



**Queensland
Highland
Pipers'
Society**

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April

2000

No Meeting this month due to clash with Easter & Anzac Day

**Next Meeting – Monday 22
May, Souths Leagues Club,
Jane Street, West End**

7.45 pm

**That meeting will be the
Patron's Trophy contest**

From the Editor:

This is a "different" month for the Society as we won't be having a meeting due to the clash with Easter and ANZAC day. This newsletter therefore doesn't announce a meeting – there will be short newsletter in May to advise any last minute details about the May meeting.

That newsletter will be sent out by Bob Payne because your scribe and Desley will be away in the UK from Easter till the end of May (yes, Scotland is on the itinerary). During that time Bob will be the contact for the Society and his number is 07 5532 4643. If ringing from anywhere but the Gold Coast, remember this is an STD call!

Our May meeting features the Patron's Trophy (MSR for senior players – Intermediate and Open). So all you senior players start preparing and everyone else make plans to be there.

Alex McConnell

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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.

MARCH 2000 MEETING

Our March meeting was the setting for an Open Medley contest and attracted about 20 members and friends.

Bob began as usual with the announcements and mentioned the lack of a meeting next month and the arrangements for the time when your scribe will be away. He welcomed some visitors - Stewart Purvis (from Scotland) and Jack Grant (a friend of Dave Sinclair). He also gave an apology for Maurie DeHayr, who was absent because Betty was sick. There were also apologies from Les Gray and Rod Smith. Your scribe was the judge for the contest, no doubt to earn his right to go on holidays!

The first player in the contest was Robert Baker. Robert started playing steadily and capably. I thought his pipe was a little harsh in tone but there was a big improvement in his playing evident. His execution was generally accurate and blowing steady and he showed an appreciation of phrasing throughout. Perhaps a couple of tunes were played a little cautiously but they were still quite musical. He had a good range of tempos and time signatures. His blowing got a little bit the worse for wear as he went on, especially in a couple of quick tunes and there were a couple of chokes. He struggled a little with his concluding hornpipe but got it back on track showing a good ability to keep his nerve when the

dreaded pipers block strikes. Robert's tunes were ***Ye Jacobites by name, Big Oz (2 parts), Mist Covered Mountains, Braes O' Mar, Devil in the Kitchen (S'spey), Devil in the Kitchen (Reel), Ass in the Graveyard, The Rumours of Tulla and Trip to Ballymena.***

Philip Cowan was our next competitor. As usual his bagpipe and fingers were in good order. He had a big sound but not an overly brash one. Starting with a fine rendition of ***Hector the Hero***, in which one could just about hear the fiddle playing he next had a thoughtfully modified version of ***Crusaders***, He played a mixed selection of tunes, including ***Walking the Surf, Duncan the Gauger, The Fish Boat, Captain Duncan MacGregor*** and ***Lexy McAskill***. His tone was well sustained throughout and he kept musical appreciation to the fore. His execution of the tunes was very good and there were certainly no jarring errors to interrupt the flow of the music. Overall it was a very mature and musical performance.

Iain Bruce was next to play. As usual he had an excellently balanced bagpipe which showed the harmonic structure of the instrument in its best light. His was a much quieter sound than Phillip's but that is not to say it lacked resonance or authority. As expected, Iain's tunes were in a classical style but many of them

were tunes little heard. - **Shores of Argyle** (3/4), **Nameless** (6/8), **An Autraechardt Ard** (Air), **Parahandy's Jig**, **Norman Edmond** (4/4), **Nellie's Strathspey**, and reels **Mochuachag Laglach Thu**, **Cuilan Duin**, **Itchy Fingers** (hope I've got all the spellings right!) They were presented with a thoughtful variation of tempo and time signature, with no jarring transitions. Throughout, his execution had excellent clarity and precision and this was shown off very well by the balance of his instrument - he truly incorporated the embellishments in the musical dynamics of what he played.

