



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

Monthly Newsletter

No.1, 2010



Upcoming Events *(more details below):*

- ❖ Next regular monthly practice session: 10:00am, Sunday 7th March, 2010
- ❖ Victorian Pipe Band Championships - Haileybury, Sunday 14th March, 2010
- ❖ ANZAC Day March – Croydon (TBC): 1:30pm Sunday 18th April, 2010
- ❖ ANZAC Day March & Golf weekend – Bright: 24~25th April, 2010 [*TBC]
- ❖ ANZAC Day March – St Kilda Rd to Shrine: 8:00am, 25th April, 2010 [*TBC]

REMINDER: 2010 subscriptions are now due - \$60 pa (\$30 concession)

Send your cheque ("Old Scotch Pipes & Drums Inc") to:
OSP&D Treasurer, 82 The Esplanade, Clifton Hill, VIC 3068

Help support the band in its big growth & development year.

OS Pipes & Drums AGM

Thanks to all those members who were able to get along to our annual AGM on 14th February. And special thanks to several stalwarts willing to actively assist our development, we now have a full committee (*see panel at the end*). Once again, and despite his other commitments, Jono Quay has kindly agreed to continue as our Piping Tutor for this year – highly appreciated by us all.

Other items under general business:

- Ongoing encouragement of membership amongst alumni – especially drummers;
- Further development of uniform is in the wind;
- Acquisition of drums (see below);
- ANZAC march options (below).

We're reliant on members & newsletter recipients to further spread the word and help grow the band – so please feel free. Remember, we do lots of other things besides piping/drumming: rare beers (including non-alco types), golf, culinary, whisky tastings, and maybe even a bit of day-cycling this year.

☺ *I recently came across this useful exercise to help pipers maintain strength & stamina beyond their youth: Stand on a comfortable surface, with plenty of room to each side. With a 5kg potato sack in each hand, extend*

your arms out sideways and hold them straight out as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax. Do three repetitions each day. You should gradually be able to hold it for a little longer each day. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10kg potato sacks. Then try 25kg potato sacks, and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 50kg potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight out for more than a full minute (I'm at this level now). Once you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each sack.

OS P&D Web Site

Yes, we are now **live** on the web!!... well, at least with an 'initial' web 'presence'.

Go see: www.oldsotchpipeband.net.

While we now have a 'professional' designer (*many thanks Andrew!*) working on sprucing up our web site – and integrating all the 'bells-and-whistles', such as tune files (.bww, pdf & mp3), past newsletters, email contact forms, etc – the current site does provide a convenient reminder of all our practice payout dates & other events. So, do take the time to have a look – we'd welcome any suggestions on what else we should include in the site structure – and indeed any other **constructive & helpful** suggestions. If anyone has some relevant, interesting photographs, we'd certainly be interested to get an electronic copy. It will obviously be an iterative process to bring it fully up to

being a suitably attractive and enticing image for the band.

By way of a comparison, have a look at the Perth Highland Pipe Band site at:

<http://www.perthhighland.com/index.htm>

...an interesting context, but quite a good site format and structure nonetheless.

And ... from Reekin' Lum....

I've done th' scientific calculations tae prove that were Mr Reid to cease chewing gum, he wud add 2.73 kg due t' muscular inactivity but 'twud mak his pipes a wee bit easier tae blow.....

Mr Symington has now achieved a lower score than a drummer for a round o' golf – tha's soon to be rectified, laddie!! An' there'll be more tae report as the year begins t' bloom. Slainte.

Reekin' Lum

Anzac Day 2010 - Options

As you'll note from the header, we're confronting three ANZAC march opportunities this year:

- Croydon RSL – Sunday 18th April – an easy afternoon (1:30pm) gig, the week before ANZAC day.
- Bright RSL – Sat/Sun 24/25th April - combined golf weekend in scenic Bright (stunning course!) with an easy morning gig.
- St Kilda Road – Sunday 25th April – the major Melbourne 'showcase' march.

The last two are alternatives – we can't field a band for both – so email us your availability and preferences ASAP (especially if you need uniform outfitting).

