



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

Newsletter

No.4, 2013 – Xmas Bumper Edition



Upcoming Events *(more details later):*

- ❖ Next Practice Sessions – Wed 29th January 2014 (7:30pm) + Sat 1st February
- ❖ Bendigo Highland Gathering – Saturday 8th February 2014

Daylesford Highland Gathering

With a band comprising 18 pipers, 6 drummers, 2 tenors and a bass, the OSP&D made a big sound at the Daylesford street march and highland games a fortnight back!! Thanks to everyone for putting in such a great effort at all the practice sessions. While we didn't quite get into the 'placings', by all accounts everyone had a *hugely* enjoyable day – and there seems to be considerable enthusiasm to do it all again. The next 'comp' is Bendigo on Saturday 8th February – so get those pipes and drum pads out over Xmas/New year, and do lots more practice!!

We also got lots of photographs – see later – if anyone wants to browse the huge collection or just get some copies (*for framing?*), just send me an email (stewart.j.wallace@team.telstra.com) or call me. But, we'll put as many as we can reasonably fit on the web site.

On the day, we also took in some of the younger boys whose skills aren't quite up to playing in the Scotch Grade 3 band. And, by all indications, they seemed to enjoy the experience. Big thanks to everyone who made such an effort to engage the lads and make them feel so very welcome.

☺ **See if you read this out loud:** *I cdnuolt blveiee that I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd what I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearchs at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in what oedr the ltteres in a word are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is that the frsrit and last ltteer be in the rghit plcae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it whotuit a pboerlm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Azanmig huh?*

Yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot spleling was ipmorantt!

End-of-Year BBQ – Symington's shed

For those who ventured out East to Koonwarra last Sunday, we thoroughly enjoyed the wonderfully relaxing venue, vista and v...BBQ – as is the hallmark of Brian and Laurine's hospitality. We sorely missed a couple of late scratchings – but we talked about you *reasonably* kindly, anyway. Again, see the several photographs attached. **And a massive 'thank you' to Brian and Laurine for their shed, BBQ & humour from us all.**

Kicking off 2014

Now, in preparation for the Bendigo street march and band competition, scheduled for Saturday 8th February, we'll kick off 2014 with our first practice session on Wednesday 29th January (7:30pm). This will be followed by another of our intensive Saturday afternoon sessions on 1st February, from 2:00pm.... so mark these dates in your diary, now.

Uniform for Bendigo is currently planned to be the same as worn at Daylesford:

- White long-sleeved shirt
- Gordon tartan tie
- Black waistcoat
- Red 'diced' hose (sox) & flashes
- Kilt (*no belt or kilt pin – red braces OK*)
- New 'seal fur' sporrans
- Black shoes or brogues
- Glengarry – *no hackle*
- No Sgian Dubhs

2014 OSP&D AGM

...keep an eye on your email for a notice – probably around early February.

Looking back, 2013 has been another year of great progress for Old Scotch Pipes & Drums. We continue to welcome new members while retaining virtually all our players from previous years. Our repertoire has expanded and we have dipped a toe in the waters of competition. We have kept up our support of ANZAC events (picking up another award for our presentation in the St Kilda Road ANZAC Day march), provided a presence at several OSCA events during their Centenary year, and continued to support the School both in the April Tattoo, and in welcoming junior boys into the Grade 4 competition ranks. All this requires quite a lot of work behind the scenes. So, it is appropriate to particularly thank:

- Brian, for fantastic leadership throughout the life of OSP&D, and for his unparalleled knowledge and skill at getting an entire pipe corp up and running and sounding at its best;
- Scott, for doing a similar job in the drum corp, building great camaraderie, and steadily improving skills;
- Benjamin, for keeping up our drill skills, for providing a wonderful “manly bearing”, and for setting the

pace as possibly “the best drum major in Victoria”;

- Colin, for quietly and efficiently carrying out the many tasks of Secretary of the organisation, particularly busy this year because of the need to rewrite our Rules of Association, and to register individuals and the band for competition purposes;
- Graham, for managing the finances, chasing up subscriptions and producing the necessary financial reports at the right times;
- Stewart, for producing a series of fine newsletters throughout the year, in spite of a heavy work and personal programme;
- Peter, for taking on the task of calendar co-ordinator, and doing it so well.

