



Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

www.pipebandsqld.org/qhps

Newsletter - February 2008

February Meeting

on Monday 25 February

7.15pm for 7.30pm

Balmoral Bowls Club

Jean Howie Drive, Morningside

The meeting will feature a

Hornpipe & Jig Contest

Junior: Minimum 2 parted tunes: Prizes: 1st \$40, 2nd \$20, 3rd \$15

The Junior Contest is planned to start at 7.30pm. so please arrive in time to be ready to play.

Senior: Minimum 4 parted tunes. Two sets of tunes to be provided of which the judge will choose one: Prizes 1st \$50, 2nd \$25, 3rd \$20

Enter by Phone (07 3397 4512), email (qhps@optusnet.com.au) or before 7.15pm on the night.

No entry fee

The year is well and truly underway, with the Maclean contest rapidly approaching. Our next meeting features a Hornpipe & Jig contest, so please encourage as many entries as possible.

Two months away is a Pair of Pipers contest, so now is the time to start working out some tunes with someone else. The selections will be 3-5 minutes for Junior and 5-7 minutes for Senior.

Note that our March meeting has been transferred to the 5th Monday, because otherwise it would have been on Easter Monday.

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 particular officer or member of the Society.

SOCIETY CALENDAR

Feb 25	Hornpipe & Jig Contest
March 31	Pipers' Night
April 28	Pairs of Pipers Contest

We're still finalising the rest of the program for the year. However, it is likely that most of our "permanent fixtures" will stay as usual. These include:

May	Patron's Trophy (MSR for Junior players)
July	Jimmy Durham Memorial (2/4 March for Junior players)
August	Annual Meeting
November	Jack McCandlish Trophy (6/8s) and Christmas Supper

- ◆ After each competition, the floor is open for all as at a Pipers' Night.
- ◆ The aim is to start meetings at 7.30pm (7.15pm for a 7.30pm start) to allow an early finish/more piping/more social time at the end of the meeting. Junior competitions are to start promptly and finish by 8.30pm.

JANUARY MEETING

Our January meeting was quite well attended by listeners but not so well by people with pipes, a total of 33 in all.

Apologies were received from Bill Sharpe, Maurie DeHayr, Roy Gunn and Malcolm McRae. Reg mentioned that our Patron, Maurie DeHayr, had been in hospital for some major surgery but was now out of hospital and recovering well and should be back amongst us soon.

Iain Bruce had agreed to judge, but as there was only one other competitor, Ross Campbell, Iain agreed to play in the contest and your scribe was drafted to judge. Ross has recently retired from his position at Scots College and moved to Toowoomba for retirement. He has been a member of the Society for a while but now will become a more active participant.

Ross was the first to play in the contest. He had a nice resonant pipe and a melodious selection of tunes beginning with *The Royal Scots Polka*, a tune not often heard but well worth the hearing. Iain Bruce then played, starting off with *Lewis Turrell's 3/4*. Again a very nice resonant pipe. Unfortunately my notes are incomplete as to the tunes played, but it will suffice to say that there was plenty of accurate fingering and musical expression from both players, showing that being a "veteran" is not necessarily a handicap in the world of piping.

The result of the contest was: 1st Iain Bruce, 2nd Ross Campbell.

James Doran then had a few tunes and they included

McNeills of Ugadale, Miss Isabelle T MacDonald and *McGuire's Jig*. He continues to show good improvement (practice over the school holidays?) and his bagpipe and execution were both in good shape.

Tom McGirr was next to play. He had just returned from competing in New Zealand on the weekend where he placed 4th in the Piobaireachd, so said he was "knackered". However, he gave a good long selection including the 4/4 marches *Colin's Cattle* and *Castle Dangerous*, 2/4 Marches *The Abercairney Highlanders*, *Mrs John MacColl* and *John MacDonald of Glencoe*, strathspeys *Arniston Castle*, *Ew wi' the Crookit Horn* and *The Piper's Bonnet* and reels *The Smith of Chilliechassie*, *The Sheepwife* and *Mrs MacPherson of Inveran*.

Ross Campbell then came back with another set of tunes. He started with the 6/8s *Caverhill* and *Kirkhill*. After a quick retune it was into the 3/4s *The Dream Valley of Glendaruel*, *Lochanside*, *The Land of Trees* and *The Boats at Dunkirk*. Then we heard some slow airs including an unknown tune got from Donald Bain of New Zealand and *Blink Bonny*. He finished up with the Piobaireachd *Too Long in this Condition*. He spoke of hearing it from Murray and Patricia Henderson in about 1980 but not learning it at that time because it was similar to MacFarlane's Gathering, which he also played. He then heard it in 2004 from Lewis Turrell in Adelaide (judges' recital) and thought it was the best tune of the weekend. He finally learned it to play it for his farewell dinner from Scots College in Melbourne as he thought the name very appropriate. He learned it

from the Bob Brown recordings, not as Lewis Turrell had played it in 2004.

