



# Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

## Newsletter

No.1, 2015



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

- ❖ Melb ANZAC massed bands rehearsal – Shrine – 1130h Sun 15<sup>th</sup> March **TBC**
- ❖ Next Band Practices – Pipe House – 1930h Wed 25<sup>th</sup> March and 1400h Sat 28<sup>th</sup> March
- ❖ Ringwood Highland Games – East Ringwood Sports Ground – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March
- ❖ **Annual subscriptions for 2015 are now due – cheque/cash to Graham Reid**
  - only \$80 pa - or \$40 for students!

### **Scots Day Out - Bendigo**

The weather was somewhat more tepid this year, so OSP&D fielded a good-size band at the Scots Day Out event in Bendigo, on 14<sup>th</sup> February (*Valentine's Day!*). With a couple of rust-remover practices in the preceding fortnight, and a full practice session at Bendigo on the morning, the band was in pretty good form to compete. Our MSR and Medley piping are coming along nicely – as evidenced by 4<sup>th</sup> placing in both – beating City of Melbourne No.2! Also a 4<sup>th</sup> placing in drumming for the MSR, and a very creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the drill! So, a great job by all!

☺ **Negotiating with God:** *On the 1<sup>st</sup> day, God created the dog and said: "Sit by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in, or walks past. For this I will give you a life-span of twenty years." The dog said: "Twenty years? That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?" And God saw that it was good.*

*On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, God created the monkey and said: "Entertain people, do tricks and make them laugh. For this I will give you a twenty-year life-span." The monkey replied: "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten, like the dog did?" And God again saw that it was good.*

*On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, God created the cow and said: "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this I will give you a life-span of sixty years." The cow said: "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give you back the other forty. And God agreed it was good.*

*On the 4<sup>th</sup> day, God created man and said: Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this I'll give you twenty years." But man replied: "Only*

*twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back – that makes eighty, OK?"*

*So that is why for our first 20 years, we eat, sleep play and enjoy ourselves – for the next 40 years, we slave in the sun to support our family – for the next 10 years we do monkey-tricks to entertain the grandchildren – and for the last 10 years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone. Life has now been explained to you. There is no need to thank me for this valuable information. I'm doing this as a public service. If you are looking for me, I'll be on the front porch.*

### **Ballarat Highland Gathering**

More recently, the band ventured out to Ballarat with its growing confidence, to have another crack at competition. While raining in Melbourne, the day in Ballarat was perfect – nice temperature, and blue sky! By scheduling another full practice session in the morning at the event, we again felt well prepared. Featuring 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in the medley and MSR piping, along with 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively in drumming, gave us 5<sup>th</sup> place overall (again beating City of Melbourne No.2) – with just a couple of mistakes – confirms that our playing skills have considerably improved over the past year.

See: <http://youtu.be/-O-6fBJ3GQA>

👍 *There are stars whose radiance is visible on Earth though they have long been extinct. There are also people whose brilliance continues to light the world even though they are no longer among us. These lights are particularly bright when the night is dark. They light the way for mankind. Hannah Szenes, Hungarian soldier*

## **Black Saturday Memorial Service**

Old Scotch was once again supporting recovery from the Black Saturday bush fires – this time in early February, when Peter Falconer played at a memorial service in Healesville, following a fund-raising car-rally from Lilydale for the local CFA. Peter felt very safe while under guard by the local Highland Militia, raised from a Pictish tribe in the Yarra ranges. Bonnie lads!! If you check out the photo attached later, you can see why the Romans hastily built Hadrian's Wall!

Peter reports that it was a deeply moving service, conducted by people who had lost direct family & close friends in the fires. Some of you may recall that OSP&D provided a piper for a fund-raising match between Old Scotch Football Club and Kinglake, just after the fires in Feb'2009 – while we were warmly welcomed, we were thoroughly thrashed 24 goals to 6, if I recall!

