



# Convict Trash

Run 1918 - 18/12/23

Hare: Andrew – Location: Yowie Bay



## Starters Gun

The troops arrived with chairs, bags full of Christmas goodies and chilly bins laden with festive beverages.



## Circle Report

Prior to the [Reformation](#) of 1560, [Christmas](#) in [Scotland](#), then called "[Yule](#)" was celebrated in a similar fashion to the rest of [Catholic Europe](#). However, the Reformation transformed attitudes to traditional [Christian feasting days](#), including Christmas. A 1640 Act of the [Parliament of Scotland](#) abolished the "Yule vacation and all observation thereof in time coming".

Two Acts of the [Estates of Parliament](#) — *Act discharging the Yule vacance (2 June 1640)* and *Act discharging the Yule vacance (15 April 1690)* abolished the Yule Vacance (Christmas recess).

The first Act was partly [repealed](#) in 1686, [Episcopalianism](#) was briefly in ascendancy within the Kirk.

The second Act was partly repealed in 1712 by the [Yule Vacance Act 1711](#) of the [Westminster Parliament](#).<sup>[8]</sup>

Christmas became a Bank Holiday in Scotland, in 1871

[Robert Jamieson](#) recorded the opinion of an English clergyman regarding the post-reformation suppression of Christmas:<sup>[8]</sup>

"The ministers of Scotland, in contempt of the holy day observed by England, cause their wives and servants to spin in open sight of the people upon Yule Day, and their affectionate auditors constrain their servants to yoke their plough on Yule Day, in contempt of Christ's nativity. Which our Lord has not left unpunished, for their oxen ran wild and broke their necks and lamed some ploughmen, which is notoriously known in some parts of Scotland."



[Cloutie dumpling](#)

Christmas in Scotland was traditionally observed very quietly because the [Church of Scotland](#), a [Presbyterian](#) church, for various reasons suppressed Christmas celebrations in Scotland after the [Reformation](#).

Christmas Day was made a [public holiday](#) in 1958<sup>1</sup> in Scotland, [Boxing Day](#) only in 1974. The New Year's Eve festivity, [Hogmanay](#), was by far the largest celebration in Scotland. The gift giving, public holidays and feasting associated with mid-winter were traditionally held between 11 December and 6 January. However, since the 1980s, the fading of the Church's influence and the increased influences from the rest of the United Kingdom and elsewhere, Christmas and its related festivities are now nearly on par with, or surpass, Hogmanay and [Ne'erday](#). [Edinburgh](#), [Glasgow](#) and other cities now have traditional German [Christmas markets](#) from late November until Christmas Eve.

On On HL



## Run Report – Dundee

(the oldest member reports on the youngest members run)

\*very nice run

\*well set

\*it took us through some bush

\*Duck and Joker took a short cut and meandered back to the bucket

\*I was the only one who did the whole run

**Score – 10/10**

**Naming – Georgie > Rockabilly**

**Athletes – 950 runs Doc**

**Birthdays – Andrew  
Janet**

**Prickette –**

\*Duck > Moe Goa – “Yowie Bay”

\*Pig > Bingo – in the bush area she was slower and needed help on the steps

\*Growsome > Blondie – being Bingo’s walking stick

## Prick –

\*Dirty Weekend > Dundee – a St George follower wearing Souths colours

\*HISH > Dundee – may be the oldest member but he is the “whingyest”

**\*\*\* And this weeks winners are **Bingo** and **Dundee**\*\*\***

## Visitors –

Janet

Grahame

Babe

Jaguar

Asher

Ellie

## Announcements-

No run on Christmas Day

Hare Line  Website [www.botanybay-h3.weebly.com](http://www.botanybay-h3.weebly.com)

## Next Weeks Run

Hare : Stopcock

Date : 1/1/24

Start : 658 Port Hacking Road,  
Dolans Bay.

On On : Home cater

Scotland has many countless traditions given throughout its years of rich history - including Christmas.

Scotland's colourful and rich history has long had its very own set of Christmas traditions - even if it was banned circa 400 years ago!

Around the 1600s, the [UK](#) was ruled by [Oliver Cromwell](#) who banned Christmas (or “Christ’s Mass” as it was then). However, when he fell from power the ban lifted everywhere but in [Scotland](#) which was, in short, due to Presbyterianism.