Next to play was one of our "regulars", Mark McKenzie. As usual he had a big sounding pipe with good balance. He moved through a range of musical moods and forms with ease, incorporating a few of the modern devices of extra notes that we're not used to hearing and some embellishments most likely owing their origin to Brittany. His tunes included the air **Lament for Jeff Arpenves** (?), **Lark in the Morning**, **The Gold Ring** (Jigs), **Humours of Tulla**, **Devil in the Kitchen** (Reels) and **The High Level** (Hornpipe)

The last to play was Doug Thoresen. After a little early trouble with his bass drone he got his pipes well settled down although he was still having a little trouble with the top hand. Doug played a good musical selection of tunes, a mixture of "conventional" pieces and some inclusions to give us more interest and entertainment. He moved through a broad range of music

with ease, showing the benefit of his vast experience. The tunes included **Flett from Flotta**, **Castle Dangerous**, **Pride of Bonnie Scotland**, **Mac Ho Down**, **Avoca House (2 parts)**, **Monymusk**, **Over the Bows to Ballindalloch**, **Campbelltown Kiltie Ball**, **High Road to Linton**, **Piper of Drummond**, **Jock Wilson's Ball**, **Cork Hill** and **Rocking the Baby**

Phillip Cowan then gave us a few more tunes

Our visitor Stuart Purvis then had a tune, using Doug Thoresen's pipes. Despite not having played for a long time, he made his way creditably through **Michael, Highland Laddie**, **Corriehoillie's Welcome** and **Teribus**.

He was followed by Mark McKenzie who gave us as usual quite a long list of tunes including **Major Manson (2/4)**, **Jeannie Carruthers**, **Mrs John MacColl**, **Piper's Bonnet**, **Ewe with the Crookit Horn**, **Little Cascade and The Sheepwife**. He finished up by playing **The Earl of Seaforth's Salute**, mainly to get a critique from Iain Bruce.

Finally, to finish up the evening Phillip Cowan had a couple of tunes (**Mason's Apron**, **The Tourist**, **Not the Bunny Hop**) on his mouth blown small pipes.

The raffle was drawn by Susan McKenzie and won by Tom Cowan

Though the hour was now about 10.20, a good few stayed on for supper and a chat.

QHPS Program for 2000

April	NO MEETING	28 August	Annual Meeting and 6/8 contest
22 May	Patron's Trophy (<i>MSR for senior members</i>)	25 September	Pair of Pipers Contest
26 June	Hornpipe & Jig Contest	23 October	Pipers' Night
24 July	Jimmy Durham Trophy (<i>2/4 March for junior members</i>)	27 November	Veterans' Contest (<i>Medley 3-5 minutes</i>)

What's On

APRIL		No Society Meeting this month
	21-22	96 th Maclean Highland Gathering
	22-23 26	Australian Pipe Band Championships – Adelaide NSW Pipers Society – 6 Holterman Street, Crow's Nest'
MAY	5-7	Glen Innes Celtic Festival – contact 02 7632 2397
	13	Kingaroy Band Contest (Mini Bands, Full Bands and Solos) – Contact 07 4162 1435full details later in newsletter
	19-20	The Pipers Retreat – Commercial Hotel, Tenterfield – see the notice and booking form later in the newsletter.
	20-21	Celtic Celebration Committee – Saturday Piobaireachd Championship, Sunday AOM Trophy - Irish Club – Contact Rab Lawrie 07 5498 9798
	24	NSW Pipers Society – 6 Holterman Street, Crow's Nest'
	22	Society Meeting – Patron's Trophy
	27 27	Caboolture Highland Gathering – Apex Park, Centenary Lakes – contact 07 5498 9798 Brisbane Clans Pipes and Drums Highland Ball – Riverside Ballroom – contact Mrs Kate Wyse on 07 3369 2232 or 07 3221 7138. Note this will not be a debutante ball as was previously advised
JUNE	24	Bannockburn Dinner – Irish Club - \$50 a head – organised by the Clan Campbell and Clan Donald Societies – Contact Trevor Campbell 07 3359 6662
SEPTEMBER	9th	Wynnum Highland Gathering- Bands and Solos – Contact Glenys O'Malley 07 3822 6563
	30 th	Queensland Pipe Band and Solo Championships – Limestone Park, Lion Street, Ipswich. Contact Liz McGhee (Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band – 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 Programs

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

Erratum: Our Gaelic Guru, Hugh MacLean, has correctly pointed out that in the last Newsletter we misspelt the name of the Air played by Iain Bruce (and composed by Ron Fleming for Iain's daughter Morag). It should be spelt Morag Bheag, not Morag Beag as we did. The Beag is distinctively male, and Bheag is female. The pronunciation is "bek".

