



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

Periodic Newsletter

No.3, 2012



Upcoming Events *(more details below):*

- ❖ Next OSP&D Practice session – **10am Sunday 12th August**
- ❖ Next Solo piping competition – 9:30am Saturday 25th August, Camperdown
- ❖ Annual OSP&D cycling day – Saturday 8th September, Mt Evelyn Station

Annual OSP&D cycling day

This year has rather gotten away from us a little (*but not through any lack of activity*), so the annual cycling day is a little later than was scheduled last year (*and, thankfully, avoiding the 40° heat*) – now scheduled for Saturday 8th September. Further exploring the various rail trails of Victoria, we've selected the old Lilydale-Warburton rail line for this year's ride – starting from Mt Evelyn station (*at 9:30am*), and riding downhill towards Yarra Junction. We plan to stop for morning tea at Seville (8.8km) and lunch at the famed Home Hotel, just before Yarra Junction (15.8km).

Easiest way to get to Mt Evelyn seems to be straight out Canterbury Road, and take right-turn onto York Road (*just after the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road turn-off*) just before Mt Evelyn.

For our 'drivers', there's lots of interesting things to see, browse, and do along the road between Mt Evelyn and Yarra Junction – so it promises to be a most enjoyable day's outing for everyone. Trust you can all make it – don't forget a quick 'maintenance' on your bike!

Old Scotch wins 2012 ANZAC Parade

Most of you will now be aware that the OSP&D carried off **1st place** in the annual Melbourne ANZAC Parade!! Participating bands are judged on turn-out (dress), marching & drill, and general performance. We were rather lucky in getting a break in the weather for our time-slot, adding to marching comfort and allowing us to show off our unique uniform features to full effect. And, full credit to our P/M Brian Symington for

ensuring we played all the way up the forecourt of the Shrine, so the TV cameras were able to capture a rather impressive video clip of us in full flight – see it on YouTube™ at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_ENBAfuumg And, as Brian has been so regularly impressing on the band: "*simple tunes, played well, will always be appreciated!*"

☺ *Old Jock was stopped by the police at 2:00am in the morning, and asked where he was going so far past midnight. Jock replied that he was going to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the body, as well as smoking at staying out too late. The officer asked: "Oh, so who would be giving such a lecture at this hour, sir?" Jock replied: "That would be my wife."*

Basel Military Tattoo, Switzerland

Now you might well be asking why the OSP&D newsletter is highlighting the Basel Military Tattoo. Well, believe it or not (*cue very spooky music*), our very own Drum Major, Benjamin Casey, was invited to lead the Christchurch City Pipes & Drums at this prestigious international event. Band members are mostly ex NZ Scottish Regiment fellows, so they wear the NZ Scottish Regimental badge, and MacKenzie tartan (military pleating, of course). *See if you can spot Ben in the impressive photos later in this newsletter.*

☺ **Haunting questions:** *What disease did cured ham really have?*

Curious impact on local fauna

You may recall that we recently reported the case of one member finding that his practice of the jig version of *Athol*

Highlanders strangely upset the local dogs. Well, we've just been further informed that it also attracted the wombats. Either the wheezing noise was familiar to both, or maybe the piper was wafting somewhat of an attractive scent. *But we still refuse to let the 'Peter Falconer' cat out of the bag!!*

☺ **More haunting questions:** *Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they know full well there's not enough money in the account? Do the ABC song and Twinkle Twinkle both rely on the same melody? Now, did you **really** just try singing these two songs?*

2012 Solo Piping Competitions

The winter solo piping competitions are now over half-way done – the next event scheduled for Camperdown on Saturday 25th August (9:30am registration), and combining with the local Robert Burns Festival. And huge congratulations to **Graham Reid**, who entered the recent solo competition at Scotch, along with several of our other regular solo competitors. While we haven't scored any placings yet, the extra practice and challenge is obviously improving our playing skills. The tune requirements for the next event at Camperdown are:

Novice:

- 6/8 march of 2 parts
- Slow air into a Jig of 2 parts

D-grade:

- 2/4 march of 4 parts
- Slow air into a Jig of 4 parts

Refer to the Victorian Pipers Association web site at: www.vicpipers.org for higher grade tune requirements.

☺ **More Haunting questions:** *If Superman can stop bullets with his chest – why does he still duck when a baddie throws a revolver at him?*

Solo Drumming Comps

Come on, drummers! You know you can do it! Have a bit of fun - along with a healthy bit of challenge - at the forthcoming solo drumming competitions:

- Horsham solo drumming – in October ??

- Scotch solo drumming – 21st Oct (prior to the mini-bands competition)
 - Daylesford Highland Games – 1st December
- More details on the respective web sites for these events (*Google them...*). You'll probably need to 'bribe' a piper to accompany you *hmmmm, thirsty already!*

☺ **More haunting questions:** *Why – why – why do we press harder on the buttons of the remote control, when we know the batteries are running low?*

Useful Tips for Strathspey & Reel

If you've been wrestling with getting the right phrasing and expression into your Strathspey and Reel sets, then take some time to have a look at this web site:

<http://www.bagpipejourney.com/articles/MSRs-playing-tips.shtml>

☺ **Ye frae th' true Scot if:** *Ye c'n properly say: McConaughy Ecclefechan, Milngavie, Sauchiehall St, Auchtymuchty – ye measure distance in minutes – an' deep-fried battered pizza is y' dinna o favour!*

2012 Scotch Mini-Band Competition

Our debut at the Scotch Mini-band competition is now firming up – we've deliberately planned lots more practice sessions to polish up our signature 'medley' and two marches. This key event is scheduled for Sunday 21st October - so keep practising until the tunes become second-nature. Remember, you should be able to watch TV whilst playing, without losing your place or making an error in the tunes!!

