



# Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

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## Newsletter - February 2012

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### February Meeting

on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm

at Balmoral Bowls Club

Jean Howie Drive, Morningside

*2/4 March Theme Night*

A Happy New Year to all.

Unfortunately, the new year has been tinged with sadness for the Society by the passing of two of our stalwart members, first Innes Barker and then Jack McCandlish. More on both of them later in the newsletter but suffice it to say that both had contributed significantly to the piping community in Brisbane for a very long time.

Our first meeting for the year is a bit of an experiment, with a 2/4 March theme night. Iain Bruce has kindly agreed to give us a bit of background on this branch of our music and it's to be hoped that a good number of pipers will play their favourite 2/4 Marches during the course of the evening. It's not necessary to dress in kilt for the night and all are encouraged to play a few "warm-up" tunes to ensure their pipe and fingers are going well to do justice to the 2/4 marches they have for us

*Alex McConnell*

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## 2012 SOCIETY CALENDAR

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 27 <sup>TH</sup>	2/4 MARCH THEME NIGHT - PLAY YOUR FAVOURITE 2/4S AND FIND OUT ABOUT THE HISTORY, STRUCTURE AND PLAYING OF THIS MUSIC,
MARCH 26 <sup>TH</sup>	HORNPIPE AND JIG(SENIOR) /AIR AND JIG (JUNIOR) CONTEST
APRIL 23 <sup>RD</sup>	PAIR OF PIPERS CONTEST
MAY 28 <sup>TH</sup>	PATRON'S TROPHY CONTEST (MSR FOR SENIOR PLAYERS)
JUNE 25 <sup>TH</sup>	STRATHSPEY & REEL THEME NIGHT ( <b>tunes to be advised</b> )
JULY 23 <sup>RD</sup>	JIMMY DURHAM MEMORIAL CONTEST (2/4 MARCH FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS)
AUGUST 27 <sup>TH</sup>	MINI RECITAL NIGHT
SEPTEMBER 24 <sup>TH</sup>	ANNUAL MEETING & AIR AND JIG CONTEST
OCTOBER	<b>A major solo contest in lieu of the monthly meeting (watch for details)</b>
NOVEMBER 26 <sup>TH</sup>	JACK McCANDLISH TROPHY (6/8 MARCHES)

◆ After each competition, the floor is open for all.

◆ 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.

During 2012 we will be awarding competition points for each contest - 4 for first place, 3 for second, 2 for 3rd and 1 for just competing. We are going to approach sponsors to donate substantial prizes for the Junior and Senior Piper of the Year, so watch for details - but more importantly - turn up and compete!

### PIOBAIREACHD GROUP

5 <sup>th</sup> February	6 <sup>th</sup> May	5 <sup>th</sup> August	4 <sup>th</sup> November (Recital)
4 <sup>th</sup> March	3 <sup>rd</sup> June	9 <sup>th</sup> September	2 <sup>nd</sup> December
1 <sup>st</sup> April	1 <sup>st</sup> July	7 <sup>th</sup> October	

## NOVEMBER MEETING

We had about 60 in attendance, 20 of whom were competitors!

Donald Galloway welcomed all to the last meeting for the year and announced the sad news that Beverley, the wife of Jack Grant, our "doorman", had passed away in the last week. He expressed the condolences of all to Jack.

Apologies were received from Glenys and Reg O'Malley

Donald mentioned that our first meeting for next year would be a 2/4 march "theme night" and encouraged all to come and play their favourite 2/4 marches and learn about this branch of our music.. He also reported that the Piobaireachd Recital Day had been a great success, as reported in the recent newsletter.

Matt Supranowicz was introduced as the judge for the night, having earned that "honour" by winning the senior division of this competition in the previous year.

Before the contest started, Jack Grant responded to Donald's words, thanked the members of the Society for their thoughts and wished all well for Christmas and the New Year. He had to leave at that point as he was still making arrangements for his wife's funeral.

