



NEWSLETTER

January 2011

Welcome to this the 5th issue of our Newsletter, and on this occasion it is out a few days early.

Australian Pipe Band Association Inc.

[A00353465]

Telephone (08) 8392 4730

Post PO Box 248
Seaford SA 5169

Email secretary@pipebands.asn.au

Website www.pipebands.asn.au

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you that have provided assistance in putting this newsletter together over the past 12 months and look forward to receiving your articles and photo's for inclusion in future newsletters.

The past twelve months have proved trying for the pipe band world with economic difficulties limiting bands to what they have been able to achieve not only in attending contests but also purchasing new equipment.

Our organisation was well represented during early February at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Sydney with bands from all Australian States and Territories except the Northern Territory taking part with other entertainers from all over the world

The turn out at the 2010 Caloundra Australian Pipe Band Championships over the Easter weekend was good and the Queensland Branch should be congratulated for their well run event, although unfortunately many of our state competitions struggled for entries, with promoters also feeling the pinch with less people attending the various contests.

The APBA Inc. Inaugural Summer School gets underway in Melbourne on January 4th 2011 with a total of 91 confirmed students of all ages and experience to be in attendance for four and a half days. The principal tutors are Jack Lee (Piping) & J Reid Maxwell (Snare Drumming) they are both members of the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band with Tyler Fry (Mid-Section) a member of The House of Edgar Shotts & Dykehead Pipe Band, these exceptional tutors will be supported by local instructors who are all at the top of their chosen fields.

Drumming Adjudicator puts away clipboard and pencil. Allan Chatto OAM advised the NSW Branch that 2010 would be his final year as an Adjudicator and fittingly the last event of the year the State Solo Championships on 14th November saw Allan judging the snare drumming events. A plaque was presented to Allan marking this final appointment, this he will add to Life Membership awards presented by the NSWBA Inc. and the AFPBA/APBA Inc. as well as the RSPBA for his services to drumming.

FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK

Could all band secretaries and members please ensure they have the correct information.

The correct email address to use every time for anything to do with Registrations is

registrar@pipebands.asn.au

The reason for using this address and not pbanatreg@bigpond.com is that if I should be unable to perform my duties for any reasons these emails can be redirected to someone who can perform these duties while I am unavailable.

There are still faxes being sent to my private land line number.

The correct number is

08 9594 0345

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

pipebands.asn.au

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

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.

**From Viv and I we would like to wish everyone a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Raylee Riley
APBA Registrar

Viv Riley
APBA Historian

FROM THE SECRETARY

- Registration for the 2011 APBA Summer School has now closed. 30th September was set as a review date to consider whether there was sufficient interest to go on with the school. Thanks to all those people who registered by the 30th enabling the event to proceed. It was pleasing to see a good number of registrations received after the 30th September and a reasonable number from non members (hopefully we will see some new member registrations). It goes without saying, that an event of this nature requires a considerable amount of organisation, and I thank the organising committee for the effort and dedication they have shown progressing this event. Our next newsletter will have a review of the workshop.
- Stolen bagpipes continue to be a concern. Members should report the incident to police and also advise their Branch Secretary or myself, so the information can be distributed to all branches and bands as soon as possible. Don't forget to provide a description.

From The Secretary (continued)

College Certificates

Congratulations to the following people on receiving their College certificates

Elementary Piping

Peter Dearden & Gavin Satie

Preliminary Piping

Tanya Whiteaker, Ross Campbell & Anthony Hannan

Elementary Snare Drumming

Liam Cox, Steven Stanley & Peter Felton

Preliminary & Elementary Tenor/Bass Drum

Sarah Satie

Preliminary Snare Drumming

Miranda Jo Kelly & Timothy Vowles

Rules & Administration Intermediate & Advanced

Matthew Ead & Peter Cook

Grading

Perth Metro allocated to Grade 3.

Williamstown RSL regraded to Grade 3

United Mine Workers regraded to Grade 4A

Ron Gallacher OAM

26th May 1928 – 8th October 2010



Born of Scottish parents who were strongly involved in the Richmond Caledonian Society, Ron was in close contact with Scots and Scottish culture from an early age.

At 5 years of age he competed in his first Highland Dancing Competition and continued to compete until aged 16. It was during this period Ron became interested in piping and at the age of 12 he commenced lessons with David Wanless Snr. After a couple of years his tuition was taken over by Alex McPhedran Snr. and he remained with him for many years competing successfully in Solo Piping Competitions.

