



PIPE BANDS
AUSTRALIA

Australian Pipe Band Association Inc.

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**Inaugural
Summer
School**

4th - 8th
January
2011

**More information as it
becomes available**

NEWSLETTER

July 2010

Welcome to this the 3rd issue of our Newsletter for 2010. The mail out date had been set for 1st July but as you can see this did not happen, there are too many reasons (excuses some would say) to list them all, suffice to say I will make an extra effort to ensure the next edition is ready for October 1st.

East Hills Scouts Pipes & Drums Spend ANZAC Day in the Bush

Some members of East Hills Scouts Pipes & Drums played at the 2010 ANZAC Dawn Service held by the Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs, and also at the 11.00 am Service held by 1st Blaxland Scout Group. Ron Smythe from Grafton also played bagpipes at the Dawn Service. The services were held at the



Left to Right: Riordan Drake 1st Springwood, Therese Kaltenbacher Scout Fellowship, Tyrone Byrne 1st Narwee and Bernie ("Fred") Kaltenbacher Regional Leader. 1st Blaxland Scouts are in the foreground.

an estimated 65 bushwalkers and on their Duke of Edinburgh gold level expedition. The 11.00 am Service was attended by about 25 Scouts and some other people.

It was a deeply moving experience to stand out in the bush with the faint light of dawn streaking the sky and hearing the skirl of bagpipes break the stillness with "Abide With Me" and "Amazing

Grace" while the mist rose, spirit like, from the gullies and the pipes answered by the sweet notes of lyre birds. With the haunting strains of "Flowers of the Forest" and "Going Home", those with damp cheeks could blame the lightly falling rain if they so wished, but most would admit to their emotions.

Bushwalkers War Memorial on Splendour Rock, at the Southern end of Mt Dingo in the heart of the Wild Dog Ranges, Blue Mountains National Park. Mt Dingo is approximately a 15km walk South of Megalong Valley below Blackheath N.S.W.

The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs conducts a Dawn Service there each year.

This year it was attended by a group of 25 school students



Memorial Plaque at Splendour Rock

FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK

Tips for Filling out Forms

When filling out forms for registering of a player or a clearance form please ensure that you give **all required** information, especially middle names and dates of birth. These are two critically identifying points of reference to enable me to be sure I am processing the correct player.

While each player is unique your name is not.

If a player does not have a middle name then please ensure this is stated on the application.

Please ensure a parent or guardian countersigns a player who is under 18 at the time of registration. If only the parent is signing then please ensure the word parent or guardian is written next to the signature.

Please ensure the latest *Application for Registration/Membership* and *Clearance* Forms are used and signed in the required places.

All forms can be found on the APBA website www.pipebands.asn.au under the "Rules" button – see "Forms" on the right hand side.

Also located here are the bank details for EFT payments. Please ensure when making EFT payments that the invoice number is quoted.

Registration Renewals

By this time of year bands and players should have renewed their registrations. Unfortunately less than one third of bands have returned **all** the required paperwork.

I am required to return immediately any renewals that are incomplete.

The most common item not included is a copy of the bands "Certificate of Currency". All bands are required to send this item every year.

The second most common items not sent are "Applications for Registration/Membership" for new player and "Clearances" for player not being renewed. Handwriting them on your list or crossing them off your list of playing members sheet or sending in your list of players is **not** sufficient paperwork to add or subtract these players to or from your list of registered players.

It needs to be noted that regardless of when a player makes a band to band transfer an additional transfer fee is required.

I would urge all band secretaries to please read carefully on their band's invoice the section headed "Notes for Band Secretaries"

Lastly for all members, if making any payment via EFT a copy of the EFT transfer receipt **MUST** be sent to the registrar. Payments are not deemed as made until this copy of your receipt is received.

If requested, I am available to travel to your Branch and conduct a seminar/workshop on the "Procedures of Registration and Registration Renewals".

You will need to contact your Branch Secretary to arrange this.

If you have any question you wished answered with regard to this, please email the editor.

This item has been provided by the APBA Inc. National Registrar Raylee Riley

Pipefest Global Challenge

10,000 pipers and drummers around the World

Congratulations to the NSW Highlanders Pipe Band who are organising the Australian Stage at the North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens in Coffs Harbour on Sunday 8th August all proceeds will go to the Cancer Council NSW.

From Lindsay Chuck the APBA Secretary.

