



Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

N
E
W
S
L
E
T
T
E
R

1000

March

March Meeting Monday 22nd

Souths Leagues Club
Jane Street, West End.
7.45 pm

This meeting will be an
“Open Medley” contest, so
let’s hear your musical
imagination let loose

The contest will be **open to all** comers (if we have a very large entry we may divide it into a junior and senior division).

Tunes entirely at the choice of the competitor (**3-5 minutes** playing).

Prizes: 1st \$30, 2nd, \$20, 3rd \$10.

Entries to the Secretary by 19 March would be appreciated (phone 07 3397 4512 A/H

From the Editor:

As you will see from the report of our February Meeting, the year certainly got off to a flying start.

On top of this, we have now taken advantage of an opportunity to present Stuart Liddell in concert when he is in Australia in the next few weeks. The concert will be at the My Gravatt Bowls Club on 26 March (more details inside)

Add that to the open medley competition scheduled for our March meeting only a few days earlier, and it’s clear March will be another active month for the Society

Print Post Approved PP 445886/0003
Publisher: Q.H.P.S PO Box 1252 COORPAROO DC 4151
Editor: A J McConnell Phone: 07 3397 4512 alexm@eis.net.au
Price 60 Cents

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.

Stuart Liddell

in concert
(with supporting artists)

Friday 26th March

Mt Gravatt Bowls Club
(Logan Road, Upper Mt Gravatt)

at 8.00 p.m.

Admission: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 14

Come and hear one of today's premier pipers from Scotland. He has also played with the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band and must be one of the very few pipers to have played solo at Carnegie Hall when he appeared there at the SFU concert last year. As reported in a Canadian newspaper –

*"But after Stuart Liddell, one of Scotland's most successful young award winning pipers, easily performed what seemed to be a simple number made intricate with his fancy fingering and complicated harmonics, the entire audience lost it in a deafening roar of shouts and hoots. Liddell did an encore, but nothing else the whole evening matched that initial incredible performance." - he played *The Blue Cloud* and *The Mason's Apron* – Editor*

ENQUIRIES: The Secretary – 07 3397 4512 after hours or 0417 783 740

FEBRUARY 1999 MEETING

What a great start to our 1999 piping year! 27 members attended our first activity for the year. Bob Payne opened the meeting a little late wishing everyone a healthy and happy new year. He introduced a visitor, Pipe Major Phillip Fleming of the Armidale Pipe Band. Spontaneous applause broke out when he announced we had 9 pipers present and keen to play for us. There were known to be 3 others present with pipes who were prepared to play had we been short on numbers.

Alex & Desley McConnell were absent celebrating their daughter's 21st birthday. Throughout the evening the library material was well perused.

First to play was Phillip Cowan.

His tunes were:- *Hector the Hero, Ballochyle, Ellenor, The Braemar Gathering, Willie Gray, Carradale Bay, Train Journey North, Duncan the Gauger, Coming to the Crunch, Pumpkin's Fancy, and Guess What?*

Next to play was Nathan Bedford.

His tunes were:- *Duncan McInnes, Fiddlers Joy, Archie Beag.*

Next was Matthew Supranowicz:-

Bob Brown's Farewell, Highland Harry, Colonel Macleod, Dora Watt, The Judge's Dilemma, Jacks Welcome Home, Jean Mauchline.

Next was Rod Smith:-

Leaving Waternish, P.M. Bill Boyle, Ellenor, Jimmy Bain, My Love is But a Lassie, Mr. Drones & Troy's Wedding.

Next came Hugh Maclean. The following are a few slow airs he selected for our edification:-

Aite Mo Ghaoil, Meudal's Maighear, Am T-Altan Dubh, Fagal Braigh Vhalla, An Ubhal Is Airde, Caercal A Chuain.

These were followed by a 6/8 march; *Lord Macpherson of Drumochdar.*

Next was Peter Lewis:- *Donald Maclean & Bengullion.*

Next was one of our newest members Stuart McLeod:-

He played for us *Leaving Lismore, Lord Lovat's Lament, and The Dark Island.*

Next was Lea Ahakova. His tunes were:- *Mrs J. MacColl, J. McFadyen of Melfort, Susan Macleod, John Morrison of Assynt House.*

Our final piper for the evening was Matthew Rigby.

Matthew was being frustrated by a solo piping chanter he had recently acquired, which, on this evening, he could not get to Perform to his expectations.

His tunes were:- *The Pap of Glencoe, 71st Highlanders, She Walked Through the Fair, Brae Rioch, Friday at Fishers, Cody's Jig.*

The raffle was drawn by Margaret Paterson and won by Dave Sinclair who offered it for a second draw.

Edith Haig drew another ticket and the Scotch was won by Doug Watkins.

Bob Payne thanked everyone for their efforts, announced the content and date of the next meeting, and invited everyone to partake of the generous supper which had been provided.

