



# Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

## NEWSLETTER

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July 1998

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### **Next Meeting** **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July**

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

**The Meeting Will Feature the Jimmy Durham Memorial  
Competition (see below)**

**Entries to the Secretary phone 3397 4512 after hours or by post by 24/7/98**

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

### **The Jimmy Durham Memorial Piping Competition**

This competition is open to **ALL JUNIOR PIPERS** (Elementary & Sub-Intermediate) who have not previously won the event.

**TEST PIECE:** 2/4 March of at least 4 parts, played once through.

The "Jimmy Durham Memorial" Trophy is a perpetual trophy originally donated by the Warwick Caledonian Society

**Prizes:** 1st - The Jimmy Durham Trophy to hold for one year and \$60.  
2nd - \$30 3rd - \$20 4th - \$10

Entries to the Secretary, PO Box 1252, Coorparoo DC 4151  
or by phone 3397 4512 (AFTER 4.00PM) by Friday 24 July

**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](mailto:alexm@ozemail.com.au)

### THE PIPER'S DIARY

#### JULY

- 22<sup>nd</sup> NSW Pipers Society – Greenwich Public School (change of venue for this month only).  
 27<sup>th</sup> **Society Meeting (Jimmy Durham Trophy)**

#### AUGUST

- 2<sup>nd</sup> QPBA Seminar/Workshop at the QPBA Rooms – P/M David Barnes of the Queensland Pipe Band (Piping, Drumming, Dress & Drill)  
 2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Sydney Scottish Week  
 5<sup>th</sup> Silver Chanter Piobaireachd Contest – Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye  
 15<sup>th</sup> World Pipe Band Championships –Glasgow  
 24<sup>th</sup> **Society Annual Meeting & 6/8 Contest**  
 26<sup>th</sup> NSW Pipers Society – Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest  
 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> Argyllshire Gathering, Oban  
 29<sup>th</sup> Ipswich Thistle Solo and Band Contest – See notice later in newsletter  
 29<sup>th</sup> Cowal Pipe Band Championships – Dunoon  
 30<sup>th</sup> NSW Combined Scottish Solo Contest – Ryde – enquiries 02 9869 1499

#### SEPTEMBER

- 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Celtic Celebration, Penrith – Penrith Stadium  
 19, 20<sup>th</sup> Newcastle Gathering, solos, bands  
 23<sup>rd</sup> NSW Pipers Society – Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest  
 26<sup>th</sup> NSW Pipers Society Silver Chalice Piobaireachd Contest  
 26<sup>th</sup> Wynnum Highland Gathering – Solo and Band Contest – Kitchener Park, Wynnum  
 28<sup>th</sup> **Society Meeting**

#### OCTOBER

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Celtic Celebration Day, Zillmere – Contact Rab Lawrie  
 4<sup>th</sup> Queensland Pipe Band Championships, Laidley  
 11<sup>th</sup> NSW State Solo Championships – Birron School, enquiries 02 9743 9294

**26<sup>th</sup> Society Meeting**

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

## JUNE MEETING

Our June meeting saw 37 members and guests roll up to listen some of our more mature members in the annual veterans' competition.

Bob Payne introduced the evening and advised there were apologies from Dave Sinclair and Beattie Thornton. He also announced your scribe as the judge for the evening, standing in because of some last minute changes in the arrangements. He also drew attention to the fact that the Jimmy Durham Trophy to be contested for by junior members at the July meeting was on display. Phillip Cowan had brought it back a month early in case he was not able to make it to the next meeting.

Bob also announced that Jock Ketchion has moved from his long standing residence at Rainworth to Sunnybank.

The evening was started off by a "different" event with four of the Ormiston heritage pipers playing a selection for us. They were Doug Thoresen, Phil Guthrie, Rob Grogan and David Williams. First they played *Marie's Wedding*. Doug then announced they would play a selection that he entitled "A Touch of Scotch", and so it was, with *Pride of Scotland*, *Rose of Allandale*, *Flower of Scotland* and *Blue Bells of Scotland*! Finally they gave us *Scotland the Brave*. The pipes were well set up, but did we detect a little bit of uneven blowing and a couple of slips from time to time? But you can say that about a performance by pipers of any age or "finger-speed"! It was good to hear and see how playing the pipes can be an enjoyable and musical endeavour for all of us, regardless of our circumstances. We look forward to hearing from the Ormiston Heritage Pipers again – how about the Christmas Party in November?

