



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

Newsletter

No.3, 2015



Upcoming Events *(more details later):*

- ❖ *Daylesford Street March & Pipe Bands competition – Sat, 5th December*
- ❖ *End-of-year band BBQ – Sunday 13th December*

Well, most of you will probably agree, it's been quite a busy year (*especially for me – too much work travel, and thus only 3 newsletters this year - apols!*) But the band is continuing to develop very nicely indeed. Our new tunes are bedding down in our playing sets, and P/M David Forbes ('79) is clearly very comfortable leading us. Our awareness and attention to 'sound' is considerably improving, courtesy of David's strong focus and further building on Brian's legacy.

Daylesford Street march & Bands Competition

The annual pipe bands competition kicks off again this Saturday 5th December, commencing with the street march – for which we are judged. This is followed by the bands competitions at Victoria Park – and our grade (Gr.4) this year will include 11 bands. This is the biggest group and will make for a great competition and wonderful massed-bands spectacle. You should note following details:

- Arrive no later than 8:30am
 - *90 minute trip from Melbourne*
 - *Meet for tuning in Duke Street*
- Street-march step-off at 9:30am
- Bands competition at Victoria Park from 11:00am

Drive up the Western Highway towards Ballarat – look for signage for Daylesford. And uniform for the day is our Argyle jacket/vest outfit with white shirt, Gordon tie & kilt, sealskin sporrans, diced hose & flashes (no spats), black brogues/shoes, new Glengarry & hackle. Make sure you polish shoes and ensure everything is crisply ironed. A separate email with all the details will also be sent out to you all.

☺ *The Queensland Genie:*

A Queenslander is strolling along the beach and stumbles on a lamp, half buried in the sand. He picks it up and, naturally, gives it a rub – just in case the rumours are true. Sure enough, a colourful but rotund genie appears out of the lamp, and announces that he's been granted one wish.

The fellow thinks for a moment and says: "I want to live forever!" "Sorry" says the genie "I'm not allowed to grant eternal life."

"OK, then, I want to die after the Australian Government balances the budget and eliminates its debt."

The genie stares at him for a minute or two, then says "you crafty little bugger!"

OS Music & Drama shows: *Oliver*

We again got a good deal of pre-season practice welcoming patrons to the OS Music & Drama shows – this year it was the well-known musical ***Oliver***. Several of you also attended the show, and I hear that it was again a very impressive production.

We always get great exposure and broad recognition from these performances, and stands us in good stead on those occasions that we have sought some additional funding for our uniform, drums and other items. So we will continue to seek your support by volunteering to play prior to the OSMaD shows every year..

☺ *What to do with your left-over beer stubbies:*

<https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/NkbZlautuUc?rel=0>

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Melb)

As you may be aware, we just 'missed the cut' for participating at the Melbourne REMT show, despite meeting all the criteria – 8 Australian band spots with 19 applicants! But, in thanking us for our application, the REMT convener has

warmly invited us to go over to Scotland to perform in Edinburgh itself. We may need to carefully consider our preparation and funding to take up that offer – but it's possibly a thought for the future.

☺ *Scots computer class notes:*

A byte of data = 1 grain of barley

Kilobyte = a cup of barley

Megabyte = 8 sacks of barley

Gigabyte = 3 container lorries

Terabyte = 2 container ships

Petabyte = covers Edinburgh

Exabyte = covers the UK (3 times)

Zetabyte = fills the Pacific Ocean!

End-of-Year BBQ

This year, the band's EOY BBQ returns to the Wallace residence, at No. 7 Hillside Parade in Glen Iris. Kick-off will be from 1pm on Sunday 13th December.

As usual, we just ask you each to bring a plate (salad or desert), your drinks, and chairs for your entourage. We'll supply the BBQ goodies, ice, plates & cutlery, ample shade, pristine swimming pool, and a Labrador to take care of any leftover bones.

So, bring your Bodhran, small-pipes, Uilleann pipes, tin whistle, or any other musical device of Celtic origin, for our impromptu Ceilidh. Neighbours will love it!

We'll send around a separate email to ascertain attendee numbers for BBQ catering, and what is your preferred 'plate' offering (to ensure some balance between salads/desserts – *although I'm a big dessert fan, myself, if you hadn't noticed*).

☺ *The greatest mistake we can make is living in constant fear that we will make one. – John Maxwell, author*

Key Dates for 2016

Attached to this newsletter is an initial listing of key dates for 2016, to help you get your new diary going. If you haven't yet got a new diary for the household, go buy one today – or enter these into your MS Outlook applications.

Tattie Scones

No Glasgow breakfast can be complete without them. The Americans have their hash-browns, and the Scots have the Tattie Scone. They involve few ingredients and are suitable for vegetarians. Having said that, the Scottish breakfast is usually a hearty meal, and can also include bacon, black pudding, sausages and eggs – not exactly what you might term vegetarian-friendly. But I digress – here's the recipe:

Ingredients:

- ½ lb (225g) washed potatoes
- 2.5oz (65g) plain flour
- 1oz (25g) butter
- 1 chicken stock cube
- 1 tsp of your favourite spice(s) – chives, paprika, turmeric, etc
- Pinch of pepper
- ¼ tsp of baking powder

Method:

- Boil potatoes until tender
- Drain & mash with butter, stock cube, spices, pepper & baking powder
- Mix in flour to make a stiff dough
- Roll out dough onto floured surface to 5-6mm thickness
- Cut into large rounds – use a saucer
- Perforate all over with a fork & then cut into 4 wedges
- Cook in a heavy pan until golden brown on each side – about 3 mins
- Enjoy a family breakfast!

Scottish Small Pipes

We're seeing a small but growing number of OSP&D members acquiring and mucking about with Scottish Small Pipes (or 'kitchen' pipes). This type of piping generally offers a different take on our music – a little less 'band' and a little more 'glass-in-hand' fun! So if you would like to join this little group – we're just starting out, and still contemplating how to get semi-regular sessions going – have a chat to Eddie, or drop us a note at: tothewallaces@bigpond.com.

For those who are interested, there is also the Celtic Piping Club, which publishes a regular newsletter, and convenes monthly sessions in Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane as well as various performance events featuring world-class performers.

Let us know if you'd like to get on their mailing list.

☺ **Typical of the Scots:** *Flight just lifted off from Edinburgh, and levelling off. Nervous flight attendant makes an announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, I'm so very sorry but it appears that there's been a mix-up just before take-off...I don't know how this happened, but with 103 passengers on board, catering has provided us with only 40 dinner meals. I truly apologise for this inconvenience."*
Once the passenger muttering had died down, she continued: "Anyone who is kind enough to give up their meal so that someone else may eat will receive free, unlimited drinks for the duration of our 5-hour flight."
Her next announcement came 90 minutes later: "If anyone would like to change their minds, we still have 40 dinners available..."

2015 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

New members

A big welcome to our three newest members:

- **David Telford** – very accomplished piper & accredited band/piping judge, joining us from Moorabbin City PB;
- **Jeremy Douglas** – relatively recent Scotch alumnus piper ('09?), dusting off his playing skills; and
- **Peter Williams** – also a Scotch alumnus piper ('79) knocking the rust off his piping skills.

All three are very welcome additions indeed to the band. Make sure you're always having fun, guys!!

Congratulations

As most of will know, one of our members became engaged this year: Hearty **Congratulations** to Lauren & Quil! