



# Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

## NEWSLETTER

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### **Next Meeting** **FRIDAY Night, 27<sup>th</sup>** **November**

### **Note the change from our usual** **Monday night**

This is being done to enable members from some distance to come to the meeting and is a product of the Pipers Weekend held at Tenterfield earlier this year

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

### **The Pair of Pipers Contest and** **Christmas Party**

The contest will have two divisions -

**SENIOR** will be for Pairs where **either or both** of the players are Intermediate or above, **JUNIOR** will be where **both** players are Sub-Intermediate or below.

**Each player may play once only.**

The **TEST PIECE** for both divisions will be

### a MEDLEY SELECTION OF 4-6 MINUTES DURATION

PRIZE MONEY (for the pair, not each competitor!)

Senior: 1<sup>st</sup> \$50 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20

Junior: 1<sup>st</sup> \$40 2<sup>nd</sup> \$20 3<sup>rd</sup> \$10

It is traditional that all competitors at this competition wear the kilt

**The Judge** will be our former President, **Geoff Smith**

Entries to the Secretary by 14 November - 3397 4512 after 4pm

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

### THE PIPER'S DIARY

#### NOVEMBER

- 21<sup>st</sup> Brisbane Clans Pipes and Drums St Andrew's Day Celebration – on "The Island" – Boarding 12 noon and returning 3.30pm. \$15. Cruise, Nibbles, Singing, Dancers, Pipe Band. For bookings and information ring Kate Wyse 3369 2232 or Mavis Williams 3849 8271
- 25<sup>th</sup> NSW Pipers' Society – Hall Holterman Street Crows Nest – Jimmy Jackson memorial contest – Strathspey and Reel
- 27<sup>th</sup> **Society Meeting – Pair of Pipers and Christmas Party – NOTE THE CHANGE – THIS IS A FRIDAY NIGHT**
- 28<sup>th</sup> Queensland Scots Community – St Andrew's Night, Balmoral Bowls Club, Jean Howie Drive, Balmoral. Contact 07 3399 9267
- 28<sup>th</sup> Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band – St Andrew's Night Ceilidh – Band Hall, Lion Street, Limestone Park, Ipswich. Contact 07 3281 5408

#### DECEMBER

- 5-6<sup>th</sup> Daylesford Highland Gathering (Victoria) – Saturday Street March, Band Contest; Sunday Miniature Bands and Solos, Victoria Park, Daylesford
- 6<sup>th</sup> Combined Scottish Societies Band Contest NSW – 02 9869 1499
- 31<sup>st</sup> Queensland Scots Community Hogmanay - Balmoral Bowls Club, Jean Howie Drive, Balmoral. Contact 07 3399 9267
- 31<sup>st</sup> Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band New Year's Eve Ceilidh - Band Hall, Lion Street, Limestone Park, Ipswich. Contact 07 3281 5408

#### JANUARY

- 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day Scottish Gathering – Petrie Park, Nambour – sponsored by the Sunshine Coast Branch of the Society of St Andrew of Scotland (Queensland). Featuring pie bands, dancers, folk bands, food refreshments. 10am to 4pm. For further information contact Fred Logan 07 5441 4238

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Brisbane Clans Pipes and Drums Burns Supper and Dance – Venue TBA.  
Contact 07 3369 2232
- 30<sup>th</sup> Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band Burns Supper and Ceilidh – Details TBA .  
Contact 07 3281 5408

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

**This newsletter will be the last for this year. The next one will issue in February shortly before our first meeting in the New Year, which will be on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1999. May we take the opportunity to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, just in case we don't see you before then! - Editor**

## OCTOBER MEETING

After a very slow start when it seemed as if we were to have a very thin night of piping, with only a slightly thicker audience, we ended up with about 22 piping aficionados gathered to hear some four pipers.

