



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

Newsletter

No.2, 2013



Upcoming Events *(more details later):*

- ❖ Next Practice Session – Sunday, 11th August – 10:00am
- ❖ Victorian solo piping competition – Mount Waverley – Sunday 13th September
- ❖ Next band event – OSCA Centenary Dinner Dance – Friday 11th October

Annual OSCA Centenary Dinner

The OSP&D provided an appropriate Scottish welcoming theme to the historic OSCA Centenary Dinner this year at Crown Palladium. Representing us were Keith and Andy, looking resplendent as they piped in the guests, and the obligatory haggis, as our photograph shows. Other OSP&D who were able to make it along to this special 'once-in-a-lifetime' included John 'Traz' Zelcer, Geoff Courtis, and Stewart Malcolm, along with Scott North, Craig Cunningham, Graham Reid, Colin Bates, and Roger Sinclair.



Keith and Andy...welcoming guests...

2013 Melbourne ANZAC March

Yep! We did it again! OS Pipes & Drums again won *Best Pipe Band* in the annual Melbourne ANZAC March 2013. Our unique and rather striking uniform, of green jackets and cardinal hackles, pipe bags and cords, set off against the white belts and spats, certainly drew much attention – and maybe impressing the judges enough to edge us into the lead. This year, bands were permitted to play all the way up the forecourt – possibly taking a hint from the extended TV coverage of us last year, doing just that! Capped off with some welcome 'refreshments' at the conclusion of our march, along with a friendly and talkative group of Harley-riding Vietnam vets, made for a great day (see later photographs).

OSP&D helps clean 'the shed'

The 'old boys' also chipped to help with an overdue clean-up of the band shed, behind Pipe House in Morrison Street. It was a job that apparently required a degree of respiratory protection:



...probably because of Graham's aroma....

Not sure if they found any old treasures – 60-year-old tenor beaters, original brogues, leather pipe bag, or suchlike....

Roger keeps our 'solos' flag flying

At the recent solo piping competition held at Presbyterian Ladies College on Sunday 28th July, Roger Sinclair again displayed his growing playing skills. Great to see you out there again, Roger!could be a C-grade contender next year, maybe?

☺ *A clear explanation of the difference between 'complete' and 'finished' is hard to find. But Mr Samsundar Balgobin, a Guyanese gentleman, may have offered the best of definitions to date: when you marry the right woman, you are complete – but if you marry the wrong woman, you are finished. And if the right woman catches you with the wrong woman you are completely finished.*

...And Roger again, in Norway

Roger has also been frolicking around in Norway on a cruise ship – naturally taking his pipes along..... as you do:



We're all more than a little envious, Roger – and we note you've also been admiring the local architecture as our very own expert, Graham, has so succinctly noted (*see later photograph*).

☺ *Check out this advert for some heroic Scottish self control:*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UprxM_aBwk

2013 Scotch Tattoo

Once again, the OSP&D played alongside the school bands in the Scotch College Tattoo, on Friday evening 26th April – and presented our medley set in impressive style. While the after-dark environment makes it a little tough to get good photographs, this is an annual event that is really worth getting along to see.

Ringwood Highland Games – OSP&D Drum Major wins again!

At the 2013 Ringwood Highland Games, on 14th April, our very own Drum Major, Benjamin Casey, again comfortably won the Drum Major competition! While we haven't been able to get any photographs of Ben in action out at Ringwood, I'm sure you'll all join in wishing him our heartiest (*although somewhat belated*) congratulations! We'll no doubt have some of Australia's top bands now looking him over as a potential star recruit....just you watch!



☺ *Technical support: I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop*
Customer: OK.....
Tech support: Do you get a pop-up menu?
Customer: No.....
Tech support: OK, right-click on the Open Desktop again.
Customer: OK.....
Tech support: So, do you get a pop-up menu, now?
Customer: No....
Tech support: OK, Sir. Can you tell me what you've done so far?
Customer: Sure – you told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click'.....

Updated OSP&D Competition Tunes

As we reported in the last newsletter, the OSP&D has been invited to form a 'combined' Grade 4 competition band with the boys – to give the younger lads some competitive playing experience prior to making it into the school Grade 3 band.