Bob Payne then mentioned the Tenterfield Pipers Weekend coming up in a couple of weeks and encouraged all to consider

attending. Then it was into the competition.

Doug Thoresen was first to play, backing up straight away after his stint with the Ormiston group. He played *Hector the Hero* and *Dugald McColl's Farewell to France*. He played a big sounding resonant bagpipe (not his own, we learnt later!). The instrument was very well balanced and the chanter very well pitched with the drones. The air was played with a song-like style and then he launched into the 2/4. There was a bit of a slip in the first part and the second part was a little hesitant but the remainder of the tune was really "cracking". A most enjoyable and musical performance.

Maurie DeHayr was next and his tunes were *Dr Ross of Vancouver* and *Kantara to El Arish*. His instrument was quieter than Doug's but nevertheless had a good full sound. However, Maurie's chanter was not quite balanced, being a little sharp on the top. As a result the drone tuning was a bit of a compromise. This Air is an interesting tune, quite long and with an unusual structure, but it has quite a haunting aspect about it which Maurie brought out very well. He had a slight hesitation at the start of the second part of the 2/4 but part from that he played most consistently and musically throughout.

Our next competitor was Bill Sharp and he had picked a fine pair of tunes in *Two Ronnies' Maggies* by Ron Fleming and *Donald MacLelland of Rothesay*. Bill's sound was a big one but the High A was a little suspect and the drones were just a fraction off. His slow air was played with the good phrasing that this tune invites but there was a wee choke in the second part. Bill had a good confident start to his 2/4 and continued in that vein but the tune didn't flow quite as well as Doug or Maurie's. He had a little mistake in the 2<sup>nd</sup> part and he 4<sup>th</sup> part was also a little fragile.

Nevertheless another good musical performance.

Jack McCandlish was next. I think he must have been the “father” of the competition and he had chosen to play *the Highland Cradle Song* and *Donald McLelland of Rothesay*. Although his instrument was fairly quiet it was well balanced between chanter and drones and well pitched. The Air was played in a regular but musical style and he had a good confident start to the 2/4. However he had a little slip in the third part and the tone deteriorated a little although he showed good execution throughout.

The final competitor for the night was Hugh Maclean. His tunes were *Kathleen McDonnell* and *Abercairney Highlanders*. As usual, Hugh’s pipes were quite strong but beautifully balanced. He played the air in a regular style but brought the song out in the tune very well. This 2/4 is a big one and Hugh attacked it well. However he had a bit of a slip in the first part and strayed a little in the third part.

The judge’s job was not an easy one and ended up needing a systematic approach balancing out the aspects of instrument, expression and execution. However, a result there had to be and it was:

1. Doug Thoresen
2. Maurie DeHayr
3. Bill Sharp

Moving from the veterans to the youngsters, we were then treated to a few

tunes from Phillip Cowan. He had a fine big sounding instrument and played with good bold execution. He showed good control of the pipe and is clearly maturing well as a piper. His tunes included *Hector the Hero*, *Ellen Orr*, *Carradale Bay*, *Not the Bunny Hop*, *Duncan the Gauger* and *Coming to the Crunch*.

His compatriot from the Queensland Highlanders, Lea Ahokava, played next on another good instrument, perhaps a bit more like a “traditional” solo instrument than Phillip’s. He moved through some of the more traditional tunes and finished up with some really demanding pieces. The selection included *Mrs John MacColl*, *The Clan MacColl*, *P/M William Grey’s Farewell to the Glasgow Police*, *Pumpkin’s Fancy*, *The Mason’s Apron*, *Wild Irishman*, *Carnival Reel* and *An Exercise*.

Finally we heard from Matthew Supranowicz, Jack McCandlish’s grandson, playing the same pipes that Doug Thoresen had used to such good effect earlier. Although some of his blowing was little uneven, he maintained good expression and execution and clearly has the potential to be a player to watch in the future. His tunes included *Old Adam*, *Angus McKinnon*, *McNeil of Ugadale*, *Struan Robertson* and *Jean Mauchline*.

The time by now being almost 10.00pm, it only remained for Mrs Grogan to draw the raffle and David Jack to win it, and Bob Payne to invite us all to partake of the supper.