Bob Payne started with the announcements, including the sad news of Margaret Fleming's death and funeral last week. All stood while Maurie DeHayr played 'My Home' as a lament. There were apologies from Ron Fleming, Matt Rigby, Lea Ahokava and Enid Haig. Bob also reminded the meeting that the final meeting for the year and pairs of pipers would be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November rather than the usual Monday night, so that pipers from afar can more easily attend. This is a response to some discussion that was had at the Pipers Retreat in Tenterfield in July.

Maurie then opened the proceedings by playing for us a selection of traditional tunes in his usual pleasing style. His pipe perhaps started out a bit 'flat' but rapidly gained volume and resonance as he played, with the only problem being a slightly misbehaving drone. His tunes included *Sam Scott, Farewell to the Creeks,*

*Bonnie Galloway, The Auld Hous, Loch Maree, Haughs of Cromdale, McKenzie Highlanders, Teribus, Kantara to El Arish and Glengarry Gathering.* His phrasing was an object lesson in the playing of this type of the music of the highland bagpipe. He finished up with a short piece of Piobaireachd, *Sir James MacDonald of the Isles' Lament.*

Next to play was Phillip Cowan, the sole representative of the younger generation for the evening. He played a selection of fairly 'traditional' tunes (with some fireworks towards the end) on his usual excellent sounding and well blown instrument. Each time he has played at the Society lately there has been a noticeable improvement in the maturity and strength of his playing. His tunes included *Greenlands, Hector the Hero, The Argyllshire Gathering, Dora Macleod, Don Manson's Reel, Pipe Major William Gray's Farewell to the Glasgow Police, Carradale Bay, Duncan the Gauger, Fraser Martin Goes Walkabout, The Keel Row, The Pumpkin's Fancy, The Bulgarian Bandit, The Big Flit, The Train Journey North, The Ewe with the*

***Crooked Smile, Coming to the Crunch, The 2nd Jig, Calum Iain and Laura the Wombat.***

Doug Thoresen then unveiled the treasures he had brought along for the evening. They were two sets of old Center bagpipes, both owned by the Weiss family.

The first set, which was slivered in 1898 came into the hands of the family from the late Tom Anderson who was piper to the Caledonian Society during the war years. Rosie McLelland, who was at the meeting, commented she had often danced to the music of these pipes. One of the sons of the family, Robert Weiss, still plays them occasionally. It is a magnificent looking instrument - full silver mounts and hand carved drones, fitted with a Lawrie chanter with the most enormous silver sole

Doug had put a fair bit of effort into getting the instrument going and the drones were fitted with a Ross bass drone reed, a cane reed in the middle tenor and a Henderson Harmonic in the outside tenor! The chanter has had to be coaxed up in pitch (and is still a bit lower pitched than we are used to hearing these days) but it was pleasant and well balanced and the

drones were smooth and full in tone, though fairly quiet (probably all those different drone reeds!) Doug played one of his usual most musical selections.

He then played the second pipe, which had plenty more volume but still a full tone. The chanter was a modern one. The Weiss family "lends" the pipes to Doug so he can keep them going for the few times a year they need them to play. The sliver on this instrument is dated 1904.

He again played a varied and musical selection, finishing with some fireworks, which he proved he can handle as well as many of the younger players about!

Doug's tunes included *These are My Mountains, Jean MacLennan, Monymusk, Alick C MacGregor, Arthur Bignold of Lochrosque, Molly Connell, O'er the Bows to Ballindalloch, Campbelltown Kiltie Ball, Mrs MacLeod of Raasay, Fairy Dance and Chasing Shadows.*

After a few closing announcements, the raffle was won by Les Gray after being drawn by Betty DeHayr and we all retired for supper.

