



# NEWSLETTER

## April 2011

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## AN HISTORICAL EVENT FOR THE AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION



By Greg Bassani: APBA Drumming Principal

The inaugural Australian Pipe Band Association (APBA) Summer School was held in Melbourne from 4<sup>th</sup> until 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2011. This highly successful event was the result of a considerable amount of planning over a 12 month lead-up period and had been previously identified as a priority in the APBA's strategic plan.

A business plan was developed for the Summer School which was approved at the APBA Music Principals/Vice-Principals conference early in 2010. It went on to be approved by the APBA Council and then plans swung into action. An early action was to establish the Summer School Management Committee, which was comprised of:-

- APBA President Greg Gordon OAM,
- APBA Secretary Lindsay Chuck,
- APBA Drumming Principal Greg Bassani
- APBA Piping Principal Brett Tidswell
- APBA Piping Vice-Principal (Victoria) Brian Niven, and
- APBA Drumming Vice-Principal (Victoria) Rob Bennett.

The Management Committee communicated regularly through email and skype, and the business plan was progressively rolled out under its guidance.

A partnership was established with the Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Association (RNZPBA) to share the travel costs for the three senior overseas tutors. The RNZPBA was also extremely helpful in supplying their Summer School documentation, giving the APBA a model to work with and greater confidence in a successful venture.

The location of the Summer School was given much consideration. The enthusiasm of Rob Bennett in Victoria flagged Melbourne as being a preferred venue. Much local work was needed and a person of Rob Bennett's capability was essential in handling these arrangements. Rob soon brought recommendations back to the Committee for student and tutor accommodation to be at La Trobe University, Bundoora Campus, and for the tuition centre to be at the nearby Ivanhoe and Diamond Valley Centre (IDVC), at

McLeod. IDVC also provided two mini buses for our exclusive use and this was supplemented by the generous provision of the Victoria Police Band's bus.

The important elements of:- senior overseas tutors, accommodation, tuition centre, and transportation, were all locked in and the only missing ingredient was the students. The minimum enrolment number was set at 50 and the Management Committee was delighted to ultimately reach 92 students. Our enrolments came from all Branches of the APBA and from Singapore. The APBA Secretary, Lindsay Chuck, provided an excellent service in tirelessly coordinating the enrolments and communicating with students over many months. His effort was critical to the success of the Summer School.

Staffing of the Summer School was finalised as follows:

Jack Lee	Simon Fraser University Pipe Band	Senior Piping Tutor
Reid Maxwell	Simon Fraser University Pipe Band	Senior Drumming Tutor
Tyler Fry	Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band	Senior Drumming Tutor mid-section
Brett Tidswell	Piping Principal, APBA	Piping Tutor
Ian Lyons	Victoria Police Pipe Band	Piping Tutor
Rob Crozier	Victoria Police Pipe Band	Piping Tutor
Brian Niven	Piping Vice-Principal, APBA, Victoria Branch	Assistant Piping Tutor
Greg Bassani	Drumming Principal, APBA	Drumming Tutor
Dean Hall	Drumming Vice-Principal, APBA, NSW.	Drumming Tutor
Nick McLeod	L/D Warrnambool Pipe Band	Drumming Tutor
Rob Bennett	Drumming Vice-Principal, APBA, Victoria.	Assistant Drumming Tutor and Summer School Co-ordinator
Greg Gordon OAM	President, APBA	Co-ordinators at La Trobe Uni. & Summer School administration
Christine Gordon	Secretary, APBA, SA Branch	

## **SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS**

Sponsors were attracted to the Summer School to enable the provision of goods to our students. The main items supplied were branded T-Shirts, carry bags plus a music CD. The sponsors were given high exposure during the Summer School and a presence on the APBA web site. These sponsors were:

- "Balmacqueen Percussion" (Qld)
- "DrummingMad" (NSW)
- "Laughlin's Pipes N Drumz" (NZ)
- "Lyons Bagpipes and Highland Supplies" (Vic)
- "Ozscot Bagpipe Supplies" (WA)
- "St Kilda Retail Australia" (Qld)

Senior Pipe Tutor Jack Lee, arranged for prizes to be donated by McCullum Bagpipes for a music composing contest during the Summer School. This was a substantial sponsorship and was recognised by the Summer School Management Committee by listing McCullum Bagpipes alongside our other sponsors.

