



Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

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July

1999

## July Meeting Monday 26th

Souths Leagues Club, Jane Street, West End

7.45 pm

The meeting will feature the Jimmy Durham Trophy Competition for junior pipers.

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, once through. The "Jimmy Durham Memorial" Trophy is a perpetual trophy originally donated by the Warwick Caledonian Society. Four medals are donated annually by Bill Durham

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

Entries to the Secretary, PO Box 1252, Coorparoo DC 4151 or by phone 3397 4512 (AFTER 4.00PM) by Friday 23 July

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### From the Editor:

Despite the change of venue last month we had an excellent night of piping – those who couldn't make certainly missed something.

We are still looking for a new permanent venue for our meetings, so suggestions will be gratefully received by the

executive – we need a venue that is central, accessible and reasonably priced.

However, this month we are back at Souths for one of the most significant competitions

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Publisher: Q.H.P.S PO Box 1252 COORPAROO DC 4151
Editor: A J McConnell Phone: 07 3397 4512 alexm@eis.net.au
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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.

## JUNE 1999 MEETING

About 20 members turned up for our June meeting - a bit of a different one - at the QPBA rooms instead of our usual venue on a rainy night. The hall had been well prepared by Doug Thoresen and his willing band of Ormiston Heritage members.

Alex McConnell introduced the evening in the absence of Bob Payne who was in the final throes of selling his practice and retiring. There were also apologies from Lea Ahokava and Enid Haig and Rosie McLellan, who had broken her wrist and was still recovering.

First to play was Rob Grogan who gave us a selection of simple tunes (appropriate for a simple piper he said!) They included... His pipes were well tuned and his performance musical, with the audience singing along to several of the tunes! He played **Flower of Scotland, Morag of Dunvegan, Skye Boat Song, Amazing Grace** and **Waltzing Matilda**.

Next to play was Phillip Cowan. After a short time tuning, his pipes were going well. The chanter was not too dominating in the small space and very well pitched. He showed off the fine sound playing Hector the Hero as his first tune. A retune saw the pies not quite so good at first. There was perhaps just a little trace of uneven blowing, given away by an uneven crow on high A. After the 2/4's **Portland Castle** and **Pipe Major Willie Gray**, the second of which went a

little off-beam, he has another retune and played us some of the faster music, including **Walkabout 97, Trinity Bay Blue, Ewe wi' the Crookit Smile, Not the Bunny Hop, Duncan the Gauger, Coming to the Crunch, Mr Drones** and **the Long Island Jig**.

He followed this up with some popular tunes including **The Road to Gundagai, When the Saints Go Marching In, Click Go the Shears** (with some interesting key changes), **Shenandoah River, The Queensland Drover** and **It's a Long Way to Tipperary**.

Back to the more "bagpipe" idiom, he gave us a final selection including **Walking the Surf, Hair O' Dog, The Sugar Beat 98, Ebb Tide, Captain Colin Campbell, The Cockerel in the Creel, The Drunken Piper, Piper of Drumond, Jock Wilson's Ball, The North Landers, The Wee Brig, The Keel Row, The Big Flit, B C Niven, The Pumpkin's Fancy, Bulgarian Bandit, Rocking the Baby** and **the Jig of Slurs**. Altogether a most entertaining selection of tunes played well on a good instrument.

Doug Thoresen was next to play on an impeccable bagpipe (after he got all the drones sounding and the chanter up in pitch!). He started with the Air **Hills Around Portuairk** and then played the 6/8s **MacDonald's Away to the War** and **Top of Ben Lomond**.

Next was **The Royal Scots Polka** followed by another air, **Dreamy Island** and the MSR **Australian Ladies, Monymusk** and **Alick C MacGregor**. Finally he gave us the 6/8's **Farewell to the Creeks** and **Pipe Major George Allan** and the jig **The Banjo Breakdown**. Once again a most entertaining selection.

As things had now warmed up, Ron Fleming was prevailed on to have a tune (he actually volunteered). Ron was playing a set of pipes made of Canadian maple. After Ron bought them, he had them "fixed up" by the late Les Thornton, as they weren't a great sounding set of pipes to start with. Ron also asked Ian Duncan if he had a maple chanter and some time later received one, and it is this one he now uses with this bagpipe. The pipes had a slight "edge" to the drone sound but this is not unpleasant. The chanter was pleasant and accurate.