So we're all on the same page, you should carefully note a few changes to our competition tunes:

- **M-S-R:** *Drunken Piper & Piper's Cave; Campbelltown Kiltie Ball; Mollie on the Shore.*
- **Medley:** *Wings; Mollie Connell; Christie McLeod; When the Pipers Play; Athol Highlanders (jig time).*

Note that *Major May* has now been dropped (so get used to a **sharp stop** at the end of *Athol Highlanders*) and a renamed *When the Pipers Play* is instead to be called *The Water is Wide*. ...trust you're all practising at home!

☺ *Some handy advice from our pipey:*



If you can't afford a doctor, go to an airport - you'll get a free x-ray and a breast exam, and; if you mention Al Qaeda, you'll get a free colonoscopy.

McCrimmon...some trivial pursuit...

Just recently, Peter was invited to join a 'wine, cheese & trivia' night at Victoria Barracks Officers' Mess, as a guest of Neil Gryst (Croydon RSL). Peter himself ended up as 'the trivia' by being asked to play some well-known march tunes for guests to identify ('mystery marches', if you will.....although many of Peter's tunes are rather a mystery to some of us at the best of times!):



But he reports (*like Sandy Stone*) that a very good time was had by all – *which you can clearly tell from his facial expression* – and he did manage to recover his Glengarry from the ladies at the bar, when all was over.

Several more YouTube clips of OSP&D

Some more video clips of the band, courtesy of several of our members and supporters:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66ZSyk3-PH0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EG8JTo7iXCk>
- [OSP&D Melbourne ANZAC Parade 2013 - leaving St Kilda Road](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EG8JTo7iXCk)
- <http://youtu.be/tZavxs7W9hU>

There are lots more, if search on 'OSP&D' at the YouTube website..

...and this last link might induce a bit of *cringe*:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zvRV9DSNzM>

Source for our Red Braces – improved kilt comfort and ‘ride’.....

For those of you who have admired Ewen’s brilliant red fireman’s braces, to assist in keeping your kilt comfortably hitched up: we highlight the following web-site:

[Carhartt Men's Dungaree Suspender, Red, One Size](#)

....and only \$16.99, too!

But, we recently received the following email from one of our ANZAC players:

Hi Ewen,

those braces are really admirable. I like the colour and the button holes. it would be hard to leave them on the shelf at that price, and especially with the discount.

But I really think Bruce was on the brink of becoming a cult hero on his first serious parade with the band- it would have looked sensational on the ABC recording of the Anzac March if he had actually shed his kilt before the camera. And the spectacle would have been even more meritorious if his undergarments were the same vivid crimson as the pipe bag covers, not to mention our checked hose.

So before there is a bulk order, I would suggest consideration be given to shedding our kilts on special occasions - either spontaneously or possibly in unison, on your bass drum signal perhaps.

So at this stage, I would personally prefer to delay my order.

Regards

Huge success in Scotland & Ireland

By now, many of you may be aware of the huge success achieved by the boys this year in Scotland and Ireland. Scotch College P&D placed 3rd (*Novice Juvenile grade*) in the European Pipe Band Championships – and equal-1st in piping! Apparently *‘all of Scotland is talking about it!’* And, after playing at Dunvegan Castle and historic Culloden Field, they went on to clinch 2nd place in the All Ireland (Novice Juvenile) Pipe Band Championships.

Tips for improving your piping

Want to know more about caring for your pipes and doing those little maintenance jobs? Or want to feel more confident in tuning your pipes? Keith has a useful DVD set, by Jim McGillivray, that pipers are welcome to borrow. Jim is a Canadian, legendary piper, international piping judge, and educator.

The DVD's are "Pipes Ready!" and "Pipes Up!": dealing with maintenance, setting pipes up, and keeping your pipes in good order; and about tuning and generally getting the best out of your pipes, respectively. I guess there is nothing there that you couldn't learn from Brian. But Jim has packaged the information up well and he presents it clearly and with touches of humour.

Jim's website at www.pipetunes.ca is also well worthwhile: including a great collection of music available for download. There's a small charge for each tune downloaded, but great value, and a good deal cheaper than buying books of tunes. You can hear a sample of each tune, as played by the man, before buying. The website also features brief biographies of great pipers, some historical recordings, a collection of piobaireachd sheet music (free) and Jim's thoughtful and thought-provoking blog. Jim has also published a couple of books on piping technique. One of these, called "Rhythmic Fingerwork" is a great aid to improving technique. It's not a general tutor, but specifically about the technique involved in playing doublings, grips etc - breaking each movement down into easily mastered segments and showing how to practise them and put them together. Keith can bring it along to practice if anyone is interested. Jim has published a second book, "Piobaireachd Fingerwork", which I've not seen, but which presumably does the same for the movements encountered in Piobaireachd. Both books come with a matching CD. Jim's books and DVD's are also available to purchase at Lyon's Bagpipes.

