



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

Monthly Newsletter

No.2, 2012



Upcoming Events (more details below):

- ❖ Next OSP&D Practice session – **3pm Saturday 12th May**
- ❖ 1st Solo piping competition 2012 – 9:30am Sunday 20th May at Scotch
- ❖ OSCA Annual Dinner – OSP&D Table – Friday 25th May, Leonda

OSCA Annual Dinner 2012

The OSCA Annual dinner is scheduled for Friday 25th May - and is a key opportunity for all of you who've thought about the band, but are hesitating to go to a practice session to see if they can still play. We know who you all are – and we may be personally phoning to invite you to join the band tables, just to catch up with old mates.

It is always a *great* night! – the guest MC and speaker are typically both *highly entertaining*. We would urge you not to miss it! Dinner cost is \$125 per person (\$100 for 2002-2011 alumni). You will need to let us know **ASAP**, if you would like to join us - email either:

- Stewart Wallace – tothewallaces@bigpond.com
- John 'Traz' Zelcer – john.zelcer@gmail.com

As usual, the OSP&D will perform 'out front' to welcome arriving guests, pipe in the Haggis, and provide a further special performance inside, later in the night.

Annual Croydon RSL ANZAC March

Once again OSP&D ventured out to the Croydon RSL to lead their annual ANZAC street march commemorating the war fallen. This march is convened on the Sunday preceding ANZAC Day, and is always an occasion of warm welcome for OSP&D – now the 3rd year we've led this growing event. The RSL very kindly provides us a few 'refreshing ales' following the service – and this year even kicked in a light sandwich/pie-and-sauce lunch prior to the march (*since we had all rushed across from our Tattoo rehearsal in the morning*). See several photographs of our performance attached – and YouTube video at: <http://youtu.be/BNNkw4oGUP1> .

Melbourne ANZAC Parade

On Wednesday 25th April, the OSP&D again participated in the annual Melbourne ANZAC Parade down St Kilda Road to the Shrine of Remembrance. You can see a rather impressive video clip of us (*courtesy ABC-TV*), playing up the Shrine forecourt on You-Tube™ at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_ENBAfuumg – enjoy!

The OSP&D was also the *featured* pipe band on the 6pm **Channel 7** news reporting of the Melbourne Parade that same night! We deliberately used the rules to our advantage – *cease playing when you hear the 'static' band* - by playing *all the way* up the forecourt to the first set of steps – and thus got all the TV coverage as a result. Most other bands looked rather drab, in comparison – with only passing glimpses of them stepping silently on the approach – a *master stroke* by our P/M!!

Scotch annual Military Tattoo

To complete a busy week, the OSP&D also once again played in the annual Military Tattoo at Scotch, on Friday evening 27th April. This year we had our own performance piece on the programme, presenting our new medley. It was also rather a wet week for the band – so we were all hoping for a clear night. While the first on-ground practice may have been a little *erratic(?)*, we found the second practice session much more encouraging. But, at the event, the show turned out to be another triumph – especially for OSP&D. Our inaugural public performance of our new medley

saw everyone clearly focused on tempo, transitions, and getting neatly into formation – and resulting in a fantastic musical presentation. A hearty '**well done!**' to all our regular players.

☺ **Haunting questions:** *When you reach heaven, do you get stuck for eternity wearing the same clothes that you were buried in? Why does a round pizza come in a square box? Why do toasters always have a setting that burns toast to a crispy charcoal that no decent human being would ever actually eat?*

OSCA Centenary - 2013

As you will all now be aware, 2013 is the **OSCA Centenary** – and some big things are being planned for this important milestone. You may not be aware that, amongst the Melbourne non-government schools, the vibrancy of OSCA (& its clubs and societies!) is unmatched by any other school, and the envy of most. It is testament to the lifetime camaraderie between Scotch 'old boys' irrespective of their individual paths through life (or respective school years!). A casual check with friends alumni from other schools readily confirms that the OSCA 'energy' truly is unique to Scotch – a wonderful atmosphere of lifelong friendship and support.

Throughout the centenary year, OSP&D will be featuring in many of the celebratory events. And, in that light, we're keen to contact all those 'old boy' pipers and drummers who might have *thought* about joining us - but are still prevaricating. No reason to hesitate!! The Centenary is still 9 months away - giving us *plenty of time* to dust off your playing skills and get you back up to speed - so that you too can play with the 'old boys' band at this major milestone.

