



# Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

## Newsletter

No.2, 2014



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

- ❖ **Scotland's Independence Referendum – 18 September - historic!!**
- ❖ Practice session: 10am Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September – *preparing for Daylesford!*

### **STOP PRESS: Roger grabs 2<sup>nd</sup> in Piobaireachd!!**

At this year's R U Brown Piobaireachd Competition (April, in Adelaide), our very own Roger Sinclair achieved a very impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> placing in his grade (novice). A fantastic result, in a prestigious national event!! Huge congratulations, Roger!! That will no doubt result in you being graded up, next year! Many of us have noted Roger's burgeoning piping skills over the past couple of years, due in no small measure to his regular practice at home, unwavering perseverance in the Victorian solo piping events, along with the personalised and obviously top quality tutelage of Jono Quay.

### **Melbourne ANZAC Parade 2014**

After winning the ANZAC pipe bands competition in the previous two years, OSP&D again turned out in force for the 2014 ANZAC Parade down St Kilda Road to the Shrine of Remembrance. However, all the other bands have clearly paid close attention to our secret recipe – *simple tunes, played well!* So, with many emulators, several top-class bands, and two wins already under our Argyles, we felt we should pass the winner's garland over to Moorabbin City this year. Well done, lads!

### **St Kilda RSL ANZAC Street March**

OSP&D also fielded a modest band to lead the St Kilda RSL members from their clubrooms in Acland Street, along The Esplanade around to the ANZAC memorial in Alfred Square – and back, after the commemorative service. We then marched through the clubroom bar

to kick-off the luncheon and refreshments – and the event contributed a rather handy contribution to band finances. Several of us also provided a little bit of solo piping entertainment for luncheon guests in the clubrooms. Many thanks to City of Melbourne for passing this job on to us, while they were away competing at the Australian Championships in Ballarat

### **Croydon RSL ANZAC Street Parade**

We also fielded quite a good-sized band for our annual appearance leading the Croydon RSL members and the various contingents of old soldiers remembering their mates who did not return. The service was followed by a great spread of lunch and appropriate refreshments to recover our energy – and again there was some solo piping to further entertain the clubroom members and guests.

☺ *'I couldn't wait for success – so I went ahead without it'* Jonathan Winters, American comedian

### **Scotland's Independence Referendum**

While a mix of views on Scotland's independence no doubt exists, even amongst OSP&D members – an interesting resource for the 'YES' side, which also presents a colourful rebuttal to the 'myths' surrounding the topic, can be found at this web site:

<http://www.newscotland.com/>

Only about a fortnight now remains until this potentially historic event – and, of course, it will no doubt be extensively featured in our own local news for a while (*especially since our P/M Mr Abbott also recently stuck his face into the matter*). It could all turn out to be quite entertaining, whichever side you're backing! Eh, Wully?

☺ *Hot Toddy (Ontario style): Ingredients per cup: 30ml whisky, 1 tsp honey, 1 cup ginger ale. Pour the whisky into a clear glass – heat the ginger ale (don't boil) and pour over the whisky. Stir in the honey. Garnish with a slice of lemon. Great for warding off those end-of-winter sniffles! Or any other condition, for that matter!*

### **Scotch turns heads in Glasgow**

At the recent World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, the Scotch pipe band put in an amazingly good performance – coming 4<sup>th</sup> overall in Juvenile, but being placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in piping by the two medley judges (*making them best Juvenile pipe band in the world!*) While this is a fantastic endorsement of Mark Saul's efforts with the boys, our very own P/M Brian Symington was their official tuner - and certainly proved his world-class ear for pipe tuning! Great job, Brian!! The boys also played at a number of other venues and events – even being asked by the renowned Field Marshall Montgomery's P/M after one such performance if they 'were a Grade 1 band?' Bruce Webb was over there to watch his son Cameron perform with the band, and relayed much of the news back to us - while Gordon & Kirsty also went over to watch their son Scott perform.

☺ *Letter of complaint to town council: will you please send someone to mend the footpath – my wife tripped and fell on it yesterday and now she is pregnant.*

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

The annual OSP&D cycling tour followed a more urban route through suburban Melbourne – beginning out near Blackburn station, along the Gardiner's Creek Trail, and ending at Fairview Park. and concluding with a relaxing BBQ. An intrepid group of about nine keen cyclists took part, on a warm (but not hot) sunny day. As several of us aren't regular riders (have a 'seat'), the pace was relatively leisurely, with regular stops to rehydrate and admire the scenic views along the way. A most welcome coffee break was scheduled at the Glen Iris milk bar – several interesting choices of

refreshment were noted. We eventually arrived at Fairview Park, some 17km from the start, to meet up with the non-cycling contingent/spouses for a most pleasant BBQ lunch and a bit of piping (*in cycling gear!*) by the riverbank – to the amusement of another BBQ group at the park. Some weird stuff was played, too – just ask Laurine! Many thanks must especially go to Laurine & Keith for all the detailed scouting of the route, and planning of the day. Every year this event proves to be one of the most enjoyable social occasions on the OSP&D calendar. Don't miss it in our calendar for next year!