Iain Bruce was our final piper and his selection included the 3/4 *The Shores of Argyll*, 6/8 *HRH The Duchess of Gloucester* (composed by Donald MacKinnon when he was PM of the King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Duchess was Colonel in Chief of the Regiment), slow air *Eileena' Cheo*, jig

The Tenpenny Bit and finally the Piobaireachd *Colin MacRae of Inverinate's Lament*.

All in all a fine (if warm) evening of piping, despite the shortage of pipers with pipes.

The Raffle was won by Tom McGirr (whisky) and Glenys O'Malley (cake) and we adjourned for supper.

Piobaireachd Group

Our February meeting had a moderate attendance of 10 or so members but once again proved most rewarding. We had apologies from Maurie DeHayr, Matthew Supranowicz, Roy Gunn and Yasu Hamilton (for early departure). We welcomed Ross Campbell to his first meeting, following his move from Victoria. There was some disruption as we had to shift rooms just as we were about to start.

Iain Bruce was the first to play and he chose *The Flame of Wrath for Squinting Patrick*. Before playing, he mentioned the visit of Felix Mendelssohn to the Edinburgh piping competitions in 1829 and his subsequent journey to Staffa. The Fingals Cave Overture which he wrote following this visit appears to reflect the rundowns in *Flame of Wrath*. Iain Davidson read the story of the tune from Roy's book and Iain played the tune. Malcolm commented that there are different styles of playing this tune but all try to sound "angry". Iain had played a "sharp" interpretation but some tend to round it out more.

Yasu was next with a tune and it was *I Got a Kiss from the King's Hand*. Ian again read the story. The excellent drone sound from her pipes (which formerly belonged to Ron Fleming) was particularly evident.

Tom McGirr was the next players with *Lament for the Old Sword*. Despite not being well, he made it through quite well. Malcom read the story of the tune and there was some discussion of the setting.

Next Iain Bruce took us through the set tune for the day, *Massacre of Glencoe*. We used the music from the Bine as is Bore raig publication with its highly compressed notation, which was quite a challenge to follow at first instance but which can be a great aid to phrasing and memory. After singing the tune together, we adjourned for morning tea.

After morning tea, Iain played the tune on the pipe.

Vaughn Parker was the next to give us a tune and it was *The Glen is Mine*.

At this stage my notes are a bit indistinct (they got damaged by the rain that was around on the day) but I think Malcolm played *McDougall's Gathering*.

Finally, Ian Davidson played us *The Old Woman's Lullaby*.

LEGENDARY AND HISTORICAL NOTES ON CEOL MOR

"INTRODUCE YOUR TUNE"

A handy, small reference book giving the stories on most of the tunes listed and indexed similar to the Piobaireachd Society Collection. A must for every serious player of the great music to carry in the pipe case and a superb teaching aid.

Compiled by Roy Gunn. \$20 plus airmail postage and handling \$1.

Contact Roy Gunn, 31 Mariner Quays, 3 Lee Road, Runaway Bay, Qld, 4216.

Phone 07 5529 2852

What's on.....

FEB	24	Ballarat (Vic) Royal South Street Band Contest
	25	Society Meeting
MAR	2	Society Piobaireachd Group
	7&8	New Zealand Pipe Band Championships - Papakura - www.nzpipebands.org.nz
	9	Ormiston House, Cleveland - Highland Celtic Day - Enquiries 07 3296 1425
	16	Geelong Highland Gathering - Contact 03 5221 7224 (After hours) - www.geelonghighlandgathering.org.au
	21&22	Macleay Highland Gathering - see details later in newsletter
APR	30	Ringwood (Vic) - Victorian Pipe Band Championships
	31	Society Meeting
	5	Bundanoon Highland Gathering, NSW Southern Highlands - Contact 1300 657 559 - www.highlandsnsw.com.au/brigadoon/
	6	Society Piobaireachd Group
MAY	19 & 20	Ipswich International Tattoo - Bookings 07 3810 6100 - Information: Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band 0414 776 361
	28	Society Meeting
	4	Society Piobaireachd Group
MAY	4	R U Brown Piobaireachd Society Solo Competitions - Adelaide. Watch their website for details to be available soon. www.rubrown.org.au
	24	South Burnett Caledonian Pipe Band Contest - Kingaroy - more details soon.
	24	QIA Pipe Band Debutante Ball - Contact Rowena on 3369 4014 or Mavis on 3849 8271
	26	Society Meeting
	6/7	Tartan Day at South Bank Cultural Forecourt - Brisbane
16/8	World Pipe Band Championships, Glasgow	
30/8	Cowal Championships, Dunoon, Scotland	
27,28/8	Argyllshire Gathering, Oban	
4,5/9	Northern Meeting, Inverness	
2/11	Australian Pipe Band Championships at Castle Hill, NSW.	