You'll be included in the commemorative photographs of OSP&D playing at the key Centenary events – the OSCA dinner (*Crowne ballroom!*) and the President's Dinner, for a start - and your name will go down in OSCA history as a band member at these events.

So, if you haven't played in 10 years, 20 years, or even 40 years – and worried

you can't do it anymore? - do come along to our practice sessions, and we'll soon get you confidently playing again and enjoying the band environment...it's just like riding a bicycle!

☺ *From the Scottish Voice (SVCG):*

*Ere Berwick was upon the Tweed, ere Gretna was so green,
Ere Rabbie Burns wrote poems for St Andrews folk to sing,
There came to bonnie Scotland's shore a wicked demon king.
He heard the bluebells ringing and he loathed the lovely sound.
'Och! This is whaur Ah tak a haun!' he croaked and looked around.
He took the wailing of the wind that scurries through the pass;
He took the neighing of a horse, the braying of an ass;
He took the screech that metal makes when much in need of oil;
He took the sound that kettles make when well upon the boil;
He took the squealing of a sow, the shrieking of a rasp;
He took the bellow of a cow, and then a fat man's gasp.
He mixed them all with fiendish grin, and in a moment ripe,
There broke o'er bank and brae the din of Scotland's first bagpipe.*

2012 Solo Piping Competitions

For those interested to push their piping practice a little more, the winter solo piping competitions are about to commence – first event at Scotch on Sunday 20th May (9:30am registration). With a number of OSP&D pipers now competing or contemplating competing this year, we highlight the tune requirements for this first solo event:

Novice:

- 2/4 march of 2 parts
- 3/4 march of 2 parts

D-grade:

- 2/4 march of 4 parts
- Strathspey & reel of 4 parts

For tune requirements of the higher grades, refer to the Victorian Pipers Association web site at (*look under 'tune requirements'*): www.vicpipers.org.au.

While being *a little competitive*, these events are always a lot of fun – a chance to meet other pipers around Victoria (*most of them are pretty good blokes!*), and they certainly give you reason to practice, soon producing a noticeable ‘lift’ in your playing skills. Come and have a go – even in *Novice*, if you’re still a bit tentative.

☺ **More Haunting questions:** *If humans evolved from the apes, why are there still apes? If canola oil is made from canola, and peanut oil is made from peanuts, what is baby oil made from? Is there ever a day when mattresses and rugs are not ‘on sale’?*

Solo Drumming Events

And, to give our drummers a bit of fun, along with a healthy bit of challenge, there are usually several solo drumming competitions each year:

- Horsham solo drumming – October
- Scotch solo drumming – 28th Oct (prior to the mini-bands competition)
- Daylesford Highland Games – 1st December

More details can be found on the respective web sites for these events. The pipers are finding that the solos give us that subtle nudge to do a bit more practice, and focus on fundamentals a bit more – thus improving playing skills.

☺ **More haunting questions:** *How do those dead bugs get inside the fully enclosed light fittings? Why do people keep returning to the ‘fridge, hoping that something new to eat will have materialised? Why do people believe you when you say there are 4 billion stars in the sky, but always check when you say the paint is wet?*

Annual Celtic Festivals

For those who like to browse around the Celtic goods stalls, you might like to note the dates of these annual events:

- *National Celtic Festival*, Portarlinton (Fri 8th – Mon 11th June)
- *Kilmore Celtic Festival* (Fri 29th Jun – Sun 1st Jul)

You will usually find a wide range of items being offered for sale, including: Brogues, Argyle & Prince Charlie jackets, and Inverness capes (Celtic Affairs); felt

and woven hats, berets, deer-stalkers, etc; pewter kilt pins & brooches; Celtic ceramics; wall-plates, flags, and clan paraphernalia; and many other items of curious note.

Remaining OSP&D Activities in 2012

We had to reschedule a couple of our planned social activities this year, due to playing events and associated practices. Assuming members support and enjoy such activities – then a couple of volunteers needed to take on organisation of several of these activities:

- Annual OSP&D cycling trip (10th Jun?) – a day-trip along a scenic cycle track/rail-trail, with obligatory band performance at a selected lunch venue – Scott or Keith?
- Country pub lunch (15th Jul) – venue TBC (*The Commercial, Alexandra?* – famous for its chicken parma options) – also culminating in a band performance – Ewen?
- Golf day (Sep/Oct?) – venue TBA (*the very scenic Mornington GC?*) – with an end-of-round band performance – Graham or Kim?
- Rural vineyard lunch (4th Nov) – venue to be proposed (*Yarra Glen, Strathbogie, or ...?*) – along with our usual informal performance – Peter, or Rick B?