☺ *Wife texts husband on a cold winter's morning: "Windows frozen – won't open!" Husband texts back: "Gently pour some lukewarm water over it." Finally, wife texts back 5 minutes later: "Computer really buggered, now!"*

### **Preparations for Daylesford**

Our preparations for the Daylesford Highland Games pipe bands competition are tentatively scheduled to commence from **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September (10am)** – so do *please mark that day*, and our remaining practice days in your calendar.

Our tune sets will be confirmed at the initial practice, but at this stage will include:

- **MSR set:**
  - *The Drunken Piper (2/4 march)*
  - *The Piper's Cave (2/4 march)*
  - *Campbelltown Kiltie Ball (strathspey)*
  - *Molly on the Shore (reel)*
- **Medley set:**
  - *Wings (4/4 march)*
  - *Molly Connell (strathspey)*
  - *Christie McLeod (reel)*
  - *The Girl from Dungannon (air)*
  - *Atholl Highlanders (jig)*

So everybody is encouraged to get practising these tunes now at home (*especially the transitions*), on both practice chanters and pipes – *and* drum pads, of course! Be sure to start off slowly – *or at least not too fast* – to ensure you get the notes/doublings of the tune itself, and the all-important 'expression', exactly right.

## **Ben Casey – Australian Champion D/M**

Some of you will be aware that our own Benjamin Casey was awarded Australian Champion Drum Major, at the Australian Pipe bands Championships in Ballarat earlier this year! Over the past several years, Ben has cut a veritable swath through the various D/M competitions, winning every event he has entered. So this most recent achievement is appropriate recognition of Ben's skills, knowledge and attention to detail. Hearty 'congratulations' to you, Ben! Great performance! For those interested to see a YouTube video of the Ballarat event, see:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MaDjs5\\_AYc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MaDjs5_AYc)

There's also a great photo of Ben's championship performance later in this newsletter. Ben is currently in Darwin with the 5RVR boys – check the other photo below.

## **Band Calendar of Events**

The band calendar of events for the remainder of 2014 is attached to the back this newsletter. While the dates may be subject to a little bit of change as events unfold – and we may schedule a couple of additional practice sessions as we approach the Daylesford competition – you might like to pencil these dates into your diary now, as a tentative placeholder.

## **OSMad show 2014 “The Producers”**

Our usual performance to welcome patrons to the annual OSMad live theatre shows is not yet a confirmed item in our calendar, for this year. In the past, we have found it to be good general playing practice (fitness) in the lead-up to the Daylesford Highland Games pipe bands competition. However, we are yet to confirm our attendance with OSCA.

We usually play for about 30-45 minutes (*with rests between sets*), including a selection of *all* the standard band tunes, along with our competition sets if we can fit them in. It's usually a fairly relaxed atmosphere (*while in uniform*), and it does

build stamina and greater relaxation in playing, and is therefore quite beneficial.

We would usually circulate a 'playing roster' to let everyone nominate the performances at which they would be available to play.

We'll aim to settle this matter soon, and let you know by email at earliest.

☺ *A Scot is emigrating to Australia. Upon entry he is interviewed by the immigration officer. The officer asks: "Do you have a criminal record?" To which the Scot replies: "Well, no . . . I did'na knoo ye still needed one to get in!"*

## **OSP&D Band Uniforms**

With a number of additional playing members joining us this year, it will be necessary to outfit you with OSP&D uniforms.

To enable us to obtain your sizes, and develop soonest bulk order listings, we would request you to make it to our next practice on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September**.

If you can't make that day, you may have to co-ordinate with our P/M to be sized up as soon as possible after the 21<sup>st</sup> September.