The 2009 OSP&D EOY BBQ

For those who missed it, our end-of-year BBQ on December 6th was a truly memorable day. A number of epic 'reds' were dusted off and shared around, along with some unusual beers, variety of BBQ delicacies, salads, desserts, and a lot of chatter and dubious yarns. Even our own Reekin' Lum turned up with mischievous intent. Positive feedback from the neighbours (*and* the band WAGs) has proven our playing skills are

now quite harmonious (as opposed to just loud).

We're now all looking forward to maybe an 'autumn' BBQ session out at the famous "farm" down past Leongatha...??

- ☺ *A stocky young Scot applied to join the Victoria Police Force. The recruitment inspector glared at him and asked: "So, Mr MacGregor, how would you disperse an unruly crowd at closing time?" "Weel" replied Hamish, "Ah'm none too sure how ye do it here, but in Aberdeen we jus' pass the hat aroun' and they soon begin to shuffle off."*

Berwick Highland Gathering (Feb 14th)

A small representative bunch headed out to Berwick in mid-February – the first band competition for 2010 – to keep in touch with contemporary pipe band performance and music trends. The number of bands seemed slightly down on previous years – but, it was still a very enjoyable day. Both Scotch and PLC bands were competing and, while Scotch was unfortunately (*and somewhat surprisingly?*) pipped by Haileybury in the Juvenile section, and came in 3rd behind Watsonia RSL and City of Melbourne in Grade 3, the PLC Pipes & Drums scored two creditable 3rd places and some useful prize money that was immediately invested in a heavy-duty BBQ and gas wok-ring. We now know where to find the fresh and spicy fried noodles at future band events!! See all the results at:

<http://www.pipebandsvic.com/store/page.pl?id=52>

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Ballarat Band Competition (Feb 21st)

A number of us also trekked up to Ballarat to see a somewhat larger gathering of bands – including a few more Grade 2 and 3 bands presenting quite impressive performances. Once again, the Scotch band was unfortunately pipped by Haileybury in the Juvenile section, and by Watsonia RSL in Grade 3. Meanwhile, Hawthorn City was only just eclipsed by Moorabbin RSL in the Grade 2 competition. You can see all the detailed competition results at: http://www.royalsouthstreet.com.au/results/highland_pipe_bands/2010/february/21

New Drums for OS P&D

As previously mentioned, we have a fortuitous opportunity to acquire our own drums – 2nd hand, of course, with delivery dependent on arrival of their replacements. We understand that is now only about 4 weeks away – and prior to ANZAC day. With this key acquisition, we'll be able to publicly parade our own unique logo on the bass – that logo design (*hopefully*) soon to be settled ... (*polite nudge!*).

Newbury Sauce

Now, here's an unusual one for you culinary crusaders – goes well on 'puddings' (*yep - love 'em!*):

- 1 vanilla bean pod
- Pinch of nutmeg
- 500 ml milk
- 25gm butter
- 25gm flour
- 2 tblspn white sugar
- 2 tblspn full cream
- 2 egg yolks
- 50ml whisky

Take the vanilla beans from the pod and add to the milk in a saucepan. Begin gently heating and add the nutmeg while gently stirring until it begins to bubble – take off the heat and allow to cool before straining out the beans.

Melt butter in another saucepan and gradually stir in the flour to make a smooth sauce – be careful not to over cook (lumpy! Yuk!). Take it off the heat and stir in the vanilla milk.

When smooth, put it back on the heat and add the sugar and simmer for two minutes.

Mix the egg yolks and cream in a bowl to a smooth consistency – add ¼ of the vanilla sauce while stirring. Then gently add this mixture back into the remaining vanilla sauce.

Add the whisky (to taste) while gently heating for a few minutes – don't allow it to boil!! Serve warm.

Next OS P&D Practice Session

As you'll note from our web site, our next practice playout is scheduled for 10am Sunday 7th March – and we look forward to seeing a few more drummers...!! With the ANZAC marches coming up in April, we need to polish up our drill a bit more.

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Proposed 2010 Band Playout Dates

For those without ready Internet access, the following dates are provided for your forward planning in your diary (*noting that they are all from 10am ~ 12noon on the relevant date*):

Sunday 7th March – next weekend!

Sunday 11th April

Sunday 16th May

Sunday 20th June

Sunday 11th July

Sunday 8th August

Sunday 12th September

Sunday 10th October

Sunday 7th November

Sunday 12th December – EOY BBQ

These dates are subject to possible change from time to time, if clashes arise with other events We'll endeavour to keep members aware of any changes via email and our newsletter.

