



Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

NEWSLETTER

Editor: A J McConnell
Phone: 07 3397 4512

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Page 1

Next Meeting

Monday 23rd March

**Souths Leagues Club, Jane Street, West End.
at 7.45 pm**

**This month's meeting will feature our Annual
Patron's Trophy Competition.**

This is a competition for Senior members (**Open & Intermediate**) of the Society and comprises a **March, Strathspey and Reel** (each 4 parts minimum). All competitors must wear the correct attire (kilt). No entry fee, but entrants must pay their admission to the meeting.

Our Judge for the evening will be one of South East Queensland's foremost piping authorities, **Iain Bruce**

Prizes: 1st The Patron's Trophy to hold for one year and \$60,
2nd \$30, 3rd \$20

Entries to the Secretary, PO Box 1252, Coorparoo DC 4151 or by phone 3397 4512 (AFTER 4.00PM) by **Saturday 21st March**

Please remember the rule that smoking will not be permitted during the meeting.

All comments made in this newsletter reflect the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or views of the Queensland Highland Pipers' Society or of any officer or member of the Society.

CONTACT YOUR SOCIETY ELECTRONCALLY

Society Secretary Alex McConnell can be contacted by electronic mail. The Internet address is: alexm@ozemail.com.au

THE PIPER'S DIARY

MARCH

- 21st Informal Band Contest - QPBA Rooms, Old Museum Complex - 9am to 4pm (run by the Pipe Band College)
- 23rd **Society Meeting (Patron's Trophy)**
- 25th NSW Pipers Society - Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest
- 29th Ringwood Highland Gathering (Victoria)

APRIL

- 4th Maclean Highland Gathering - see details later in the newsletter.
- 4th Bundanoon Highland Gathering - NSW Southern Highlands - Contact 1800 656 176
- 5th St Mary's Band Indoor Contest (Sydney) Contact Cyril Law 02 9604 2439
- 10th -12th Australian Pipe Band Championships - Newcastle Showgrounds - see notice below
- 22nd NSW Pipers Society - Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest
- 27th **Society Meeting (Special Program)**

MAY

- 1st -3rd Australian Celtic Festival - Glen Innes - Contact 02 6732 2397
- 2nd -3rd Bundaberg Highland Gathering - Contact 071 52 9879 - see notice below
- 9th Redcliffe Band Contest - details to be advised
- 16th AOM Trophy Invitational Solo Contest - see notice below
- 20th NSW Pipers Society - Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest
- 23rd All Clans Pipe Band Highland Debutante Ball - Riverside Ballroom - \$35 - Contact Mavis Williams 3849 8271 or Kate Wyse 3369 2232
- 25th **Society Meeting (Hornpipe & Jig)**
- 30th Tartan Spectacular Band Contest - Petrie Park (subject to QPBA approval) - St Andrew's Pipe Band

JUNE

- 13th Ipswich Thistle Highland Debutante Ball - St Mary's Function Centre, Ipswich
- 24th NSW Pipers Society - Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest
- 22nd **Society Meeting (Veterans)**

JULY

- 4th Queensland Scots Association Ceilidh - Balmoral Bowls Club - Contact 3399 9267
- 10-11th Tenterfield Pipers Retreat - see notice below
- 18th Sunshine Coast Band Contest - details to be advised
- 22nd NSW Pipers Society - Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest
- 27th **Society Meeting (Jimmy Durham Trophy)**

AUGUST

15 th	World Pipe Band Championships -Glasgow
24 th	Society Annual Meeting & 6/8 Contest
26 th	NSW Pipers Society - Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest
29 th	Ipswich Thistle Solo and Band Contest - details to be advised
29 th	Cowal Pipe Band Championships - Dunoon

If you need more details about any of the above events and a contact is not mentioned, ring the Society Secretary (3397 4512 after hours). and we will see what we can dig up for you.

Scottish Radio Programs **SBS Radio** - Brisbane FM 93.3 - Thursday nights 10-11pm
4EB - AM 1053 - Thursday afternoons 3-4pm

Jock McCabe, who many readers will have met, has published a **book about his life named "Highlander 'neath the Southern Cross"**.