Reminder: Red Hot Chilli Pipers

Don't forget that those masters of 'bag-rock', the famous RHCP are coming to Melbourne for one night only! - 8pm, Saturday 15th October 2012, Athenaeum Theatre. We could still do a 'group' booking, if enough folks expressed interest. Drop us an email – or raise it at practice. Tickets don't yet seem to be on sale – but **they may well 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

And, a further reminder for us all of the required tempos for our signature medley:

1. Wings (95 bpm)
2. Molly Connell (120)
3. Christie McLeod (95)
4. When the pipers play (80)
5. Atholl Highlanders jig (118)
6. Major May (85)

If anyone needs to check the settings for these tunes, then drop us an email, or call Brian (see below).

☺ *Life guide: He who fears he will suffer, already suffers what he fears. Michel de Montaigne (French Philosopher)*

Murray's Laws

You'll all be familiar with these truisms:

1. Pipe reeds only come in one basic type: too hard for any mortal piper to actually play.
2. No matter when you change your reed, it only blows out just as you step off.
3. A reed carefully blown-in the week before always cuts in too early on the day.
4. All pipers have their own special way to blow-in a new reed – none of which actually work.
5. While the PM is watching, your drones will never start properly.
6. Careful accounting of your gear the night before means you'll always forget something.

7. Months of practice on a 6-part tune means you'll always forget the 5th part on parade.
8. Just when the band is sounding really good, along comes the next tune.
9. Bandsmen come and bandsmen go – but the screw-ups always stay the same.
10. The severity of band screw-ups is in direct proportion to the importance of the event.
11. If the band plays a really easy tune for long enough, it will soon be screwed-up more often.
12. There is never time enough to get it right – but we always find time to get it wrong.
13. Drum-heads always wait to blow-out in the back of the car on the way to the event.
14. Side drums only stay in tune until you have to play them.
15. Every time the bass drummer tries out a new beating, the pipers just hear a double beat and stop playing.
16. The drum corps knows that 'attention!' actually means just carry on talking amongst yourselves.
17. Band members' watches are always half-an-hour behind the PM's watch.
18. All PMs are firmly convinced that we'll all get better with practice – and that we are avidly practicing at home every night.
19. Some band members rise to their own level of incompetence, and then stay there.
20. Lots...lots more....we're inviting additions to the list!

☺ *Just prior to the funeral service, the Minister approached the very elderly widow and gently asked: "So, how old was your husband?" "98" she replied "...just two years older than me!" "So you're 96" the Minister commented in a soft tone. She calmly responded "Hardly worth going home, is it?"*

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 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

D/M Ben Casey leading the Christchurch City Pipes & Drums onto the arena at the recent Basel Military Tattoo ("*..I can honestly say that I've never had so much fun in my life!!....*"):



And, to help in assessing the oldies: how do you know when it's time to hide the car keys? **Clue:** When the family dog has this look on its face!



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...is this billboard for real?.....



See the 'updated' calendar of remaining events for 2012, attached

Remaining Pipe Band Events 2012 v5



AUG	1	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
	12	Sun	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	10am
	12	Sun	<i>World Pipe Bands Champs</i>	<i>Glasgow</i>	<i>fyi</i>
	22	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
	25	Sat	Solo Piping Competition	Camperdown	9:30am
	26	Sun	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	10am
SEP	8	Sat	OSPD Cycling Trip & lunch	Lilydale Rail Trail	10am
	9	Sun	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	10am
	16	Sun	Vic Solo Piping Championships	Mount Waverley	9:30am
	19	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
	30	Sun	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	10am
OCT	7	Sun	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	10am
	13	Sat	Special OSPD Practice day	Pipe House	12noon
	14	Sun	Special OSPD Practice day	Pipe House	10am
	21	Sun	Scotch Mini-bands Comp	Scotch College	9am
NOV	4	Sun	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House	10am
	10-11	Sat-Sun	<i>Beechworth Celtic Festival</i>	<i>Beechworth</i>	<i>fyi</i>
	17	Sat	St John's Ambulance	Govt House	8:15am
	21	Wed	OSPD Practice	Pipe House	7:30pm
	23	Fri	OSMaD 'Normie' performance	James Forbes	6:15pm
	[24	Sat	Great Ocean Road Anniversary	Shrine of Rem.	tba]
	24	Sat	OSMaD 'Normie' performance	James Forbes	1:00pm
	25	Sun	OSMaD 'Normie' performance	James Forbes	1:00pm
	29	Thu	OSMaD 'Normie' performance	James Forbes	6:15pm
	30	Fri	OSMaD 'Normie' performance	James Forbes	6:15pm
DEC	1	Sat	OSMaD 'Normie' performance	James Forbes	1:00pm
	1	Sat	<i>Daylesford Highland Games</i>	<i>Victoria Park</i>	<i>8am</i>
	8	Sat	OSPD annual BBQ <i>- courtesy of Scott North</i>	Pipe House	12noon