Ron joined the Hawthorn City Pipe Band in 1942 and remained an active member for many years. During this period he held many musical and administrative positions. In 1959 he was appointed Pipe Major to fill a casual vacancy due to the illness of his close friend, Pipe Major Ian Mathieson (who returned in 1960). Subsequently Ron was appointed Pipe Major in 1976 and continued in this role until 1986 when he resigned. During this period the Hawthorn City Pipe Band achieved considerable success in Grade 1, winning two first, two second and one fourth place in various Australian Pipe Band Championships. During the same period of time the Hawthorn City Pipe Band won nine out of ten Victorian State Pipe Band Championships. After standing down as Pipe Major Ron continued to support the work of the band, filling positions of Musical Director and Pipe Tutor.

As well as being a staunch supporter of the Hawthorn City Pipe Band, Ron has tutored a number of Pipe Bands throughout Victoria, in particular.

Melbourne Ladies Pipe Band: 1952 to 1960; 1963 to 1976 and 1983 to 1989. Most people who have followed pipe bands in Victoria are aware of the successes achieved by the Melbourne Ladies Pipe Band, including wins at Grade 1 level.



APBA SUMMER SCHOOL'S SENIOR TUTORS' RECITAL

Jack Lee and Reid Maxwell
(Simon Fraser University Pipe Band), and
Tyler Fry
(Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band)

At La Trobe University, Plenty Road, Bundoora,
7:30pm, Friday, January 7th, 2011

ADMISSION: \$10
payable at the door.



Ron Gallacher OAM (continued)

Geelong Ladies Pipe Band: Ron commenced tutoring this band in 1986 with much success until the band ceased to operate due to a lack of members.

Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipes & Drums: Ron spent several years tutoring this band to prepare them for two Edinburgh Military Tattoos and in 2001 travelled with the band to El Alamein (Libya) where a Memorial Service was held at the War Cemetery prior to the band performing at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Geelong RSL Pipes & Drums: Ron was tutor since their inception.

In 1964 Ron was appointed to the Piping Adjudicator's Panel and in 1973 was appointed Vice Principal of Piping of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Pipe Band College. In 1981 Ron was appointed Piping Principal for Australia, a position he held for 20 years. Over the years Ron has adjudicated at Pipe Band and Solo Piping Contests (including at several Australian Pipe Band Championships) in all Australian States as well as judging and tutoring in South East Asian countries.

Ron also filled the roles of Vice President and Assistant Secretary in the Victorian Branch of the Australian Pipe Band Association for varying periods over the years.

(Source: Geelong Highland Gathering program Sunday 8th March 2009).

Ron was Principal of Piping before me and had done a wonderful job putting many of the systems in place that are still in use today. When I started in the Principal's position the assistance Ron gave me was invaluable and most generous.

Ron was always a phone call away and always happy to help no matter what the issue. A great friend, a great mentor, and someone that I will always look back on fondly with the highest respect. The life-time service he has undertaken for the Piping fraternity is immeasurable.

Brett Tidswell - National Principal of Piping.

My memories of Ron go back over 35 years and began in connection with his involvement in Hawthorn City Pipe Band. I certainly admired Ron's musical and leadership capabilities, and especially how he could get the best from people while always showing respect for them as individuals. During the mid-nineties, Ron stayed on in the position of the APBA Piping Principal to provide continuity while I established myself as the incoming APBA Drumming Principal. His advice and friendship will always be remembered.

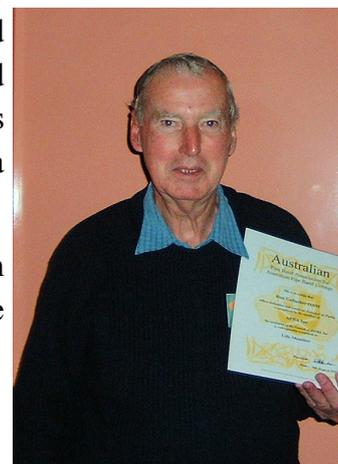
Greg Bassani B.Ed., B.Tech., Dip. T., MACEA - Drumming Principal

There is no doubt Ron will be remembered by many people in the pipe band fraternity for his dedication and service to pipe bands. His ability and availability to adjudicate, participate in and present workshops, and give his time to assist bands and individuals went well beyond the borders of Victoria where he resided.

Ron's service to the Australian Pipe Band College was formally recognised in 2003 at the APBA National conference, when he was presented with Life Membership.

I will always remember Ron was a real gentleman.

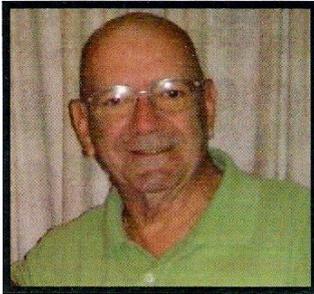
Lindsay Chuck – Secretary, APBA Inc.



