



Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

NEWSLETTER

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May 1998

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Next Meeting

Monday 25th May

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

THE MEETING WILL FEATURE A HORNPIPE & JIG COMPETITION

If we have enough entries, there will be two contests, one for senior (Open & Intermediate) players and one for junior (Elementary & Sub-Intermediate) players. If there are not enough entries, it will revert to a single all-in contest. Prizes will be paid as follows: 2 entrants - one prize only, 3 or 4 entrants - two prizes, 5 or more entrants - three prizes.

Prizes: 1st: \$40, 2nd \$20, 3rd \$10 (Senior)

1st: \$30, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10 (Junior)

Entries to the Secretary - (07) 3397 4512 (after 4.30pm)

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

MAY

- 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
 23rd European Pipe Band Championships, Ayr, Scotland
 25th **Society Meeting (Hornpipe & Jig)**
 30th Tartan Spectacular Band Contest - Pine Rivers Park, Strathpine - St
 Andrew's Pipe Band – starts at 10am. Includes a medieval display,
 highland dancing display. Free parking and free admission.

JUNE

- 13th Ipswich Thistle Highland Debutante Ball - St Mary's Function Centre,
 Ipswich
 20th Bannockburn Dinner - Irish Club - \$50 per person (4 course dinner &
 drinks) - Contact Trevor Campbell 07 3359 6662
 22nd **Society Meeting (Veterans)**
 24th NSW Pipers Society - Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest
 27th Scottish Pipe Band Championships, Rothesay

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

- 5th Silver Chanter Piobaireachd Contest – Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye
 15th World Pipe Band Championships -Glasgow
 24th **Society Annual Meeting & 6/8 Contest**
 26th NSW Pipers Society - Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest
 26th-27th Argyllshire Gathering, Oban
 29th Ipswich Thistle Solo and Band Contest - details to be advised
 29th 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

APRIL MEETING

Our April meeting attracted 23 people to a "Pipers Night".

Bob Payne had apologised as his wife was ill, so it fell to your scribe to introduce the evening. As well as the apology from Bob, Dave Sinclair also apologised. There were a few other announcements about coming events, and also that Bill Lyall of Central Queensland had died the previous week. Bill was a former British Army piper who settled in Queensland. He was for a short time Pipe Major of St Andrew's Pipe Band and was one of the founder members of the original Brisbane Red Hackle Pipe Band, as well as being a one of the founding members of our Society. He had later moved to Central Queensland.

Our first piper for the night was Matthew Rigby. Matthew, who is now playing with the Queensland Police Pipe Band, comes originally from the Newcastle area and is well known to one of our "remote" members, Denis Browning, who speaks highly of Matthew's piping ability.

Matthew's instrument had a fine clear sound, with plenty of volume. However, this was not at the cost of a sweet drone sound. He took us through a broad selection of music. His execution was precise yet relaxed and the phrasing of his tunes was impeccable. Some of his tunes were *Colin's Cattle*, *Lochanside*, *Ellenor*, *Tricia's Song*, *Nancy Taylor*, *Archie Beag*, *Archie McNab*, *Edinburgh City Police Pipe band*, *John MacFadyen of Melfort*, *The Professional* and *Better Than Some*.

Next to play was your scribe, but before playing some tunes, I introduced my bagpipes to the meeting, giving some details about their history (as much as I know) and their current setup. This covered their supposed discovery in a butcher's shop by Rob MacGregor, who previously owned and played them, the making of new tenor drone bottom

sections, and their current reed setup (cane tenor reeds and a Ross plastic bass drone). After a bit of time tuning and settling them down, playing some nice simple tunes (*Wings*, *Lord Lovat's Lament*, *Balmoral*, *Colin's Cattle*), I explained that I would try to play the first of each type of tune which I learnt as a young student (we're going back about 30 years here). Those that I managed to get through reasonably well were *Brown Haired Maiden* (1st simple march tune), *Orange and Blue* (2 part strathspey), *Kate Dalrymple* (2 part reel), *Rab's Wedding* (4 part 6/8), *Donald Maclean's Farewell to Oban*, *John Roy Stewart and Alick C MacGregor* (1st "big" MSR) and finally *Loch Rannoch* (1st slow air).