Even if you realised Jock was a pretty colourful personality, perhaps you don't realise how colourful - this book will fill in the detail. A couple of extracts from the foreword by Norman McSwan, Sydney, will give a bit of a taste:

"This is the amazing tale of one man's incredible journey: a story of a life that began in the misty Highland glens of Scotland's Loch Ness and then encompassed virtually the whole of Australia.....He worked and fought and drank and sang in the bush among the forgotten men and women who helped build this country..... He ranged from Perth to the Gulf country of far North Queensland, carried his swag through Tasmania and drove cattle and sheep in NSW and Queensland.....He is truly a legend and this story tells how the legend began and how it is now easing towards its close."

You can obtain the book by sending a cheque or money order for **\$20 plus \$2** postage and packing to

Glengarry Publishing, PO Box 330, TENTERFIELD NSW 2372.

BUNDABERG HIGHLAND GATHEPING

Labour Day Weekend
 Saturday & Sunday
 2nd & 3rd May 1998
 Across the Ways Sports Ground -
 Thabeban St
 Bundaberg.



(Change of venue)

SOLO PIPING
SOLO DRUMMING
DRUM MAJORS
MINI BAND CONTEST
FULL BAND CONTEST

Solo events Saturday afternoon
Prizemoney & Certificate will be awarded
in each section according to entries.

Band events Sunday.
Bands - Prizemoney & Certificate - All
Grades 1st \$250, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100
ENTRIES CLOSE 4 APRIL

Information from:

The Secretary
P.O. Box 615, Bundaberg. Q. 4670

Phone: Sue McCracken 07 4152 9879 or
Ken McCracken 07 4159 3459

FEBRUARY MEETING

Four our first meeting of the year we had a fairly modest attendance of a bit less than 25 enthusiasts, but perhaps we can forgive those who didn't turn out, as South East Queensland was under threat of blackout!

Bob Payne introduced the evening. He gave apologies for Dave Sinclair who is laid up with a bad leg and Rosie McLelland who is recovering from an injury to her leg. He also advised that Margaret Fleming has been seriously ill. He reminded members that next month will see the annual Patron's Trophy contest and he also mentioned the Pipers Weekend to be held in Tenterfield in July. He took the opportunity to farewell Brian Oman who has been Brisbane's resident bagpipe maker for some years, but is now on his way back to Scotland. He will be a great loss. He also welcomed Stuart McLeod to his first meeting - Stuart is the first person to join the Society via email!

The first piper to play was Phillip Cowan. He is a quickly maturing young player and presented a good instrument that was blown very steadily throughout. He showed his ability to play plenty of the "quick stuff" in an interesting selection - but he might need to pay a little attention to a few "soft" crossing noises that could just be heard from time to time. His tunes included *Fleas in the Chanter, Mason's Apron, Sydney 154, Hector the Hero, The Tourist, Duncan the Gauger, Coming to the Crunch, Marakova, Rowdy's Reel* and *The Big Flip*

Next to play was a newcomer to our performers list in Steve Taylor. Steve played with good expression and musical feel on an instrument that was well set up and blown well for most of the time, with just a couple of little blemishes. His selection was fairly short, comprising *Schehallion, Colin's Cattle, Land of My Youth* and *Shoals of Herring*.

Lea Ahokava, another of our younger generation of players was our next performer and he played a good sounding instrument that settled in well through the performance which featured a good variety of tunes. Another rapidly maturing player. The tunes were probably more along the "traditional" line, comprising *The Argyllshire Gathering, Ewe Wi' the Crookit Horn, Sleepy Maggie, Song for the Small Pipe, Eleanor, Redford's Cottage, Mrs McSwan, Calum, Crossing the Minch, Irish Chase* and *Banjo Breakdown*.

Rod Smith was the next player who had come along equipped to have a tune. He had a good strong steady instrument and entertained us with fine accurate and musical playing. Apart from a small adjustment to the tape on the chanter part way through, his pipes needed little attention. His tunes included *Waternish point, Braemar Gathering, Pipe Major Bill Boyle, Inverary castle, Willie Cummin's Rant* and *Train Journey North*.

Mark McKenzie had turned up part way thorough the meeting with wife Susan and new daughter Erin, so he was prevailed on for a tune. As usual he was keen to play and produced a strong but smooth-sounding instrument. His playing was confident and musical apart from a couple of times when he attempted a tune a bit too far back in the memory! Some of his tunes were *MacLeod of Mull, Dornoch Highland Gathering, Piper's Bonnet, Ewe wi' the Crookit Horn, Fiona MacLeod, Cockerel in the Creel, John Paterson's Mare* and *Donald McLelland's Tuning Phrase*.