Some of the tunes he played were his own now world renowned 6/8 **Bengullion**, a couple of New Zealand tunes, **Brian Jackson** and **John Keel**, the 2/4's **Atholl Highlanders March to Loch**

**Katrine, Mrs MacDonald of Dunach** and **Craig n' Darroch**, the Strathspeys **Highland Harry** and **Struan Robertson**. He also played **Morag Beag**, his tune for Iain and Doreen Bruce's daughter and his other tune for the Bruce family, **Doreen and Iain**. This was all most entertaining and his 2/4's in particular were an object lesson in the correct phrasing of this branch of our music.

During his performance he was prevailed on to play **Innes Baker, 80 Years Young**, a tune he composed recently for Innes's 80th birthday. It is a four parted 9/8 lilt. Innes's daughter, Margaret Paterson had choreographed a dance to the tune for her whole school which was danced at the birthday party. Ron protested that he had only written the tune - that didn't necessarily mean he could play it from memory! After a couple of tries, Doug Thoresen played it on Ron's pipes with Ron holding the music. His memory refreshed, Ron played the tune again and followed it up with his other great 9/8, **Men from Dalintober**.

After this feast of piping, all that remained was to draw the raffle and retire to that other feast, supper.

### **QHPS Program for 1999**

<b>26 July</b>	Jimmy Durham Trophy (2/4 March for junior members)	<b>27 September</b>	Pair of Pipers
<b>23 August</b>	Annual Meeting and 6/8 Contest	<b>25 October</b>	Pipers Night
		<b>22 November</b>	Veteran's (Medley 3-5 minutes)

<b>JULY</b>	26	<b>SOCIETY MEETING</b>
	28	NSW Pipers Society, Holterman Street, Crows Nest
<b>AUGUST</b>	8	Qld Police Pipe Band Solo Contest for Junior Players – see separate notice
	11	RNA Massed Bands Display (8:20pm)
	14	World Pipe Band Championships (Glasgow)
	14	RNA Massed Bands Display (7:20pm)
	23	<b>SOCIETY MEETING</b>
	25	NSW Pipers Society, Holterman Street, Crows Nest
	28	Ipswich Band & Solo Contest – Contact 07 3291 5408
	28	Cowal Championships, Dunoon
	29	Combined Scottish Societies of NSW Solo Piping Contest – Top Ryde School, Tucker Street – Helen MacKenzie 9869 7876
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	17, 18	“The Pipers Retreat” – Wallangarra – see separate notice
	22	NSW Pipers Society, Holterman Street, Crows Nest
	25	Wynnum Highland Gathering and Qld Pipe Band Championships
	25	NSW Pipers Society Piobaireachd Silver Chalice Competition, Holterman Street, Crows Nest
	27	<b>SOCIETY MEETING</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	2	Wynnum Highland Gathering – Contact 07 3291 5408
	25	<b>SOCIETY MEETING</b>

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

**Colin Drummond** died on Sunday 4th of July at the age of only 58.

Colin was the President of the Competing Piper's Association and was well known around the games in Scotland for his support of the contests and for his good humour.

## **WORLD PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP GRADE 1 DRAW**

### **Qualifying (9.00am)**

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Ravara (NI)              | 3. St Laurence O'Toole (Ireland) |
| 2. Lothian & Borders Police | 4. Macnaughtons Vale of Atholl   |
|                             | 5. L.A.Scots (USA)               |

6. Scottish Power
7. Dysart & Dundonald
8. Royal Ulster Constabulary (NI)
9. Celtic Inn Manawatu Scottish (NZ)
10. Peel Regional Police (Canada)
11. Grampian Police
12. Hydro Electric Buchan
13. Abbotsford Police (Canada)
14. New Zealand Police (NZ)
15. Polkemmet
16. Glasgow Skye Association
17. McNeilstown (NI)
18. Boghall & Bathgate
19. Toronto Police (Canada)
20. David Urquhart Travel

**Final Starts 12.40pm M.S.R**

(1<sup>st</sup> six from last year receive automatic entry to the final)

