



# Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

## Newsletter

No.1, 2013



### **Upcoming Events** *(more details later):*

- ❖ Next Practice Session – Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> April – 2:00pm
- ❖ Next Band Event – Croydon ANZAC march – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April
- ❖ **Annual subscriptions now due – still only \$60 pa (\$30 students)!**

### **Geelong Highland Games**

To kick-off 2013 in style, the band members collectively decided to enter the 'exhibition' event at the Geelong Highland Games - our first full band competition performance! It was a pleasantly warm and sunny day, and the new venue at Deakin University in Waun Ponds provided plenty of room for band members parking and tuning up. Next year, however, we *must* designate someone to arrive early and secure a shady area for the OSP&D band, our 'banana' lounges and the assorted entourage! We now have mini OSP&D traffic-cones to reserve the band tuning/practice area – so we're gradually getting better set up. While not quite cracking the prize-list, our players put in a *great* performance - notably 'rising to the occasion' - and found it a most enjoyable time by all accounts. Traz most generously contributed a very palatable red (*or four*) and McCrimmon again reliably handed around a few very welcome frosties to keep us all appropriately chilled. The Scotch 'parents auxiliary' provided additional catering to accommodate OSP&D members, with hearty BBQ fare, and quite a selection of other tasty lunch options. All-in-all a fantastic 'day out' with some good playing – and everyone coming away keen to have a crack at another competition gig. See photographs of the day later in this edition.

© *Inimitable wisdom of the Scots: The best cure for sea-sickness is tae sit under a tree ...*

### **Our champion Drum Major!**

An especially notable aspect of the 2013 Games at Geelong was our very own Drum Major, Benjamin Casey, easily taking away first-prize in the drum major's competition. For many of us who watched the event, Ben presented an outstanding performance and was obviously destined to win right from the outset. For his very first competitive event, Ben did a truly sterling job - capturing the surprised attention of many other bands, and single-handedly boosting the OSP&D profile in admirable style. Hearty congratulations - and well done, Ben!! *Now the rest of us, stumbling along behind Ben, will obviously have to redouble our own efforts....*

© *A Scottish soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray during the Great War 1914-1918 has now, finally, been formally recognised as a seasoned veteran ...*

### **Victorian Pipe Band Championships - Haileybury**

And riding the enthusiasm emerging from Geelong, the band took another major step forward in its development by further entering the *Grade 4* band competition at the Victorian Pipe Band Championships, held at Haileybury College on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Sporting our new Argyle **No.2** uniform, including the very distinctive diced red hose, we reportedly made for a fine sight entering the arena. While several 'glitches' crept into our piping performance (*some nerves, perhaps?*), our drummers held us all together resulting in another memorable day thoroughly enjoyed by all who were able to participate. Brian once again set

us up with precision pipe tuning for a fantastic overall sound – so, with a little more playing practice, the possibilities for good performance are clearly ‘there’! Well done, to everyone who could make it on the day – and the several who couldn’t make it were definitely there in spirit, and sorely missed but not forgotten. The next band competition season will bring more opportunities – *beginning with Daylesford on 7<sup>th</sup> December....so mark it in your diaries, and keep it free!!*

☺ *Some notes on the Leongatha ‘dunny’ - 2013 model: At the Australia Day Gathering 2013 near Leongatha, someone asked “On a scale of 1 to epic, how would you rate the new ‘dunny’ – and why?” Well, at that stage I hadn’t had the urge to have a look but, like most dunnies, you always need to visit at least once ... and often several times on an afternoon of BBQ and well-wooded plonk.*

