



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

Newsletter

No.4, 2012



Upcoming Events *(more details later):*

- ❖ Next OSP&D Practice session – **10am Sunday 4th November**
- ❖ St John Ambulance Annual Inspection – Saturday 17th Nov, Govt House
- ❖ Great Ocean Rd 80th Anniversary – Saturday 24th Nov, Shrine of Rememb'ce
- ❖ Daylesford Highland Games – Saturday 1st December, Daylesford

OSP&D Band Competition Debut

And after such a great *first* competition performance by the OSP&D mini-bands – especially our drum corps! – there seems an emerging appetite for some more competition. Our formal registration with VHPBA means we can enter the Daylesford Highland Games (*Saturday 1st December*), commencing again with the street march – and this year be eligible for a prize. For the band competitions later on the day, our P/M suggests that we could use a little more time to polish our MSR and medley – along with drill practice for marching onto the arena and forming a circle, and retiring. We could also spruce up our horse-shoe playing formation. So, rather than rush into things, the plan for our next foray onto the competition field is:

- Play in the Daylesford street-march again – just like last year, for a bit of fun. *Some may then stay on to view the Games (& collect our prize?) while others head back to do the final evening OSMaD show, and*
- Commence preparation for competing in the Berwick Highland Games (*mid-February 2013*).

We anticipate then being able to field a good-sized band: 12 pipers, and maybe 4 side-drummers! – resulting in some *really good* volume.

☺ **Something to bear in mind:** *When a woman says “What?” it’s not because she didn’t hear you. She’s just giving you a chance to retract or change what you just said.*

End-of-year Band BBQ

You’ll all be aware that our annual EOY BBQ is being hosted by Scott North this year. Huge ‘thank you’ to Scott! (*...have you warned the neighbours?*) As usual, its BYO refreshments, while in addition to the venue Scott will provide BBQ, selection of tasty bangers & whatever other meats he fancies. We’ll soon be circulating a list for you to indicate what ‘plate’ you’d prefer to bring (salad, dessert or ‘surprise’). Note that this year it is scheduled for **Saturday 8th December** – around 1pm.

No doubt there’ll be several band and other impromptu performances – and the small-pipes and bodhran will no doubt be there again. So brush up on those reels, jigs and hornpipes!!

☺ *Iain was a young single lad living with his elderly father, and working in the family business. He knew he would inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, and he felt it was time he should get married. One evening, at an investment seminar in Edinburgh, he spotted the most beautiful girl he had ever seen – she just took his breath away. “I may look like an ordinary guy” he said “but in a few years’ time I’ll inherit £200 million!” Impressed, the lady asked for his business card. Three days later she became his step-mother women are so much better at financial planning, aren’t they.*

Recent OSP&D email exchanges

P/M: ‘Congratulations on the performances, today *blah, blah* and especially the drummers who carried it off with such great aplomb.’

Drummer: 'Thanks. Just don't tell the politicians about *aplomb*, or they'll start misusing it – and then someone will feel obliged to redefine the meaning.'

Bass: '**Aplomb** – (*noun*) – the sound of a drum (non-snare) when struck with semi-quaver timing.'

Ibid: 'For the benefit of pipers, *Highland Laddie* starts with: *boom, boom, aplomb, aplomb, .. !*'

St John Ambulance Annual Inspection

OSP&D has been invited to the annual inspection of the St John Ambulance at Government House, this year. This is somewhat of an honour for the band, and in support of a very worthy cause. The St John Ambulance provides vital on-the-spot first-aid services at almost every public event imaginable – and no doubt some of you may have benefitted in some way from their ever-present and reliable assistance. As this is such an admirable community service group – along with the prestige of playing at a formal event at Government House – the OSP&D has accepted the invitation to play. There may be several other bands also performing – so we'll need to ensure a good turnout and sound. So, mark **Saturday 17th November** in your diaries – tune-up will be at **8:15am**, at the gates of Government House.

☺ **Trivia: Where did the golfing term 'caddie' come from?** *When Mary Queen of Scots went to France as a young girl, King Louis of France learned that she loved the Scots game 'golf'. So he had the first course outside Scotland built for her enjoyment. To make sure she was properly chaperoned (and guarded) while she played, Louis hired cadets from a military school to accompany her. Mary liked this a lot, and when she returned to Scotland (not a very good idea in the long run), she took the practice with her. In French, the word cadet is pronounced 'ca-day' and the Scots changed it into 'caddie'.*

80th Anniversary of Great Ocean Road

To commemorate the opening of the Great Ocean Road – stretching from Anglesea to Port Fairy – and those who participated (*some losing their lives*) in this epic civil construction project, a

special event is scheduled for **Saturday 24th November**, at the Shrine of Remembrance on St Kilda Road. Reflecting our growing public profile, OSP&D has been invited to play at this special commemorative event – and the community nature and likely public exposure has prompted us to accept the honour. Again, mark the date in your diaries, noting that tune-up will be at **8:15am**, somewhere near the lower forecourt (approach) of the Shrine.

Report on solo piping contest – 1874

Scotland's distinctive musical instrument makes a strong impression on an unprepared visitor: "I saw a Scottish highlander enter...playing upon the bagpipe, and walking up and down an empty space with rapid steps and a military air, blowing the noisiest and most discordant sounds from an instrument which lacerates the ear. The air he played was a kind of sonata, divided into three parts.