Finally Rod Smith, Lea Ahokava and Philip Cowan played us a trio. They had good tight playing together with just a couple of minor indiscretions. In their

second bracket of tunes, the drones began to drift a little, possibly due to a bit of variation in blowing. Some of their tunes were *The Tourist*, *Mason's Apron*, *Northlanders* and *Skelpie Heid*.

Bob then brought the formal part of the evening to a close and arranged the drawing of the raffle, which was won by Steve Taylor. All then retired for supper and much interesting conversation.

Proposed Society Meeting Program for 1998

The following list shows a proposed program for the year. It's not quite final, so if you would like to have some input, we would welcome it. There are two nights listed as **Special Program**. A couple of suggestions for these are a lecture on some aspect of piping, perhaps a discussion about either the instrument or current trends in pipe music, or even a Video or CD night - there are starting to be quite a few resources of this type available.

March	Patron's Trophy - MSR for Senior players	August	Annual Meeting and 6/8 Contest - two 4-parted 6/8s
April	<i>Special Program</i>	September	<i>Special Program</i>
May	Hornpipe & Jig Contest (4 parts each)	October	Pipers Night
June	Veterans Contest - Air & 2/4 March for those over 50	November	Pair of Pipers (Medley) and Christmas Party
July	Jimmy Durham Trophy - 2/4 march for Junior players		

THE CLUNEMORE COLLECTION of HIGHLAND BAGPIPE MUSIC

56 ORIGINAL AND TRADITIONAL TUNES INCLUDING :-

Marches, Airs, Jigs, Retreats, Strathspeys, Reels, Hornpipes, and the
Piobaireachd "Dargai"

\$15 (plus \$2 postage and packaging) -

ORDERS: Lachlan McCabe. PO Box 510 WARWICK QLD 4370

FOR SALE

SET OF DAVID NAILL PIPES, WITH CHANTER
RING 0412 510 622

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Annual Subscription - \$24 (including postage)

Write to:

ALBA Publications,
PO Box 8024,
Wynnum North, Qld 4178

or Phone 07 3396 9025

94th MACLEAN HIGHLAND GATHERING

April 4th 1998
Saturday Only

- Day Night Contest
- 10am Start
- Maclean Showground



- * Guest Piper to be confirmed
- * Maclean & District Services Club Pipe Band Centenary Year 1898-1998
- * Australian Pipe Band Championships Preliminary Contest



105 YEARS

"BUT STILL THE BLOOD IS STRONG"

Lower Clarence Scottish Association Incorporated

1893 - 1998

CHIEF

Colin Gregor
4110 Wharf Street,
Maclean NSW 2463
Ph. (02) 6645 2408

SECRETARY

Bob McPherson
7 Sunart Lane,
Maclean NSW 2463
Ph. (02) 6645 2887 A/H

TREASURER

John McPhee
Palmer's Channel,
Maclean NSW 2460
Ph. (02) 6646 0120

VENUE & EVENTS

Saturday April 4th 1998

MACLEAN SHOWGROUND

- Learner Chanter
- Elementary Piping
- Sub-Intermediate Piping
- Intermediate Piping
- Open Piping
- Solo Drumming
- Highland Dancing
- Highland Dancing Group Choreographed Competition
- Band Contest
- Hugh Donald Anderson Band Sign Award Competition
- Drum Major Flourish Solo Competition
- Maclean & District Services Club Pipe Band Centenary Feature 1898-1998
- Official Opening
- Massed Band Display
- Piping Recital
- Highland Sport

TIMES TO BE CONFIRMED

SOLO PIPING

MACLEAN GOLD MEDAL PIPING CONTEST

James MacSwan Gold Medal (Solid 9 ct gold)
Sponsored by the James MacSwan Estate,
Points 5-3-1 events 1 to 3.

Event No. 1 OPEN PİOBAİREACHD (J.K. McKinnon Memorial Trophy)

Competitors to nominate 3 tunes to the Judge.
Sponsored by the Family of the late Mrs May Blanch
1st \$100, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$30. Entry fee \$5.

Event No. 2 OPEN MARCHISTRATHSPEYREEL (SLIRDARG TROPHY)

Competitors to nominate 3 sets of tunes to the Judge each of (4) parts minimum.
Sponsored by Don Rodgers, Angus Robertson
1st. \$300, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50. Entry fee \$5.

