



# Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

## Newsletter

No.1, 2014



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

- ❖ St Kilda RSL ANZAC Parade – 88 Acland St – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April
- ❖ Croydon RSL ANZAC March – Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April
- ❖ Melbourne ANZAC Parade – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April *(can we win again?)*
- ❖ OSP&D Bicycle tour – Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> April – followed by a relaxing BBQ
- ❖ **Reminder: 2014 subscriptions are past due – see later.**

*Firstly; sincere apologies from your editor for the lateness of this first newsletter for 2014. Work commitments have unfortunately had me travelling a good deal through January-March this year – so I wasn't able to give the band (or my pipes!) much attention, until now.*

### **2014 Band Competition Season**

Commencing with Daylesford Highland Games in December 2013, the OSP&D has fielded a band in all but one of this season's pipe band competitions. In early-February, for the Bendigo Highland Games, the temperature headed for 45°C so we decided not to risk our health and withdrew. But, the band went on to compete at Ballarat a fortnight later, followed by the Geelong Highland Games, and more recently at the Victorian Championships at Haileybury College (Keysborough) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

While OSP&D isn't quite yet in 'the placings', our playing standards have noticeably *and significantly* improved with all the practice. More importantly, members have clearly gained immeasurable confidence: more relaxed and fewer nerves on the arena, and (by all accounts) have greatly enjoyed the whole experience – which is the key objective, after all.

We also continue to include several of the younger boys whose skills aren't yet up to playing in the schoolboys Grade 3 band. The OSP&D 'training' role not only helps the school band, but will hopefully encourage some new younger members to join up when they leave school.

And don't miss the photos of the band in the competition events at the end of this newsletter.

### **OSP&D Drum Major wins again!**

Our champion Drum Major, Ben Casey, has once again prevailed in competition: taking out 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Drum Majors' competition at the Geelong Highland Games on 2nd March! Ben certainly seems to be carving out an unassailable reputation amongst Victorian pipe bands – possibly on track for best Drum Major in the state! Congratulations, Ben!



## Sir Rupert Hamer Award 2014

A particular highlight of this year's band competition season is that our P/M **Brian Symington** was the recipient of the **Sir Rupert Hamer Award 2014** – for his lifetime of promoting Scottish heritage and cultural traditions through pipe bands and piping. As most of you will be aware, Brian was Pipe Major of the school pipe band back in 1965 and 1966, before going on to join the Nunawading Highland Pipe Band – in time, again becoming Pipe Major and shepherding that band up through the grades to become an Australian Grade 1 band – which later (post-Brian) evolved into the renowned Australia Highlanders. Brian not only nurtures his own band, OSP&D, but is constantly assisting others: continuing to co-tutor the boys at Scotch and unfailingly supporting both Scotch and the City of Hawthorn at every band competition, and throughout the solo piping season. There's no doubt of the resounding widespread cheer: "Congratulations - well deserved, Brian!!"



## Australian Pipe Band Championships

While the OSP&D is not yet quite up to entering in 'the Aussies', some of us are venturing up to Eureka Stadium, Ballarat

for Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April (*at least*) to watch how the top bands in Australia prepare and perform.

Even more enticing, the leading **Grade 1 Western Australia Police Pipe Band** will be presenting a special concert performance **7:30pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April**:

- **Ballarat Regent Multiplex Cinema** – tickets: \$30 (\$20 concession) – bookings tel: **(03) 5330 5555** or online at: [www.regententertainment.com.au](http://www.regententertainment.com.au)

So don't miss out on this year's Ballarat extravaganza (*Friday & Saturday, at least*).

☺ *Bill and his wife Blanche went to the local fete every year – and every year Bill asked: "Blanche, I'd love to ride in that helicopter." But Blanche would always reply "Bill, that costs 20 pound – and 20 pound is 20 pound!" Then, one year, Bill said "Blanche, I'm 85 years old – and if I don't ride in that helicopter I might never get another chance." Despite Blanche's usual reply, the pilot overheard and said: "Folks, I'll make you a special deal. I'll take you both up – and if you can stay quiet for the entire ride, I won't charge you a penny! – but, if you talk, it'll be 20 pound!" They agreed, and the helicopter took off. The pilot did all his tricks to get an exclamation – even twice over – but didn't get a sound from the rear seats. Upon landing, he turned to Bill and said "Golly – I did everything I could – and not a sound! I'm impressed!" Bill replied "Well, to tell you the truth: I almost said something when Blanche fell out, but 20 pound is 20 pound!"*

## ANZAC March 'season'

OSP&D has three major commitments over the 2014 ANZAC 'season', and we are hoping for as many members as can make it to join these special commemorative parades:

- **St Kilda RSL march** – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April – meet at 10:00 am - stepping off at 11:30am, from the RSL at 88 Acland St, St Kilda
- **Croydon RSL march** – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March – meet at 1:00pm - stepping off at 2:30pm, from corner Main St and Hewish Rd, Croydon
- **Melbourne ANZAC parade** – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April – meet in Flinders St no later than 9:00am, for tuning, checking, and forming up (*can we win again?*) – stepping off at 10:25am this year.

To properly respect these occasions, the band uniform for all the ANZAC marches is our **No.1** outfit:

- No.1 green 'dress tunic' jacket
- White webbing belt (*clean brass*)
- Red 'diced' hose (sox) & flashes
- Gordon Kilt (*no kilt pin*)
- New 'seal fur' sporrans
- Black shoes & spats (*also clean*)
- Glengarry – *with red hackle*

Let's hope the weather is just a little cooler than it has been to date!

☺ *Also describing your editor perhaps? "He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." – William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway)*

### **South West Coast Piper/Drummer Clinic**

On the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> May, the Warrnambool and District Pipes and drums is again hosting a clinic for: piping, drumming, drum majors, and small pipes. Several of us have attended these clinics in the past, and – from personal experience – we can recommend the intensive two days (and two nights) as being very enjoyable and of great value for improving your playing skills. They usually have some top class and very patient tutors. What's more, you can make a weekend of it, and really enjoy the great restaurants, wines and other local produce from the Warrnambool area. Further details and registration is available from: [swcpd@imprimus.com.au](mailto:swcpd@imprimus.com.au) or visit *South West Coast Piper Drummer* on Facebook.

☺ *Hope it's true: democracy is the recurrent feeling that more than half of the people are right more than half of the time - E.B. White, American writer.*

### **2014 OSP&D Cycling Tour**

This year, the cycling trip will follow a more urban route within Melbourne – and conclude with a relaxing BBQ. And many thanks to Laurine for all the detailed planning. Scheduled for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April, and commencing at 10:00am from Blackburn Railway Station (meet on the Melbourne side). We will move to the

Blackburn Lake parking area, off Gwenda Ave – and depart from there at 10:30am. The intended route is to cycle along Gardiner's Creek trail - crossing Middleborough Rd, Box Hill Golf Course, Warrigal Rd, passing Alamein Station and alongside/beneath Monash Freeway to eventually arrive at Fairview Park overlooking the Yarra near Scotch (*I'm sure most will remember Fairview Park from long-ago hockey or cross-country running days*). There's to be a band BBQ at Fairview Park for 'general recovery' purposes – so do make arrangements to bring some BBQ goodies and suitable refreshments (*don't forget the chutney!!*).

☺ *Did you hear about the thoughtful Scot who was heading out to the pub? He turned to his wee wife before leaving and said: "Maggie, put your hat and coat on, lassie." She replied: "Awe, Jock – that's nice – are ye taking me tae the pub with you?" "Nay" Jock replied "I'm switching the heat off while I'm out."*

### **Monash Camp Centenary Re-enactment - Lilydale**

Earlier this year, our own D/M Benjamin Casey (as acting P/M of 5RVR) and piper Peter falconer took part in an historic centenary re-enactment of the 1914 militia training camp on the site of what is today Lillydale Lake (*no – not a spelling error!*), and under the command of eminent Old Collegian, Major General Sir John Monash (*Colonel, at the time*). To mark the occasion, a memorial plaque and storyboard sign were unveiled at Lillydale Lake.



See more photographs later in this newsletter.

☺ "I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." Stephen Bishop (although I know a few who might also have written similar to spouse...)

### Tasmania makes the best single malt!

Yes, it's true! The Tasmanian distillery, **Sullivan's Cove**, has this year been named the best single malt whisky in the world, from amongst a competitive field of more than 300 whiskies, including a great many from Scotland and Japan:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-03-21/sullivans-coves-world-wisky-win-for-single-malt/5336498>

So, there's a tasting opportunity for us – anyone know where we could buy a bottle of this stuff to try out?