Next to play was Lea Ahokava. Lea had a good sounding instrument which he controlled well throughout his performance. There was perhaps a little lack of balance on the top hand of the chanter. Lea showed mostly good execution and phrasing, with perhaps a little less control in some of the faster tunes. However, he had a few cases of the dreaded "Piper's Block", when the next phrase/part/note eludes one. The writer can identify with this affliction! Among the tunes he played were *Redford Cottage*, *Ballochyle*, *Ellenor*, *The Walrus*, *Biddy from Sligo*, *Duncan the Gauger*, *The Song for the Smallpipe*, *Calum Iain* and about half of *Donald MacLelland of Rothesay*.

One of the main purposes of our "Piper's Nights" is to give pipers of all ages, experience and abilities the opportunity to play in front of a friendly audience to better equip them for playing in other surroundings. It's a safe place to have attacks of "Piper's Block" as part of the training to avoid them when performance is more critical. It would be good if more players took advantage of this opportunity.

Our last player for the evening was Doug Thoresen. We used to call on Doug all the time to fill in gaps at our meetings but we've been trying to avoid it for the last year or so. By now he owed us another stint! As usual he gave a most interesting performance on a quieter instrument. It was particularly noticeable that the pipe gained resonance as he played (and tuned) it. His selection of tunes was a melodious one, with rhythm choices and changes used to enhance the melody. This is an interesting contrast to some modern pipe music, which seems to have relegated

melody to second place. His tunes included *Dolan's Ass, Land of My Youth, Avoca House, Stirlingshire Militia, Caledonian Society of London, Johnnie MacDonald, The Chaffcutter, Paddy O'Rafferty, Farewell to Scotland* and *Lord of the Dance*. He interspersed his selection with some fascinating reminiscences of the 50's and 60's, including mention of such greats as Willie Ross, John D Burgess, and Bob Hardie.

As the time had by now drawn close to 10pm, the raffle was drawn and we all retired to supper and a chat.

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.

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

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What are bagpipes made of?

According to Cyrus McQueen, a regular supplier of information on the internet who we have quoted before, lots of things. From what I can make out, Cyrus is an academic who works in the area under discussion, namely classification of plants!

Unfortunately, common names do not always portray accurate biological relationships of species. The Latin names *Dalbergia* and *Platymiscium* refer to species in the subclass *Rosidae*, order *Fabales*. In other words species that are commonly referred to as legume species which comprises thousands of species that are herbs, shrubs, and trees. The Latin name *Lecythis* refers to species in the subclass *Dilleniidae*, order *Lecythidales*. These species are more closely related to species related to plants used for classic tea. They are also closely related to species in the genus *Malva* (some common cultivated flowers), pitcher plant (an insectivorous plants of bogs), and Linden trees. Now for the really confusing part. The trade name (common name) for African blackwood includes many species of the genus *Dalbergia*. Yet, cocobola refers to species in *Platymiscium* and *Lecythis*, two biologically unrelated genera.

Since pipes are made from all three of these genera, I thought pipers might like to know the actual species (Latin names), their origin, and commercial uses. The primary sources of wood for woodwind instruments from *Dalbergia* species comes from:

1. *Dalbergia nigra*; Brazilian rosewood, musical instruments, billiard tables, pool sticks
2. *D. melanoxylon*; African blackwood, in addition to woodwind instruments the roots are used to cure toothaches!
3. *D. latifolia*; East Indian Rosewood, sometimes referred also as E. Indian blackwood, deep red to purple, streaked with yellow & black
4. *D. sissoo*; Indian Shisham wood, the dreaded wood of paki pipes! Also used for flooring
5. *D. baroni*; Madagascar Rosewood
6. *D. caerensis*; Brazilian Tulipwood, stripped with dark violet and black, used for small articles
7. *D. cochinchinensis*; Rosewood of Siam, Tropical Asia
8. *D. cubilquitzensis*; Guatemalan Rosewood
9. *D. ferruginea*; Common in Borneo, Philippines, & New Caledonia, an extract of the wood is used to control menstruation and cause abortion, and as a fish poison
10. *D. hupeana*; China
11. *D. junghuhnii*; India to Malaya, used for walking canes, incense, and distilled oils as a medicine

12. *D. miscolobium*; Brazilian Rosewood

13. *D. retusa*; Central America, called Cocobolo, Nicaragua Rosewood or Palo negro Rosewood. I have seen this species growing along the Gulf coast of Costa Rica south to Panama. The wood is naturally yellowish in colour, but with ageing turns dark reddish and with exposure to ammonia fumes (commonly done by instrument builders) turns a beautiful reddish colour.

14. *D. spruceana*; Brazil, Rosewood of lower Amazon.