Scots celebrating [Christmas](#) did so discreetly as the event, which was known as Yule in those days. It was stripped from the Calendar and harsh punishments awaited anyone taking part in the celebrations. For Scots, this time was reduced to little more than another work day until 1958 when Christmas Day was finally recognised as a public holiday once again.

Despite this gap in Scottish festivity the country still boasts a myriad of traditions as even prior to the Reformation, the [Winter Solstice](#) (i.e., Yule or “Yogh” in Older [Scots](#)) was celebrated by druids, pagans and vikings - ancestors who roamed Scotland long before us.

From why we hang mistletoe to the origins of Yule Bread, here are some old Christmas traditions and customs of Scotland.



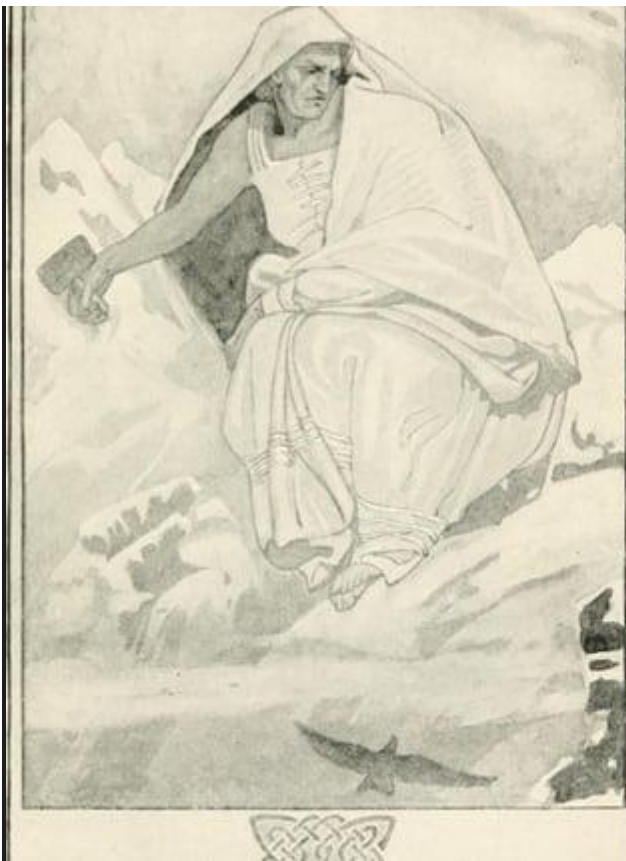
## Mistletoe - adding greenery to the home

When Scotland was inhabited by ancient Celtic druids and pagans, they celebrated Yule (or the Winter Solstice) by bringing greenery into their homes as it symbolised life amid the dark nights associated with death. Mistletoe was used as it was thought to have fertility properties and even to this day the plant compels people to kiss beneath it. Holly wreaths are another custom that ancient Celts hung outside their homes as the icy cold winds of Winter were thought to be dangerous spirits and the wreaths offered protections from these 'wraiths'.



## Yule Logs and their symbolism

The tradition of Yule logs dates back to the Druids, they believed that the sun stood still for twelve days in the middle of Winter and so they lit a log at this time to combat the darkness, banish evil spirits and bring good fortune for the year ahead. When baking Yule bread, a tradition often associated with Shetland and Orkney, the loaf is turned into a circle which represents the Sun and the caraway seeds used are said to represent the "Sidhe" or Winter spirits.



## The Cailleach

In a bid to ward off evil spirits, Scots used the Cailleach or 'the Hag of Winter' totem. This was a log carved with the face of an old woman, a mythological creature that brought in long nights and cold weather. By burning the totem, our ancestors believed that it could banish the cold darkness and dispel any lingering bad luck in the home.



### Crom Dubh na Nollaig - The dark Christmas spirit

For the children of Islay (an island in the Scottish Hebrides) this evil spirit which translates to “the dark crooked one of Christmas” would visit them if they behaved badly during the season. In a 1969 interview with a resident of Islay, Peggy Earl, she recalled that she was “absolutely terrified” of this creature who would reportedly howl down chimneys in Islay.