- The management committee held its May meeting experimenting with the use of Skype. It proved extremely successful and future meetings will also use this method with savings to the association of between \$400 to \$500 a meeting.
- We wish Queensland Branch Secretary, Alex McConnell a speedy recovery. Alex, with limitations on what he can do, has been coordinating the secretary's duties to ensure service to members.
- Tenders for the 2012 Australian Pipe Band Championships closed on the 30 June 2010. The successful tender will be announced in due course.
- We look forward to your support of the APBA summer school. The idea of a summer school in Australia has been talked about for some years, and received the support of the recent Vice Principals' conference.

College Certificates

Congratulations to all the following people who have completed college certificates:

Piping

Kalwant Kour – Elementary Piping

Chiang Wei Zhong – Elementary Piping

John McIntyre – Elementary Piping

Gavin Satie – Preliminary Piping

Judith Ann Sheriff - Preliminary Piping

Drumming

Caroline Troup – Elementary Tenor Drumming

Dean Hall – Advanced Drumming

Danny Bowles – Intermediate Snare

Andrew Womersley – Teaching Diploma

Dress & Drill

Phil Douglas – Intermediate Dress & Drill

The following bands have been re graded

City of Brisbane Pipe Band No 2 to grade 4

Kinross Wolaroi Pipe Band to grade 4

St Marys District Band Club Ltd to grade 3

The Pipeband Club No 2 to grade 3

LCC Southern Cross Pipe Band No 1 to grade 2



The Pipeband Club No 2 (Development Band) newly promoted to Grade 3 pictured at the 2009 Square Day Contest at Palmerston North New Zealand

Away across the other side of the world

Its time for what is now the annual exodus of Australian Pipe Bands heading for Glasgow Green to be part of a number of contests including the World Pipe Band Championships on Saturday the 14th August 2010, looking at the draw tells us who is travelling and in what grade they are competing:

Novice (23 Competitors)

Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Pipe Band (NSW)

Grade 4B (60 Competitors)

City of Cockburn (WA)

St Andrews Caledonian (Tas)



Grade 4A (40 Competitors)

Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Pipe Band (NSW)

Grade 1 (26 Competitors)

The Pipeband Club Australia (NSW)

AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

**50 years
of
working
together
1960 - 2010**

The Australian Pipe Band Association Inc. (APBA), also known as Pipe Bands Australia, is the governing body for all pipe band contest and related matters such as registration and grading throughout Australia. There should be no confusion about this but from time to time one may notice some different (outmoded) terminology being used. To understand why this occurs, it is useful to briefly trace the evolution of the APBA.

History

Colonisation of Australia commenced in 1788 and immigrants from Scotland clearly included some with skills in piping and drumming who eventually banded together in local groups. Little is documented from early settlement about bands. However, one present day band (Royal Caledonian Society SA) has evidence of its establishment in 1894.

In addition to the tyranny of distance within the country, a heritage of division has existed due to the different colonies of original settlement, which gave rise to the states within Australia, each with its own government. Consequently interaction between pipe bands was largely concentrated in areas of denser population, typically capital cities.

As the interest in bands grew and matured there was seen the need to form associations, some with bands of different types and some specifically for pipe bands. The Victorian Highland Pipe Band Association (VHPBA), formed in 1924, is in fact the oldest pipe band association in the world and although its function has changed, it remains active.

Federation

With the improvement in transport and communications, bands were able to reach more easily beyond state boundaries and the need to further formalise the association between them in the country as a whole precipitated the formation, in June 1960, of a federation of some state associations. In a short time each of the six states had a pipe band association as a member of the Australian Federation of Pipe Band Associations (AFPBA).

A key objective of the Federation was to develop and maintain a set of contest rules which could be adopted by each State Association to provide consistency in the conduct of contests to facilitate the participation of bands in States beyond their own. Notwithstanding, the rivalry between States that existed in everyday life was also evident in the broad pipe band community. The development of the rules was also cognisant of contemporary practice overseas, particularly in Scotland.

Transition

The greater impact of advancing technology on transport, communications, record-keeping and life in general brought the notion of transition from a federation of State Associations to a single, nationwide association into focus as an achievable objective. Subsequently, in June 1997 the Conference of AFPBA resolved to form the Australian Pipe Band Association Inc with the business of the existing State Associations transferring to Branches within the Association. The legal entity was created by incorporation on 29 August 1997.

Association

The Australian Pipe Band Association Inc., through its Branches located in the States of Australia, represents its members who are the players in, and the supporters of, the pipe bands in Australia. Currently

there are approximately 3000 members registered to 130 pipe bands. (June 2010)

The control and management of the affairs of the Association is vested in its Council (20 members), comprised of elected officers and councillors representing each Branch.

There is a Committee (5 members), subsidiary to the Council, to which the Council may delegate any of its functions and powers. The Committee shall not amend or over-ride a decision of the Council except by a majority of four-fifths of the members of the Committee.