If anyone else has some other thoughts, we would welcome your input. The idea is to include spouse/partner in these activities – of course, all aimed at maintaining ‘domestic harmony’.

Otherwise, our 2012 calendar of activities (see update attached) looks **rather full!!!** And, we still haven’t got a lawn bowls day could we really fit it in?

2012 Scotch Mini-Band Competition

Now that we have our signature ‘medley’ working reasonably well, we can start thinking about the several remaining band competitions in 2012. The Scotch mini-band event, scheduled for Sunday 28th October is a key prospect for our debut. So, keep practising the medley set, until it becomes second-nature – you should be able to watch TV whilst playing, without losing your place or making an error in the tunes!! The mini-

band comps are a prime opportunity to see if we've really got our tunes fully memorised with precision & proper expression...your call!

Red Hot Chilli Pipers – in Melbourne!

Yes! – believe it or not, those masters of 'bag-rock', the now-famous RHCP are coming to Melbourne for one night only! - 8pm, Saturday 15th October 2012, Atheneum Theatre. Mark your diary – we may do a 'group' booking, if enough folks are interested. Possibly a quick bite beforehand – or supper afterwards ... that sort of thing. Tickets are not yet on sale – but, be warned, **they will sell out fast** as soon as they are released.

☺ *The statistics on sanity show that one out of every four people is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends – if they're OK, then it's you!*

OSP&D's 2012 Medley

Just a reminder (for your own practice) of the required tempos for our new medley set:

- Wings (95 bpm)
- Molly Connell (120)
- Christie McLeod (95)
- When the pipers play (80)
- Atholl Highlanders jig (118)
- Major May (85)

☺ **Report from one of our pipers** (I promised Peter I wouldn't mention his name): "There's something about that %^\$#% Atholl Highlanders jig that upsets the local dogs!!"

2012 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, Benjamin Casey

Piping Tutor: Brian Symington – Tel: (03) 9818 8414

Drum Tutor: Scott Diener – Tel: (03) 9314 4441

2012 Scotch/Hawthorn Ceilidh

Once again, we highlight the emerging discussions around another 'charity performance' in 2012 – and, if OSP&D is interested to contribute an item or two, it's likely we may be invited to participate.

Last year's performance at the James Forbes Academy was a very impressive musical event - under the creative direction of Mark Saul. And Mark, once again, proved himself an innovative and brilliant piping composer, arranger and band master – with a truly amazing collection of enthralling music – some quite different to traditional pipe band tunes! So, stay tuned (☺) – we'll let you know more as the planning progresses.

☺ *A very popular Scot died in Glasgow, and his widow wishes to tell all his friends at once. So she goes to the newspaper office and says "I'd like tae place an obituary fer ma late husband." The clerk replies "OK – how much money dae y have?" The old woman responds "Five pound." To which the man says "You won't get many words fer that – but write something an' we'll see if it's OK." The widow scribbles down some words and hands the slip of paper to the clerk. He reads 'Peter Reid, fae Parkheid, deid'. Now feeling guilty at the abruptness of this statement, he encourages the old woman to add a few more words. She ponders, and then adds a little more before handing the paper back. The clerk then reads 'Peter Reid, fae Parkheid, deid. Ford Escort for sale'.*

2012 Band Leaders:

Pipe Major: Brian Symington

Drum Major: Benjamin Casey

Lead Drummer: Scott Diener

New members:

Contact: Stewart Wallace - Tel: 0409 022 334

Webmaster: Andrew Buick – Tel: 0408 034 919

Some OSP&D members in close-up (*from our 2011 Music & Drama Club performance*):



Dr Geoff Courtis

Mr Peter Falconer

Dr Roger Sinclair

Mr Craig Cunningham

Croydon RSL annual ANZAC March – OSP&D leading the parade down Mt Dandenong Road (*22/4/2012*)



Band: Benjamin Casey (DM); Stewart Wallace (acting PM); Peter Falconer (event co-ordinator); Richard Luke; Keith Heale; Roger Sinclair; Graham Reid; Geoff Courtis; Colin Bates; Ewen McConchie (Bass); Scott Diener (Lead); Craig Cunningham; Kim Coillet; John Zelcer

Croydon RSL annual ANZAC march - OSP&D 'march off' following the memorial service