Previous winners are:

- 2013: Ardbeg Galileo (Scotland)
- 2012: Yamazaki 25yo (Japan)
- 2011: Yamazaki 1984 (Japan)
- 2010: Ardbeg Corryvreckan (Scotland)
- 2009: Highland Park 21yo (Scotland)
- 2008: Yoichi 20yo (Japan)
- 2007: Talisker 18yo (Scotland)

So, fellow travellers: the bar is set 'up' a little for our future evening tastings. And those clever adverts by Cascade Brewing suggesting dramatic transformation from

#### 2014 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, Bruce Webb

**Piping Tutor:** Brian Symington – Tel: (03) 9818 8414

**Drum Tutor:** Scott Diener – Tel: (03) 9314 4441

a dip in Tassie water just might be hinting at something!

☺ "He is not only dull himself, but is the cause of dullness in others." Samuel Johnson (writing about many a local politician, perhaps....?)

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:** We are enormously pleased to announce the healthy arrival of **Olivia Jennifer Diener** at 11:09am on 3rd April 2014, and weighing a healthy 3.238kg (7lb 2oz for you oldies) – same as a medium-sized watermelon....but a fair bit lighter than a snare-drum! Word is that Mum (Sofie) and daughter are reportedly doing fine! News on how dad is dealing with the reality of a four-girl household is still somewhat sketchy.....

**NOTE:** Search [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) under **OSP&D** for some nice videos of us playing at various events.

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#### 2014 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

*Some recollections of Daylesford Highland Games (December 2013):*



*...parading in our glorious red diced hose!!!*

*Some photographic evidence from the Geelong Highland Games:*



*Don't look down...but, I've got some **new brogues**..!*



*...aaah....who's actually on bass....???*



*OSP&D competing at the 2014 Victorian Pipe Band Championships  
(Haileybury College, keysborough)*

*And, here we are at the recent Ringwood Highland Games*



*...taking a breather, after being judged by Nat Russell (foreground, walking around us),  
Pipe Major of the famed (Grade 1) Victoria Police Pipe Band.*

*Peter, Iain Townsley (VP of Mt Evelyn RSL & ex-UK SAS) and Benjamin at the Lillydale Lake Centenary event:*



*And, lastly....want a good reason to visit a Scottish barber this year?*



*...but, do live long enough to be a **real** concern for your kids:*



## 2014 OSP&D Calendar (as at 2 April 2014)

(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 University)**  
**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 (off Mt Dandenong Rd, Ringwood East)**  
**Tuesday, 1 April:** **Scotch College Cadet Tattoo (OSP&D performance 6:30pm)**  
**Wednesday, 9 April:** Practice 7:30pm – Pipe House  
**Friday, 11 April:** **Piping Concert – WA Police – Ballarat Regent Multiplex Cinemas, 7:30pm**  
**Saturday, 12 April:** **Australian Pipe Band Championships - Eureka Stadium Ballarat**  
**Sunday 13 April:** **Australian Pipe Band Championships – Eureka Stadium Ballarat**  
**Sunday 13 April:** **St Kilda RSL Anzac parade 11.30 am & service – 88 Acland St, St Kilda**  
**Sunday 20 April:** **Croydon RSL Anzac parade 2.30 pm & service – Civic Square, Croydon**  
**Friday 25 April:** **ANZAC Day parade 8:45 am – St Kilda Road, Shrine of Remembrance**  
**Sunday 27 April:** **Annual OSP&D Cycling trip – Blackburn Railway Station - 10:00am**  
**Sunday 11 May:** Practice 10.00am – Pipe House  
**Sunday 18 May:** **Solo Bagpipe Contest – Scotch College**  
**Wednesday 28 May:** Practice 7:30 pm – Pipe House  
**Friday 30 May:** **OSCA Annual Dinner – Crown Palladium (Dinner Convenor - TBC)**  
**Saturday 14 June:** Practice 2:00 pm – Pipe House - *tbc*  
**Sunday 15 June:** **Solo Bagpipe Contest – Ballarat (Federation University)**  
**Wednesday 25 June:** Practice 7:30pm – Pipe House  
**Saturday 28 June:** **Solo Bagpipe Contest – Camperdown Community Hall**  
**[Sunday 13 July:** Practice 10:00am – Pipe House – *tbc*]  
**Sunday 20 July:** **Solo Bagpipe Contest – Presbyterian Ladies College, Burwood**  
**[Wednesday 23 July:** Practice 7:30pm – Pipe House – *tbc*]  
**[Sunday 10 August:** Practice 10:00am – Pipe House – *tbc*]  
**[Wednesday 27 August:** Practice 7:30pm – Pipe House – *tbc*]  
**Sunday 14 Sept:** **Solo Bagpipe Contest – Victorian Championships, Mt Waverley**

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