



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

Monthly Newsletter

No.2, 2009



Upcoming Events *(more details below):*

- ❖ Next practice session: 10am, Sunday 19 April, 2009
- ❖ Anzac Day march: City - 7:00am, Saturday 25 April, 2009 *(tentative)*
- ❖ OSCA Annual Dinner – 6:45pm, Friday 29 May, 2009 *(Leonda by the Yarra)*

New Band Uniform

The big news this month is that we now have a uniform!! An outfitting night occurred on Wednesday 25 March at the Scotch Q-store, where a photographic record of the 'spectacle' will reflect a fair bit of hilarity. Consisting of kilt (the faithful old Gordon tartan), leather sporran, full braided jacket, Glengarry, red checked hose, white spats, white belt, and flashes, the uniform also offers mix-and-match options for both winter and summer events (just a white shirt, tie and cream hose in summer?). While recollections of spats might trigger a few mental shivers, they now involve Velcro rather than myriad buttons, and will probably distinguish only the more formal parades. For those not yet outfitted, please contact our President, Brian Symington, to arrange a convenient time for kitting out.

Charity Footy Match at Kinglake

The band recently responded to a request to provide a piper, to enhance the atmosphere at a football match between a social side from OS Football Club and the Kinglake team, as part of a benefit event to assist the fire recovery effort in that area. OSCA also presented a cheque for \$15,000, raised via a Cardinals charity breakfast some weeks ago, to assist the Kinglake community with immediate needs while waiting for more extensive government relief funding. OSCA also provided all the BBQ meat, bread, buns, cakes and soft drinks that were given out freely to all attendees. The match was a great success (although we lost - about 6 goals to 24!) and OSCA was most warmly

received by the Kinglake community. Our piper (yours truly) played for over 4 hours, to the point of pipes becoming too sodden to work anymore – but was treated to liberal refreshments both at Kinglake and on the bus back home. Talking with community members highlighted the astonishing ferocity of the fires, the extensive impact on the communities, and the deep and overwhelming gratitude felt by these people for the generous response of Australians to their plight. The post-fire landscape is truly a mind-numbing sight – although the buds of bright green regrowth are already becoming visible.

Anzac Day – 2009

With its uniform now sorted out, the band is still 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, the issue of getting a sufficient drum corps together is still a matter to be resolved.

Piping & Drumming Clinic

Several of our members have booked in to this fun weekend clinic scheduled for 1~3 May in Warrnambool (Friday evening start). See the Warrnambool & District Pipes & Drums web site (www.wadpadi.org.au) or call (03) 5565 1374. Piping and drumming classes are intensive but involving lots of personal attention by international and leading Australian tutors, and divided up to cater for all levels from beginner to advanced –

even a course for Drum Majors, along with other topics for pipers and drummers on practice techniques, music selection, music theory, maintenance, tuning, dress & drill, and preparation for competition. We haven't yet appointed a Drum Major, so if anyone is especially interested in that important role, this weekend course may be especially useful. (Try the Warrnambool Hotel for accommodation - (03) 5562 2377.)

More Drummers Wanted

We are still keenly seeking more drummers for the band, so if you know anyone – or may be able to contact an old band member who could be persuaded to give it another go (no matter how rusty!) – give them a call and invite them to come along and join in.

Annual Subscriptions now due

Per our previous newsletter, annual subscriptions will stay at the current rate of \$60 pa and are now due. Students and others in exceptional circumstances are invited to apply for a concessional subscription of \$30 pa (we'd naturally like to see some proof of circumstance). Your subscription will get you a copy of the band's 2-CD set featuring our standard settings of sheet music and good quality recordings of each tune.

Monthly Practice Sessions

Our monthly practice sessions are continuing to attract around 10~12 pipers and several drummers polishing up their playing skills and extending their repertoire. We are also working on several interesting new tunes. Note that 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. The remaining dates for 2009 are:

- 19 Apr, 17 May, 14 June, 12 Jul, 9 Aug, 13 Sep, 11 Oct, 8 Nov, and 13 Dec.

So, mark these dates in your calendar and come along – **all welcome**. There may also be additional practice days scheduled to brush up our performance

ahead of various special events – so watch this space.

New Band Tunes

Most regular pipers should by now have mastered our new 4-part 6/8 march **John Barclay**, so you should begin looking at the music for our other new 4-part 6/8 march, **Angus McKinnon** (see the OSP&D CD set). We'll be spending a bit of practice time on this tune at our next practice day (April 19th).