The Victoria Pipe Band Trust Fund was a major supporter of the Summer School and provided financial assistance for this inaugural event. Another major supporter was the Ivanhoe and Diamond Valley Centre. IDVC was the location for the Summer School proper, and provided their premises and two mini-buses for our use during the event. These buses were supplemented by the generous provision of the Victoria Police Band's bus. APBA President Greg Gordon and wife Christine Gordon (Secretary SA Branch) also provided a substantial cash donation to the Summer School.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL DAY-BY-DAY**

A large staff contingent arrived for duty on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Greg Bassani, Brett Tidswell, Rob Bennett, Greg and Christine Gordon used the afternoon to inspect the tuition centre and to assemble the student packs; the latter being quite labour intensive. Senior tutors, local tutors and the two students from Singapore arrived on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, with everyone staying at Greensborough Motor Inn, since La Trobe could not be occupied until the first day of the Summer School. A major task for this day was to set up IDVC to accommodate the student groups.

A planning meeting of all staff was held late on the Monday afternoon where the timetable was scrutinised and minor adjustments made. All was then in readiness for the first day of the inaugural APBA Summer School.

### **Day 1 (Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>)**

After a good start with student attendance, some problems emerged with the boarders moving into their accommodation. This was compounded by a misunderstanding with La Trobe about lunch provision but they were quick to respond and adjust the timetable.

The main Summer School student briefing was conducted by Greg Gordon and Greg Bassani and allowed us to formally welcome the students, introduce the staff, highlight the timetable, and lay the ground rules for the week.

Once the student grouping assessment was completed, the day's timetable was adjusted by cancelling the massed band session and shortening the Tutor Group sessions. Four piping groups and four snare drumming groups were set up with a single mid-section group of 12 students.

The timetable was on track by the time the evening workshop session arrived. The evening workshop was a variation to the original daily timetable because the senior tutors strongly recommended its inclusion. The first workshop was on Instrument Tuning, with pipers and drummers meeting in separate locations of the IDVC. The student interest was so strong that the sessions went well over their programmed time and caused a late finish.

A tutors' meeting followed the evening workshop and provided a chance to review student groupings and refine the timetable for day 2.

### **Day 2 (Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>)**

Each day began with a brief administration meeting conducted by Greg Bassani in the 'big room'. The timetable tightened up considerably on this day. Housekeeping and storage of instruments was emphasised so as to ensure the IDVC was safe for students to walk around.

Tutor groups ran smoothly and practice room accommodation appeared to be good. The first session of the Individual/Private Lessons was conducted between 1 and 2 pm, in 15 minute time slots. This recommendation, by Senior Piping Tutor Jack Lee, seemed to be popular with students and allowed them a short duration of individualised attention. All tutors participated, thus allowing 16 piping appointments and 16 drumming appointments each day. Students were only allowed to book one session initially.

Summer School photos were taken in the park on this day and along with many other photos, were quickly posted to Greg Bassani's *Facebook* site for access by students. Ultimately, the photos would be available on the APBA web site on a special page being constructed for the Summer School. The first Massed Band session was held in the nearby park area and was approached in good spirit by everyone. Though a relatively short duration, it allowed people to get up on instruments for the first time in the Summer School.

The evening workshop for Piping was "How to Practice", and for drumming was "Ensemble, from a drumming perspective- part 1". The workshops were greatly appreciated by the students. Piping Principal Brett Tidswell was a welcome addition to assist the drummers with their workshop.

### **Day 3 (Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>)**

Day 3 was virtually a carbon copy of day 2, with the exception that the massed band was cancelled due to inclement weather. The tutors increased their emphasis on students achieving a satisfactory

standard for the Student Recital on the Friday afternoon. While they did not want to place this out of proportion, it was deemed to be an important part of the Summer School activities.

The piping workshop for the evening was on “Bagpipe Tuning”, and for the drummers “Ensemble, from a drumming perspective- part 2”. The piping workshop was conducted by Piping Tutors Ian Lyons and Rob Crozier on this occasion.