...and, our always-smiling Bass drummer, Ewen – *just resting, while the rest of us catch up:*



Melbourne ANZAC Parade 2012 (Wednesday 25th April) – OSP&D plays up the forecourt, and arguably steals the show:



Band: Rank 1: Brian Symington (PM); Lauren McConchie, Peter Falconer, Stewart Wallace; Rank 2: Scott North, Geoff Courtis, Keith Heale; Rank 3: Richard Luke, Roger Sinclair, Colin Bates, Graham Reid; Bass: Ewen McConchie; Drum Corp: Scott Diener (Lead), Craig Cunningham, Kim Coille, John Zelcer

...and a close-up of our P/M Brian Symington and Lauren McConchie:



NOTE: If you would like a high-definition copy of any of these photographs, please contact us.

Scotch Military Tattoo (Friday 27th April) – photographs are still being ‘tidied up’ by our professional photographer – see next newsletter.

Lastly D/M Benjamin Casey, in yet *another* uniform....(especially note the monocle!!)...



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See the ‘updated’ 2012 calendar of events attached

Pipe Band Events Dates 2012

JAN	15	Sun	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	10am
	29	Sun	OSP&D Summer Lunch	Castlemaine	12noon
FEB	5	Sun	OSPD AGM & Practice	Pipe House	9/10am
	11	Sat	Berwick Highland games	Arkoonah Park	9am
	22	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	10am
	26	Sun	Ballarat Band competition	Lakeside	9am
MAR	4	Sun	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	10am
	14	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
	17	Sat	Geelong Mini-bands	Showgrounds	9am
	18	Sun	Geelong Highland games	Showgrounds	9am
	24	Sat	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	2pm
	25	Sun	Victorian Pipe Bands Champs	Haileybury College	9am
APR	1	Sun	Ringwood Highland Games	Jubilee Park	9am
	4	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
	6-8	Fri-Sun	<i>Aust Pipe Bands Champ.</i>	<i>Eureka Stadium, Ballarat</i>	
	15	Sun	OSP&D Tattoo practice	Pipe House	10am
	18	Wed	OSP&D ANZAC practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
	22	Sun	Scotch College Tattoo rehearsal	Pipe House	10am
	22	Sun	Croydon RSL ANZAC Day*	Street March	1:00pm
	25	Wed	Melbourne ANZAC Parade	Linlithgow Ave	9:15am
	26	Thur	Scotch Tattoo Rehearsal	Pipe House	3:30pm
	27	Fri	Scotch College Tattoo*	Pipe House	5:30pm
MAY	2	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
	12	Sat	Simon Chandler's GM's 90 th	TBA	TBA
	13	Sun	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	10am
	20	Sun	Solo Piping Competition	Scotch College	9:30am
	20	Sun	<i>RU Brown Piobaireachd Comp</i>	<i>Scotch College, Adelaide</i>	
	25	Fri	OSCA Annual Dinner	Leonda, Hawthorn	6pm
	30	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
JUN	3	Sun	Solo Piping Competition	University of Ballarat	9:30am
	8-11	Fri-Mon	Portarlinton Celtic Festival	Portarlinton	
	10	Sun	OSPD Cycling trip*	TBA	TBA
	13	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
	24	Sun	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	10am
	30	Sat	Kilmore Celtic Festival	Kilmore	
JUL	4	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
	8	Sun	Solo Piping Competition	PLC Burwood	9:30am
	15	Sun	OSP&D Country Pub lunch*	Alexandra	TBC
AUG	1	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
	5	Sun	Solo Piping Competition	Terang (*date TBC)	9:30am
	12	Sun	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	10am
	12	Sun	<i>World Pipe Bands Champs</i>	<i>Glasgow</i>	
	29	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm

SEP	9	Sun	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	10am
	2	Sun	Solo Piping Championships	Mt Waverley	9:30am
	26	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
OCT	7	Sun	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	10am
	24	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
	28	Sun	Scotch Mini-bands Comp	Scotch College	(tbc)
NOV	4	Sun	OSP&D Vineyard lunch*	Yarra Glen	(tbc)
	10-11	Sat-Sun	<i>Beechworth Celtic Festival</i>	<i>Beechworth</i>	
	21	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
DEC	1	Sat	Daylesford Highland Games	Street & Victoria Park	8am
	9	Sun	OSPD Practice & annual BBQ	Pipe House	10am

And that, folks, is another year gone past!! We'll all be over 30, soon!

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