☺ *Five Englishmen boarded a train just behind five Scots – who, as a group, had only bought one ticket between them. Later, just before the conductor came through, all the Scots piled into a toilet stall at the back of the car. As the conductor passed the stall, he knocked and called "Tickets, please!" and one of the Scots slid the ticket under the door. It was punched and pushed back under the door. When it was safe, the Scots came out of the stall and took their seats. The Englishmen were mighty impressed by the Scots ingenuity. So, on the trip back, the five Englishmen decided to try it themselves and purchased only one ticket. They noticed that, oddly, the Scots had not purchased any tickets this time. Thinking no more of it, they boarded – and again, just before the conductor came through, the Scots all piled into one of the toilet stalls, and now the Englishmen into the other stall. At that point, one of the Scots leaned out, knocked on the Englishmen's stall and called "Tickets, please!" When the ticket slid out under the door, he picked it up and quickly closed his own stall door.....*

## Additions to OSP&D

Big welcome to **Peter West**, joining the drum corps! Peter was drum sergeant/lead in '79, and then went on to play with Nunawading through its historic ascendancy period under Brian as P/M. Based on his demonstrated skills at recent practice sessions, Peter is clearly another great addition to the band!

And warm welcome to several 'more contemporary' pipers of obvious playing ability, including: **Victor Hortin**, **James Atcheson**, **Jack Powell**, and **Eddy Butler**. Along with Lauren Mc, these fellows still have a large amount of enviable agility in their hands, so hearing them play is a reminder of what we really should all be seeking to rekindle.

☺ *A Scotsman walking through a field sees a man drinking water from a pool with his hand. The Scotsman shouts 'Awa ye feel hoor thatâs full Oâ coos sharn' (trans: Don't drink the water, it's full of cow s\*\*t). The man shouts back 'I'm English! Speak English – I don't understand you!' The Scotsman shouts back 'Use both hands – you'll get more in!'*

### 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

*“Life is not a matter of holding good cards, but of playing a poor hand well.”* -- Robert Louis Stevenson, Scottish writer.

### **Annual OSP&D end-of-year BBQ**

Arrangements for our annual BBQ are still being finalised – venue, date, etc - so stay tuned for further details soon. We'll email information out to all as soon as it is settled, so you can update your diaries at earliest, to reserve the date.

It's always a great event – very relaxing, sunny, bit of fun. Don't miss it.

**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

*OSP&D competing at 2014 Victorian Pipe Band Championships:  
(Haileybury College)*



*OSP&D leading the 2014 St Kilda RSL ANZAC Parade:*



*Ben Casey is Australian Champion Drum Major 2014*



*...and this is what he's mucking around with, at the moment:*



*Annual OSP&D cycling tour: the 'starting' team in Blackburn:*



*...and a few more did join us at the 'coffee and cakes' marker  
OSP&D Playing for 2014 Croydon RSL ANZAC Parade:*



*2014 Melbourne ANZAC March*



*...and, a little practice happening in Geneva...*



*...in Heidi's goat paddock (evidence is obvious)*

## 2014 OSP&D Calendar (as at 3 September 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)

**Sunday 14 Sept:** Solo Piping Contest – Victorian Championships, Mt Waverley

**Sunday 21 Sept:** Practice 10:00am – Pipe House – kick-off practice for Daylesford!

**Wednesday 1 Oct:** Practice 7:30pm – Pipe House

**Sunday 12 Oct:** Practice 10:00am – Pipe House

OSMaD performances “The Producers”:

Thursday 16 Oct: 7:45pm – preview night

Friday 17 Oct: 7:45pm – Opening night

Saturday 18 Oct: 7:45pm – performance #2

Sunday 19 Oct: 2:00pm – matinee performance #3

Wednesday 22 Oct: 7:45pm – performance #4

Thursday 23 Oct: 7:45pm – performance #5

Friday 24 Oct: 7:45pm – performance #6

Saturday 25 Oct: 2:00pm – matinee performance #7

**Wednesday 29 Oct:** Practice 7:30pm – Pipe House

[**Saturday 8 Nov:** Beechworth Celtic Festival?]

**Sunday 9 Nov:** Practice 10:00am – Pipe House

[**Tuesday 11 Nov:** local Remembrance Day performances]

**Sunday 16 Nov:** VHPBA Massed Bands for Scottish Immigration Exhibition – Melb city

**Thursday 20 Nov:** OSCA AGM & President’s Dinner (duty piper only?)

**Wednesday 26 Nov:** Practice 7:30pm – Pipe House

**Sunday 30 Nov:** Practice 10:00am – Pipe House

**Saturday 6 Dec:** Daylesford Highland Games & Pipe Band Competition – 8:30am

**Sunday 14 Dec:** OSP&D Christmas BBQ lunch

**Thursday 1 Jan:** Maryborough Highland Games

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