1. (from Qualifying)
2. (from Qualifying)
3. Field Marshal Montgomery (NI)
4. 78th Fraser Highlanders (Canada)
5. (from Qualifying)
6. (from Qualifying)
7. (from Qualifying)
8. (from Qualifying)
9. Strathclyde Police
10. Shotts & Dykehead Caledonia
11. Simon Fraser (Canada)
12. ??? (would have been Victoria Police)

## Subscribe NOW! to "Raising the Standard"

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56 ORIGINAL AND TRADITIONAL TUNES INCLUDING :-

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

ORDERS: Lachlan McCabe. PO Box 510 WARWICK QLD 4370

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### COMPUTER PROGRAMME FOR SCOTTISH MUSIC

Plays bagpipe music	Drone & Chanter Sounds	music is on-screen
Donut' marker bounces along	slow down or speed-up	Change the pitch
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Begin to play a tune at any point	add other tunes	Continuous play
tunes		
plays piobaireachd		

**Anyone using 'BMW' and wishing to purchase 'Piob Mhor V2.7' will receive, FREE, a program which converts your BMW files to Piob Mhor files.**

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**TO ORDER:** Forward \$125 to ----- PO Box 568

Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

3.5" Program Disk and instructions dispatched immediately upon receipt of payment.

E-mail: [dennis@turboweb.net.au](mailto:dennis@turboweb.net.au)

# CONTEST RESULTS

## British Pipe Band Championships

June 26, 1999 - Lisburn, Northern

### Ireland

#### **Grade 1**

1. Shotts & Dykehead
  2. Field Marshal Montgomery
  3. Scottish Power
  4. Strathclyde Police
  5. Boghall & Bathgate
  6. Vale of Atholl
- Drum Corps: FMM

#### **Grade 2**

1. Upper Crossgare
  2. Bucksburn & District
  3. Tamlaght O'Crilly
  4. Boghall & Bathgate
  5. Dumbarton & District
  6. Ballinderry Bridge
- Drum Corps: Upper Crossgare

## United States Piping Foundation

Championships - Newark, Delaware

June 26, 1999

Judges: Archie Cairns and Jimmy McIntosh

### **Professional Piobaireachd**

1. Alasdair Gillies "The Earl of Seaforth's Salute"
2. Bill Livingstone "In Praise of Morag"
3. Mike Rogers "Too Long in this Condition" Donald MacDonald setting
4. Scot Walker "Lament for Patrick Og"
5. Skip Cleavinger "Rory MacLeod's Lament"

### **Professional March, Strathspey and Reel (Twice over each tune)**

1. Alasdair Gillies "Clan MacColl," "Cabar Feidh," "The Sheepwife"
2. Bill Livingstone
3. Scot Walker
4. John Bottomley
5. Mike Rogers

### **Overall Professional Championship**

1. Alasdair Gillies (USPF Silver Buckle and Airfare to the Glenfiddich Championship)
2. Bill Livingstone
3. Scot Walker
4. Mike Rogers
5. John Bottomley

***Reprinted from The Herald Online***

## Angus MacDonald

**Pipe Major Angus Macdonald MBE; born October 20, 1938, died June 25, 1999**

ANGUS MacDonald was born in Cardonald, Glasgow, and was educated at the Queen Victoria School, Dunblane, where he was introduced to the bagpipes by Pipe Major George Sanderson.

When he left after three years, his final report read: "He has developed exceptionally well on the musical side and holds the rank of Boy Pipe Major in the School Pipe Band. In addition to piping he is also a very able performer at Highland Dancing."

The recruiting officer in Dundee recorded: "This boy, who is slightly built and well dressed, wishes to enlist into the Brigade of Guards (Scots Guards) as a piper, and the Commandant of the School would like him to report to his unit on 23rd December 1953." The Regimental Adjutant Scots Guards directed that he should join the Guards Training Battalion at Pirbright "as soon as possible".

Thus it was that Angus, son of a Cameron Highlander, began a military career of 27 years which took him to France, Borneo, Malaya, Sharjah, Germany, Kenya and Northern Ireland. In his early days he was much influenced by the two Roe brothers, both Scots Guards' Pipe Majors, and by Alec MacDonald of the same regiment, who was the Sovereign's personal piper.

Promotion came steadily, from Lance Corporal in August 1957, to Pipe Major and Household Piper to The Queen in 1965, and his reports make interesting reading: "There is no reason why he should not have a highly successful tenure of office; musically nothing can stop him. He is still a very young man and there is no reason why he should not remain Pipe Major for many years."