<b>MEETING DATES FOR NEXT YEAR</b>	
The projected meeting dates for next year are as follows. We may change a couple of these to a Friday or Saturday if the experiment of the November meeting this year proves a success.	
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	26 <sup>th</sup> July
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	23 <sup>rd</sup> August
26 <sup>th</sup> April	27 <sup>th</sup> September
24 <sup>th</sup> May	25 <sup>th</sup> October
28 <sup>th</sup> June	22 <sup>nd</sup> November

**It is our sad duty to report that Society member and Pipe Band identity David Lyall died on 7<sup>th</sup> November. There was a good representation of members at his funeral at St Paul's Church, St Paul's Terrace on the 12<sup>th</sup> November. David had a**

**long and distinguished record of service to the piping world and many will mourn his passing. The sympathy of all members of the Society is extended to his wife Carole.**

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7.30PM AT THE QPBA ROOMS

## RESULTS

### Glenfiddich Piping Championship - Blair Castle - Saturday 31 October.

#### **Piobaireachd**

1. William McCallum The Big Spree
2. Alasdair Gillies Ronald MacDonald of Morar's Lament
3. Stuart Shedden Lady Margaret MacDonald's Salute
4. Greg Wilson Patrick MacCrimmon's Lament

5. Michael Cusack Lament for the Earl of Antrim

Judges: James MacIntosh, Iain MacFadyen, Gavin Stoddart

#### **March, Strathspey and Reel (Twice Through)**

1. Alasdair Gillies Mrs John MacColl, Tulloch Castle, Dr MacPhail's Reel
2. Dr Angus MacDonald Kentara to El Arish, P/M Hector Maclean, Stornaway Castle

3. William MacCallum John MacColl's  
March to Kilbowie Cottage, Caber  
Feidh, Grey Bob
  4. Roderick MacLeod Inveran, Lady  
Mackenzie of Gairloch, Smith of  
Chilliechassie
  5. Angus MacColl Argyllshire Gathering,  
Cameronian Rant Charlie's Welcome
- Judges: P/M Angus MacDonald, Hugh  
MacCallum, Donald MacPherson

**Overall Placings**

1. Alasdair Gillies
2. William MacCallum
3. Dr Angus MacDonald

**Silver Chanter Competition -  
Christchurch, New Zealand.****Silver Chanter (MS&R)**

- 1 Adrian Melvin
2. Michael Redmond
- 3 Callum Ferguson
- 4 Vaughan Wheeler

**The Clasp (MS&R)-for the winner and  
previous winners of Silver Chanter**

- 1 Adrian Melvin
- 2 Brian Switalla
- 3 George Mason

**6/8 March**

- 1 Glenn Harris
- 2 Adrian Melvin
- 3 Brian Switalla
- 4 Elizabeth Drury

**Piobaireachd**

- 1 George Mason
- 2 Brian Switalla
- 3 Adrian Melvin
- 4 Rosie Heaney

**Strathspey & Reel**

- 1 Brian Switalla
- 2 Adrian Melvin
- 3 Glenn Harris
- 4 Callum Ferguson

**Hornpipe & Jig**

- 1 Brian Switalla
- 2 Glen Harris
- 3 Adrian Melvin

**2/4 March**

- 1 George Mason

- 2 Brian Switalla
- 3 Fiona Manson
- 4 Glenn Harris

**Scottish Piping Society of London  
Annual Contest - 7th November, 1998 -  
Glaziers Hall, London Bridge****Bratach Gorm**

1. Roddy McLeod Battle of Auldearn No2
2. Gordon Walker
3. Willie McCallum Nameless (Cherede  
Darievea)
4. James Murray
5. Robert Wallace MacDougall's Gathering

Judges: Donald MacPherson, Jimmy  
Young, Allan Beaton

**Gillies Cup (Piobaireachd)**

1. Roddy McLeod I got a Kiss of the  
King's hand
2. Willie McCallum Praise of Morag
3. John Patrick
4. Gordon Walker Mackay's banner
5. Innis Smith I am Proud to Play a  
Pipe