Here’s wishing all of our members and their families a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Keith

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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



... a special 'visual' Xmas message from our Pipe major!

STOP PRESS: Our very own Drum Major, Ben Casey, wins the D/M competition at Daylesford on Saturday 7th December. This further adds to Ben's fast growing list of 'wins' - inevitably positioning him as possibly the leading D/M amongst all of the pipe bands in Victoria. *Will some scoundrel from another band now be trying to steal him from us?*



A selection of photographs from Daylesford Highland Games, 7th December 2013:



...firstly, a couple of very dubious characters (above)....Russ? ..what'cha doing!!??



...Geoff and Gordon just warming up....



....Colin and Peter both very focused on the tunes.....



...Graham looking confident and, well ... it's best we don't dwell too long on this other chap...



...Lauren and Bruce demonstrating what 'relaxed' looks like.....



...Keith and Russell looking pretty much 'the goods'.....before the event...



....most of our drum corps, led by Scott, warming upa couple of MIAs....and where's that bass?



...Lead Tipper, Scott, focusing on tempo....and several of our younger protégés



....ahhhh, there's our bass man, Ewen.....heart & soul of the band!.....and always life of the party!!



....Scott and John ('Traz') looking very much the part.....great job, boys!!



....another one of our young protégés, and Ewen (again!) obviously concentrating.....



*The OSP&D performing in the Daylesford Street March competition – 7th December, 2013
Pipe Major: Brian Symington – Drum Major: Benjamin Casey*



The OSP&D drum corps practising before the MSR and Medley competitions – Scott leading.



The OSP&D in performance and being judged – Daylesford, 7th December, 2013



A family affair A great feature of the OSP&D atmosphere!



...we bid farewell to 2013, and march off into the Xmas holidays...stay safe, one and all!!!

2014 OSP&D Calendar (provisional)

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

(*Colour Code*: Scheduled Practice dates – Band & Solo contests – OSCA/Scotch functions – External parades – Social events)

Wednesday, 29 January: Practice 7.30pm – Pipe House

Saturday, 1 February: Practice 2.00 pm - Pipe House – *for Bendigo Band Contest 8 Feb*

Saturday, 8 February: Bendigo Highland Gathering – Street March & Full Band Contest

Sunday, 16 February: Practice 10 am (& AGM?)- Pipe House

Sunday, 23 February: Ballarat Highland Gathering – Full Band Contest

Wednesday, 26 February: Practice 7.30 pm – Pipe House

Saturday, 1 March: Practice 2.00 pm – Pipe House - *for Geelong band contest 2 March*

Sunday, 2 March: Geelong Highland Gathering (Deakin Uni) – Full Band Contest

Sunday, 16 March: Practice 10.00 am – Pipe House

Sunday, 23 March: Victorian Pipe Band Championships (Haileybury College, Keysborough)

Wednesday, 26 March: Practice 7.30pm – Pipe House

Sunday, 30 March: Ringwood Highland Gathering (Maroondah Club, Mt Dandenong Rd, Ringwood East)

Tuesday, 1 April: Scotch College Cadet Tattoo (OSP&D lead-up performance, early evening?)

Saturday 5 April: Practice 2.00 pm – *for Australian Pipe Band Championships 12-13 April*

Tuesday, 8 April: Competition Band – Practice at Scotch with College Gr. 4 members

Thursday, 10 April: Competition Band – Practice at Scotch with College Gr. 4 members

Saturday, 12 April: Australian Pipe Band Championships - Eureka Stadium Ballarat

Sunday 13 April: Australian Pipe Band Championships – Eureka Stadium Ballarat

Sunday 20 April: Croydon RSL Anzac parade 2.30 pm & service – Civic Square Croydon

Friday 25 April: ANZAC Day parade a.m. – St Kilda Road to Shrine

Sunday 11 May: Practice 10.00am **OR** Social event (Cycling trip? - Convenor TBC)

Sunday 18 May: Solo Bagpipe Competitions at Scotch

Wednesday 28 May: Practice 7.30 pm – Pipe House

Friday 30 May: OSCA Annual Dinner – Crown Palladium (Dinner Convenor - TBC)

Sunday 15 June: Practice 10.00 am **OR** Social event (Pub lunch? - Convenor TBD)

Wednesday 25 June: Practice 7.30pm – Pipe House

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