The contest then commenced, with 10 competitors in each of the junior and senior divisions, with the juniors playing first. The competitors in order of play and their tunes were:

Junior

Kristian Stanfield-Roche - *Leaving Port Askaig*

Malcolm MacKellar - *The Ross Battery*  
 Lachlan McPhee - *Captain Lumsden*  
 Jordan Summers - *Steam Boat and Pibroch of Donald Dhu*  
 Tamar Stanfield-Roche - *Leaving Port Askaig*  
 Lloyd-George Worth - *Farewell to the Creeks*  
 Chloe Whyte - *Leaving Port Askaig*  
 Nicholas Johns - *Mrs Lily Christie*  
 Rylie Douglas - *Miss Ishabell T MacDonald*  
 Alex Fessey - *Leaving Port Askaig*

## Senior

Nick Tomkins - *Captain Lumsden & Michael Mahogany's Farewell*  
 Kirby Douglas - *John D Burgess & The MacNeils of Ugadale*  
 Andrew Roach - *Unknown name and Bengullion*  
 Peter Gallacher - Names not supplied  
 Ross Campbell - Ross doesn't know the names of the tunes - he learnt them from a tape many years ago  
 Geordie Stainthorpe - *Frank Thompson & Mrs Lily Christie*  
 Andy Richards - *Invercharron Highland Gathering and Donald McLean of Lewis*  
 Andy Matthews - *Mrs Lily Christie & P/S John Barclay*  
 Wayne Kennedy - *Kirkwall Bay & John MacColl's Farewell to the Scottish Horse*  
 Larry Flynn - *Frank Thompson & The*

*MacNeils of Ugadale*

Before the results were announced, Matt spoke briefly about the performances. He said the junior competition was marked generally by good pipes and good technique. Nevertheless sometimes the technique was a little inconsistent. It's also very important in 6/8s to keep the rhythm going properly. The senior competition had some great pipes, although some were perhaps a bit flat, and excellent performances. Generally, the absence of major mistakes was very noticeable. He asked all to give all the competitors a round of applause.

The results were announced by Donald and the prizes presented by Sandra Supranowicz, Jack McCandlish's daughter. They were:

## Junior

1st Lloyd George Worth  
 2nd Malcolm MacKellar  
 3rd Rylie Douglas  
 4th Kristian Stanfield-Roche

## Senior

1st Ross Campbell  
 2nd Andrew Roach  
 3rd Geordie Stainthorpe  
 4th Wayne Kennedy

As there had been so many competitors, it was time to close off the piping for the night. The raffle was drawn and Donald wished all present a happy and safe Christmas and all the best for the New Year. Then to supper with all the Christmas fare that people had brought along.

## Piobaireachd Group

### December

The last meeting of the piobaireachd group for 2011 was held on Sunday 4th December with all in attendance looking forward to the tune for the month, *The Old men of The Shells*.

Ross Campbell commenced the morning's proceedings with *Glengarry's Lament* followed by *The Lament for Captain Mac Dougall*

Next to play was Peter Hurwood who chose on this occasion *The Lament for Sir James MacDonald of the Isles*

Tam McGirr then played *Struan Robertson's Salute* followed by *The Blind Piper's Obstinacy*.

The time passing swiftly Ross took us through *The Old men of The Shells* after which we broke for an enjoyable morning tea which was followed by Ross playing *the tune*.

Tam McGirr then played *The Lament for Alasdair MacDonell of Glengarry* followed by Peter Hurwood who played the final tune for the day (and year) *The Glen is Mine*.

A short discussion regarding dates for 2012 meetings was followed by Gary Forno making a presentation on behalf of the group to Ross in appreciation of his efforts in guiding the group during the year.

The meeting then broke up with hearty Christmas wishes to all.

**February**

The Piobaireachd group got off to a good start to the year on Sunday 5th February in the pleasant atmosphere of the Performing Arts Centre of Rochedale High School. Ross Campbell opened the proceedings with *Too Long in this Condition*, his timing taken from the playing of the late R. U. Brown.

Peter Hurwood then played *Ewen of the Battles*, indicating that he had been busy over the break.