QHPS Program for 1999

22 March	Open Medley (3-5 minutes)	23 August	Annual Meeting and 6/8 Contest
26 April	Hornpipe & Jig	27 September	Pair of Pipers
24 May	Patron's Trophy (MSR for senior members)	25 October	Pipers Night
28 June	Pipers Night	22 November	Veteran's (Medley 3-5 minutes)
26 July	Jimmy Durham Trophy (2/4 March for junior members)		

What's On

MARCH	21	Scots School Bathurst Band Contest – contact Vicki Wilson 02 6332 4044 (AH 02 6337 9620)
	21	Geelong Highland Gathering
	24	NSW Pipers Society – Holterman Street, Crow's Nest
	22	SOCIETY MEETING
	26	Stuart Liddell In Concert – Mt Gravatt Bowls Club – see separate notice
	28	Lithgow Highland Gathering – Debbie Hilliard – 02 6352 3628
	28	Ringwood Highland Games (Vic) – 03 9876 4140
APRIL	2–3	Maclean Highland Gathering (see notice later in newsletter)
	17	Bundanoon Highland Gathering (NSW Southern Highlands – Graeme Hadfield 02 4883 6621)
	26	SOCIETY MEETING
	28	NSW Pipers Society – Holterman Street, Crow's Nest
MAY	1–2	Glen Innes Celtic Festival
	8	AOM Trophy Competition – Qld Irish Club at 2.00 p.m.
	22	Brisbane Clans Pipes & Drums Debutante Ball
	24	SOCIETY MEETING
JUNE	12–13	Rockhampton Highland Gathering (see notice later in newsletter)
	28	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

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

Subscribe NOW! to "Raising the Standard"

The Scottish & Celtic Magazine of Queensland

Be fully informed and up-to-date on what is happening in the Scottish and Celtic Community, here and overseas. Progressive Calendars of Events for Pipe Bands; Highland Dancing; Scottish Country Dancing; Irish Dancing and Clans Congress are featured in each edition of "Raising the Standard"

Annual Subscription - \$24 (including postage)

Write to: ALBA Publications,
PO Box 8024,
Wynnum North, Qld 4178

or Phone 07 3396 9025

Logan City Pipes and Drums

This is a band for the 21st century that is well established and forward thinking. We need more people with the same drive who are prepared to put in the hard work to achieve excellence and results. We need people that will be proud of what we have achieved and be proud of their new band and future achievements. This band is ready to develop further and achieve higher goals.

For further information contact **Gail Williams – 07 3803 5471**

Music Expo to include piping

The Queensland Pipe Band Association will be taking part in the Music Expo to be run at the RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane from 22 to 25 April. This event is organised by the Academy of Music.

There will be demonstrations of piping and drumming at the QPBA stand, and they will also be handing out leaflets on behalf of member organisations (we hope to have one from the Society available for anyone who is interested).

95TH MACLEAN HIGHLAND GATHERING

EASTER WEEKEND APRIL 2nd – 3rd 1999

Friday Afternoon - Cameron Park

Saturday- Maclean Showground

Lower Clarence Scottish Association Inc.

CHIEF

Colin Gregor
4/10 Wharf Street,
N .S.W. 2483

SECRETARY

Bob McPherson
7 Sunart Lane,
Maclean. 2483

TREASURER

John McPhee
South Bank Road,
Palmers Channel,
NSW 2460

(02) 6645 2408

(02) 6645 2887 AH (02) 6646 0120

VENUE & EVENTS

GOOD FRIDAY 2ND APRIL

Cameron Park - Elementary Piping & Drumming Afternoon

-

- Drum Learner

CWA Hall
Night

- Open Piobaireachd Piping

R.S.L Hall
Night

- Open Piping March/Strathspey/Reel

Maclean

- Hornpipe/Jig

Shopping Centre - Scottish Ceilidh 7.30 pm-
"Under Lights"

- Civic Welcome

- Bands

- Scottish Entertainment

EASTER SATURDAY 3RD APRIL

Maclean

Shopping Centre - 8.30 am Street March
Bands on Parade
- Hugh Donald Anderson Band
Sign Award

Maclean

- 9.00 am Highland Dancing Showground

Showground

- 10.00 am Band Contest
- 10.00 am Solo Piping/Drumming
Contest
- 12.30 pm
Official Opening
Drum Major Solo Competition
Highland Sports
Scottish Stalls
4.30 pm Massed Band Display

Scottish Concert

N .S.W. 2483

Maclean. 2483

Palmers Channel,
NSW 2460

(02) 6645 2408

(02) 6645 2887 AH (02) 6646 0120

Easter Saturday Night- 3rd April, 1999

Maclean Civic Hall, (Near Post Office) Time
8.00 pm

POPULAR SCOTTISH ENTERTAINMENT

- ❖ Guest Piper
- ❖ Highland Dancing Special Displays
- ❖ Guest Vocalist
- ❖ Special Band Display

Limited Seating - Book Early - Tickets \$8 each
School Students \$4 each

* Money plus stamped address envelope to accompany
bookings - Marked attention **Contest Secretary**

STRATHCLYDE REEDS

(Geoff Smith and Val Dodd)

have a new address and phone number for orders and enquiries

15 Howell Street, Kedron

0408 755 443 **(NOTE – THIS IS A CORRECTION TO THE NUMBER PUBLISHED LAST MONTH)**

G S McLennan

In November we published a poetic piece about the death of this famous piper recalling the story that he played a Piobaireachd on his death bed. A reader has submitted this contemporary press report which deals with the event in more prosaic terms and also gives a bit of information about the life of this great player:

FAMOUS PIPE-MAJOR'S LAST LAMENT

Played on His Death-bed

Passing of a World-famous Piper

On his deathbed Pipe-Major George Stuart McLennan, a world famous piper, played his last Piobaireachd. Pipe-

Major McLennan, who served in the Gordon Highlanders, was the winner of many prizes and was famous throughout the world as a piper.

