



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

Newsletter

No.5, 2012



Upcoming Events *(more details later):*

- ❖ Next Practice Session – tentatively Sunday, 27th January (TBC)
- ❖ Bendigo **Scots Day out** pipe bands competition – Saturday 9th February

OSP&D end-of-year BBQ

Again, a great end-of-year BBQ was enjoyed by all, courtesy of Scott and Isobel North very generously opening their home to us on Saturday 8th December – much appreciated. On a warm day, there were those who stayed inside for an afternoon of conversation and those who enjoyed the shady outdoors by the pool playing small pipes and Bodhran. With an unbelievably varied – and surprisingly healthy – lunch spread of salads, tasty chicken wings & mini-drumsticks (*..yep!*), chorizos and desserts (yum), it was certainly a most relaxing and enjoyable way to kick-off that Xmas spirit! Good to see Veronica looking great again – pretty much back to normal and even back at work! And Elizabeth recovered from her late-night tussle with the dishwasher ... our Tapster's two girls keeping us engaged with their pool antics ... intensive debate over recent events, while MacCrimmon presented a few of his own '*settings*' ... there was no shortage of entertainment. It was a great wrap-up to a great year – including several more milestone achievements for the band. *See some photos later...*

☺ *Scot visiting Norway: I stayed up all night last month, to see where the sun went then it dawned on me...*

Daylesford Highland Games

Saturday 1st December saw the band once again parading in our full #1 uniform at the annual Daylesford Highland Games. So, we again looked 'the goods' in the competitive street-march and, with Brian's precision tuning, sounded fantastic! The collective feeling of the

band was clearly pride in our performance – with quite some raised eyebrows and appreciative comments from other bands. Recognition of OSP&D is clearly growing – they know who we are, now! While we didn't quite catch a prize this time, we certainly put in a great showing!! Well done, to all who participated – and the several who couldn't make it were there in spirit and sorely missed but not forgotten. The new year will bring several additional opportunities – see *tentative 2013 dates later in this edition*.

☺ *Yesterday, I was in Woolworth's in Devonport buying a large bag of Pedigree dog food for my elderly neighbour's dog (Scrambles) and was in the checkout queue when a woman asked me if I had a dog. What did she think? – I had an elephant? As I'm retired, and have little to do, I told her "No. I don't have a dog. I'm starting the pedigree diet again." I added that "I probably shouldn't, as the last time I ended up in intensive care, with tubes coming out of every orifice, and IVs in both arms – but I did find I'd lost 10 kg when I woke up!" I told her "It's essentially the perfect diet, and the way it works is that you load your pockets with Pedigree nuggets, and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete, so it works very well" and so I was going to try it again. Nearly everyone in the queue was by now enthralled by my story – it was Devonport, after all. Horrified, she asked me if I "ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me?" "No" I replied "I stepped off the curb to sniff a Red Setter's bottom only to be hit by a car!" I thought the fellow behind her was going to have a heart attack, he was laughing so hard. ...I'm now banned from Woolworths....*

2013 Cycling Trip

Our busy schedule in 2012 rather squeezed out the cycling trip this year –

and the weekend on which we tried to recover it saw a strong storm bring down a few trees along the chosen cycling track. So, if we can avoid a searingly hot day, we have a pre-surveyed route including morning tea and lunch venues for all the family ready for early 2013 – how about Sunday 23rd Feb? Any volunteers to take the role of convenor?

☺ *One of life's unfortunate little realities: It is useless for the sheep to pass resolutions in favour of vegetarianism while the wolf remains of a different opinion.*

OS Music & Drama Club: Normie – the Musical

Once again, OSP&D performed over two consecutive weeks to welcome patrons to each of the *Normie* shows. As usual, we received much attention and applause, and ourselves enjoyed some really good playing practice in the process. While a somewhat adventurous theme, the *Normie* production received widespread media acclaim – possibly helped along by the direct involvement of Normie Rowe himself (playing the role of Harold Holt). A number of OSP&D members went along to see the show, and they came away with plenty of conversation! See later for several photos of our mini-band players in action.

☺ *More Trivia: Why do ships and aircraft use 'may day' as their call for help? This comes from the French word m'aidez – meaning 'help me' – and is pronounced (approximately) the same way.*

Scots Day Out – Saturday 9th February, Bendigo

Some of you may be aware that the *Berwick Highland Games* won't be going ahead this year. Instead, the date has now been given to Bendigo, to launch its inaugural **Scots Day out** – the name suggests a potentially interesting event. The usual competitive band events are being scheduled, under the auspices of VHPBA (APBA-Vic) – and OSP&D is tentatively planning to compete, if members' enthusiasm persists through the summer holidays. It has been

suggested that we schedule another *intensive full-weekend practice session*, as we did prior to the 2012 mini-bands competition. That may occur in **late-January – 27-28th**? Mark the date!