## **Piping at Menin Gate, Ypres**

A particular highlight of my own recent European holiday was an opportunity to be part of the memorial wreath laying at Menin Gate, Ypres, on the 11 February 2015 (*centenary year of the start of WW1!*). It was a most memorable occasion, and I felt fortunate indeed to be accepted as duty piper for the night. As some of you may know, the allied forces were holed up behind the massive earth walls and wide moat of Ypres, and went out through Menin Gate to the battlefields of Flanders during WW1 – many never to return. So the Menin Gate is a prominent element of the many WW1 memorials in Belgium. See the several shots of yours truly (*yes, I was indeed playing a Piobaireachd!*) later in this newsletter. We also took the opportunity to visit Tyne Cot cemetery. The **Last Post Association** ([www.lastpost.be](http://www.lastpost.be)) is the custodian of the evening memorial ceremonies, for which all traffic is stopped at 7:30pm every night for this service. They've been observing this every evening since 1928! Requests to play at these events are submitted through the web site. It is a

most memorable albeit sombre event of which to be a part – and highly recommended for all who can make it over there! Booking requests should be submitted at least 6 months in advance – and no guarantees, as there are many UK/Aus/Canada/NZ regimental bands, pipers and official delegations that frequently take precedence.

## **Annual General Meeting**

You will no doubt all remember that our Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for Sunday morning 12<sup>th</sup> April – commencing at **0900h** – refer the notice from our Secretary, sent a few weeks ago with all relevant docs. This is your chance to nominate and/or vote for your committee, and to discuss other management/operating aspects of the band. Only *financial* members of the band may nominate/vote – so do pay your 2015 subscriptions to Graham prior to the meeting. Don't miss this opportunity to get involved in the ongoing growth/development of the band.

## **Geelong Highland Gathering**

Just last week, we also competed as a band at the Geelong Highland Games convened at Deakin University in Waurn Ponds. This event further demonstrated that our playing skills and drill are notably improving – we again beat City of Melbourne No.2 (6<sup>th</sup> out of 7 bands) but, more encouraging, one of the medley judges placed us in 3<sup>rd</sup> for that element. Brian has noted from the critique sheets that some common themes continue to haunt us (attacks not together, pipers not holding tone, pipe and drum corps separation, strathspey lack of lilt, pipers making mistakes, etc.). But, we are clearly improving, as indicated by judges comments that they like our medley arrangement, that we are getting better with our transitions, and that our tone is improving! We are moving forward in terms of our musical standard, even though we have our young Scotch recruits to nurture. And the strength of our newer Old Boy members is also

making a big difference to our performance.

### **Melbourne ANZAC Parade**

As 2015 is the centenary of the outbreak of WW1, the ANZAC parades around the country are expected to substantially larger than in past years – with a great many more groups and individuals taking part. As such, bands parading in the Melbourne parade are being asked if they can lead more than one group – so doing two, or even three runs down St Kilda Road to the Shrine of Remembrance. We should therefore expect to be doing two runs – although whether we feel up to undertaking a third, remains to be seen. Reassuringly, *buses will be provided* by the RSL to ferry us back to the start, between runs – and the abundant supplies of bottled water and ANZAC biscuits will no doubt be laid on, as usual.

In addition, since there will be a larger number of pipe bands taking part, a **‘full dress’ rehearsal** of the massed bands segment has been deemed prudent – and this has been organised to take place **at the Shrine at 11:30am on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March**. We do hope that as many of you as possible can make it along for that rehearsal – so we look confident and at our best – and we also know the music to be played.

### **New Massed-Bands Music**

You should all have noted that two additional tunes have been included Pipe

Bands Victoria in the ‘must know’ group of massed band tunes:

- Waltzing Matilda; and
- Highland Cathedral

As we discovered at Geelong, these tunes will be variously played for the massed bands segment at the band competitions – the next one being Ringwood. To avoid embarrassment, do make sure you’ve learned them!! They’re both quite easy tunes to pick up. You will find the music scores for these tunes on our website:

[www.oldscotchpipeband.com.au](http://www.oldscotchpipeband.com.au)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> for OSP&D’s Drum Major**

Also at the recent Geelong Highland Games, our own 2014 national champion D/M, Benjamin Casey, scored a very creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> placing. He was up against a formidable competitor, whom he beat at last year’s nationals, but who flew down from Queensland for this event. These two were visibly way clear of all the other competing D/Ms – so Ben is obviously setting the bar very high, but is beginning to attract some serious competitors. See a photograph, later.