Event No. 3 OPEN HORNPIPE/JIG (George Leask Memorial)

Competitors to nominate 3 sets of tunes to the Judge each of (4) parts minimum,
Sponsored by Sandy & Mary Campbell. (Highland House Brisbane)
1st. Trophy & \$150, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25. Entry fee \$5.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Event No. 4 RESTRICTED PİOBAİREACHD (Dr. H.W. Charlton Memorial)

Sponsored by David & Bill Charlton.
1st Sgian Dubh and Certificate plus cash \$25
2nd \$15 and Certificate.
3rd \$10 and Certificate. Entry fee \$2.

Event No. 5 DONALD MACSWAN MEMORIAL (Open to all grades)

Tune "Mrs MacSwan" correct music on application stamp address envelope to the Secretary.
1st \$50, 2nd \$25, 3rd \$15. Entry fee \$2.

INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION PIPER

Alastair MacSween Memorial - plus \$30.

Event No. 6 MARCH/STRATHSPEY/REEL (Charlie McKinnon Mere.)

Sponsored by the McKinnon Family
Tunes each of (4) parts minimum.

1st. \$15, 2nd \$10, 3rd \$5. Entry fee \$2.

Event No. 7 HORNPIPE/JIG (John Wallace Memorial Trophy)

Sponsored by the Wallace Family

Tunes each of (4) parts minimum.

1st. \$15, 2nd \$10, 3rd \$5. Entry fee \$2.

SUB-INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION PIPER

Mary Catherine MacKenzie MacPherson Memorial Trophy plus \$25.

Event No. 8 MARCN/STRATHSPEY/REEL (Alex Wallace Memorial)

Sponsored by Mary Wallace

Tunes March of (4) parts into Strathspey/Reel each two (2) parts minimum.

1st \$12, 2nd \$8, 3rd \$5. Entry fee \$2.

Event No. 9 JIG Sponsored by Mary McPherson and Family

Tune 2 parts minimum.

1st \$12, 2nd \$8, 3rd \$5. Entry fee \$2.

ELEMENTARY CHAMPION PIPER

(Fred Douglas Memorial) - plus \$10.

Sponsored by the Douglas family.

Event No. 10 MARCH 2/4 (Maggie Wallace Memorial)

Sponsored by the Wallace family.

Tune (4) parts minimum.

1st \$10, 2nd \$7, 3rd \$4. Entry fee \$2.

Event No. 11 SLOW AIR (Maud Douglas Memorial)

Music composed by an Australian Resident

Sponsored by the Douglas family.

1st \$10, 2nd \$6, 3rd \$4. Entry fee \$2.

Event No. 12 CHANTER LEARNER (Peter Mathieson Memorial)

Sponsored by Jillian Ryan, Jennifer Anderson & families.

Tunes 2/4 March (2) parts minimum to be played on the practice chanter. This event is restricted to learners under 12 months, and definitely not playing the pipes.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Trophies. Entry is free.

BAND CONTEST

BAND CONTEST TWO ELEMENTS ONE CONTEST

* Element One March/Strathspey/Reel

* Element Two Musical Selection

GRADE No. 1 NORMAN MACSWAN MEMORIAL

Sponsored by the Lower Clarence Services Club Maclean

GRADE No. 2 NEIL WALLACE MEMORIAL

Sponsored by O'Halloran Motors Maclean

GRADE No. 3 JANET SUSAN MCLEAY MEMORIAL

Sponsored by Moran Service Centre Maclean

Grade No. 4 CLAN MCLENNAN MEMORIAL

Sponsored by the Clan McLennan Society Grafton

Prize Money all grades 1st \$300, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100. Entry fee \$30

Maclean and District Services Club Pipe Band

1998 is the Centenary year of Maclean Pipe Band. The band was formed at a meeting at the Maclean Hotel on Thursday 3rd February, 1898. Current members registered and competing with the band are:

Andrew Roach	Piper	Colin McLachlan	Piper
Murdo MacLeod	Piper	Donald Simpson	Piper
Matthew McLeod	Piper	Dennis Darke	Piper
Allister Wallace	Piper	Amelia Essex	Basic Section Drummer
Allistair McInnes	Piper	Tammy Essex	Basic Section Drummer
Ian McLennan	Piper	Trevor Essex	Snare Drummer
Paul Lomman	Piper	Adam Firth	Snare Drummer
Lyle Essex	Piper	Donald Want	Snare Drummer
Ross McLachlan	Piper	David Jackson	Snare Drummer

Society Member **Lachlan McCabe** was appointed to the position of **Vice Principal of Piping for the Queensland Pipe Band Association** at its recent Annual Meeting. This is the most senior piping appointment in the Association.