We've also received a couple of comments regarding whether 10am Sundays is the optimum practice time to suit everyone. Several folk have suggested alternating with Monday or Wednesday evenings (or as additions). We're certainly open to suggestions – so drop us an email if you would prefer some alternative playing/practice regimen.

☺ *A zoology student went to Borneo to undertake field study of a rare butterfly and, after hiring a native guide with canoe started out on his journey up river. About a day out, they began to hear drums. Being unfamiliar with local tribes & customs, the student asked "What are those drums?" The guide replied "Drums OK, but very bad when they stop." A week later, just as they were packing up camp to return, the drums suddenly stopped. The eerie silence was unnerving, and the panicky student cried "The drums have stopped! What happens now?" The guide, going a little pale, quickly put his hands to his head and replied "Bagpipe solo!"...*

Handy Internet Links

The following Internet links, identified by various members, provide access to some interesting content that you may find useful:

Victorian Pipe Band Association:

<http://www.pipebandsvic.com/store/default.pl>

Victorian Pipers Association:

<http://www.vicpipers.org/>

Pipe Bands Australia:

<http://www.pipebands.asn.au/index.asp>

The Royal Scottish Pipe Bands Assoc'n:

<http://www.rspba.org/>

Download the Bagpipe Player software:

<http://www3.telus.net/public/dougwick/>

Bagpipe Tuning:

<http://www.hotpipes.com/tuning.html>

http://cityofoaks.home.netcom.com/Bagpipe_Tuning.html

Drumming Scores:

<http://www.drumscoresearch.org/?select=listbook&book=ADB1>

Free subscription to access music scores:

www.scottishpiperclub.com

Traditional Scottish Recipes:

http://www.rampantscotland.com/recipes/blrecipe_index.htm

There is a huge variety of other stuff available on the Internet limited only by your imagination in regard to key search 'arguments'.

2010 Committee Members:

President: Brian Symington - Tel: (03) 9818 8414

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

Treasurer: Graham Reid

Secretary: Colin Bates

Committee: Keith Heale, Peter Falconer

Piping Tutor: Jono Quay – Tel: 0430 291 604

Drum Tutor: TBC

2010 Band Leaders:

Pipe Major: TBA

Drum Major: TBA

Lead Drummer: TBA

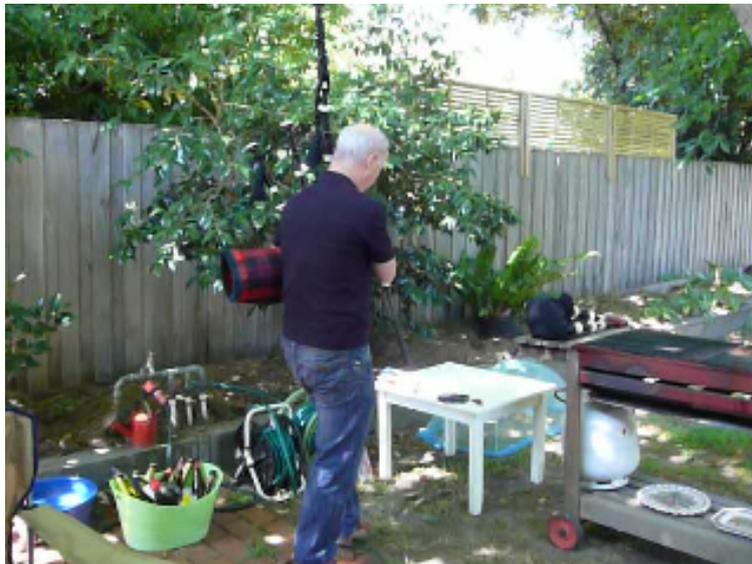
New members:

Contact: Stewart Wallace - Tel: 0409 022 334

OS P&D End-of Year BBQ – entertaining the Eastern Suburbs



.....and defending (*or wooing?*) the vittals !



.....and note the Brown tartan on the bag cover – in honour of the late Bill Brown who taught many of our older members. There has been a suggestion that we adopt this tartan as uniform bag covers for the OSP&D band.....