**1998/99 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE (\$20)**

**Instead of sending out notices to everyone this year, I’m going to restrict that to those who don’t pay early (and those who haven’t paid for last year yet!) Please fill in this slip and return with your money.**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Address (if any)** \_\_\_\_\_

Don’t forget that our August Meeting will be the Annual Meeting (as well as a 6/8 contest). Can you offer to do something for your

society as a committee member? If we haven't got a position for you, we can create one! More hands are always welcome to help the best Pipers' Society in Australia get even better.

## 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.

|                  |   |                 |  |
|------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| <b>July</b>      | Jimmy Durham Trophy -<br>2/4 march for Junior players | <b>October</b>  | <i>Special Program</i>                         |
| <b>August</b>    | Annual Meeting and 6/8 Contest –<br>two 4-parted 6/8s | <b>November</b> | Pair of Pipers (Medley) and<br>Christmas Party |
| <b>September</b> | <i>Special Program</i>                                |                 |  |

### THE CLUNEMORE COLLECTION of HIGHLAND BAGPIPE MUSIC

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|  |  |
|--|--|
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|--|--|

## RESULTS

### British Legion Solo Competition – 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### May

#### **Piobaireachd**

1. Gordon Walker, Royal Highland Fusiliers
2. Stuart Samson, The Highlanders
3. Roy Fraser, Forres Branch RBLs
4. Bruce Hitchings, The Highlanders

#### **March**

1. Gordon Walker
2. Stuart Samson
3. Michael Elder, Black Watch
4. Calum MacKenzie, the Highlanders

#### **Strathspey & Reel**

1. Gordon Walker
2. Roy Fraser
3. Stuart Samson
4. Calum MacKenzie

### Ardrossan Highland Games – 14 June

#### **Piobaireachd**

1. Stuart Sheddon
2. Iain Spiers
3. Rory Grossart
4. Brian Mulhearn, Gregor Spiers

#### **March**

1. Stuart Sheddon
2. Iain Spiers
3. Peter Hunt

#### **Strathspey and Reel**

1. Iain Spiers
2. Rory Grossart
3. Peter Hunt

### Scottish Pipe Band Championships – Rothesay – 27 June

#### **Grade 1**

1. Shotts and Dykehead
2. Field Marshal Montgomery (Ens. Pref.)
3. Strathclyde Police
4. Scottish Power
5. David Urquhart Travel
6. Royal Ulster Constabulary
7. Boghall and Bathgate (Ens Pref.)
8. Vale of Atholl
9. Dysart & Dundonald
10. Glasgow Skye
11. HydroElectric Buchan
12. Polkemmet
13. Lothian and Borders
14. Grampian Police

#### **Grade 2**

- 1st Bucksburn
- 2nd Boghall
- 3rd Black Watch
- 4th Mackenzie Caledonian
- 5th ( Ens Pref ) Tayside Police
- 6th Dumbarton

### United States Piping Foundation Solo Championships - June 27, 1998 - Newark, Delaware

#### **Open--Overall**

1. Alasdair Gillies
2. Michael Rogers
3. Calum MacDonald



4. Seumas Coyne
5. Colin MacLellan

### **Open Piobaireachd**

1. Alasdair Gillies "The End of the Great Bridge"
2. Michael Rogers "The Earl of Seaforth's Salute"
3. Calum MacDonald "Lament for the Departure of King James"
4. Peter Kent "Lament for Donald Duagh MacKay"
5. Colin MacLellan "The Red Speckled Bull"

### **Open MSR (Twice through each tune)**

1. Alasdair Gillies "Knightswood Ceilidh," "Susan MacLeod," "John Morrison of Assynt House"
  2. Seumas Coyne
  3. John Angus Smith
  4. Colin MacLellan
  5. Calum MacDonald
- Other competitors: Scot Walker, John Bottomley

### **All Ireland Pipe Band Championships** **- 4/7/98 - Rostrevor**

#### **Grade 1 MSR**

- 1st Field Marshal Montgomery  
2nd Scottish Power  
3rd McNeilstown  
Drumming - Field Marshal Montgomery

#### **Grade 1 Medley**

- 1st Field Marshal Montgomery  
2nd Scottish Power  
3rd McNeilstown  
Drumming - Field Marshal Montgomery