Recent & Future Band Competitions

The recent Geelong Highland Gathering on 8 March was once again a memorable day. Scotch again beat Haileybury in the bands competition, while PLC continues to improve under the tutelage of Jono Quay with a very creditable 3rd placing. The next bands competition (the last for this season) is scheduled for:

- Ringwood – Jubilee Park, Ringwood, 10am, Sunday 5 April

Note that OSP&D is planning to field a competition band itself for the next competition season starting in late-2009.

Winter Piping

The winter solo piping competitions will be starting soon (17th May, at Scotch) and we know several members are contemplating having a stab to help improve their playing technique generally. There's lots of goodwill surrounding these events, so don't be shy of fronting up – quite a social time, as well. Call us if you want more details or to catch a lift and go in a small group. See: www.vicpipers.org.

Forthcoming OSCA Events

The annual dinner is coming up on Friday 29 May (6:45pm, Leonda) and bookings close on Monday 4 May. We will shortly be seeking several pipers to volunteer their playing skills for the occasion. If you haven't made other arrangements, you might otherwise like to join us to make up an OSP&D table. Cost is only \$120 per head, and by all accounts it will be a memorable evening to catch up with old mates. See: www.oscanet.com.au.

Vacancies on Committee

We are still seeking several additional committee members, to help with the many aspects of getting the band up and going – so, those with a modicum of numeracy don't be surprised if you get a tap on the shoulder. We are especially encouraging of our younger members to step forward and take up leadership roles to help the band stay relevant and up-to-date.

A Scot decided to visit London for his once-in-a-lifetime holiday and booked into a large (but not overly extravagant) hotel. However, he didnae feel that the natives were very friendly. "At 4 o'clock every morning," he told a friend, "they hammered on my bedroom door, on the walls, even on the floor and ceiling. Heck, sometimes they hammered so loud I could hardly hear myself playing the pipes."

[Courtesy: St Andrews Society of San Francisco]

Development of OSP&D Web Site

As we begin to accumulate more photographs, establish a standing repertoire of music and drum scores, along with a larger bulletin board of information and range of activities generally, we anticipate that a permanent web site will become a handy tool. So, if any of you have experience in web site design and development, Java programming, security, or even ideas about its aesthetics (look & feel), layout/structure, key features and essential information, the committee would be keen for you to contribute and help gather it all together. For contacts, see below – or email: tothewallaces@bigpond.com.

2009 Committee Members:

President: Brian Symington - Tel: (03) 9818 8414
Vice-Pres: Stewart Wallace - Tel: 0409 022 334
Treasurer: Graham Reid - Tel: 0409 350 059
Secretary: open to nominations
Committee: open to nominations

Piping Tutors: Jono Quay – Tel: 0430 291 604
Brian Symington – Tel: (03) 9818 8414
Drum Tutor: TBC

Insurance

Just by way of information for members, all bands playing in competitions or involved in public events are typically required to be covered by public liability insurance. As an incorporated non-profit entity directly associated with OSCA we are automatically covered in this regard by a blanket policy held directly by OSCA.

Separately, we are now investigating the need and scope of insurance to cover OSP&D members and office bearers in the event of any injuries to members that might arise in the course of their participation in organised events and band activities. If anyone has particular knowledge or expertise in this area, or can recommend a company specialising in insurance for non-profit entities (eg. sporting clubs), then we would be keen to hear from you.

OSP&D Logo and Badge

We are also progressing the development of a unique design for the OSP&D logo and badge (Glengarry, sporan, etc), and will probably be circulating that shortly amongst paid-up members for comment. The several options currently being examined are quite interesting, including a much more contemporary rather than the traditional 'look'. Once again: watch this space. There is also discussion of a funky T-shirt design, to be worn under the uniform jacket for general comfort, and which would otherwise present a unique band identity when jackets may be 'off' before and after band performances. Any design ideas will be very much welcomed.

2009 Band Leaders:

Pipe Major: TBA
Drum Major: TBA
Lead Drummer: TBA

New members:

Contact: Stewart Wallace - Tel: 0409 022 334



"Hey, Brian, this is the same jacket I had at school!" - uniform outfitting (25 March 2009)



"C'mon guys! – give us a big cheesy grin!! – it wasn't that hard!" – Kinglake charity footy match (22 March 2009)