#### Day 4 (Friday 7<sup>th</sup>)

The administration meeting covered a lot of ground on this day due to the Student Recital that afternoon and Senior Tutor Recital in the evening, as well as the need to move quickly out of the La Trobe accommodation the next morning.

Tutor groups focussed on band teams for the student recital and transferring skills from the practice pads and chanters to drums and pipes.

The student recital was enjoyable for all and enabled Summer School students to demonstrate their playing skills to their peers.

The Senior Tutors’ Recital was held that evening at La Trobe University in a main lecture theatre and attracted a total audience of approximately 240 (including Summer School students, staff and official guests). All performers were enthusiastically received and the evening was very entertaining. Prizes were awarded by Senior Piping Tutor Jack Lee for the tune composing competition, as well as two scholarships to the Canadian Summer School known as the *Piping Hot Summer Drummer*.

#### Day 5 (Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>)

The senior tutors had to take an early flight to New Zealand and so could not be present for the morning’s activities. This was necessary in order for them to arrive in time for the start of the NZ Summer School.

Pack-up and transportation from La Trobe University to IDVC went much more smoothly than the move-in, with everyone arriving at IDVC on time for the first session. This day had a slightly later start, with pipers going straight into a tutor group session and all drummers getting together for Dean Hall’s presentation on ensemble using software called “audacity”.

The morning wrapped up with the presentation of attendance certificates by APBA President Greg Gordon and the awarding of several scholarships to students for the 2012 APBA Summer School.

Once students had departed, at about 11:30 am, a small team of helpers set about the packing up and refurbishment of IDVC facilities.

### **SUMMER SCHOOL REVIEW AND FUTURE**

The Summer School Management Committee is conducting a review of the inaugural event. However, it is clear that the inaugural APBA Summer School has been a resounding success. The Management Committee is already looking into the arrangements for the 2012 APBA Summer School.

Despite some hiccups along the way, the event was highly successful in:-

- Raising students’ music skill levels
- Raising students’ knowledge levels.
- Changing or appropriately strengthening students’ attitudes towards their music.
- Building healthy relationships amongst the players of the Australian Pipe Band fraternity.
- Building awareness of and respect for the Australian Pipe Band Association as the peak national body.

An on-line survey of Summer School participants resulted in an excellent return rate of 70%. This has provided valuable feedback from our students that will assist in the planning of next year’s event. Importantly from this survey, 98% said they enjoyed their Summer School experience and **100%** said that they would recommend the Summer school to their friends.

Please mark early-January 2012 in your diaries and come along (or return!) to enjoy this unique part of the Australian Pipe Band experience.



**Summer School Staff**

L-R: Rob Bennett, Jack Lee, Tyler Fry, Reid Maxwell, Christine Gordon, Greg Bassani, Nick MacLeod, Rob Crozier, Dean Hall, Ian Lyons, Brett Tidswell, Greg Gordon.



2010 APBA Summer School participants

## FROM THE SECRETARY

- While the comprehensive article on the APBA Summer School in this newsletter provides a good overall insight into the event. I would like to say thank you to everyone who supported the event and provided valuable feedback for the planning of future events.
- The Management Committee spent time in February reviewing financial management issues of the Association with particular emphasis on how things can be improved moving forward. Considerations included a new chart of accounts, accounting packages, budgeting, reporting requirements and payments.
- APBA Member Protection Policy is receiving further consideration after legislation was passed in South Australia in relation to child safe environments.
- Information on the 2012 Australian Pipe Band Championships can be found at [www.australianpipebandchampionships.com.au](http://www.australianpipebandchampionships.com.au) this website is operated by the promoter and will be updated as information becomes available.
- The APBA national conference will be held in Adelaide over the period 30<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2011. Information circulated to branches requested the submission of agenda items with supporting papers by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011. For those new to the Association, the national conference is a meeting of the principals of Piping, Drumming, Dress & Drill and Rules & Administration, two councillors nominated from each branch of the Association, and the APBA Officer bearers, including the President, Secretary and Treasurer. i.e. the people responsible for the Association. This conference will also include the APBA Annual General Meeting which in the past has been held separately by teleconference. Hence there will be a cost saving to the Association, the cost of the teleconference.

