



Australian Pipe Band Association Inc.

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2012 Australian Pipe Band Championships

The University of Ballarat Pipe Band have been successful in winning the rights to promote the Championships in Ballarat during the Easter weekend 6th to 9th April. Actual competition day/s and other events planned for the weekend will be advised in due course.

NEWSLETTER

October 2010

Welcome to this the 4th issue of our Newsletter for 2010, and on the 4th occasion it is on time, now I have made a rod for my back and will have to make sure its out on time in the future.

St Andrews Caledonian Pipe Band's 2010 Tour of Scotland and Ireland.

August is a time for particular focus in the pipe band world and St Andrews Caledonian Pipe Band, a Grade 4B band from Launceston, made their second international tilt this year. After their 2005 Tour of Scotland the band was very much in re-build mode and in 2010 only 9 of the 22 playing members in the touring group of 53 had competed outside of Australia. You can imagine - after only being in Scotland for 24 hours - what marching up to the line at the World Pipe Band Championships must have been like! In that context, the last placing at the Worlds was explainable, but nonetheless disappointing. However, it was part of a bigger picture.



The band's strength has been its concert performances and the travel group included two highland dancers and a World-class tenor voice. With that, the performing group provided lively concerts at

Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and Cambo Estate in Scotland, Powers Court in Southern Ireland and at Belfast City Hall in Northern Ireland. The entire touring party were treated to fabulous hospitality and were hosted by Councillor Pat Convrey, Lord Mayor of Belfast at Belfast City Hall and, prior to the contest at Portrush in Northern Ireland, by Councillor Norman Hillis, Mayor of Coleraine Borough Council, Fred Walker (RSPBANI President) and George Ussher (RSPBA President). At the end of the contest, the band was presented with a plaque of appreciation by Northern Ireland's Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure. The band was also treated to a fine night of whisky tasting at the home of Sir Peter and Lady Catherine Erskine to mark the fundraising for the Kingsbarns Distillery in Fife which, with a Tasmanian whisky distiller (and our band's Patron) Bill Lark at the helm, seemed appropriate.

The band's final contest was the Cowal Highland Gathering. It was a fabulous event and provided the band's best contest result (as hoped). The annual street march from the contest grounds to the ferry is the stuff of legend and to be in one topped off a great day. We're pretty easy to spot in the link provided!

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htImFIQ1SOs>)



If that wasn't enough, an unexpected highlight was for the band to lead the march-past of the massed bands at the three contests. This was a highlight for our Drum Major and also put the band into position in the massed band next to the leader bands: Strathclyde Fire & Rescue at Cowal, Field Marshall Montgomery at Portrush and Simon Fraser University Pipe Band at the Worlds. Not a bad achievement for a little band from Tassie!

As the band's members filter on home, it is time to take stock of our collective experience and to draw on the lessons to be learned. The trip was fabulous with

many happy reunions from the 2005 trip and plenty of new stories that will become part of the band's folklore. But at the heart of it are some great steps that can be taken to improve the band's musical performances. The desire to be better as a band, and knowing that our travelling ambitions are only limited by our imaginations (and, for now, gravity) will see the band develop further. After all, although we enjoy our splendid isolation in Tassie, it's good to get out once in a while!

John Ralph.



Pipefest was a huge success for a first time event in Australia. More than 70 pipers & drummers from Armidale Pipe Band, Bellinger River Pipe Band, Coffs Coast Pipes & Drums, Grafton District Pipe Band, Hastings District Pipe Band, Wingham Services Club Pipes & Drums and individual pipers and

drummers who came from Queensland Country united as one band to raise just over \$1800 for Cancer Council NSW, who were overwhelmed with the result. Thank you to all pipers & drummers, thanks also to the Coffs Harbour Scottish Country Dance group, Coffs

Pipefest Global Challenge

10,000 pipers and drummers around the World

Coast Drum Line, Colin Phillips (English Knight) & Ray Ellington (Scottish Highlander) for their re-enactment & all those who worked extremely hard to put the event together. Special thanks to the APBA NSW Branch for their support and kind donation of \$250. Congratulations to all the pipers and drummers who supported the event, you not only helped a very worthwhile charity but you also have done so much for the public image of Aussie pipe bands, once again THANK YOU, see you at Pipefest 2011.

Raey Edge (Pipe Major NSW Highlanders)

FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK

PAYING BY ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT)

All payments to the APBA can now be made by EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer).

The banking details for this type of payment can be found on the APBA website where the registration forms are located.

When using this style of payment there are some “MUST DO” requirements.