The Smallpipers Group - Contact Malcolm McLaren for meeting details - mrmclaren@bigpond.com

The NSW Pipers' Society meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month. The venue is about to change. Contact Ron Clement – 02 9948 1914.

The NSW Solo Pipers Club. Contact 0412 602 983 or at www.blacktownpipeband.com.

Canberra Pipers Society: contact Sean Hodgman ph 6282 2795 or email u4114272@anu.edu.au
OR Jamie Forsyth 0419 631 999 or email jamesrforsyth@hotmail.com

RU Brown Piobaireachd Society of South Australia: Contact Sue Kempster 08 8264 3329
skempster@adam.com.au

The WA Pipers' Society meets on the 3rd Saturday at the Autumn Centre, Inglewood. Contact

Mrs Alma Dender – 08 9448 7446

RADIO PROGRAMS

College of Piping Radio: You can tune in on the Internet on www.college-of-piping.co.uk/html/radio.htm

4EB - FM 98.1 – Thursday afternoons 2.15—4.30 pm

Radio 997 FM (Redcliffe) – Sundays 12noon to 3pm

Burnett River Radio (91.5 FM) - Thursdays 7pm to 9pm

For more details about any of the above events where a contact is not mentioned, ring or email the Society Secretary (07 3397 4512 or qhps@optushome.com.au) and we will see what we can dig up for you. If we don't know about your event (social, musical, fundraising or whatever) we can't publicise it in the Newsletter. So tell us and get free publicity

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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”

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07 3396 9025

NEW ZEALAND SUMMER SCHOOL

Jordan Whicker, a member of the Society, was selected (along with two drummers) by the Queensland Branch of the Australian Pipe Band Association to receive a scholarship to attend the annual Summer School conducted by the Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Association. He provided a report to the Association and the following is an edited version. This kind of Summer School is the kind of event we need to be aiming to run locally in the future - it would be of great benefit to our local piping scene.

The Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Association (RNZPBA) Summer School is run at the start of January each year in Christchurch. It attracts over two hundred students of all ages and levels of experience eager to learn from the high quality tutors available. This year the principal piping and drumming tutors were again Jack Lee and J. Reid Maxwell from the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band, Vancouver. Jack Lee was supported by piping tutors from all over New Zealand as well as Andy Roach from Australia. The Summer School paid tribute to the late Donald MacLeod by using the week to focus on learning a repertoire of Donald MacLeod compositions. Each student was provided with a book of around thirty such compositions.

On the Saturday night preceding the summer school the tutors put on a concert at the Caledonian Society Hall in Christchurch. It was a masterful display of the tutors' talent and abilities and was entertaining from start to finish. The acts included a quartet of pipers from the Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band, a mini band from Dalewool Auckland and Districts Pipe Band, solo performances from Jack Lee and J. Reid Maxwell, a drum corp made up of all the tutors, and concluded with a massed band formed by all the performers. The performers played mainly Donald MacLeod compositions that were to be taught at the summer school. The highlight of the night for me was listening to Jack Lee play the Donald MacLeod Piobaireachd "The Field of Gold", a very musical tune.

The summer school classes were run at Christchurch Boys High School. The majority of the participants stayed at Adam's House, which is a boarding college affiliated with the high school. The school day ran much like a normal secondary school day in Australia. Everyone gathered at the main hall at 8:30am until the tutors arrived at 9:00am. Then the drummers would leave with J. Reid Maxwell and head off to their designated section of the school. The pipers stayed in the main hall with Jack Lee for a half hour session on the canntaireachd of "The Field of Gold." Jack Lee would sing the tune to the group and then we would sing

it back to him. Then at 9:30am we would go for our first session with a tutor. This was a double session and ended with morning tea. Then we would have two more sessions after morning tea and before lunch. After lunch we would pick an elective workshop to attend or have solo lessons with the tutors who were not running the workshops. Then after one more tutorial session the day ended with a massed band. There were also night sessions run by Jack Lee at the college from 7:30pm-9:30pm.