Branches

Branches have been established to further the pursuit and promotion of the purposes in their respective areas. They are the point of contact for the members in their area.

The control and management of the affairs of the Branch is, subject to the Rules of the Association and the APBA Branch Regulation, vested in the Branch Council.

The Branch Council consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen (2), Secretary, Treasurer, (Assistant Secretary), and Councillors representing each registered Band (2 per Band).

There is a body known as the Branch Executive, comprised of the officers of the Branch, which is subsidiary to the Branch Council and to which the Branch Council may delegate any of its powers or functions including powers or functions delegated to it by the Association unless the Association has otherwise directed.

College

The Australian Pipe Band College, established during Federation, is an integral part of the Association. The Council and the Committee administer the College.

Its objectives are related to the maintenance and further development of the standards of pipe bands in Australia. It does this through its Divisions: Piping, Drumming, Drill and Dress, and Rules and Administration. A Principal is appointed for each Division.

College Branches

There is a College Branch associated with each Branch of the Association. The College Branch serves the members and bands registered with the Association through the Branch with which it is associated. A Vice-Principal is appointed within each Division.

The College Branch Committee administers the College Branch. The committee is comprised of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and three other persons nominated by the Branch, together with the four Vice-Principals. The College Branch Committee may appoint an Administrator.

Current Operation

Business activity and funding was discussed at the Conference Meeting in 1999. Council resolved that the Branches would retain the responsibility for the activities related to members in their respective areas and for the Association to manage those matters required by the Rules.

The business activity of the Association is directly related to its level of funding, which is derived largely from subscriptions and registration fees, shared between the Association and its Branches in a ratio of approximately 1:4.

Milestone: 50 years of working together

The inaugural meeting of the Australian Federation of Pipe Band Associations was convened by the New South Wales Pipe Band Association on 11th-13th June 1960. This year, 2010, thus marks 50 years of working together as AFPBA and subsequently APBA.

Presidents AFPBA & APBA Inc.

Year(s)	Name		Year(s)	Name
1960	W C Stewart		1971-73	D C Mackie
1961	D MacLennan		1973-77	G E Masson *
1962	J Burrows		1977-87	D H Scotland BEM
1963-5	G E Masson		1987-95	B A Neal OAM
1965-7	J Tait		1995-97	B H G McDonald
1967-9	K S Clarke		1997-	R G Gordon OAM
1969-71	K K Williamson			

* Subsequently G E Masson OAM

NSW Loses Only Scout Band In Australia

Please see letter published below that was recently received by our National Registrar.

Dear Raylee,

Thank you for the appropriate paperwork connected with the 2010-2011 registration of the East Hills Scouts Pipes and Drums with the Australian Pipe Band Association Inc.

I regret to advise you that we will not be reregistering our band this year due to the fact that a decision has been made to close the East Hills Scouts Pipes and Drums as from 30 June 2010.

After 40 years serving Scouting and the community as the only Scout Pipe Band in Australia, this has not been an easy decision to make. However, it has been increasingly difficult to recruit new members for the band who not only are interested in learning to play the pipes or drum, but are also members of the Scout or Guide movements, so the decision was virtually made for us.

Having been the co-founder of the band with Bill Hall from the Bankstown Caledonian Pipe Band in 1969 and the band secretary during the entire time that the band has been in existence, the closure of the band will leave a big hole in my life. However, being 80+ years of age, it is probably time that I stepped down from what can sometimes be a fairly hectic position.

On behalf of the many members of our band who, over the years, have passed through our band, some continuing their piping and drumming with other bands, some joining the services or gaining good jobs in industry and commerce, I would like to say thank you to the APBA and the NSWPBA for the support that we have received in a number of ways over the past 40 years. We hope that both organisations will continue for many years to successfully support and promote Australian pipebands.

Yours sincerely

Ronald M Penn OAM, JP

Band Secretary

Honorary Commissioner, Scouts Australia

Recent News Items:

- ◆ Also travelling to the World Championships from across the "Ditch" are St Andrews College competing in the Juvenile Grade with Auckland & District & Canterbury Caledonian Society both part of the 26 bands entered in Grade 1.
- ◆ Results from the Queensland Championships Grade 4, NQ Scots 1st, Gold Coast Tweed 2nd & 3rd Queensland Highlanders No 2. Grade 3 had Ipswich Thistle 1st, Grade 2 St Andrews 1st and in Grade 1 Queensland Highlanders No 1 in 1st place.
- ◆ NSW Branch to trial Grade 4A & 4B at all contests approved by the Branch up to **but not** including Maclean in 2011.