15. *D. stevensoni*; British Honduras, Honduran Rosewood.

16. *D. sympathetica*; West Indies, bark used to remove pimples!

Wood referred to commercially as Cocobolo as I said contains two unrelated genera. Note that one species referred to as Cocobolo was listed above in *Dalbergia*!

1. *Platymiscium dimosphandrum*; Mexico to S. America, Yama Rosewood, general building and instruments

2. *P. duckei*; Mexico to S. America, Yama Rosewood, general building and instruments

3. *P. pinnatum*; Carribean, Quira Macawood, red-purple, used for heavy constructions, furniture, railway cars!, tool handles, musical instruments

4. *P. ulei*; Lower Amazon, Macacauba wood, musical instruments & furniture

5. *Lecythis urnigera*; Tropical S. America, oil for soap, heat, and light

6. *L. usitata*; Brazil, Brazil nuts, wood used for small instrument parts and tool handles

7. *L. zabucajo*; Brazil, Paradise nuts, wood used for small instrument parts and tool handles

8. *L. costaricensis*; Central & South America, Cocobolo wood. I have also seen this species along the Gulf coast of Costa Rica. The wood is yellowish to reddish brown and excellent for making woodwind instruments.

9. *L. grandiflora*, Guyana, orangish-red wood used for musical instruments and spoke wheels!

10. *L. longipes*; northern S. America, greenish-brown to reddish-brown, used for marine building such as piers since fairly impervious to worm borers. Also used for musical instruments.

11. *L. ollaria*; S. America, Monkey Pod tree, used for making piers, musical instruments and extracts used for making soap

12. *L. paraensis*; Brazil, Para Nuts, edible nuts, wood used for musical instruments.

At least 28 different species are used in making bagpipes! One of the blackwood species is referred to as Cocobolo! The reason the pipes from one maker can show great variation in the wood is because so many different species are actually used in making the pipes. Since commercial wood suppliers to instrument makers are not botanists any dark wood is called blackwood. If from Africa, probably African Blackwood, but certainly some Central & South American woods are called by the commercial trade African Blackwood. If the wood is reddish it is called (mistakenly) Rosewood and if slightly lighter, Cocobolo!!! African blackwood, or what people think is African blackwood, looks so variable because people are not actually referring to one species, but many!!

In the end it does not really matter since many of these woods make excellent woodwind instruments. Only about 2% of true African blackwood is used for musical instruments, most of it is used for firewood! What is referred to as Cocobola from the America tropics will no doubt replace African blackwood as that source is destroyed.

Inaugural **"The Pipers' Retreat"**

at **THE ROYAL HOTEL** Tenterfield

Friday evening 10th ~ Saturday 11th JULY 1998

- * SOLO PIPING RECITALS
- * DEMONSTRATIONS/LECTURES
- * PIPERS' 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

ACCOMMODATION FORM

NAME/S _____

ADDRESS _____ Phone _____

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

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.

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.

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,



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RESULTS

**SPA Annual Professional Competition.,
Held 18th April, 1998 at Glasgow
Academy.**

Piob A

1. Robert Wallace - MacDougall's Gathering
2. Willie Morrison - Old Men of the Shells
3. Willie McCallum - The King's Taxes
4. Stuart Shedden

Piob B

Winner Andrew Mathieson

Former Winners MSR

1. Gordon Walker - Clan MacColl, Susan MacLeod, John Morrison Assynt House
 2. Willie McCallum - Charles Edward Hope Vere, John Roy Stewart, Alick C MacGregor
 3. Andrew Mathieson
- British Columbia Pipers Association
66th Annual Gathering Friday,
April 10, 1998 and Saturday, April
11, 1998 Seaquam Secondary
School, North Delta, BC**

Demographics:

Piping Competitors:	153
Drumming Competitors:	54
Bands:	19

BC:	152
Alberta:	19
Washington:	18
Oregon:	15
California:	8
Ontario:	4
Colorado:	2
Saskatchewan:	2
Idaho:	1
Manitoba:	1
New Brunswick:	1
New York:	1
Tasmania:	1

PRO PIPING**Medley (not counted in aggregate as event confined to first 10 entered) [10]**

1. Alan Bevan
2. Stuart Liddell
3. Colin Clansey

MSR [26]

1. Stuart Liddell
2. Alan Bevan
3. Ian MacDonald
4. Ann Gray
5. Colin Clansey
6. James P. Troy

Piobaireachd [23]

