



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

Monthly Newsletter

No.1, 2009



Upcoming Events *(more details below):*

- ❖ Next practice session: 10am, Sunday 15 March, 2009
- ❖ Anzac Day march: City - 7:00am, Saturday 25 April, 2009 *(tentative)*

Club Incorporation

Some of you will be aware that incorporation is a prerequisite to securing funding, opening a bank account, and other aspects of becoming a distinct operating entity. So, with help from several members, the Old Scotch Pipes & Drums achieved this milestone late last year (2008) after about a year of numerous playing practice days under an informal structure.

Seed Funding from OSCA

In addition to our annual membership subscription income, and to assist with supplies of reeds, matched pipe chanters, drums, uniform outfitting, and other band costs, we have recently been successful in securing initial seed funding of \$4,000 from OSCA. We are very grateful to the OSCA Committee for their generosity in assisting the band to further develop and grow. This initial funding is primarily intended to be used for outfitting of uniforms in accordance with the Committee's guidance – essential for our first public appearances, and intended to be relatively simple at the outset (kilt & sporran, Glengarry, matched with white hose (incl. flashes) and shirt, OSCA tie – and cooler weather may see additions to this basic outfit).

2009 Inaugural AGM

In accordance with the email notification to everyone, our inaugural AGM was recently held at 10am on Sunday 15 February at Pipe House in Morrison Street, Hawthorn. With the receipt of several nominations, we were able to confirm the key committee member roles of President, Vice President and Treasurer for 2009, as shown below. Nominations for additional committee

members and other key roles are welcomed, so we can further get the band up and running – and also get a few other folk lending a hand with the numerous other tasks & activities.

2009 Annual Subscription

At our recent AGM, it was decided that the annual subscription should stay at the nominal amount of \$60 pa – except that students and others in exceptional circumstances are eligible to apply for a concessional subscription of \$30 pa (we'd naturally like to see some proof of circumstance).

Monthly Practice Sessions

Each month, we are pleased to regularly see around 10~12 pipers and several drummers together rediscovering their playing skills and dusting off their repertoire. While a foundation of standard tunes is being honed, we are also enjoying working on several new tunes.

Monthly practice sessions are typically held on the 2nd Sunday of each month (10am, at **Pipe House, Morrison St, Hawthorn**), unless there is a clash with some other event. We also schedule some additional practice sessions if a special event is coming up (like our debut at Anzac day, this year). The nominal dates for 2009 practices are:

- **15 Mar, 12 Apr, 17 May, 14 June, 12 Jul, 9 Aug, 13 Sep, 11 Oct, 8 Nov, and 13 Dec.**
 - Extra sessions [TBC]: **29 Mar, 19 Apr**
- So, please mark these dates in your calendar and come along – all welcome.

Anzac Day – 2009

The band is currently hoping to make its first public appearance on Anzac Day this year – Saturday, 25 April – by marching in the annual parade down St Kilda Road to the Shrine of Remembrance.

While we are all keenly practicing a selection of the well-known standard march tunes at our Sunday gatherings and at home, other issues such as uniform outfitting and getting a sufficient drum corps together are matters that still need to be finally resolved.

More pipers & drummers needed

Typical for bands like ours, we will always be seeking more pipers and drummers to join the band.

Currently, we are very keen for more **drummers** (snare, tenor & bass) to come along and join our very friendly and enjoyable band practices & activities – it doesn't matter if you haven't played for 40 years – you won't be alone! Come and have a go!

And there may even be some semi-regular refreshments following our activities to turn our mistakes into humour and celebrate the gradual improvement in playing skills by everyone.

Forthcoming band competitions

If you are interested to see contemporary pipe bands playing competitively today, you may be interested in going to the following events:

- Ballarat – Wendouree Parade & Nursery Drv, 10am, Sunday 22 February
- Geelong – Queens Park, Newtown, 10am, Sunday 8 March
- Ringwood – Jubilee Park, Ringwood, 10am, Sunday 5 April

The Scotch Pipes & Drums will be competing at these events, along with

Committee Members:

President: Brian Symington - Tel: 0408 381 898

Vice-Pres: Stewart Wallace - Tel: 0409 022 334

Treasurer: Graham Reid - Tel: 0409 350 059

Secretary: open to nominations

Committee: open to nominations

others including PLC, Haileybury, Watsonia RSL, Clayton RSL, Hawthorn City, Univ of Ballarat, Golden City and many others. Some of the Old Scotch members will also be there assisting, or just soaking up the nostalgia and sharing dubious stories of past fame.

We are hoping to begin fielding a competition band for the next competition season commencing end-2009.

Pipe music & drum scores

We now provide a 2-CD set that includes not only the sheet music (pdf files), but also sound recordings of all the essential tunes forming the basic repertoire of the band. This CD set comes as a part of your annual subscription, and is a very useful aid to resurrecting playing skills and remembering the melodies.

While drum scores are not yet included on CD, we have access to drum tutors who are able to refresh your memory and provide relevant written scores. We hope to include these scores on the CD set later this year.

Participation at OSCA Events

As a condition of providing our initial funding, the OSCA Committee has asked that the band make itself available to play at various OSCA events – such as the annual dinner, the AGM, and President's night – along with occasional performances at the Old Scotch Music & Drama Club. In that context, there is opportunity for members to catch up with other long-lost 'old boy' friends while showing that 'you've still got it' when it comes to your playing skills.

We will be keenly seeking volunteers in advance of these events – so more news later.

Next Month: hopefully, some photographs of the band in action!!

Piping Tutors: Jono Quay – Tel: 0430 291 604

Brian Symington – Tel: 0408 381 898

Drum Tutor: TBC

Pipe Major: TBD

Drum Major: TBD

Lead Drummer: TBD

New members: Stewart Wallace - Tel: 0409 022 334