Bruce McLeod's return to piping is going very well and he played a few *Airs*, demonstrating that his technique has improved noticeably and we are hoping to hear a piobaireachd from him later in the year.

Ross then introduced *Catherine's Lament* by singing it through and then playing it for us on the pipe. He supplied us all with an emended score and a CD of his playing so that we have a tangible resource for studying at home.

An enjoyable break for morning tea was held after which Andrew McCabe played *The Desperate Battle*, followed by Ross again playing *The Lament for Donald of Laggan*.

After a short discussion on reeds, the meeting closed with all looking forward to our next meeting on 4th March, to which you would all be welcome – 10am until 1pm.

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## Vale Innes Barker

Innes Barker passed away peacefully, aged 92, on Tuesday 6 December. Her funeral was Wednesday 14th December 2011 at St Williams Catholic Church, Keperra with committal after the Service at Pinnaroo Lawn Cemetery. Our Society was well represented, including Maurie DeHayr as the piper for the funeral.

Innes was a great identity in the Highland Dancing and Pipe Band and Piping circles in Brisbane over many decades and the mother of Margaret Paterson, Greg Barker and Karen Barker.

She was uncompromising as a teacher of Highland Dancing and her Thistle Studio (now run by her daughter Margaret Paterson) established and maintained a high standard that put Brisbane firmly on the Highland Dancing map of the world. She was awarded an honorary judgeship by the Australian Board of Highland Dancing for outstanding service for over 25 years as a judge of Highland Dancing.

Her connections to the Pipe Band and Piping community were extensive and she remained a member of our Society until her death, frequently attending meetings even as her health declined in recent years. Her enthusiastic enjoyment of all things Scottish inspired many others. Her contribution to promoting an awareness of Scottish cultural identity in Queensland over many years was most significant.

# What's on.....

<b>F E B</b>	<b>27 Society Meeting - 2/4 March Theme Night</b>
<b>M A R</b>	<b>4 Society Piobaireachd Group</b> 9,10 New Zealand Pipe band Championships - Tauranga 17-18 Geelong Highland Gathering (VIC) The Secretary, G.H.G.A. P.O.Box 798, Geelong, Victoria 3220 <b>26 Society Meeting - Hornpipe/Jig (senior) Air/Jig (junior) Contest</b>
<b>A P R</b>	<b>1 Society Piobaireachd Group</b> 6,7 Maclean Highland Gathering - 02 66452887, mail@macleanhighlandgathering.com 7,8 Australian Pipe Band Championships - Eureka Stadium, Ballarat, Victoria - http://www.australianpipebandchampionships.com.au/ 21 Bundanoon Highland Gathering - Southern Highlands NSW <b>23 Society Meeting - Pair of Pipers Contest</b>
<b>M A Y</b>	3-6 Glen Innes Celtic Festival <b>6 Society Piobaireachd Group</b> 12 Sunshine Coast Band Contest, Yandina - 07 5442 8632, http://www.sunshinecoastpipesanddrums.com 19 Scottish Pipe Band Championships, Dumbarton <b>28 Society Meeting</b>
<b>J U N</b>	<b>3 Society Piobaireachd Group</b> 9 Ipswich Thistle Band and Solo Contest - 0414 776 361, www.ipswichthistle.com <b>25 Society Meeting</b> 30 British Pipe Band Championships, Annan

**VISIT THE COMING EVENTS PAGE AT [www.pipebandsqld.org](http://www.pipebandsqld.org) FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE ABOVE, INCLUDING WEB LINKS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES**

For more details about above events where a contact isn't mentioned, ring or email the Secretary (07 3397 4512 or [qhps@qhps.org](mailto:qhps@qhps.org)) and we'll see what we can dig up for you. If we don't know about your event (social, musical, or whatever) we can't publicise it. So tell us and get free publicity

## "Raising the Standard"

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**RADIO PROGRAMS**

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

**OTHER PIPING SOCIETIES**

**The Smallpipers Group** - Contact Malcolm McLaren for meeting details - [mrmclaren@bigpond.com](mailto:mrmclaren@bigpond.com)

**The NSW Pipers' Society** usually meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Contact Ron Clement – 02 9948 1914.