We extend our congratulations to him and wish him well in his new role.



**THE QUEENSLAND IRISH ASSOCIATION PIPE BAND
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND COLLEGE (QLD)
PRESENTS THE FINAL OF**

THE AOM TROPHY

**SATURDAY
16 MAY**



**VENUE
TBA SHORTLY**

AOM FRENCH AIRLINES (MAJOR SPONSOR)

**COME SEE THE BEST OF AUSTRALIA'S SOLO
PIPERS. FIRST 3 PLACEGETTERS WILL
REPRESENT THEIR COUNTRY AT THE FESTIVAL
INTERCELTIQUE DE LORIENT, BRITTANY - FRANCE
AUGUST 1998**

**COMPETITORS:-LACHLAN MCCABE, ALAN ARMITAGE, MATTHEW RIGBY,
GILLEION MACKENZIE, BARRY GRAY, ROBERT PEARCE, FRANCES
CROWN, ANDREW ROACH, ALISTAIR MACINNES, VIV RILEY, PAUL
SPENCER.**

***For Bookings Contact.. Kathleen O'Malley on 3358 5588 (b) 3396
0820(a/h)
Rab Lawrie on 32692892***

College of Piping now on the Internet

The College of Piping are, now available for email. They can be accessed from their website @piping.scot.net or emailed direct on information@piping.scot.net

Inaugural "The Piper's Retreat"

ACCOMMODATION FORM

at THE ROYAL HOTEL Tenterfield
 Friday evening 10th ~ Saturday 11th JULY 1998

- * SOLO PIPING RECITALS
- * DEMONSTRATIONS/LECTURES
- * PIPER'S CEILIDH - both nights
- * ALL WELCOME - pipers or not



Come and enjoy a weekend of piping and ceilidhs.

For more information contact:
 L. McCabe P/O Box 510 Warwick Q. 0746 670405

The idea of a get together of solo pipers and interested persons has been talked about for a long while. We have the opportunity and facilities to make this happen; getting like minded people together for a weekend sharing and discussing piping without the pressure of competition.

The Piobaireachd Society in Scotland have an annual conference at the Royal Hotel in Bridge of Allan. This is a very successful weekend, and does a great deal to gather all piobaireachd enthusiasts from around the UK promoting the future of piobaireachd. At this conference many aspects of piping are discussed in a format of lectures, demonstrations, recitals and meetings among the top pipers, piping authorities and interested persons. This proves very beneficial in upholding the standard and knowledge among piping enthusiasts and could be just as beneficial for us to emulate in some small way.

Hopefully we can encourage many people along to give talks on subjects ranging from: History of Piping in Scotland and Australia, Piping in the Army, Piobaireachd Styles - MacPherson, Cameron, PBA - Friend or Foe, Future Direction of Piping in Australia (Where are we Going?), Old Highland Gatherings in Australia, Reeds Plastic vs Cane, plus helps of tunes interspersed with this. We'll also have a Pipers Ceilidh (both nights with a biggy on Saturday Night).

'The Pipers Retreat' is non-profit. All we want is to encourage, foster and raise the standard of piping in Australia while having a great time with friends.

The Royal Hotel of Tenterfield have offered the use of their establishment for the purpose of the 'The Pipers Retreat'. Their tariffs are very moderate and the whole setup (motel/hotel/dining room/conference room), have the advantage of not having to leave the premises at all during the weekend (if you so please).

Tenterfield is a beautiful little town and well worth the look when you are here. However it will be the middle of winter, so bring a jumper and jacket!

All meals can be purchased at the hotel (and good meals they are too!) at a very reasonable price (from \$5 - \$9) for both lunches and dinners.

NAME/S _____
 ADDRESS _____ Phone _____

HOTEL ROOM		10 JULY FRIDAY NIGHT		11 JULY SATURDAY NIGHT		TICK BOX
SINGLE	\$13 ⁵⁰ per night	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
DOUBLE	\$27 per night	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
MOTEL						
	SINGLE \$28 per night	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	DOUBLE \$35 per night	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	(extra person \$10)					

N.B. THESE RATES ALL INCLUDE CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

SATURDAY EVENING DINNER WHILE CEILIDH IS ON
 (\$5 - \$9 depending on order). I WILL BE HAVING DINNER tick box

* Please send no money - this is just to reserve accommodation
 PAY AT THE HOTEL.