### **Dingwall Highland Games - Saturday** **11 July**

#### **Piobaireachd**

1. Brian Donaldson
  2. Duncan Watson
  3. Brian Mulhearn
  4. James MacPhee
- Judge John D. Burgess

#### **March**

1. Ian Finlayson
2. Euan MacCrimmon
3. Niall Stewart
4. James MacKenzie

#### **Strathspey & Reel**

1. Brian Donaldson
2. Niall Stewart
3. Michael Gray
4. James MacPhee

#### **6/8 March & Jig**

1. Niall Stewart
  2. Euan MacCrimmon
  3. James MacPhee
  4. Fiona MacKay
- Judge Iain MacFadyen  
16 competitors

## The Tenterfield Pipers' Weekend

Reports are starting to filter in about the event. Bob Payne has put pen to paper to record a few impressions (rather than a story) and your editor has selected some of them to print this month. How about some other contributions from members?

### Tenterfield 10/11 July 1998 Royal Hotel

70 booked – On Saturday approximately 100 in attendance.

Quite a few present when I arrived at 6 p.m.

Jim McConnell – Sydney - distinguished appearance – Scots Guards – lifelong teacher – forceful, used to being listened to, espoused his thoughts on piping – a traditionalist, criticised the “frivolous” antics of some modern pipe exponents, as a bad example to the young and not musical. Joe Joyce then played some Ceol Beag including the Balmoral Highlanders and he put in a few “vibrato-style” notes for someone else’s benefit. The bait was swallowed.

This brought an irritated response and critical comments to which Joe responded. Everyone in the room woke up, some with gleams in their eyes.

Further piping, drinking, eating!

Songs by Bill Sharp

Intermittent piano thumping by Dan McDiarmid.

Saturday – Brilliant frosty morning

Piobaireachd – Approximately 8 pipers, including David Schelbach, Angus McKinnon – Earl of Seaforth’s Salute, Lachan McCabe – Too Long in this Condition, Alastair McInnes- The Unjust Incarceration, Battle of Auldearn and several others

Morning Tea

Beginners including Matthew Supranowicz – well received

Jack McCandlish said there is no money in piping. Bob MacPherson (Maclean) said pipers don’t market themselves enough – should register with celebrants and undertakers, etc. Spoke of difficulties encountered with NSW PBA

Dan McCabe (Hamilton, Victoria) spoke and demonstrated plastic chanter reeds (obtained from Shepherds at approximately \$60 each depending on rate of exchange). Good for people who only blow intermittently. Wouldn’t be used by him if solo competing.

Also chanters made to Sinclair design from Gidgee wood. Look and sound OK but would they maintain their shape? Also made for African Blackwood. Both played for all to hear,

MSRs – Airs – H/J

Great piping – One set of Henderson pipes was going so well piper after piper used them.

Sam Young played a Piobaireachd.

Young Matthew played again, much to Jack McCandlish’s delight.

Phil Knight gave us a talk on being a piper in the army in wartime and demonstrated the new EL2 Naill Electronic Bagpipe with chanter.

Frank Bailey pontificated on the history of Piobaireachd from the time of the McCrimmons.

Bill Smail sang a song.

In between all of these things – booze, food, hornpipes, jigs, marches, slow airs.

Andrew Roach tested out Charlie McInnes with some “modern” sounds and was advised to cut out the s.... and play some music.

Suggestion that one of our Society “special” meetings be moved to a weekend to allow those from out of Brisbane to attend

I met a lot of stirrers with a common interest.

Donny Galbriath from Castlebay, Isle of Barra came in off the street. Was made at home by Jock and Lachlan and played Fair Maid of Barra.

It was a great weekend

Makes me wish I had been able to get there! Sounds like a typical pipers' gathering and Bob's notes capture the atmosphere for us.

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SATURDAY**

**29<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 1998**

*Enquiries to Liz McGhee - (07) 3281 5408 or by  
direct correspondence to PO Box 689, Booval 4304.*

## **1998 IPSWICH THISTLE PIPE BAND & SOLO COMPETITION LIMESTONE PARK, LION STREET, IPSWICH SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST 1998**

PLEASE NOTE: SOLOISTS TO COMPETE IN THEIR "OWN GRADE" ONLY. NO MULTIPLE SOLO ENTRIES ACCEPTED. PLEASE ALSO NOTE: GRADES & EVENTS OFFERED WILL BE DETERMINED BY ENTRIES RECEIVED & AT PROMOTER'S DISCRETION. ALL COMPETITORS MUST WEAR HIGHLAND DRESS. ALL COMPETITORS MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THEIR STATE PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION. SOLO PIPING CONTEST WILL BE HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION RULES.