To end on a high-note, and for those who've been pleading for a link for some time...

.....the famous 'eleven' clip:

<http://dotsub.com/view/6c5d7514-5656-476a-9504-07dd4e2f6509>

☺ **What causes arthritis?** *A middle-aged gentleman, reeking of whisky, wearily took a seat on the London underground next to a priest. His neck-tie was stained, his face was smeared with red lipstick, and a half-empty bottle was protruding from his overcoat pocket. He opened his newspaper and began reading.*

After a few moments, the man groaned and turned to the priest to ask: Excuse me, Father – but do ye know what causes arthritis?

The priest replied: My son, it's caused by loose-living, spending time with cheap and wicked women, too much alcohol, contempt for your fellow man, sleeping around, and lack of a bath.

The drunk muttered in surprise: Well, I'll be damned!

Thinking about what he had said, the Priest nudged the man and apologized: I'm very sorry. I didn't mean to come on so strong. How long had you had this arthritis?

The drunk answered: Oh, I don't have it! But I was just reading here that the Pope does...

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

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

.....and don't miss the following pages of photographs....

Best Pipe Band – 2013 Melbourne ANZAC March

A few missing, but (L to R): Andy Buick, Bruce Webb, Brian Symington, Lauren McConchie, Colin Bates, Roger Sinclair, Ewen McConchie, Graham Reid, Craig Cunningham, Keith Heale, Richard Luke, Peter Falconer, and Geoff Courtis.



And Roger's recent *Norwegian cruise* (?) produced this rather intriguing photograph:



Graham's observation: I particularly like this photograph, as I think the white building (foreground, bottom left) is an early Bauhaus - perhaps Marcel Breuer with some Arne Jacobsen influence..... a splendid shot of it I have not seen previously....*obviously, he has a very good eye!*

Not sure what's actually happening here.....anyone got any thoughts?



Keith and Andy, again – piping in the President at the 2013 OSCA Centenary Dinner:



A few more nice shots of OSP&D in the 2013 Melbourne ANZAC march:



Courtesy: Scott Diener, Lead Drummer



Courtesy: Scott Diener, Lead Drummer

Roger's report: We cruised up the west coast of Norway (fjords etc), round the top into the Barents sea and White Sea - then back down and around the Baltic. I played (hangover permitting) at 0700 hours each morning at the blunt end of the ship to allow the noise to trail out with the wake - thereby hoping not to bother the generally elderly punters. Most people (obviously not piping aficionados) seemed to like my frozen fingered open C versions of the standard tunes, and they took lots of photos. However, one grumpy old Aussie ostentatiously stuck index fingers in both ears every time he saw me. Any piper with more insight and sensitivity would probably have desisted. On the other hand I got quite a favourable reception from the apparently otherwise culturally impoverished Russian waterside workers at Murmansk and Archangel. I played Waltzing Matilda at North Cape (most northerly point of mainland Europe) and again as we sailed up the Thames under Tower Bridge - which raised its arms in surrender or horror, I cannot tell which.

RS

....and don't miss the remaining calendar of events, on the newt page.....

Remaining... **2013 OSP&D Calendar**

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

August

11	Sunday	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House (10am)
21	Wednesday	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House (7:30pm)

September

8	Sunday	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House (10am)
15	Sunday	Piping Solos – Vic Champ's	Mount Waverley
18	Wednesday	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House (7:30pm)
29	Sunday	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House (10am)

October

11	Friday	OSCA Centenary Dinner Dance	Crown Palladium (7:00pm)
20	Sunday	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House (10am)
30	Wednesday	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House (7:30pm)

November

5	Tuesday	<i>Melbourne Cup Day</i>	
10	Sunday	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House (10am)
21	Thursday	OSCA President's Dinner	Leonda by the Yarra
27	Wednesday	OSP&D Practice	Pipe House (7:30pm)

December

7	Saturday	Daylesford Highland Games	Vincent St & Victoria Park
15	Sunday	End-of-year BBQ	Symington's farm
25	Wednesday	<i>Christmas Day</i>	
26	Thursday	<i>Boxing Day</i>	

.....and we may still schedule another 'social' event if member support is evident – for example:

- Golf day
- ...anything else? – including an informal band performance, of course!

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