At first, I could distinguish neither air nor design. I saw only the piper marching with rapidity, and with a warlike countenance. He made incredible efforts both with his body and his fingers to bring into play at once the different pipes of his instrument, which made an unsupportable uproar.

He received nevertheless great applause from all sides. I suspect that the first part was connected with a warlike march and military evolutions: the second with a sanguinary battle, which the musician sought to depict by the noise and rapidity of his playing and by his loud cries. He seemed then to be convulsed; his pantomimical gestures resembled those of a man engaged in combat; his arms, his hands, his head, his legs, were all in motion; the sounds of his instrument were all called forth and confounded together at the same moment. This fine disorder seemed keenly to interest every one.

The piper then passed without transition, to a kind of andante; his convulsions suddenly ceased; the sounds of his instrument were plaintive, languishing, as

if lamenting the slain who were being carried off from the field of battle. This was the part which drew tears from the eyes of the beautiful Scottish ladies. But the whole was so uncouth and extraordinary; the impression which this wild music made upon me contrasted so strongly with that which it made upon the inhabitants of the country that I am convinced we should look upon this strange composition not as essentially belonging to music, but to history....”
Anon

☺ An English doctor is being shown around a Scottish hospital during the Great War. He visits a ward with a number of patients who show no obvious signs of injury. He begins to examine the first man, and the fellow says “Fair fa’ yer honest face, Great chieftain e’ the puddin’ race! Aboon them a’ ye tak your place, painch tripe or thairm: Weel are ye wordy o’ a grace as lang’s my aerm.” A bit taken aback, the Englishman goes to the next patient, who immediately orates “Some hae meat, and canna eat, and some wad eat that want it but we hae meat and we can eat, and sae the Lord be thankit” Whereupon the next patient rises to his feet and declaims, “Wee sleeokit cow’rin tim’rous beastie, oh what a panic’s in thy breastie! Thou need na start awa sae hasty, wi bickering brattle I wad be laith to run and chase thee, wi murdering

prattle!” “Well” the Englishman mutters to his Scottish colleague, “I see this is the psychiatric ward.” “Nay” the Scottish doctor corrects him, “This is the serious Burns unit.”

Gathering of the Scottish Clans – Bannockburn, end-June, 2014

Some of you may be interested to note that, in addition to the *Scottish Homecoming 2014*, an historic gathering of the clans and re-enactment of the Battle of Bannockburn is being planned for 2014, near Stirling in Scotland. Could be an interesting event to visit, if you’re planning that far ahead. For more details, see the attached press release.

☺ **More Trivia: Why do people ‘clink’ glasses before drinking?** *It was not uncommon for enemies to be despatched by offering them a poisoned drink. To prove to a guest that a drink was safe, it became customary for the guest to pour a small amount of his drink into the glass of the host. Both men would then drink it simultaneously to prove good intentions. But, when a guest trusted his host, he would merely touch or ‘clink’ the host’s glass with his own.*

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

Old Scotch Pipes & Drums: mini-band No.1 – Sunday 21st October 2012 (*.....do stop posing for the camera, Traz.....*):



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums: mini-band No.2 – 21st October 2012 (*.....we always put on a really happy face, don't we Craig*):



Several more shots of our ANZAC Day parade this year:



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CLANS TO JOIN BANNOCKBURN WEEKEND 2014

Scotland's clan chiefs and clans are to come together in 2014 to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn with a re-enactment weekend near Stirling organised by the National Trust for Scotland. A clan village will be set up and the town will be bright with tartan as Scotland marks the anniversary of the battle and remembers the fallen. The Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, said: 'We are delighted to be included in what will be a momentous event for Scotland. Bannockburn is a key event for us because it happened at the dawn of the Scottish clan system. We hope that thousands of Scots, both here and overseas, will now get behind the weekend and return to their roots to help us remember what was a pivotal period of our history.'

The event has been planned for the last weekend in June to allow the clans to be part of this major re-enactment which will also be open for the public to come along and experience this momentous event in Scottish history. There are more than 150 clan chiefs and hundreds of clan societies across the world. Interest is expected to be highest in North America, where there are some thirty million people with Scots' ancestry.

Sir Malcolm MacGregor continued 'I, and nine other chiefs, will be at a clan conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on 19th October 2012 telling people about the 2014 re-enactment at Bannockburn and other regional events. The battle is a key part of Scottish history and the American clan leaders are keen to support us. We have been in discussions with the National Trust about the event. Their record on producing historical re-enactments is second to none. We are honoured to have the chance to work with them.'

Tom Chambers, Director of **Homecoming 2014** said.... 'It makes sense to have the Clans closely involved with the Re-enactment, and this is promising to be a great event. As part of the **Homecoming 2014** programme, we are also looking at other ways we might be able to support clan events outside of Stirling, so that we reach clan homelands in every part of Scotland.'

FOR MORE INFORMATION – CONTACT FRANK WHERRETT, SECRETARY OF THE STANDING COUNCIL OF SCOTTISH CHIEFS – ON: frank.wherrett1@talktalk.net