The piping genius, Pipe-Major George Stuart McLennan, late of the 1st Gordon Highlanders, died at midnight at his residence in Aberdeen, his fast ebbing strength spent in playing a famous Piobaireachd which added lustre to his name throughout the world.

For the last year or two he had been in failing health, but he was sufficiently strong to take part in piping competitions at Highland gatherings throughout Scotland, and, as of yore, he was always a prominent prize winner.

Lately, however, his health so failed him that he was unable to attend to his bagpipe

ROCKHAMPTON HIGHLAND GATHERING

Queens Birthday Weekend June 1999

Saturday 12 - Solo Piping & Drumming
Sunday 13- Grade 4 Mini Band Contest
Full Band Contest - all grades
Drum Majors Contest

Venue: Rockhampton Pipe Band Hall
Gladstone Road, Rockhampton

Queensland Highlanders in Concert Saturday Night
Venue: Rockhampton High School Assembly Hall
Campbell Street, Rockhampton

Enquiries: Wayne & Eunice Palfrey (07) 4928 5419
3 Standish Street

making business, which he instituted after leaving the army.

Out for a Walk.

Yesterday he went out to enjoy a walk in the genial sunshine. After returning home ex-hausted, however, he went to bed.

Night came, and the world-famous Pipe Major McLennan, feeling himself, as he said, slippin' awa', motioned his elder son to his bedside and asked him to play a lament on the pipes.

The boy played, and when the last wailing notes of the pipes rose and fell, their lingering drone echoing through the stillness of the house, the Pipe-Major the requested his son to fill the bagpipes with wind.

Strength Comes.

With loving care he took the musical instrument with which he, like generations of his family before him, had made the name of McLennan famous, and with shaking hands fingered the notes of a famous Piobaireachd.

The lament faltered through its opening passages, but strength seemed to come to the Pipe-Major as he played, and the music came in cadences sweet and sad.

But it was a fast ebbing strength, and the music became slower, and slowly died away, seeming to linger in the dark corners of the room.

In that bedroom in a comfortable little cottage in Powis Place, fronted by a trim little garden, its floral beauty

darkened by the shadows of night, Pipe-Major McLennan had played his last lament.

His First Competition

At the early age of nine years, Pipe-Major McLennan made his first appearance in a piping competition. It was at Paisley, and the special medal awarded to him on that occasion was one of his most treasured possessions.

The following year, a unique honour in the history of piping was conferred on him – by Royal Command he appeared before Queen Victoria, and gave a demonstration of his remarkable ability even at that early age.. The only other instance of such an honour

being conferred on a piper was in 1626, when Patrick Mor MacCrimmon played before Charles I.

In 1894, and also in 1895, Pipe-Major McLennan won the amateur championship medals in Edinburgh and in London. At that time he was also a remarkably clever dancer, and at 11 years of age he won the amateur championship of Scotland and England for dancing.

In 1899 the boy wonder of the piping world disappeared from the arena, he having joined the Gordons and being stationed in the south of England for some years where he could not attend Highland gatherings.

In 1909, however, he reappeared – a well set up young man – and at once stepped into the front rank of competitors again.

Over 2000 Awards.

Over 2000 piping awards had been won by the Pipe-Major, who had been hailed the champion piper of the world.

After retiring from the post of pipe major at Castlehill Barracks, Aberdeen, he instituted a bagpipe making business in Bridge Place, Aberdeen where he proved himself an expert in the making of chanters, and had a clientele throughout Great Britain.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME – PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO A FRIEND AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO SUPPORT THE SOCIETY BY JOINING – AN APPLICATION FORM IS PRINTED BELOW

The Society is formed for the purpose of promoting solo piping.

It meets monthly (except for December and January) on **the fourth Monday of the month at 7.45 p.m.** at: **Souths Leagues Club, off Jane Street, West End.** The meetings consist of recitals and competitions of solo piping, followed by a time for making and renewing acquaintances over supper.

Members and non-members are welcome to attend meetings. Admission is \$2 (plus the raffle if you so choose!), An annual subscription costs \$20. There is a newsletter in each month when there is a meeting. The newsletter will keep you up to date with piping and Pipe Bands around the world.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, WRITE TO:

THE SECRETARY, QHPS, PO BOX 1252 ,COORPAROO D.C. 4151

QUEENSLAND HIGHLAND PIPERS' SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I wish to apply for membership of the Queensland Highland Pipers' Society and enclose \$20.00, being my first year's subscription.

Signature _____