Judges: Malcolm MacRae, Andy Wright,  
Ronald Morrison

**J.B.Robertson March**

1. Roddy McLeod
2. Iain Spiers
3. Willie McCallum

Judges: Donald MacPherson, Jimmy  
Young, Allan Beaton

**London Medallion (MSR)**

1. Willie McCallum
2. Willie Morrison
3. Roddy McLeod
4. Gordon Walker

Judges: Donald MacPherson, Jimmy  
Young, Allan Beaton

**Beaton Cup (Jig)**

1. Iain Spiers
2. Willie McCallum
3. Andrew Hall

Judges: Donald MacPherson, Jimmy  
Young, Allan Beaton

**Overall Champion**

Willie McCallum

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***The following was submitted by Bruce Morley, via Charlie McInnes:***

#### THE LAST PIOBAIREACHD

"On his deathbed Pipe Major G.S.MacLennan played a famous Piobaireachd which has added lustre to his name throughout the world"

"Gi'e me the Pipes, lad  
I'm slippin' awa',  
Jist fill them wi' wind  
And I'll hae my last blaw."

How gently he gripped and fingered them o'er,  
And Death coming in held his hand at the door.

First feebly, then strongly; what music of sadness  
Like day ebbing out with a last rosy kiss.  
No curlew that waits in the season of gladness  
Has notes that are wilder or sweeter than this.

'Tis the sound of the Piper (can death ever bind it),  
The soul of the great one, the master of Men.  
Recalling the scenes it is leaving behind it  
The marching of feet on the road to the Glen.

'Tis the sound of the Piper unchecked in its feeling,  
unhampered by earth and the cares that prevail,  
Away through the mist and the storm he is stealing,  
Away to the river that sings through the vale.



Away where the grouse flashes by on his pinions.  
Or puffs his red chicks in a pride that is pure;  
Where the eagle looks down on his terrified minions,  
As slowly he circles the waves of the moor.

Away ... but he falters ... The pipes are downcast,  
The Piobaireachd has ended ... The Piper has passed.

Arthur F. Leslie Patterson

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*The following two articles are reproduced from the NSW Pipers' Society Newsletter which is edited by their President, Ron Clement. The first is about their annual Piobaireachd contest and the second are reflections on Ron's time in Scotland this year.....*

### Annual Silver Chalice Piobaireachd Contest

A good day keeping the Great Music alive with 3 in the restricted division and nine in the open. Dennis Browning, whose name appears on the Chalice at least 7 times, judged for us this year. His comments and advice to contestants on their performance being well received.

The line up of contestants were:

<u>Restricted:</u>	Ron Clement,	Glengarry's Lament	First Place
	John Cutler	The Clan Campbell's Gathering	
	John Fairley	Lament for Sir James MacDonald of the Isles	Second
<u>Open</u>	John Fairley	Lament for Alasdair Dearg MacDonnell of Glengarry	
	Ron Clement	MacCrimmon's Sweetheart	
	Ken McLeish	The Glen is Mine	
	John Cutler	The Battle of Auldearn No 1	
	Glen Anderson	The Clan Campbell's Gathering (Different Version to that played by John Culler)	
	Angus MacKinnon	I got a Kiss of the King's Hand	
	Frances Crown	The Battle of the Bridge of Perth	
	Rev Bruce Spence	The Lament for the Children	
	Robert Pearce	Corrienessan's Salute	

And the results:      1st - Robert Pearce  
                             2nd Glen Anderson  
                             3rd Frances Crown

In announcing the winners, Dennis commented that he heard some great music, particularly mentioning the efforts of Bruce Spence (The Lament for the Children) and Angus MacKinnon ( I got a Kiss of the King's Hand) who both unfortunately repeated a line and therefore could not be considered in the top three. The Lament for the Children is considered to be the greatest of all, and by no means easy to memorise or play.

We have become accustomed to the beautiful sound of Robert's pipe, it literally sings to his fine execution of Corrienessan's Salute.