**Victorian Pipers Association:** <http://www.vicpipers.org/>

**RU Brown Piobaireachd Society of South Australia:** [www.rubrown.org.au](http://www.rubrown.org.au)

## *CONTEST RESULTS*

Palmerston North, New Zealand Square DayChampionship – 10 December

## Grade 1

## OVERALL

Manawatu Scottish (MSR preference)

## MSR

1st Manawatu Scottish

2nd Canterbury Caledonian

3rd Auckland & District

4th Pipeband Club (Australia)

5th New Zealand Police

Judges: Jim Wilson, Frank Jones (piping), Ian Ferguson (ensemble), Stuart Eeles (drumming)

## Medley

1st Canterbury Caledonian

2nd Manawatu Scottish

3rd New Zealand Police

4th Auckland & District

5th Pipeband Club

Judges: Alistair McKenzie, Brendon Eade (piping); Lance Turnbull (ensemble); Reid Maxwell (drumming)

## Grade 2 (one band competed)

1st Manawatu Scottish No2

## Grade 3

1st Auckland Police

2nd City of Hastings

3rd Pipes and Drums of Horowhenua

4th City of Wellington

5th City of Auckland

## Grade 4

1st Red Hackle

2nd Hamilton Caledonian No2

3rd Kapiti Coast Pipes and Drums

4th Manawatu Scottish No3

5th Pipes and Drums of Thames Valley and District

## Juvenile

1st Manawatu Scottish Juvenile

2nd Scots College (Wellington)

Irish Piobaireachd Society competitions - Gorey, Co. Wexford, Ireland – 28 January

## Former Winners Piobaireachd

1st Alastair Dunn

2nd Andy Wilson

3rd John Leamy

## Former Winners MSR

1st Alastair Dunn

2nd Andy Wilson

3rd Peter Donan

## Open Piobaireachd

1st Ben Greeves

2nd Connor Sinclair

3rd Con Houlihan

## Intermediate Piobaireachd

1st Collette O'Connor

2nd Gerh Neville

## Beginners Piobaireachd

1st Ciara O'Connor

Judge (all events) Tom Speirs



## Vale Jack McCandlish (1923-2012)

Jack McCandlish will be best remembered as one of the gentlemen of Queensland piping, a man of generosity and good humour who mentored many players and was at the forefront of the Brisbane pipe band community for more than fifty years. His origins were in the days where pipe bandsmen would go to great lengths to pursue their hobby, raising money to support pipe bands through the Great Depression and travelling long distances by public transport to compete around the early highland games circuit.

With a father who was a Pipe-Major of the Brisbane Scottish Pipe Band and being made mascot of the band while only a small boy, Jack was brought up around pipe music virtually from the day he was born. It was perhaps inevitable that he would grow up with a love of the pipes and the ambition to emulate his father.

From the tender age of 10 years Jack was first tutored by his father, John, who was himself taught by Alastair McSween. Alastair was an Australian Champion and a composer of music for many years. After showing promise, Jack, now in his teens, came under the tutelage of Archie McColl, the brother of the great John McColl. John was well known back in Scotland as a formidable competitor and a great composer of march music, including tunes like 'The Clan McColl' and 'John McColl's March to Kilbowie Cottage'.

The Brisbane Scottish Pipe Band was the first band that Jack joined as a piper. It was the mid 1930s during the depression. At that time, bands struggled to make ends meet, as funds were hard to come by. Whenever the band needed to raise money, the players and ladies' committee would travel by train to Sandgate or by boat to Redcliffe and spend a whole day marching and playing around the streets to collect money. While the band was doing the rounds, the ladies' committee would be busy making lunches and providing welcomed refreshments for the players at predetermined locations along the route.