* Accommodation is limited so please be prompt to get
 the board you require.

* Phone through booking on 0746 670405, or post this form
 to: L. McCabe P/O BOX 510 WARWICK QLD.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Inaugural Pipers Retreat and hope you will be able to attend.

Nomination Fee \$6 per person (for morning/afternoon tea and administration costs - mail, phone, photocopying). Please make cheque payable to Tenterfield Highlanders Pipe Band

Please bring your pipes along and kilt outfit for Saturday Evening Ceilidh.

We are after additional people to play for recitals. Would you be willing to pipe? Would you be able to give a talk on any aspect of piping/Scottish traditions?

The success of this venture will be determined by the participation of attendants, so please don't just come, but be involved in some way if you are able, please give me a call.

All the best,



"Piob Mhor V2.7"

COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR SCOT'TISH MUSIC

PLAYS BAGPIPE MUSIC	SOUNDS GOOD	MUSIC IS ON - SCREEN
'DONUT' MARKER BOUNCES along		SLOW-DOWN OR SPEED-UP
CHANGE THE PITCH		COMPOSE YOUR OWN TUNES
CHANGE ANY TUNE	PRINT-OUT THE MUSIC (Portrait or Landscape)	ADD OTHER TUNES
BEGIN TO PLAY a tune AT ANY POINT		PLAYS PIOBAIREACHD
CONTINUOUS PLAY TUNES		
2000 tune library provided "free of charge"		

'PIOB MHOR DRUMMER'

ALSO AVAILABLE SIMILAR FEATURES TO THE MUSIC PROGRAM BUT PLAYS DRUMMING PATTERNS. ADD YOUR OWN PATTERNS TO THE PROGRAM

Sole Aust Agent -DENNIS SHEEHAN - Ph (02) 6652 4358 (Coffs Harbour) TO ORDER:. Forward \$125 to PO Box 568, Coffs, Harbour NSW 2450. 3.5" Program disk dispatched immediately upon receipt of payment
E-Mail ---To: dennis@turboweb.net.au

See next month's newsletter for more detail on this program.
Dennis is a member of the Society



Championship News

6th February 1998

New South Wales Pipe Band Association Ltd PO Box 308 Chester Hill NSW

Entries Close.

Welcome to the 60 competing bands who have entered this years Championships, there are 24 bands in Grade 4, 17 bands in Grade 3, 7 bands in Grade 2, 2 bands in Grade 1 and 9 bands competing in the Juvenile section. This is less than we had hoped for but it would seem that the cost of travel etc. has seen a few bands decide to stay at home.

It won't be long now until we hear the sounds of pipes and drums from all over Australia and New Zealand as well as dancers from all points of the compass.

COMPETING BANDS

Grade 1

St Mary's District Band Club (NSW)
City of Blacktown No 1 (NSW)

Grade 2

Temuka Pipe Band (NZ)
City of Adelaide (SA)
City of Melbourne No 1 (Vic)
Footscray City (Vic)
St Andrews No 1 (Qld)
New South Wales Police (NSW)
Queensland Highlanders (Qld)

Grade 3

Armadale City Pipe Band (WA)
Sovereign Assurance (NZ)
Illawarra Pipe Band (NSW)
Sydney University Regiment (NSW)
Golden City Pipe Band Bendigo (Vic)
Canberra Bums Club (ACT)
Brisbane Red Hackle (Qld)
City of Melbourne No 2 (Vic)
Moorabbin City Pipe Band (Vic)
St Andrews College (NZ)
Queensland Irish Association (Qld)
Nunawading Pipe Band (Vic)
City of Bankstown RS&L CC (NSW)
Sydney Thistle Highland (NSW)
Hawthorn City (Vic)
Perth Highland Pipe Band (WA)

University of Ballarat (Vic)

Grade 4

Otahuhu and Districts (NZ)
Northern Suburbs (NSW)
Geelong Ladies (Vic)
City of Blacktown No 2 (NSW)
Scots PGC Warwick No 1 (Qld)
The Scots College A (NSW)
The Scots College B (NSW)
United Mineworkers Federation (NSW)
NSW Irish Pipe Band (NSW)
Toronto and District (NSW)
Old Knox Grammarians (NSW)
Wickham Services Club (NSW)
Broken Hill Cameron (NSW)
Maryborough and District (Vic)
St Andrew's Pipe Band No 2 (Qld)
Maclean & District Services (NSW)
Scotch College (WA)
City of Campbelltown (NSW)
Haileybury College (Vic)
City of Newcastle RSL (NSW)
Royal Aust. Corp of Transport (NSW)
City of Maitland (NSW)
St Arnaud (Vic)
Watsonia RSL (Vic)