Your scribe was having difficulty following the Clan Campbell's Gathering from the Kilberry book only to learn from Dennis that there are two different versions- Kilberry and Piobaireachd Society. We heard both on the day.

## Reflections on Scotland - Summer? 1998

Ron Clement

In two words- damp and expensive. Everyone was apologising for the non-summer, but it did fine up for World's –just one brief shower early afternoon but cold and windy after 5 for the presentations which dragged on for hours. We took shelter from the wind in a tent but it was still cold. Even when our exchange rate was 48p to the A\$, food and lodging in UK was very expensive by our standards. Generally one would pay in £s what we would pay in A\$. At current exchange rates of 35-36p to the A\$, food is very expensive. For example at a Glasgow Pizza Hut - one 10 inch pizza, one salad and two cups of coffee showed up on my credit card statement as A\$33. Petrol is 70 to 74 pence per litre. –i.e. More than A\$2 per litre.

**The Piping Centre and Pipers' Tryst (8 room hotel )**. Accommodation is excellent, all new, ensuite facilities, TV phone etc - double room costs £55 per night bed and breakfast - single £45. (Little old Inns and Hotels in the country charge £25-£35 per person with ensuites) The restaurant/coffee shop serves excellent food at reasonable prices (for UK anyway). It is well located at the top of Hope St. five minutes walk to the Sauchiehall Street shopping mall. Parking however cost £20 for 2 days & nights in either of 2 parking stations diagonally opposite. Cowcaddens Tube station is 200m away. I parked in the side lane one day..- no double yellow lines but told that recent work on the cobble stones had erased the paint: there was a risk of being clamped. Met Bob Everest, Pipemaker from Wellington NZ at the Centre and also at Portree. He showed me his work- a tenor drone, excellent finish but of course one really has to hear the sound.

The Piping Centre is an old church, the Tryst is joined to it and was probably the Manse in its day. There is a basement with sound insulated instruction rooms, the ground floor has offices, lobby and excellent piping museum, upstairs is the auditorium where lunch time recitals are held and recorded in the summer season.

**The College of Piping** battles on about 2 miles away in its old run down block of 3 tenement houses with adjoining walls knocked out.

I went to the Veterans Friday afternoon piping session, run by Bob MacFie, heard some good piping and was invited to play a few tunes. Jeannie Campbell showed me the museum and of particular interest was the set of **Glen** pipes with distinctive shaping of the protruding mounts which many people had assured me was a MacDougall characteristic. Jeannie has the original receipt for these pipes which were illustrated in Piping Times for July 98. She also showed me a Thow catalogue which confirmed advice given me six years ago by PM Bert Barron that the bead between the cord groove and top of the bass drone was a **Thow of Dundee** characteristic.

The **Skye Gathering** at Portree held Tuesday and Wednesday of the first week in August was not quite as expected. Occasional showers, heard some very talented young pipers competing in the Hotel on the Tuesday. They played their 2/4 March in front of 3 judges (I recognised Lawrie and McFadyen), retuned then played their strathspey and reel. The judges did not seem to write any comments - I presume just a mark then sit back, arms folded, fingering the tune along with the competitor. I captured some on my recorder.

The athletic games were held on the ground up on the knoll on Wednesday. The ground is only about 70m diameter, a natural amphitheatre but the ground was a bog. They needed a shovel to dig out the ball after a shot put! Amid all this, junior pipers about 10-12 years were competing -at least on a wooden platform. I will show some video at our next meeting.

Further up on the hill young pipers, probably under 21, were playing in a Piobaireachd contest next to an old stone tower building overlooking the harbour- a beautiful location. They do give pass out tickets because the only loos are back in town!

We went back to the hotel, discovered our tickets for the previous day were still valid for the senior solos both there and for the Piobaireachd being held in a church hall on the other side of the town square.

Then back to Dunvegan 20 miles NW to ensure we were first in the queue to get good seats for the Silver Chanter at Dunvegan Castle later that evening.

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