☺ *Hebridean visiting the MCG: I wondered why the cricket ball was quickly getting bigger then it hit me...*

80th Anniversary of Great Ocean Road

As many will remember (*because it was the earliest 'out-of-bed' on a Saturday in a long time, for most*) the band featured prominently in the 80th Anniversary Commemoration of the opening of the Great Ocean Road – getting onto the TV news of both **ABC** and **Seven Network** that night. The GOR stretches from Anglesea to Port Fairy, constructed during the Great Depression by a labour force including many WW1 veterans – with some sadly losing their lives. The Anniversary event commenced with a short commemorative service at the Shrine of Remembrance, after which a veteran car cavalcade set off for Anglesea. The band not only played for the service, but also piped out the entire parade of vintage vehicles – in full view of rather a large admiring crowd ... and the TV cameras!

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 kids savings often get put into a 'piggy bank'? Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of a dense orange clay called 'pygg'. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as 'pygg banks'. When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a container that resembled the animal – and the curious idea caught on....the rest, as they say, is history!*

Pipey's Corner

Looking back over 2012, the clear highlights for me were: the prizewinning performance on Anzac Day; and the mini-band competition in October where we fielded two bands!

These events serve to well demonstrate our growing ability to both *look* and *sound* good! – with the competitions again raising our skills to another level.

Looking forward, the opportunity presents itself to compete for the first time as a full band, at Bendigo or Geelong, depending on our level of preparedness. I'm currently planning a new reel for our competition MSR - so learning/practicing this tune will need to be given some urgency.

So, congratulations to all members for a very satisfying year of music. We truly reap the rewards of our efforts! But, there is so much more to learn.....and I'm sure you'll all continue to enjoy our ongoing journey.

I wish you & your families an enjoyable and relaxing break over the Xmas/new year period – see you next year!

Brian

...and our **Lead Tipper** highlights the fantastic progress made by the drum corps this year – playing skills surged ahead & broader enthusiasm to play at every opportunity was clearly abundant. As Brian has already noted, the mini-bands comp provided opportunity to show that our playing abilities are up there with any other band. We can only get better from this point in time! Well done, lads! Mmmm....new reel!! Fun!

All the best of cheers to everyone for a great Xmas holiday break – hope you all get a bit of time 'off' (to put your feet up with a drum pad on your knees, of course).

Scott

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

OSP&D Mini-band welcoming patrons to the OSM&D Club 2012 production of *Normie the Musical*



...another view of the OSP&D Mini-band playing for OSM&D's *Normie the Musical*



OSP&D End-of-year BBQ – the *small pipes* and *Musette* in action:



...and where's our Tapster with his Bodhran?..... *someone* must have caught him in action....

And, a final suggestion from our much revered **bass man**:

Drummers, and *melody support members* (a.k.a. pipers): I have recently envisaged a more "italian job" theme to the drum corps. A small yet stylish fleet of bespoke Mini Cooper S's able to accommodate ALL sizes of drum - not just the 'beginner' (i.e. snare) drums - and meeting the minimum OSP&D drum corps criteria: Mini now being owned by BMW and thus "of German origin." If necessary, a tartan pattern can be ordered as part of the colour scheme.

... I am assured they are almost as effective a "social attractor" as an Aston Martin DB9 V8 - maybe a good first step for certain younger members, and possibly a little more economically attainable....:



...and, *irrefutable proof* that a good woman can indeed bring *balance* and *stability* to the average man's life:



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2013 Band Dates

(all dates are tentative pending confirmation in 2013)

January		
26	<i>Australia Day</i>	<i>...stay tuned.....</i>
27	OSP&D special Practice	kick-off 2013
February		
3	OSP&D practice	Pipe House
9	Bendigo 'Scots Day Out'	Rosalind Park (<i>replaces Berwick</i>)
17	OSP&D practice	Pipe House
24	Ballarat Pipe Bands Contest	Lake Wendouree Foreshore Park
27	OSP&D practice	Pipe House
March		
2	Geelong Highland Games (drumming comp)	
3	Geelong Highland Games	Deakin University (Waurm Ponds)
11	[<i>Labour Day - Cycling trip?</i>]	Lilydale-Warburton Rail Trail]
14	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
24	Victorian Band Championships	Haileybury
29	<i>Good Friday</i>	
April		
1	<i>Easter Monday</i>	
11	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
14	Ringwood Highland Gathering	Jubilee Park, Ringwood
21	ANZAC March	Croydon
25	ANZAC Day	Melbourne ANZAC March
26-28	Warrnambool Piper/Drummer Workshops	
[TBA]	Scotch College Tattoo	Scotch College
May		
5	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
15	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
26	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
31	OSCA Centenary Dinner	Crown Palladium
June		
9	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
10	<i>Queen's Birthday</i>	
20	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
30	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
July		
11	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
28	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
August		
8	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
22	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
September		
1	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
12	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
29	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
November		
5	<i>Melbourne Cup Day</i>	
10	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
20	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House
21	OSCA President's Dinner	Leonda by the Yarra
30	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House

December

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Daylesford Highland Games

Vincent St & Victoria Park

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End-of-year BBQ

Host/Venue TBC

.....and we may well schedule some other 'social' events if members' support is evident:

- Golf day
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