### **SOLO PIPING: - CONTEST COMMENCES 8:00AM SHARP**

#### LEARNER CHANTER (MARCH) \*\*\*

**EVENT 1 RESTRICTED** TO: LEARNERS WHO HAVE BEEN LEARNING NOT MORE THAN 12 MONTHS, AND NOT PLAYING THE PIPES. COMPETITOR MAY READ FROM A SCORE AND PLAY ON A PRACTICE CHANTER A MARCH OF 2 PARTS PLAYED ONCE THROUGH, ANY TIME SIGNATURE.

#### ELEMENTARY PIPING \*\*\*

**EVENT 2** 2/4 MARCH - 2 PARTS PLAYED TWICE THROUGH

**EVENT 3** SLOW AIR - 2 PARTS PLAYED ONCE THROUGH

#### SUB - INTERMEDIATE PIPING \*\*\*

**EVENT 4** 2/4 MARCH/STRATHSPEY/REEL - MARCH OF 4 PARTS INTO STRATHSPEY/REEL OF 2 PARTS EACH

**EVENT 5** JIG - TUNE OF 2 PARTS MINIMUM

#### INTERMEDIATE PIPING \*\*\*

**EVENT 6** 2/4 MARCH/STRATHSPEY/REEL EACH OF 4 PARTS MINIMUM

**EVENT 7** HORNPIPE/JIG - TUNES EACH OF 4 PARTS MINIMUM

OPEN PIPING \*\*\*  
EVENT 8 2/4 MARCH/STRATHESPEY/REEL EACH OF 4 PARTS MINIMUM  
EVENT 9 HORNPIPE/JIG- TUNES EACH OF 4 PARTS MINIMUM

RESTRICTED / OPEN PIOBAIREACHD \*\*\*  
EVENT 10 RESTRICTED'/PIQBAREACHD"  
Own choice  
EVENT 11 OPEN / PIOBAIREACHD  
Own Choice

**ENTRY FEE OF \$5.00 FOR EACH EVENT-  
ENTRIES CLOSE LAST MAIL FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST 1998**

**1998 IPSWICH THISTLE PIPE BAND & SOLO COMPETITION  
LIMESTONE PARK, LION STREET, IPSWICH  
SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST 1998**

**\*\*\*SOLO PIPING / DRUMMING\*\*\*  
\*\*\* ENTRY FORM \*\*\***

NAME.....TELEPHONE.....

ADDRESS.....

BAND.....

EVENT No .....EVENT.....REG No.....FEE \$5

EVENT No .....EVENT.....REG No.....FEE \$5

EVENT No .....EVENT.....REG No.....FEE \$5

PIPERS ONLY: Will you be accompanying Solo drummer/s? YES/NO  
IF YES SOLO DRUMMER/S NAME/S:.....

**ENTRIES CLOSE LAST MAIL  
FRIDAY 7 TH AUGUST 1998**

MAIL ALL ENTRIES TO: SECRETARY MRS E. MCGHEE  
CHEQUES PAYABLE TO: IPSWICH THISTLE PIPE BAND INC.  
(07)3281 5408 P.O. BOX 689 BOOVAL QLD 4304

PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR DRAW RETURN.

NOTE: -NO MULTIPLE SOLO ENTRIES ACCEPTED - "OWN GRADE" ONLY.

PLEASE NOTE:- SOLOIST'S TO COMPETE IN THEIR "OWN GRADE" ONLY, NO MULTIPLE SOLO ENTRIES ACCEPTED. PLEASE ALSO NOTE:EVENTS OFFERED WILL BE DETERMINED BY 'ENTRIES RECEIVED & AT PROMOTER'S DISCRETION, ALL COMPETITOR'S MUST WEAR HIGHLAND DRESS. ALL COMPETITOR'S MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE.IR'STATE PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION., SOLO PIPING CONTEST WILL BE HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION RULES.