- 1) If an invoice number has not been obtained then a phone number MUST be used as a reference and if room permits your name or the name of the band for whom the payment is being made.
- 2) A Copy of the EFT transfer receipt **MUST** be forwarded to the Registrar.

On the invoice it is clearly stated that this MUST be done. Also in my last report for the APBA newsletter it was stated once again.

However the message does not seem to be getting through, so I ask that anyone making payments to the Association be made aware of these requirements

To Clear or Not to Clear – that is the Question

Since taking on this position I have been asking bands to clear players from their bands. I admit that this request is to make my job easier and I'm all for making my job easier. The choice to clear or not to clear a player or players is **always** the decision of the band.

In workshops I run for Registration I talk on why a band should or should not clear a player and the consequences of these actions.

At all times it is the PLAYERS responsibility to obtain a clearance should they be moving to another band.

Issuing a clearance by a bands means that the player being cleared has no financial or like obligation to the band.

Even if a player is not going to another band straight away providing they have no financial or like obligation a clearance should be issued. This player may return to your band but then again they may not. They may be out of pipe bands for years and then one day return and if they should return to another band and don't have a clearance from their original band, then they must obtain one at that time. This could be 2, 5, 10, 20 years later, they will still need a clearance.

If there is no intention for a player to step out onto the contest arena then why not clear them.

Fax Number

There are people out there that are trying to send faxes to my home number. There is now have a dedicated fax number. Could all member please ensure that band secretaries or anyone wishing to fax paperwork to me are using this number. This number can be found on the latest Application for Registration/Membership and Clearance forms that are found on the APBA website, under the “Rules” button - see “Forms”

08 9594 0345

Raylee Riley

APBA Registrar

Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Pipe Band's Northern Ireland & Scotland Trip 2010

Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Pipe Band have just returned from 25 days in the UK taking in various contests, including the European Championships in Belfast and the Worlds in Glasgow. While on tour they also had the opportunity to perform at some other exciting venues, including Edinburgh and Stirling Castles.

August 9th: our official photo shoot day. This was a day planned for the band, in full uniform to venture out into some of the icons of Scotland and get some photos which we could take home and treasure. First stop: Edinburgh Castle. The bands day started out at about 7am with two coaches arriving to pick us up and take us to Edinburgh. We had a window of 20 minutes to get on and off the drawbridge for a photo



shoot or the permission would be removed. That is no mean feat with 55 playing members and chaperones and supporters in tow. But we did it, and were rewarded with some fantastic photos for our albums.



Following the photo shoot we marched into Edinburgh Castle through the crowds to Hospital Square, where we had been invited to put on a performance. Here we played for about 20 to 30 minutes. This was a most memorable moment for most band members, standing inside Edinburgh Castle with all its history playing our music..... It's a memory that will take a long time to dim for most of us. We were then let loose for a couple of hours to explore the Castle before having to leave to head off for our next photo shoot which most people thought was Stirling Castle

But we had a wee surprise up our sleeve. Our Pipe Major Bob McLellan was born and raised until he was 9 years old, in a wee town called Blackburn. Unbeknownst to Bob we had organized a wee "detour" through Blackburn to enable Bob to lead the band onto play on the village green. The local Provost and Councillors had got right behind this especially as Bob turned 70 this year and was travelling with the band with his daughter and 2 grandchildren as playing members. It was really a special time for Bob and the band wanted to give something back to Bob for all he has done for piping over the years. Bobs face as we arrived was priceless. He really thought the coach drivers had totally 'stuffed it' and didn't they realize this community hall in Blackburn is not Stirling Castle.



We arrived for Bob and the band to be piped into a ceremony where Bob was presented with a miners lamp, cufflinks and other gifts. There were people present who went to school with Bob as a lad, and the local paper on duty to record it all. It was a special time for everyone, who were so pleased to be there to share this special time with Bob. The local pipers joined the band and all marched across to the village green to put on a short performance. We said our fond farewells and headed off for Stirling Castle.

Bob with Jim Dickson Provost of Lothian Council Bob is holding the miners lamp and cuff links he was presented from the Council

Finally arriving at Stirling Castle we marched in through the front gates, down through the crowds and into Queens Gardens. Here we presented a 30 minute performance in the most beautiful setting in the gardens, with the Wallace Monument in the background.

It was truly a beautiful way to set off a long but wonderful day. After a short photo shoot outside, we all piled back into the coaches and arrived at the King Robert Hotel in Stirling for a well earned beer and dinner.



Article provided by Marie Welch

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

It's good to hear that Alex McConnell and Ian Morrison are making steady recoveries. We look forward to seeing them back on the competition arenas soon.