### **OSCA Symphony Orchestra**

Finally, don’t miss the upcoming inaugural ‘full’ performance of the OSCA Symphony Orchestra – **2:00pm, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**. [*Sadly, I’ll still be away – so don’t look for me!*]

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#### 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

#### 2015 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

*The 'Celtic Guards' protecting our own McCrimmon from marauding fans at the recent Black Saturday Memorial Service at Healesville*



*Piping at the famed Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium – note OSP&D's red hackle  
- most definitely a 'must-do' for every piper who can get over there!*



*- the boys from Healesville might need to offer a few tips on how to better capture that "macho" look!*

*... and Menin Gate itself, from the same angle as it appears in the very famous painting 'Menin Gate at Night' by Will Longstaff*



*D/M Ben Casey (centre) performing at Geelong Highland Gathering  
Securing a creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> place this time against a serious QLD competitor*



*OSP&D in action at Geelong Highland Gathering  
Getting up there, boys! – again beating City of Melbourne No.2*



*OSP&D at the recent Ballarat Pipe Bands Competition*

*...the royal wave? ....and on the arena we again booted City of Melbourne No.2!*



OLD SCOTCH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS

# OSSO Con Brio

*Tchaikovsky's 'Romeo and Juliet' Overture*  
*Dvorak's Symphony No. 8 (G major)*  
*Elgar's Sea Pictures*

Kin Roach Hall, James Forbes Academy

Scotch College

1 Morrison Street

Hawthorn VIC 3122

Adult: \$25

Concession/Groups: \$20

Tertiary Students: \$15

Scotch Students: Free

2PM SUNDAY 22 MARCH

Booking at [www.oscanet.com.au](http://www.oscanet.com.au)



Refer to the accompanying letter on next page.



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COLLEGIANS  
ASSOCIATION

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27 February 2015

Mr B J Symington  
President  
OS Pipes & Drums  
PO Box 5070  
GLENFERRIE SOUTH VIC 3122

Dear Brian

**Old Scotch Symphony Orchestra – Concert, 22 March 2015**

I have been asked by the members of the Old Scotch Symphony Orchestra to extend an invitation to your Club to take part this year in an arrangement that was trialled last year with a small number of the OS clubs.

That arrangement is that if a group booking of at least ten persons to attend the concert to be held on 22 March at 2 pm is made, the Orchestra will rebate \$5 of the \$20 ticket price to your club.

This represents a win/win outcome as the OS Orchestra will increase its numbers at the concert and therefore the concert will be more likely to run at a profit, and on the other hand, your members get an opportunity to enjoy a great social experience and raise some money for your own club.

If your club is interested in taking part in these arrangements, please contact me and we can help with the details.

With kind regards

  
Scott Montgomery  
OSCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**OSCA**Net.com.au

## OSP&D Calendar (March – June 2015)

(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, 15 March:** Practice 10.30 am to 11.45am *at Shrine for ANZAC Massed Bands*

**Wednesday, 25 March:** Practice 7.30 pm – Pipe House *for Ringwood H.G.*

**Saturday, 28 March:** 2.00 pm Rehearsal at Pipe House *for Ringwood H.G.*

**Sunday, 29 March:** Ringwood Highland Gathering (East Ringwood Reserve) – Full Band Contest

**Sunday, 12 April:** OSPD AGM & Practice 10.00 am – Pipe House

**Saturday, 18 April:** Vicpipers Solo Comps - Scotch

**Sunday 19 April:** Croydon RSL Anzac parade & service (2.30 pm step-off) Civic Square, Croydon

**Wednesday, 22 April:** Practice 7.30pm – Pipe House (or **Thurs 23 April** – with Tattoo Practice??)

**Friday 24 April:** Scotch College Cadet Tattoo (OSP&D pre-performance, early evening)

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

**Sunday, 3 May:** Mini-Band Competition (Bendigo)

(Saturday or Sunday in May): Vicpipers Solo Comps in Ballarat - TBC

**Sunday 17 May:** Practice 10.00am – Pipe House **OR** Social event (Cycling trip?)

**Wednesday 27 May:** Practice 7.30 pm – Pipe House

**Friday 29 May:** OSCA Annual Dinner – LEONDA, hooray! (Welcome Guests - & Haggis Pipers)

**Sunday 31 May:** Mini-Band Competition (Geelong)

(Friday 5 – Sunday 7 June): National Celtic Festival – Portarlinton (For information)

**Sunday 14 June:** Practice 10.00am – Pipe House

**Wednesday 24 June:** Practice 7.30pm – Pipe House

**Saturday 27 June:** Vicpipers Solo Comps – Camperdown; in association with.....

(Friday 26 – Sunday 28 June): Robert Burns Scottish Festival – Camperdown (For information)

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