His Commanding Officer in 1968 wrote: "He is in many ways an outstanding Pipe Major. A brilliant performer himself, he is an excellent instructor and a man of great charm", and in the following year: "He is very smart and one of the finest pipers in the country".

In 1974 he was posted to the Guards Depot in charge of the Piping School for a tour of nearly four years, and there the Commandant commented that he was exactly the right sort of man to instruct junior pipers.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that after service with the 1st Battalion of the Regiment he joined the recruiting team in Edinburgh and this took him throughout Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom, where his prowess became renowned.

In 1980 he was promoted WO1 and posted as the senior instructor at the Army School of Piping and personal piper to the GOC and Governor, Edinburgh Castle. Time and again his ability was recognised, and in almost his last report before he retired from the regiment and the army, in October, 1983, it was said that "as a piper he is outstanding and bears comparison with any, military or civilian; as a Warrant Officer, he is excellent".

He was awarded an MBE and subsequently instructed in Oman and the United States, and finally was the senior instructor of the Piping Centre in Glasgow, arguably the largest and most prestigious school of its sort.

It is almost impossible to list the number of prizes he won from 1960 to 1982, gaining as he did so many of the most prestigious awards in piping.

Writing in 1993 a new foreword to *The Piper in Peace and War* by CA Malcolm, this great Scots Guardsman, whom I was honoured and proud to have known as an old friend for many



years, said: "In my experience the sight and sound of pipers from Scottish Regiments have always been well received. They have been, and still are, some of the best ambassadors this country has." Angus MacDonald was certainly that.

GENERAL SIR MICHAEL GOW - - June 29 1999

Many thanks to Bill Durham, brother of the late Jimmy Durham, who has once again donated four handsome medals to be awarded to the placegetters in the Jimmy Durham Memorial competition this month.

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***The Queensland Police PIPES & DRUMS***  
***Supporters' Association***  
***Present***  
***Annual***  
**SHEPHERD CHALLENGE**  
on the  
8th of August 1999  
held at the  
Queensland Police Pipes and Drums Band Room  
The Old Museum Building  
cnr Bowen Bridge Road & Gregory Terrace, Brisbane

***15 Years & Under***

***1: March***

***2: Strathspey & Reel***

***18 Years and Under***

***1: March Strathspey & Reel***

***2: Air & Jig***

***The first three prize winners from each age group will then go on to compete in a final to win a set of Shepherd Bagpipes***

***Stalls, Food and Drink will be available***

***A Guest Piper will provide Entertainment***

1. All entries and fees must be in the hands of the Secretary by 23rd July 1999. Late entries will be required to play first and will have an additional \$3.00 late entry fee. Please make cheques payable to Queensland Police Pipes & Drums Supporters' Association Inc."
2. Correct Highland Dress or registered Band Uniform must be worn by all competitors.
3. Competitors are to register with the Marshal prior to 10.15 am, 8-8-99.
4. Trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd & 3rd in each event provided that there are at least four competitors. Three competitors, 1st & 2nd only. Two competitors, 1st only. One competitor non event.
5. The overall winner is judged on aggregate and age will be taken into account. This will enable less experienced competitors to win the day.
6. The Judges decision is final
7. All competitors compete at their own risk. No liability is accepted for injury or loss sustained by any person participating in any event.
8. The promoter reserves the right to alter or amend the Programme and Times.

**Event No. 1 - 15's & under 4 parted 2/4 March**

**Event No. 2 - 15's & under Strathspey & Reel 4 parts minimum each**

**Event No. 3 - 18's & under M.S.R 4 parts minimum each**

**Event No 4 - 18's & under Air & Jig 4 parts minimum each**

**Music for Final :- March, Strathspey & Reel. 4 parts minimum each.**

Cut-----

**Entry fee for each event \$ 7.00**

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Given Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Event No. \_\_\_\_\_ Event No. \_\_\_\_\_

Age (next birthday after 8th August '1999). \_\_\_\_\_

Entries & enquiries to Secretary  
PHONE (07) 3253 9013 Work  
(07) 3802 0605 A/H

Fiona Wilson  
PO Box 130  
Royal Brisbane Hospital  
HERSTON 4029

# Its On Again!

## 2nd "The Piper's Retreat"

at **THE OFFICER'S MESS**  
 WALLANGARRA LOGISTIC COMPANY  
**FRIDAY 17<sup>th</sup> - SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> SEPT. 1999**

- \* 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:  
 J. McCABE, P/O BOX 330, Tenterfield 2372, 0267 36

Following the success of the Piper's Retreat in 1998, this year's retreat is to be held in a new location. The TAB is now run at the Royal Hotel in Tenterfield making it impossible to stage the event there this year.