NEXT MEETING (MAY)

Patron's Trophy contest – this is the serious stuff.... MSR for senior players (Open & Inter.)

Prizes: 1st \$50 and Trophy, 2nd, \$25, 3rd \$20.

Entries to the Bob Payne by 19 May would be appreciated (phone **07 5532 4643**)

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CONTEST RESULTS

Geelong (Vic) 19 March – Victorian Pipe band Championships

GRADE 1

1. Williamstown RSL
2. City of Adelaide
3. St Mary's BC

GRADE 2

1. Moorabbin
2. Ballarat University

GRADE 3

1. Nunawading
2. Warrnambool
3. Melbourne

GRADE 4

1. Haileybury College
2. Maryborough
3. Scotch College

JUVENILE

1. Haileybury College
2. Scotch College

Donald MacLeod Memorial, - Stornoway, Isle of Lewis 7th April 2000

Judges: Angus J Maclellan, Donald McPherson, Finlay MacNeill

Piobaireachd

1. Willie McCallum 'Field of Gold'

2. Angus MacColl 'Queen Elizabeth Second's Salute'
3. Niall Mathieson 'Sound of the Sea'
4. Roddy MacLeod 'Lament for the Rowan Tree'

MSR

1. Willie McCallum 'Glasgow Skye Association Centenary Gathering, Abercairney Highlanders, Duncan Lamont, Lady MacKenzie of Gairloch, Alick C MacGregor, Fiona Macleod
2. Gordon Walker
3. Angus MacColl
4. Roddy MacLeod

H&J

1. Gordon Walker 'Dr MacInnes, The Duck'
2. Willie McCallum
3. Roddy Macleod
4. Niall Mathieson

Overall

1. Willie McCallum
2. Angus MacColl

Ringwood Highland Gathering (Vic) – 9th April

GRADE 1

1. Williamstown RSL 1
2. City Of Adelaide [S]

GRADE 2

1. Moorabbin
2. Ballarat University

GRADE 3

1. Warrnambool & District
2. Nunawading
3. Golden City Highlanders

GRADE 4

1. Haileybury College
2. Maryborough & District
3. Scotch College

JUVENILE GRADE

1. Haileybury College
2. Scotch College

The PIPERS RETREAT

May 19th 20th

at the Commercial Hotel. Tenterfield.

It was one of Lachlan's wishes that the 'Pipers Retreat' event carry on. He put so much enthusiasm and effort into organising it and we want to carry on for his sake.

This year we have decided to hold it at the Commercial Hotel in Rouse St. from 19-20 May. This time of the year was chosen as it is quiet on the piping scene and we avoid clashing with the many contests and events that come up later in the year. Also it is Autumn in Tenterfield and quite picturesque for visitors from other areas and not as cold as July.

The Commercial Hotel is central in Tenterfield and the hosts, Mr. & Mr's. John Varley are looking forward to having the Retreat at their hotel.

The cost of accommodation at the Commercial is very reasonable i.e. \$15 Single and \$25 Double per night. If you wish accommodation to be booked at the Commercial please fill in the section at the bottom and return it as soon as possible. Other hotels within walking distance are the Royal Hotel . 02 6736 1833, Tenterfield Saddler Hotel (formerly Exchange) 02 6736 1054, Telegraph Hotel 02 6736 1015. There are also plenty of Motels in the town.

We would also like you to take part in the programme side of the weekend and advise us what Piobaireachd or light music you will play. If you can give a short talk about 'something you think will interest the group or a demonstration of anything new, then please mention it in your reply.

We would like all those attending if possible to wear their kilts especially the players. Jeans and sneakers are certainly not acceptable and it only takes a bit of effort to look the part when playing.

