WALES

CALLING ALL BUCHANANS
In 2016 Clan Buchanan will celebrate its 1000th year since formation! Contact Qld Regent, Marie Gibson Ph 0413 456 542 - mig7@optusnet.com.au and register on the Clan Buchanan Oceania website http://clanbuchanan.spruz.com

SCOTTISH TUNES AND CONVERSATION ON THE RADIO

Join Ron Tannock every Thursday night from 7pm to 9.30pm and every second Saturday from 9am to noon for the Sounds of Ireland (and Scotland), on Burnett River Radio 91.5FM broadcasting to Gayndah and Central Burnett region.

Colin Nightingale hosts Acoustic Harvest every second Thursday night at 8pm on bayFM100.3.

Enjoy ‘A wee bit o’ Scotland on Thursday’ on 4EBFM98.1 from 2.15pm to 4.30pm.

Scottish Program on Global Digital Radio (4EB) each Sunday from 2pm to 3pm.

Triple T 103.9 Townsville Community Radio’s Scottish Program each Sunday from 3pm to 5pm with Don MacDonald.

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