This year we have booked the Officer's Mess at the Wallangarra Logistic Company and hopefully this will prove to be an even better facility. The Officer's Mess is a self contained entertainment area consisting of a bar, lounge, dining area, billiards room, outdoor BBQ area and kitchen and is surrounded by parklands.

Accommodation is available at the army camp. Beds are available at the Officer's quarters (50m from the Officers Mess) and Sergeants quarters (150m from the Officers Mess) for \$10 a night. Wallangarra has two hotels which has bed and breakfast facilities. The Jennings is \$25 a night and The Wallangarra Hotel is \$20 a night. Tenterfield is 15km south of Wallangarra and Stanthorpe is 35km north. Both have plenty of hotels, motels and caravan parks. All meals will be available at affordable prices at the retreat and bar will be at army mess prices.

The Wallangarra Logistic Company also has a 12 hole golf

### ACCOMMODATION BOOKING FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |                                  |                                  |          |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| • ARMY CAMP (\$10 per night - share - most rooms have 2 beds) | FRI. 17 <input type="checkbox"/> | SAT. 18 <input type="checkbox"/> | TICK BOX |
| • JENNINGS HOTEL (\$25 per night Bed and Breakfast)           | <input type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/>         |          |
| • WALLANGARRA HOTEL (\$20 per night Bed and Breakfast)        | <input type="checkbox"/>         | <input type="checkbox"/>         |          |

N.B. : \$6pp to reserve accommodation - this is your nomination fee as well !

Please make cheque payable to: Tenterfield Highlanders Pipe Band c/- P/O BOX 330, Tenterfield 2372

### WANTED PARTICIPANTS for 'The Pipers Retreat'

- |   |                                   |   |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| • WILL YOU PLAY A PIPER'S CEILIDH? Sat. Morning Session   | TICK BOX <input type="checkbox"/> | INFO. for Piper's Retreat Booklet. <u>TUNE:</u> _____ |
| • WILL YOU PLAY LIGHT MUSIC? Fri. Evening + Saturday  | <input type="checkbox"/>          |   |
| • DEMONSTRATION? Such as new/old technology in piping - small pipes - reeds - book review - new recording - anything !!!! | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <u>Demonstration Topic:</u> _____                     |
| • TALK ON A SUBJECT? (Time 5-15 mins maximum)   | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <u>Subject:</u> _____                                 |
| • Will you provide an article for Piper's Retreat Booklet? (Please send information A.S.A.P. for printing.)               | <input type="checkbox"/>          | <u>Subject matter:</u> _____                          |

**CEILIDH** (Fri. & Sat. Nights)  
 ENTERTAINERS WANTED - DANCERS, SINGERS, PIANISTS, PIPERS, GUITARISTS etc, etc.

- ANY IDEAS TO ADD TO/IMPROVE ON LAST YEARS RETREAT ?

course. The club house is only a couple of minutes walk from the Officers Mess and green fees are \$6. So if you fancy a round of golf bring your clubs.

For people travelling on Countrylink (train from Sydney way) we will arrange transport free of charge from Tenterfield to Wallangarra and back again. Accommodation is only available at the army camp on Friday and Saturday nights so additional accommodation will be needed for Thursday and Sunday nights in Tenterfield or Wallangarra. Please let us know if you are travelling Countrylink and we will help arrange this for you.

Please complete the following form to help us with booking accommodation and gathering together a list of pipers, guest speakers, demonstrations etc. Accommodation will only be reserved with your nomination fee of \$6 per person. This will also cover morning and afternoon tea, administration costs and 'The Piper's Retreat' booklet.

The aim of 'The Piper's Retreat' is to encourage, foster and raise the standard of piping in Australia while having a great time with friends. 'The Piper's Retreat' is a non-profit function held by the Tenterfield Highlanders Pipe Band.