1. Stuart Liddell
2. Colin MacLellan
3. Ann Gray
4. Alan Bevan
5. Ian Whitelaw
6. John Cairns

Jigs [25]

1. Stuart Liddell
2. Alan Bevan
3. Colin Clansey
4. Andrew Bonar
5. Ian MacDonald
6. Alan Campbell

Aggregate: Stuart Liddell

BANDS**Grade 1 Medley [2]**

1. Simon Fraser University
 2. Alberta Caledonia
- Best Drum Corps: Simon Fraser University

1998 Dr. Dan Reid Memorial**Invitational Solo Piping****Competition - presented by the St.****Andrew's Foundation, Colonial****Room St. Francis Hotel, Union****Square, San Francisco, California****Saturday, May 2, 1998****Judges:**

- Major A.M. Cairns, MMM (London, Ontario)
Mr. Angus J. MacLellan (Glasgow, Scotland)

1998 Cameron/Gillies Championship**Piobaireachd:**

- 1st: Stuart Liddell (Inverary, Scotland), In Praise of Morag
2nd: Ms. Mary-Ann MacKinnon (Milngavie, Scotland), Lament for Patrick Og MacCrimmon
3rd: Mr. James MacHattie (Burnaby, British Columbia), The Prince's Salute

MSR:

- 1st: James MacHattie. The Braes of Castle Grant, Delvinside, John MacKechnie's Big Reel.
2nd: Stuart Liddell. Colin Thomson, Blair Drummond, Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran
3rd: Mary-Ann MacKinnon. MacLean of Pennycross, Kirstie McCallman's Favourite, The Man from Glengarry.

Overall, Cameron/Gillies:

- 1st Stuart Liddell (\$300,
Cameron/Gillies Banner)
2nd: James MacHattie
3rd: Mary-Ann MacKinnon

1998 Master's Championship**Competitors:**

- Mr. Gregg Abbott (Kokomo, Indiana)
Mr. Bruce Gandy (Summerside, Prince
Edward Island)
P.M. William Livingstone (Whitby,
Ontario)
P.M. Roderick MacLeod (Cumbernauld,
Scotland)
Mr. William MacCallum (Bearsden,
Scotland)

Piobaireachd:

- 1st: Roderick MacLeod, The Lament for
MacSwan of Roaig
2nd: William Livingstone, Lachlan
MacNeill Campbell of Kintarbert's
Fancy
3rd: William McCallum, The King's
Taxes

MSR:

- 1st: Roderick MacLeod. 71st
Highlanders, David Ross, Atholl
Cummings, Tulloch Gorm, Flora
MacLennan's Favorite, The Cockerel
in the Creel.
2nd: Bruce Gandy. Dr. MacLeod of
Alnwick, The Pap of Glencoe,
Inverary Castle, Tulloch Castle,
MacAllister's Dirk, The Brown Haired
Maid.
3rd: William McCallum. Donald
MacLellan of Rothesay, 74th's
Farewell to Edinburgh, The
Shepherd's Crook, Lady Loudon, The
Sheepwife, Loch Carron.

Overall, Master's Championship

- 1st: Roderick MacLeod. (\$1000,
MacLaren Horn)
2nd: William Livingstone (\$750)
3rd: William McCallum (\$500)

AOM Trophy – Brisbane Girls**Grammar School – 16 May 1998**

1. Matthew Rigby
2. Lachlan McCabe
3. Andrew Roach

These first three placegetters will represent Australia at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Brittany, France, in August. In response to Chris Hamilton's request, here are the results of the contest at

**Dunbar Pipe Band Contest – 9 May –
first contest of the 1998 UK season.****Novice Juvenile**

1. Seafield & District
2. Bucksburn & District
3. Burntisland & District
4. 47th Culter B.B.

Grade Four

1. Kirkcaldy & District
2. Dunbar RBLs
3. Johnstone
4. Inverkeithing & District

Juvenile

1. 47th Culter B.B.
2. Paisley
3. Boghall & Bathgate
4. Bucksburn & District

Grade Three

1. Newtongrange
2. Denny & Dunipace
3. E.S.L. Newcastle
4. Deeside Caledonia

Grade Two

1. Dumbarton & District
2. Bucksburn & District
3. City of St. Andrews
4. Boghall & Bathgate

Grade One

1. MacNaughton Vale of Atholl
2. Glasgow Skye Association
3. Lothian & Borders Police
4. Polkemmet
Drumming Vale of Atholl
Bass Section Vale of Atholl