Meals will be available at the Commercial and your \$6 registration fee covers the cost of morning and afternoon tea, administration costs and 'Pipers Retreat' programme.

There will be a raffle(s) during the weekend and the money raised will go to organisations that helped Lachlan while he was sick, such as the Blue Nursing Service in Warwick who were wonderful to him and Helen.

Please reply as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely. Jean McCabe.

ACCOMMODATION BOOKING FORM.

Name Address

Phone No

Please reserve accommodation for people.

Will you play a Piobaireachd? Sat. Morning Session

Will you play light music Fri. evening and Sat.

Can you give a demonstration on something new etc

Talk on a subject? (Time 5 - 15 mins. maximum)

Note. Your \$6 p.p. to reserve accommodation is your nomination fee as well.

Please make cheque payable to: Tenterfield Highlanders Pipe Band.
and post to PO Box 330 TENTERFIELD 2372.

Phone: (02) 6736 1232.

Misunderstood Tune Names

We all know how non-pipers (and even some pipers) can misunderstand a tune name from just hearing it without seeing it written. Some pipers on the internet have been discussing the subject (perhaps they should have been practising instead!) and here are some of the contributions:

George V's Barmy – the belief that The Madness of King George (III) was passed on to his sons

The Pee Crock of Donald Hughes – the old-fashioned Mr Hughes prefers a chamberpot to the walk to the bathroom

Dunkin' Lamont – a new doughnut chain

John Morrison's Assynt Horse – Mr M. gets his new racehorse from the famous stables in Assynt, India

Earless Castle – given by the British gov't to Mr Jenkins after the War of Jenkins' Ear

The/Le Caledonian Canal – the home station of the joint Scottish-French television network

The Old Ruins – on the porch of the Island Park Home for the Aged

The Laird of Lust – a porno film company's CEO

John Boy Stewart – the youngest in a prairie family

Cork Hull – the latest in yacht design

The Brays of Brecklet – noise from Brecklet's donkey stables

The Belief of Ladysmith – that there is a free lunch

The Forth of June – the choppy channel between the island of that name and the western mainland

Dark Glowers the Knight – psychs-out his opponent

Hey, Johnnie Cope, are ye walkin' yet? – Mr Cope, bedridden for several weeks, is recovering

MacDonald of the Aisles – Jack MacDonald, Sears' floorwalker

The 78th's Gawk Round – the Regiment likes visiting accident sites

The Ale is Beer – brewery advertisement

The Christmas Arousal – the mistletoe will do that to you

Highland Hairy – Black Watch legs

Jean Patterson's Mère – M. Patterson's mother in Paris

Cameronian Runt – the smallest guy in the Regiment

The Rejected Suiter - the story of a failed tailor

The Blades of Kintail – a knife-manufacturing town in the West of Scotland

The Kitchenblade – one of the utensils in the drawer

When you go to the hill take your son – a family outing

Lyndwurst – a type of Scottish sausage

The High Men of Arnhem – they grow them tall there

Agitated Ringers – church workers discuss strike

Farewell to the Aisles – Bloomingdale's senior floorwalker retires

Alex. Massie's Hair – he got a new transplant

Viv Riley's Jugs – a bootlegger sells potheen

Bruce's Address – 13 Dufferin Street

Rode to the Isles - Bill's leg gave out again.

Rowin' Three - same one's from "rub-a-dub-dub"

The Green Hills Oft I Roll - one too many at Roonie's

Bonnie Dun Dee - Dee's happy

Leaving Liz More - she had a better lawyer

Will He Nuke 'em Back Again - Old chune from the 60's

Linament for Donald MacPherson - Bill's real name?

Farrell to the Creeks - Mike's gone fishin'

Ipswich Solo Piping Championships - More details about this in a later newsletter, but the committee have decided to have a contest in memory of the late Roddy MacSween, a long time stalwart of the Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band and of Pipe Bands in Queensland in genral. The contest will be open to all grades and all compeitors will play a tune specially written for the contest. Liz McGhee has aked us to publish the tune now so all prospective entrants can start learning it, so here it is:

RODDY MacSWEEN

Air

Composed by Tom Watson