APBA Branch elections held recently resulted in the following results;

	New South Wales	South Australia	Western Australia
Chairman	Michael Stubbing	Andy Fuller	James Cowie
Vice Chairman	Craig Mills	Craig Masson	
Vice Chairman	Adam Wishart	Anthony McKenna	
Secretary	Steven Patterson	Christine Gordon	Linda Alexander
Treasurer	Robyn Stubbing	Lindsay Chuck	Peter Fallon

Life Membership Congratulations to Mary Bell on being awarded life membership by the NSW Branch.

College Certificates

Congratulations to the following members who have obtain certificates

Alistair Boyle Snare Drumming - Preliminary & Elementary

Shaun Minne Snare Drumming - Preliminary & Elementary

LOST & FOUND

Where are the Australian & South Pacific Championship Shields? That's right SHIELDS of the wooden variety. If your Band name appears below, please check your trophy cabinets etc. and if in your possession get the engraving up to date, contact the APBA Inc. Secretary (Lindsay Chuck his contact details are on page 1), arrange for the shield in your possession to be returned ASAP, because they need to be in Timaru for awarding in March 2011.

In 2008, only 2 of the shields were available & not the 5 that should have been there for presentation so please Australian Bands let's make sure we find the shields that are in Australia at present - a similar appeal for return of shields is also happening in New Zealand.

GRADE 1

- 1999 at Dunedin NZ = NZ Police
- 2002 at Cleveland QLD = Manawatu Scottish
- 2005 at Invercargill NZ = Manawatu Scottish
- 2008 at Castle Hill NSW = The Band Club

GRADE 2

- 1999 at Dunedin NZ = City of Invercargill
- 2002 at Cleveland QLD = Bankstown R&SL No1
- 2005 at Invercargill NZ = Hamilton Caledonian
- 2008 at Castle Hill NSW = City of Adelaide

GRADE 3

- 1999 at Dunedin NZ = City of Nunawading
- 2002 at Cleveland QLD = Canberra Burns Club
- 2005 at Invercargill NZ = University of Ballarat
- 2008 at Castle Hill NSW = LCC Southern Cross

GRADE 4

- 1999 at Dunedin NZ = West Coast Taranaki Regt
- 2002 at Cleveland QLD = Haileybury College
- 2005 at Invercargill NZ = Ipswich Thistle
- 2008 at Castle Hill NSW = Scots College No1

JUVENILE

- 1999 at Dunedin NZ = NOT HELD
- 2002 at Cleveland QLD = QLD Police Juvenile
- 2005 at Invercargill NZ = John McGlashan College
- 2008 at Castle Hill NSW = Scots College No1

Good luck in 2011 to any Australian bands travelling across the "Ditch" to compete in Timaru

Provided by Robyn Stubbings

STRATHCLYDE POLICE

PIPE BAND 2010

Brett Tidswell

Article reproduced with permission from the South Australian Branch Magazine September 2010

This year I was delighted to be able to accept the invitation to compete during the Scottish season with the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band.

Undoubtedly the most famous pipe band of all time, the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band was formed in 1883 as the Burgh of Govan Police Pipe Band, making it arguably the oldest pipe band in the world outside of the British Military. In 1912 the band changed its name to the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band and then in 1975 after a regional restructure it finally became known as the Strathclyde Police Pipe Band.

Over the years the band has won an astounding 20 World Pipe Band Championships, the first in 1920 under Pipe Major William Gray, seven between 1936 and 1951 under Pipe Major John Macdonald and the legendary six wins in a row in the 1980's under Pipe Major Ian McLellan BEM. This broke the record of five wins in a row previously set by Muirhead and Sons Pipe Band in the 1960's. Distinctive in the Royal Stewart tartan the band is currently under the leadership of Pipe Major Don Bradford and Leading Side Eric Ward. The band today remains one of the top competitive bands in the world only featuring outside of the top six at the world championships once in the last 10 years. Most members are serving Police Officers supplemented by a handful of local guest players. This year Bruce Gandy of Canada and I were invited as overseas guest players.

The band won fourth place in the 2009 World Championships, and due to some issues beyond their control had lost several key players when it was thought that the band was going to fold. This was thankfully not to be, and several young pipers were recruited locally to bolster the piping numbers.

I was approached in March and music was sent in due course. It was not until after the Australian Championships and the R U Brown contest in May that work began in earnest on the two medleys, two MSR sets and 7 march sets that I was sent. The band plays nine 4 parted 6/8 Marches as a part of their contest requirements. As one of the top six bands they must play in the centre of the contest arena as bands march on for the finale. This is often an onerous requirement at the end of a day's competing.