James John Richard McFarland (John)

4th June 1939 to 5th December 2010

John lost his 11 year long battle with cancer on the 5th December, during those 11 years he underwent 17 operations and countless treatments involving both chemo and radiotherapy, treatment that lesser men would not have survived. John never gave up and just kept setting new goals, the deep love he had for his wife Veronica and his whole family was without doubt the corner stone of his strength, I was deeply moved by the eulogy given by Sean his eldest son and by the tributes made by family and friends.



John was piped into Christ Church in Gosford at the beginning of the service and farewelled by muffled snare drums at the burial at the Point Clare Cemetery, and then remembered by all at the celebration of his life held at West Gosford, where we were entertained by a Ceilidh band and were able to exchange our recollections of Johns life with his family and friends

The following is a summary of Johns 63 years of service to the pipe band community of New South Wales and Australia.

John had a career that spanned over 60 years in which time he continuously served the Pipe Band movement as a Drummer, Drum Major, Adjudicator and Administrator.

John in fact started off learning the bagpipes as an eight year old in his home town of Gosford; he fortunately soon learnt the error of his ways and commenced learning the drums.

John's early playing career was with bands on the Central Coast these being Gosford Caledonian and Brisbane Waters Pipe Band which merged to become the Gosford Pipe Band.

In 1959 John was asked to join the Grade 1 Northern Suburbs Pipe Band as their Drum Major and in 1967 became their Leading Drummer. During this time he was an active member of the Pipes & Drums of the 17th Btn. Royal New South Wales Regiment where he achieved the rank of Sergeant.

From 1975 through to 1989 when it was disbanded John was a member of the Grade 1 NSW Police Pipe Band.

After this John and his family moved back to the Central Coast, he then re-joined Northern Suburbs as Leading Drummer, then moving onto be a founding member of the Toukley RSL Pipe Band, then again moving to City of Gosford Pipe Band.

In an administrative capacity John had been the State Vice Principal of Dress & Drill for the Australian Pipe Band College as well as serving for 8 years as the National Principal of the College Dress & Drill Division.

John was elected President of our Association in 1998 and served in this capacity until 2002.

John was awarded Life Membership of both the New South Wales Pipe Band Association Inc. and the Australian Pipe Band Association Inc. New South Wales Branch in August 2007 for his life long commitment to pipe bands.

John was actively involved in the teaching and adjudication of both Drumming and Dress & Drill right up to the time he lost his battle.

Rest in Peace John.

Michael Stubbings

Chairman APBA Inc. NSW Branch



Media release

Scots Gathering to continue

The Geelong Highland Gathering, the second oldest event of its kind in the nation, first held in 1857, which recently was close to extinction for the second time in its history, will continue in 2011.

After two year's of uncertainty surrounding use of Queens Park, which led to five members of the nine member executive refusing re-nomination, a new executive at its first meeting on Sunday decided to hold a gathering next year.

The Gathering, also the second largest pipe band competition event in Australia after the Australian Pipe Band Championships, will be held on its traditional third Sunday in March.

The Gathering which folded during the Great Depression, after 76 years, was resurrected by the City of Newtown in 1957, as its major event to showcase Queens Park.

But the City of Greater Geelong has decided the event is not suitable for Queens Park, its home of 53 years, often referred to as "the Braemar of Australia".

Overseas and interstate visitors have often described Queens Park as one of the best gathering venues in the world.

The Gathering executive has appointed a sub-committee to examine potential sites for 2011.

Gathering vice-president John Fraser said the new executive was unanimous in its decision to hold the Gathering, despite having only four months to organise it.

"Because of the uncertainties of the past two years over date and venue, we have lost the 2012 Australian Pipe Band Championships and the Victorian Pipe Band championships - which we had held for a decade - for the next five years," Mr. Fraser said.

"Geelong has also lost credibility in the pipe band world and this has jeopardised our work to make the city the permanent home to the Australian Pipe Band Championships," he said. "This would have been a major event for Geelong, bringing around 60 bands and their entourages every second year.

"With add-ons we had planned, we believed this Gathering could have become the premier event of its kind in Australia, attracting thousands of people to Geelong, including overseas bands.

"It will need something special in terms of support from the City of Greater Geelong, Victorian Scottish organisations and others to resurrect this bid - 2014 is the next opportunity - which looked home-and-hosed two years ago."

Mr Fraser said he looked forward to the 2011 Gathering being the first building block in re-establishing Geelong's reputation as the home of the largest and best gathering in Victoria, despite losing the VPBC for the next five years.