The workshops that we could attend in the afternoon were focused across three main disciplines; the solo competitor, the band piper, and piobaireachd. There were workshops to do with the tuning of the bagpipe and the presentation of the solo competitor. There were also workshops run on band leadership and band medley selection. The third stream of workshops was on piobaireachd, with classes running for all levels of piobaireachd player and covering piobaireachd theory, both NZ and UK silver and gold medal piobaireachds, and piobaireachd technique. I attended a workshop run by Richard Wilson on the Silver/Gold Medal Piobaireachds for the NZ solo competitions. The tunes that we examined were Sir James MacDonald of the Isles' Lament, The Glen is Mine, and the Field of Gold. Another workshop I attended was run by Jack Lee. In this workshop I was lucky enough to be the only person attending so for an hour I had a solo lesson with Jack Lee on the two piobaireachds Corrienessan's Salute and The Little Spree. Both workshops on Piobaireachd that I attended were hugely beneficial and thoroughly enjoyable and informative.

Another workshop that I attended was run by Martin Frewen (Auckland and Districts), Murray Mansfield (Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band), and David Willmot (The Canterbury Caledonian Society Pipe Band) and was on pipe band Medley Selection. It was amazing listening to these three discuss how they go about picking medleys for their pipe bands and what they look for in medleys when listening and judging other pipe bands.

The evening sessions run by Jack Lee were on the topics of musical expression and ensemble while another evening session was run by Greg Wilson on reed manipulation. Greg Wilson took us through what to look for in a reed and how to manipulate it to suit your performance. Jack Lee's session on musical expression taught us how he goes about interpreting his tunes for solo competition, including his magic formula for competition 2/4 marches in which he stresses the first beat note in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 8th bars to give the tune a little more musicality. He applies this formula to every 2/4 march that he comes across. He also demonstrated how 2/4 marches are written in phrases by singing the separate phrases in a question and answer example. He also explained that the common perception of playing strathspeys as strong, weak, medium, weak (SWMW) may not be correct as he is yet to find a strathspey that fits that build entirely. Instead he listens to the flow of the tune and plays accordingly. Jack said that some strathspeys that he listens to played on the fiddle first to get the way of the tune before trying to play them on the pipe. With reels Jack interprets the tunes and stresses the beatings where appropriate. He made it clear that there are different ways of playing reels. Some Irish reels are completely round while the Scottish reels are more pointed. He said that the Irish invented the reels, but the Scots took the reel and modified it.

Jack's next session was on ensemble. This was an amazing session. Jack and J. Reid Maxwell ran this session together and enlightened us onto how they set up the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band (SFUPB). The sheer amount of work that goes into perfecting the sound of SFUPB was impressive and it is understandable why they have been one of the world's best bands over the last fifteen years. At one stage during the session someone asked J. Reid Maxwell if playing seven tenors was overdoing it. He said that he has seven tenor drummers but no more than two of them are hitting the drum at the same time. To which this person said, "I thought you guys were meant to be good?" To which Reid replied, "Each tenor drum is tuned to a different note on the chanter, so they only hit the drum to complement the specific note on the chanter." This is an example of the kind of perfection that the SFUPB seek when setting up the band.

During the summer school we were split up into piping groups of about eight or nine pipers all with similar abilities. We would attend the classes in these groups, the goal being that at the end of the summer school each group would provide an act in the students' concert which was run on the Thursday night. For our act we decided to play a medley consisting of an MSR into a Jig and Hornpipe. We worked on selecting our tunes with Jack Lee and chose to play Donald MacLellan of Rothesay, Susan MacLeod, Fiona MacLeod, The Old Woman's Dance, and finally Crossing the Minch. With Jack we decided to make the fourth measure of Fiona MacLeod and the first two measures of Crossing the Minch into a jig time linking tune. This worked well as each tune ran into the other seamlessly. The concert was a huge success. The audience was full of the parents of the students at the summer school and all were treated to a very enjoyable night.

Contest Results

**Gordon Duncan Memorial
Invitational Solo Piping
Competition - Central Hotel,
Glasgow - 26 January**

Scottish

1st Willie McCallum
2nd Andrew Carlisle
3rd Roddy MacLeod
Judges: Ian Duncan, Iain
MacLellan

Breton

1st Xavier Boderiou
2nd Alexis Meunier
3rd Sylvain Hamon
Judges: Jackie Pincet, Pierre
Gallais

Irish

1st Andrew Carlisle
2nd Alexis Meunier
3rd Roddy MacLeod
Judges: Kenny Stewart, Harry
Stevenson

Overall

Andrew Carlisle
Other competitors: Ryan
Canning, Simon McKerrell,
Alen Tully
All proceeds from the event go
to the Gordon Duncan
Memorial Trust.