Privately owned cars were uncommon before the war and travelling long distances in those days presented difficulties for bands in terms of cost, time and model of travel. Jack vividly recalled one occasion, while he was with the Brisbane Scottish Pipe Band, where they had to travel to Casino (in northern NSW). It was a freezing cold day and the entire band had to travel there and back in the back of an open truck! At other times, the pipe bands of the day would each take a carriage of the train. Jack would play up and down the Brisbane Scottish carriage, practising his solo tunes. By the time they arrived at the competition his hands would be swollen, and he'd be so sick of the tunes he'd practised that at the last moment he would play something else—much to Archie's frustration!

Just before the war, the band changed its name from the Brisbane Scottish Pipe Band to the Australian Scots Association Pipe Band. Jack remained with the band under its new name until 1941 when at the age of 18 years he left and enlisted in the AIF where he served at Milne Bay in New Guinea and then New Britain. At the end of the war, poor health prevented Jack from returning to piping until 1947, at which time he joined the recently formed St Andrew's Pipe Band where he was Pipe-Sergeant to long time Pipe-Major, Archie Galloway.

It was while he was with St Andrew's that he met Hazel, his future wife, and they married in 1952. The wedding was held just prior to the Maclean contest that year and poor Hazel became a piping widow on her honeymoon! They had two children, Sandra and Gregory. Gregory unfortunately died in 1978 in a car accident at the age of 24. Sandra is well known in the highland dancing community to this day as a teacher, an adjudicator and a member of the South Queensland Regional Committee of Highland Dancing executive.

During Jack's years with St Andrew's, the band used to travel to Tenterfield each year to spend two weeks over the Christmas/New Year period participating in band contests at Warwick, Stanthorpe and Tenterfield. They used the Commercial Hotel at Tenterfield as their base and attended all three contests

from there.

Once again, ill health forced Jack to leave the band after Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Brisbane in 1955. St Andrew's Pipe Band had been given the honour of being asked to pipe Her Majesty into and out of the public reception at the Exhibition Grounds. Jack's failing health also compelled him to relinquish his post as official pipe for the Queensland Highland Society, a position he held with pride for many years (as did his father before him).

Jack was diagnosed with tuberculosis and, after major surgery to collapse one of his lungs (the only available treatment option at the time), he showed great courage and determination to regain his health and return to piping.

Re-joining the Australian Scots Association Pipe Band as Pipe-Major in 1959, he remained with the band for several years and was honoured with a life membership, until the desire for competition got the better of him and he joined the Blue Bonnets Pipe Band as Pipe-Major in the mid-1970s. Competing as a grade three band with many young players, the Blue Bonnets achieved considerable success with Jack at the helm. At the same time, he was taking part in solo contests and was twice champion piper at Maclean.

Eventually, as players moved on in their careers and started families, the Blue Bonnets folded and Jack went over to the Wynnum RSL Pipe Band in 1982. He was Pipe-Major with Wynnum for a few years before handing over the reins to a younger person. He rarely missed a competition or turnout with the band and would regularly travel on away trips, roughing it on the floor of a band hut and not so reluctantly joining in on any mischief going on!

Being an ardent believer in the teaching and encouragement of young people in the art of piping, Jack himself tutored many aspiring young pipers (and some not so young) during the last thirty years of his active life. He was responsible for guiding several generations of notable young players, many of whom are playing today and are heavily involved in today's most active competitive bands, including the Queensland Highlanders and St Andrew's Pipe Band.

In later life, Jack's reliance on one lung forced him to retire from most of his activities, though he remained an important source of inspiration and encouragement, particularly to his grandsons, Matthew, Lachlan and Liam Supranowicz, all of whom share his passion for pipe bands and are actively involved today. He remained actively interested in piping and pipe bands and so initiated a popular 6/8 march competition at the Queensland Highland Pipers' Society, which is named in his honour. He passed away peacefully on 6 February 2012, aged 88.

His surviving family, his wife Hazel McCandlish, Sandra and Vic Supranowicz, and their three boys, would like to thank the pipe band community for the overwhelming messages of support and the impressive array of kilts and personalities who gave him the farewell he deserved last Thursday.

*Brian Wright and Matthew Supranowicz*