*The 2013 dunny is raised slightly above ground-level, and well supported on sturdy sugar-gum stumps. The owner keeps a handy supply of cut stumps inside, for splitting, so that visitors can sample the superb aroma of sweet sugar, and therefore feel assured of the top quality of the stumps. Entry is quite impressive via the outward-opening heavy screen security door and additional inward-opening, and beautifully stained and panelled, oak inner door. The overwhelming first impression is of sheer opulence and physical space. Floor covering is the finest vinyl, and all fixtures and fittings are of excellent quality. With hot and cold running water to hand, and the large wardrobe providing storage for towels, soap, detergent, bleach, chainsaw, electric drill and sundry other useful tools. A further cupboard offers storage for shovels, picks, crowbars, and ... well, really, anything else that a well-equipped dunny should include. Having recently visited the dunnies at Healesville Sanctuary and noted the rather astonishing poster asking “IS YOUR BUM GUILTY?” (ie. not using recycled paper) a close inspection was made of that provided. Although your correspondent was unable to determine whether or not the paper was recycled, it did seem fairly fresh and the tender extremity did not feel at all guilty. In all probability the paper was suitably recycled. Insulation of the 2013 dunny, both thermal and acoustic, was excellent. The wall lining, and the dual layer polycarbonate and corrugated iron roof, did an exemplary job of keeping personal reverberations contained and nearly all external sounds out. The one exception was just the incessant bewailing of bagpipes which seemed to permeate the one-way walls with consummate ease. The modest suggestion*

*of your correspondent is that at future impromptu gatherings all pipers shall congregate INSIDE the dunny, where they can blow to their hearts content and leave the rest of us free to enjoy the BBQ in peace. The 2013 model is also evidently fully weather and draught proof. The generous insulation keeps it cool through summer and cosy in the winter months. Its size would readily allow motorcycle storage, if deemed necessary. Indeed, any necessary mechanical repairs could also easily be carried out on said motorcycle while seated in thorough comfort and convenience. The new 2013 dunny comes complete with a well-appointed shed (earthy floor, of course) along with relatively comfortable living quarters only a few short paces away. For those of you who missed the launching of this new model, it was truly an experience to treasure. Highly recommended: rating = EPIC....*

### **2013 Cycling Trip**

After the stormy weather cancelling the trip late last year, we finally made it out to the Lilydale-to-Warburton Rail Trail – for exploring a picturesque cycling route, on a wonderfully sunny day. Starting from Woori Yallock about 9:30am, our modest group of cyclists paused for morning tea with the loyal entourage at Launching Place, before continuing on to a shady lunch spot by the Yarra river headwaters in Warburton. Sharing assorted market delicacies picnic style, and providing a selection of unusual ‘Scots’ musical entertainment for other unsuspecting picnickers, saw us sufficiently rejuvenated to eventually remount and cycle all the way back to the starting point – a round-trip of just over 34km with a rise of just 40m or so. The trip was judged as a most pleasant day-outing by one-and-all. For those who didn’t make it for this trip: don’t feel too disappointed as we’re contemplating another cycling day later in the year (*route yet to be decided*). And we’d welcome a volunteer to take on the role of convenor....?

☺ *Just to be a little different, I changed the name of my new 64Gb iPhone 5 to ‘Titanic’ ... it’s sync’ing now.*

## **Forthcoming busy ANZAC week**

As most of you would be aware, we have a very busy and important week of performances just a few weeks away:

- **Croydon ANZAC march** – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April – 12noon, Croydon RSL
- **Melbourne ANZAC march** – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April – 8:45am, Flinders Street
- **Scotch Military Tattoo** – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April – 5:45pm, Pipe House

To properly prepare ourselves for these important annual events – especially the parade formations for the Tattoo - and to defend our proud 'win' in last year's Melbourne ANZAC march - we are taking advantage of our pre-scheduled practice session on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April – 2:00pm.**

We're looking forward to a big turnout of playing members to each of these events, so book them into your diary to help OSP&D put on another great show at these major annual performances.

And, we're naturally also looking forward to everyone making *gargantuan* effort to get along to the special preceding Saturday practice session, too.

### ☺ **Police raid a Collingwood supporter's unit:**

*Victoria Police HQ has just announced the surprise discovery of an arms-cache of 200 semi-automatic rifles with 250,000 rounds of ammunition, 10 anti-tank missiles, 4 grenade launchers, 2 tons of heroin, \$25 million in forged banknotes and 25 trafficked prostitutes - all secreted away in a block of flats behind the Collingwood Public Library.*

*Local residents were stunned. A community spokesman said: "We're shocked. We never even knew we had a library!!"*

## **OSP&D Committee Issues**

A couple of issues under consideration by the committee, of which you might like to be aware:

**OSP&D invited to assist the school band:** consistent with the OSCA charter to also provide support to the school, OSP&D has been invited to consider forming a 'combined' Grade 4 competition band with the boys. As you'll be aware, Scotch now fields both a **Grade 3** competition band and a **Juvenile** band throughout the annual VHPBA band competition season

(commencing with Daylesford in December). However, some of the boys, not yet 'up to speed' to make it into the **Grade 3** band would likely develop more quickly if they had opportunity to play a Grade 4 repertoire (as well as the Juvenile grade) by combining with the OSP&D. There are a number of tangible benefits for OSP&D under discussion, and is expected to be cost-neutral. It would also provide a notable boost to the size & volume of the OSP&D (more pipers, drummers, and tenors), and means more flexibility in terms of OSP&D members' availability. We would also retain Brian as P/M, Ewen on bass, Scott as Lead Tip, and Benjamin as D/M. Our current tunes would be much the same (*only slight changes TBD*) although we would have opportunity to gradually extend our own repertoire. For all other performances, other than VHPBA competitions, the OSP&D would retain its own growing profile and independence. It would also provide a useful 'glide-path' for attracting new younger members into OSP&D by fostering a familiarity and comfort amongst the boys as they progress through their school years. Committee is currently inclined to support/agree this proposal.

Secondly, your Committee is continuing to carefully manage our annual budget, including the various operating expenses (*statutory & other fees, reeds, drum heads, etc*), opportunities to maintain and further develop our uniform (*eg, OSP&D badges, Argyle jackets, uniform sporrans, embroidered pipe bag covers & cords, possible new fly plaids & brooches, et al*), and looking at other equipment & possible support items (*eg, additional drums, and maybe a small 'event' tent/marquee with banner?*). While some grants may be available from time-to-time, we are endeavouring to largely '*live within our means*' and develop as-and-when funding permits.

***Therefore, all your annual subscriptions are very gratefully received early each year – and any additional generosity would naturally be most warmly welcomed.***

## Updated OSP&D Calendar

With the more recent publication of the winter solo piping dates, our 2013 calendar of events has necessarily had to be slightly adjusted – see attached. Do check these dates in your diary, and – while we don't *check-off* names at practice, and we recognise how everyone has numerous other competing personal and family commitments – we hope that you can fit as many of these dates into your own schedules as you can. Above all, the aim is to nurture an atmosphere of enjoyment and camaraderie amongst members – and 'dust off' your playing skills along the way.

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

And, just a reminder that, in addition to the *Scottish Homecoming 2014*, an historic gathering of the clans and re-enactment of the Battle of Bannockburn is also being planned for July, 2014, on the original field of battle near Stirling, Scotland. Will no doubt be an interesting event to visit, if you're planning that far ahead. For more details, see: [www.battleofbannockburn.com](http://www.battleofbannockburn.com) and [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com).

### 2013 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

☺ *One afternoon, a wealthy Scot was riding in his limousine when he saw two men along the roadside eating grass. Disturbed, he ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate. He asked one man, "Why are you eating grass?"*

*"We don't have any money for food," the poor man replied. "We have to eat grass."*

*"Well, then, you come along with me to my house and I'll feed you," the Scotsman said. "But sir, I have a wife and two children with me. They are over there, under that tree."*

*"Bring them along" the Scotsman replied. Turning to the other poor man he stated, "You come with us, also."*

*The second man, in a pitiful voice, said, "But sir, I also have a wife and six children with me!"*

*"Bring them all as well," the Scotsman answered.*

*They all crowded into the roomy car, which was no easy task, even for a vehicle as large as the limousine.*

*Once under way, one of the poor fellows turned to the Scotsman and said "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for offering to feed all of us at your home."*

*The Scotsman replied, "Glad to do it! You'll really love my place! The grass is almost a foot high!"*

### 2013 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

Our *champion* Drum Major competing at the 2013 Geelong Highland Games ... so enthralled with his performance that we forgot to move around for a *frontal* shot:



OSP&D drum corps in action at the Geelong Highland Games ..... a really great job lads!



OSP&D parading down the road at Haileybury after the massed-bands 'closing' performance ..... *the best we've ever played?*



...and some of the intrepid 2013 OSP&D cycling group, just after morning-tea at Launching Place:



...and several of the *un-kilted* cycling pipers at Yarra's edge, Warburton ... *fairly obvious* why other picnickers may have been somewhat surprised:



...and, again, we're missing our *lead tipper* and his Bodhran!.....