Juvenile

St Andrew's College (NZ)
City of Blacktown (NSW)
Scots PGC Warwick No 1 (Qld)
Scots PGC Warwick No 2 (Qld)

The Scots College A (NSW)
The Scots College B (NSW)
Old Knox Grammarians (NSW)
Scotch College (WA)
Haileybury College (Vic)

Workshops

We are organising a series of workshops involving the overseas adjudicators to be held in Newcastle & Sydney during the week following the Championships. Further details will be made available soon.

Recital

A recital will be hold in Sydney featuring our overseas visitors on Saturday 18th April - further details soon.

Sunday Evening Ceilidh GET PLUCKED AND FIDDLED BY OUTBACK

From 6.00pm till 9.00pm at the showground we will be entertained by the band Outback. Their music is a mixture of traditional Aussie songs and Scottish jigs and reels and the more modern and contemporary sounds of John Williamson, Redgum, Bullamakanka and the Bushwackers - the bar and food outlets will stay open - what a great way to finish the Championship - being plucked and fiddled.



Our Adjudicators

Piping: Richard Parkes (NI), Michael Cusack (USA), Brian Switalla (NZ), Sam Young (NSW), Viv Riley (WA) and John MacKenzie (NSW).

Drumming: Gordon Parkes (NI), J. Reid Maxwell (Can), Wayne Hobbs (NZ), Allan Chatto (NSW), Peter Clohesy (NSW), and Barry Rowlands (NSW).

Dress and Drill: John McQuarrie (NZ). Trevor Warnock (Qld), David Whitmarsh (WA), Norm Vaughan (NSW), Ray Thorburn (NSW). Joe Roystan (NSW) and Ken Clarke (NSW).

Celtic Festival in Sydney

The Greater Sydney Tattoo Committee (G.S.T. committee) are hosting a Celtic Celebration to commemorate 210 years of Celtic culture in Australia.

The programme runs like this:

Friday 18th September 1998 at 7.30pm Ceilidh commences at Penrith Panthers Pavilion and goes on to the "wee sma' oors" cost \$15 adult single or \$25 per double. Meal will be served and bar facilities available.

Saturday 19th September approx 9.30am street parade to Panthers grounds where Gathering will commence, The heavies, demonstrations from pipe and brass bands, Celtic merchandise, food stalls, and Irish festival all

taking place and many many more attractions. Gathering should finish about 4pm to 4.30pm. Cost is Adult \$6 single Child (under 14yrs)/Senior \$3 Family ticket (2 Adults 2 children) \$15

Saturday night military style Tattoo run on similar lines to the ones held in United Kingdom. Commences 8pm and is being held in Penrith Panthers football stadium, first class quality entertainment including Drill marching bands/teams, massed pipe and brass bands etc a truly international standard. Tattoo Cost Adult \$10 single, Child/Senior \$5 Family ticket \$25. There will only be 9,000 seats available for Tattoo, a limited number of Corporate boxes are available upon request for this event.

Sunday 20th at 10am there will be a Kirkin' o' the Tartan and also a **charity golf day** being organised by a local service club. We would welcome any group/band/vendors/clans that would like to participate to contact us by email or on (02) 9623 7539.

Penrith is situated at the bottom of the Blue Mtns and is approx 45 minutes by car or train from Sydney centre with trains running every 30 minutes. Panthers World of Entertainment is 5mins from Rail/bus station with buses running continuously to and from Panthers. **Special prices on accommodation** are available through Panthers if you mention that you are booking for the Celtic Celebration.

Settings and Gracenoting in Pipe Music.

What follows is an interesting exchange between Colin MacLellan and Stuart Hall (on the Internet) about one of the more fascinating characteristics of Pipe Music. Colin's original comments are in plain type, Stuart's reply is in italics and indented once and Colin's rejoinder is in bold and indented twice.

I've always been of the mind that gracings in our music follow a rather simple and highly structured pattern. It seems to me that almost exclusively the pattern of GDE gracenotes will take precedence over all others, that is, unless it is physically impossible to play them either in order or to make the requisite number of gracenotes.