**Irish Piobaireachd Society
Championships - Limerick –
2 February**

Bratach De Paor (Overall)

Alastair Dunn

Former Winners Piobaireachd

1st Alastair Dunn, *MacNab's
Salute*
2nd Gareth Gardner
3rd Andrew Carlisle
4th David Stone
5th Margaret Dunn

Former Winners MSR

1st Andrew Carlisle
2nd Alastair Dunn
3rd Margaret Dunn
4th John Leamy
5th David Stone

Open

1st Andrea Cooney
2nd Caitlin Houlihan
3rd Emmen Conway
4th Jamie Walker
5th Sean Maher
Judge: Andrew Wright

**Berwick (Vic) Band Contest -
10 February**

Grade 1

1st Australia Highlanders

Grade 2

2nd City of Melbourne No 1

Grade 3

1st University of Ballarat
2nd Hawthorn City
3rd Warrnambool

Grade 4

1st Presbyterian Ladies College
2nd City of Melbourne No 2
3rd Geelong RSL

**Metro Cup Solo Piping
Competition - Newark, New
Jersey – 16 February**

Professional

Overall

Willie McCallum

Piobaireachd

1st Jack Lee, *The Phantom
Piper of the Corriearick*
2nd Willie McCallum
3rd Bruce Gandy
4th Alastair Dunn
5th Alen Tully

Medley

1st Willie McCallum
2nd Alastair Dunn
3rd Jack Lee
4th Bruce Gandy
5th Alen Tully
Judges: Jim McGillivray, James
Stack, Gavin Stoddart

Amateur

**Overall (P-M George Bell
Trophy)**

Andrew MacPhail

Piobaireachd

1st Andrew MacPhail
2nd Peter McCalister
3rd Brian Dodge
4th Chris Lorince
5th Mark Elliott
Judge: Jack Lee

MSR

1st Andrew MacPhail
2nd Justin Celek
3rd Peter McCalister
4th Brian Dodge
5th Robert Durning
Judge: Terry Tully

**The Highlands Pipes &
Drums - Southern Highlands
(NSW) Contest - 17 February**

Grade 1

1st City of Blacktown No. 1

Grade 2

1st Canberra Burns Club No. 1

Grade 3

1st Southern Cross Pipes and
Drums No. 1 Band
2nd Scots College Pipe Band
3rd City of Blacktown No. 2

Grade 4

1st Scots College Pipe Band
2nd Canberra Burns Club No. 2
3rd Blue Mountains Pipe Band

Venue & Events

104TH MACLEAN HIGHLAND GATHERING

EASTER WEEKEND MARCH 21st - 22nd 2008

Friday Afternoon & Saturday
Maclean Showground

• NSW DAYLIGHT SAVING TIMES •



HIGHLIGHTS

- Solo Events
- Pipe Bands on Parade
- Official Opening
- Ceilidh in the Park
- Bands - Dancing - Sports
- Massed Band Display

EASTER FRIDAY MARCH 21st

Afternoon	Elementary Piping & Drumming
Maclean	Chanter Learner
Showground	Drum Learner
Night	
CWA Hall	Open Piping Piobaireachd
Civic Hall	Open Piping March/Strathspey/Reel Hornpipe/Jig
McLachlan Park	Scottish Ceilidh in the park

7.30pm

EASTER SATURDAY MARCH 22nd

Shopping Centre	8.30 am Street March Bands
Showground	9.00am Highland Dancing Competition
	10.00am Open Solo Piping
	10.00am Band Contest
	Drum Major Solo Contest
	Highland Sports
	Official Opening
	Scottish Stalls - Food Stalls
	Publican Booth
	4.30pm Massed Band Display

EASTER SATURDAY NIGHT MARCH 22nd ENTERTAINMENT

- > Maclean Services Club - 02 6645 2946
 - > Maclean & District Bowling Club - 02 6645 3711
 - > Maclean Hotel - 02 6645 2412
- Dine - Relax and enjoy good social entertainment at these venues after the Highland Gathering

BAND & SOLO ENTIRES

Bob MacPherson
7 Sunart Lane
Maclean NSW 2463
Phone (02) 66452887

DANCING ENTRIES

Norma Smith
23A Roderick St
Maclean NSW 2463
Phone (02) 66452517



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