...and finally: the alternate '*display formation*' for those who missed the Waun Ponds exit to the Geelong Highland Games venue:



.....noting that the bass drummer has stepped off with the *wrong foot*, yet again.....

## 2013 OSP&D Calendar of Activities – ver.2

(Note: some dates may further change – we will try to provide earliest email advice)

March			
2	Saturday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (** 2pm)
3	Sunday	<b>Geelong Highland Games</b>	Deakin University (Waurm Ponds)
11	Monday	<i>Labour Day - Cycling trip</i>	Lilydale-Warburton Rail Trail – 10am
14	Thursday	OSCA Centenary Launch	Scotch Forecourt Square (5:45pm)
16	Saturday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (** 2pm)
23	Saturday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (** 2pm)
24	Sunday	<b>Victorian Band Championships</b>	Haileybury College
29		<i>Good Friday</i>	
April			
1		<i>Easter Monday</i>	
13	Saturday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (** 2pm)
14	Sunday	<b>Ringwood Highland Gathering</b>	Jubilee Park, Ringwood
21	Sunday	<b>Croydon ANZAC March</b>	Croydon RSL (1:00pm for 2:30pm)
25	Thursday	<b>Melbourne ANZAC Parade</b>	Linlithgow Ave (8am tbc)
26	Friday	<b>Scotch College Tattoo</b>	Scotch College (**evening)
26-28	Fri-Sunday	Warrnambool Piper/Drummer Workshops	
May			
12	Sunday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (10am)
19	Sunday	Piping Solos	Scotch College
29	Wednesday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (7:30pm)
31	Friday	<b>OSCA Centenary Dinner</b>	Crown Palladium (7:00pm)
June			
7	Friday	OSCA Centenary Assembly	Scotch Forecourt Square (tba)
7-10	Fri-Mon	National Celtic Festival	Portarlington
10	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Queen's Birthday</i>	
10?	Mon	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (3pm?)
16	Sunday	Piping Solos	University of Ballarat
26	Wednesday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (7:30pm)
29-30	Sat-Sun	Kilmore Celtic Festival	Kilmore
July			
5-7	Fri-Sun	Robbie Burns Festival	Camperdown
6	Saturday	Piping Solos	Camperdown
14	Sunday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (10am)
28	Sunday	Piping Solos	PLC, Burwood
24	Wednesday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (7:30pm)
August			
11	Sunday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (10am)
21	Wednesday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (7:30pm)
September			
8	Sunday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (10am)
15	Sunday	Piping Solos – Vic Champ's	Mount Waverley
18	Wednesday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (7:30pm)
29	Sunday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (10am)
October			
11	Friday	OSCA Centenary Dinner Dance	Crown Palladium (7:00pm)
20	Sunday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (10am)
30	Wednesday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (7:30pm)

November			
5	Tuesday	<i>Melbourne Cup Day</i>	
10	Sunday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (10am)
21	Thursday	<b>OSCA President's Dinner</b>	Leonda by the Yarra
27	Wednesday	<b>OSP&amp;D Practice</b>	Pipe House (7:30pm)
December			
7	Saturday	<b>Daylesford Highland Games</b>	Vincent St & Victoria Park
15	Sunday	<b>End-of-year BBQ</b>	Symington's farm
25	Wednesday	<i>Christmas Day</i>	
26	Thursday	<i>Boxing Day</i>	

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

- Golf day
- Bowls day
- ...any other fun events? – each including an informal band performance!

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## 2013 Band Dates (tentative)

January			
26	Australia Day	...stay tuned..	
February			
9	Bendigo 'Scots Day Out'	Rosalind Park	(replaces Berwick H.Games)
March			
3	Geelong Highland Games	Deakin University	(Waurm Ponds)
April			
	ANZAC March		
25	ANZAC Day	Melbourne ANZAC March	
May			
31	OSCA Centenary Dinner	Crown Palladium	
June			
July			
August			
September			
November			
21	OSCA President's Dinner	Leonda by the Yarra	
December			