### College Certificates

Congratulations to the following people on receiving College certificates;

#### Piping

Ainsley Hart – Advanced

Mark Spooner - Preliminary

#### Ensemble

Scott Nicolson

Duncan Graham

#### Grading

Maclean & Districts Services Pipe Band allocated to grade 4A

## CONTEST REGULATION REVIEW

At the 2009 National Conference a committee to modernise the contest regulations was formed. The Committee requests your thoughts and suggestions on the contest regulations, be emailed to the APBA Secretary by the 30 June 2011.

**Editor's Note:** *This is your opportunity to have input into the contest regulation discussion, all of you out there who keep telling us the rules need changing – this is your chance to have your say.*

# FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK

Could all band secretaries please ensure they are using the correct Application for Registration/Membership forms?

**The latest registration forms are to be found on the APBA website.**

[www.pipebands.asn.au](http://www.pipebands.asn.au)

You will find them under the "Rules" button - see "Forms" on the right hand side. Also to be found here is the APBA bank details for paying accounts via EFT.

**Application not received on the latest forms may be returned by snail mail unprocessed.**

Please remember **ALL** payments made by EFT **MUST** have the EFT receipt sent to the Registrar or payment will be deemed as not made until this is received.

Processing of applications that are paid by EFT will NOT commence until the payment is sighted in the APBA band account.

It is preferable that an invoice number be obtained before making an EFT payment. I can send an invoice as requested. All that is needed is the number of players being registered or transferred.

**N.B.** Some financial institutions can take at least 3 **working** days to appear in the APBA account.

Should you have any questions you wish to ask please do not hesitate to email them to me and I will try to answer them or forward them to the appropriate person.

**IF A PLAYER IS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 THEN THEIR APPLICATION MUST BE COUNTERSIGNED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.**

If the parent only signs the form then the word **PARENT MUST** be added to the signature. Some members are still trying to send faxes to my home phone. The latest registration forms have the correct details on them. Please check before sending any faxes.

Raylee Riley

APBA Registrar

[registrar@pipebands.asn.au](mailto:registrar@pipebands.asn.au)

Fax 08 9594 0345

## **Band Registration Workshop**

A workshop will be presented by Raylee Riley the National Registrar of the APBA Inc. to assist band secretaries and other interested parties in understanding the registration rules. When **Saturday 4th June 2011**, from **10:00am to 1:00pm** at **Derivan Pty Ltd (Training Room), 4/23 Leeds Street, Rhodes**.

The workshop will be **streamed live to enable country and interstate bands** to participate, details will be supplied on the NSW Branch's web site [www.pipebandsnsw.com.au](http://www.pipebandsnsw.com.au)

Please register for this free workshop by replying to [treasurer@pipebandsnsw.com.au](mailto:treasurer@pipebandsnsw.com.au) by Friday 27th May 2011. For both attendance at Rhodes **or by live streaming**.

## 2012 Australian Pipe Band Championships

The Australian Pipe Band Championship committee met with the promoters of the 2012 Australian Pipe Band Championships on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011 to discuss aspects of the championships and for an inspection of the site. Eureka Stadium, Ballarat is the venue and planning for the event is well advanced. A pipe band contest has already been held at the venue and this has provided useful information for fine tuning planning of the championships.



Main Arena

A report on the meeting has already been circulated, however two important points were missed out. Firstly the promoters are eager to present a Drum Major's contest (Solo), and there will be a street march. Other contest elements are an Australian Pipe Band Display Championship, March Strathspey & Reel/Selection of Marches and a Musical Selection.

At least two ovals will be used for Championships, the main arena for the competition, tune up and stalls, and a second oval to accommodate band tents, practice areas, food stalls and toilets.

There will be events for families, including children.

Information packs will be distributed in the near future and information will also be available on the Championship website at [www.australianpipebandschampionships.com.au](http://www.australianpipebandschampionships.com.au) this website will be updated as information is available. Contest entry close off is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011. Late entries may be accepted at a higher fee.

With the contest only 12 months away, bands are encouraged to register their interest as soon as the information packs are available.