I arrived in Scotland after some 32 hours travel on the 20th July and was playing with the band at practice some 6 hours later. The band supplied a set of McCallum bagpipes complete with sheepskin bag, so that I did not have to waste time acclimatising an

instrument. Practice consisted of a short chanter practice and then a quick run through snippets of the contest sets up on pipes. The same the following Thursday and then work started in earnest the following week.

On Sunday I spent the afternoon with Don Bradford and set up the bagpipes more to my liking. We spend half an hour running through some of the nuances of the bands playing in preparation for the following week. Each day I would play all of the contest sets, and then band practice would follow each night. Unlike when I had spent time with the band in the 1980's practice was no longer in the afternoons, but in the evenings and many players are absent due to Police shifts. Changes had to be made to a firearms course to ensure that we had decent numbers for the European Championships in Belfast the following weekend.

Following riots in Northern Ireland in the proceeding weeks, we were given security briefings and travelled to Belfast under strict security. We had a band practice in the Police compound that afternoon.

The following day we arrived at the last minute at the contest ground, waited for rain to finish, tuned for a short period and before we knew it, we were standing in the arena surrounded by numerous television cameras and microphones. The band played the Links of Forth, Athol Comers and McAllister's Dirk. This is a classic set that I heard the band play in contests and recordings in the 1980's. The nostalgia and history was not lost on me. The band seemed pleased when we came off the arena, and when the prizes were later announced we were fourth overall, but third in piping behind St Laurence O'Toole and Field Marshall Montgomery. We had beaten Boghall and Bathgate, Scottish Power and Shotts and Dykehead, as well as the other six non-placed grade 1 bands. This was well received as the band had been sixth at both the Scottish and British Championships in the month prior.

The following week we again dropped to two practices and then attended the Bridge of Allan games on the weekend. We were left with no doubt that the band was expected to win this contest by a big margin. When we arrived at the grounds we could hear Canterbury Caledonian Society from New Zealand tuning and they sounded very good. The Band Club from New South Wales were also to be heard, but it was obvious from the outset that they would be well out of the mix. We did not play the full sets before we went onto the grounds. It was difficult to tune as we had people crowded around the band and some even standing within the circle. Don called for us to force a space for the band and we managed to at least get people from their positions between the pipers. The band went on and played Donald Cameron, Cameronian Rant and Mrs MacPherson of Inveran. We had a very tight and clean run with a great sound. We won both piping and drumming with Fife Constabulary second, Inveraray and District third, Canterbury Calis fourth, Peel Police (Canada) fifth and Torphican and Bathgate sixth. In total eleven grade 1 bands competed.

The following week we had practice every night except Wednesday when many of the band went to the St Laurence O'Toole concert. It was plainly obvious they were the favoured band to win the World Championships. Bruce Gandy who had arrived and joined the band just before Bridge of Allan, commented that at no stage during the week had we actually played the entire medley. It was rare that an entire set would be played at practice. The onus is for each individual to me up with the music, to have a perfect instrument and to produce tone at all times.

Our bus arrived at Glasgow Green early in the morning of the World Championships. The band members attended later. Our tune up sessions were brief and always attracted a large crowd. This sometimes made it difficult for the band to move around without hindrance. We arrived at the line and drew the Links of Forth set. Apart from the first bad attack the band had done during my entire time with it, the set itself was well played and the band sounded very good. It was quite a warm day and many bands struggled to get drones to lock in and went peaky on the top hand. We however produced a very bold sound with great drones throughout the MSR. One of the best sounds of the day I think now listening back to the BBC recordings. The medley was also marred by a bad attack and seemed to take some time for the band to lock in together. Overall, I thought it was two performances that did not reflect the true ability of the band.

At the end of the day, the band came away with a seventh place out of the 26 competing grade 1 bands. To say the band was disappointed would be an understatement. St Laurence O'Toole were the popular winners and sounded very tight on the day. Field Marshall Montgomery produced a lovely pipe sound to get second place and Simon Fraser University I thought were lucky to eventually get a third. Boghall and Bathgate with Olav Goud playing in the snare section were fourth. Olav will be the new lead side for City of Adelaide in the coming year. Shotts and Dykehead were fifth and Scottish Power sixth. It was good to see Auckland and District with several City of Adelaide members make it through to the grade 1 final. Their 14th place I do not believe reflected the quality of tone and musical playing of the band. They seemed to have been hampered by their small (15 pipers) corps. The same was said of Strathclyde with 18 pipers competing. Many of the bands were over the mid twenties in piping numbers.

Overall a great day and personally I was happy to see the band remain in the top ten. Next year I think will bode well after a good winter session. A proud band indeed with a strong history and tradition of success at the World Pipe Band Championships. All of the grade 1 performances can be heard at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/music/worlds/2010/bands/>