In the doublings on the low hand, you have G gracenote followed by a static note which is the pitch of the note being embellished, and then usually you have a D gracenote. If the embellishment is expanded or ornamented further, it becomes, say, a taorluath, and then the E gracenote is added, immediately after another static note. (A low G, of course, in the case of the taorluath.)

My point is that the gracings follow a pattern which we as pipers recognise. An experienced piper could be given the melody notes of, say, a competition march with all the gracings removed, and be asked to insert his interpretation of the gracenoting. It would be reasonably sure that another experienced piper's effort would be almost identical if he or she were given the same independent task.

This is why I think that it is imperative that pipers stick to proper, authentic settings of tunes, because when a player goes off and just sticks in what he might want to hear (or what he finds easy to play, perhaps) then the effect to the listener is diminished and the composition rendered less effective than when played the way it was composed.

*First, consistency of gracing matters in and of itself only insofar as ensemble playing is concerned. The fact that two given experienced pipers could *probably* grace an ungraced tune in similar fashion just goes to show that either gracing is regimented or that settings tend to be completely unimaginative when it comes to gracing. Regardless of the way I say it, I will concede that our (GHB) rigorous gracing style is very important for ensemble playing, and somewhat less so for individual competition.*

In piping, expression and pointing is created by one of two means, by the piper either lengthening or shortening the duration of the melody notes, or by him emphasising certain points in the music by use of embellishment. By changing the gracings willy-nilly, the pointing and expression of the tune is distorted and not at all what was intended by the composer. Rarely is a tune improved by a piper who changes the gracenoting.....maybe only in fact in his own mind is he a better composer than the composer.

*"Proper, authentic settings." With regard to relatively recent, like P/M Ross and on, GHB compositions, sure. This is important, because the gracing is a part of the writing. However, there is something to be said for the fact that gracing *is* secondary to the melody. To wit, you could take a complicated hornpipe and simplify it for a Grade IV band and most pipers would probably still recognise it as the original hornpipe in an easy setting. The melody notes are the meat of the tune, and the gracing is the gravy. Some meals are just tastier than others.*

Yes!.....but it makes no difference whether the tune was made in 1910 or 1998. A composition should be respected whether it's Major Norman Orr-Ewing by Willie Ross, or The Big Birl by Robert Mathieson, or The B52 by whomever.

However, a lot of very popular tunes come from old traditions, some even from (Heaven forbid!) non-pipe traditions . . . like the dad-gum fiddle. Who's to say what a proper, authentic setting of something like, say, the Kesh jig is? Maybe since Colin talks about "composition" he doesn't mean traditional tunes, but I think traditional (old, who-knows-who-composed) tunes comprise a big, important chunk of pipe music.

A setting, in fact, has little to do with differences in gracenoting. An alternative setting is one in which the theme of the tune has been altered. Many alternative settings are refreshing and are in good musical taste.....that is their appeal. You'll find that the system of gracenoting which I referred to in my last post is still consistently adhered to in most cases. Unorthodox gracenoting is usually associated with an unusual phrase or part of the music. We all know tunes which contain clever bits of phrasing which enhance and essentially "make" the tune. There is nothing wrong with that.

Also . . . am I the only one who finds it interesting to listen to things like the World's and hear how Field Marshal Montgomery has set some old reel? Setting is composition in and of itself, and sometimes, a tune can really be improved by changing the gracing. I myself sometimes change d-b-g combinations at the end of a phrase in jigs to two dotted quarter notes (d-g) graced with a modified grip in between . . . but some people don't play them that way. Maybe that just makes me part of the problem.

No, you're not. I'd assume that every piper in the world likes to listen to good music. If you want to play alternative settings of good older tunes, go ahead! You'll have plenty of good company. There's not a whole lot of tunes which I play myself which conform absolutely to a standard printed setting. But what you are advocating in your post is very close to saying that pipers should just change any gracenotes and embellishments just because they feel like it. I'm sure you'll be able to play tunes and think that all these changes have improved the composition, but possibly those in your audience may not agree. What you're saying is that your compositional skills are better than the composer's, and of course if that was the case we'd all be buying your books and playing your tunes!

My point is that gracing has context. Sometimes, rigid adherence to rules is important. Sometimes, on our instrument, it the piper's most powerful tool of expression.

Rarely. The piper's "most powerful tool of expression" is his ability to play musically. Gracenoting is a use of embellishment which we use to emphasise points of expression in order to add musical interest to the tune.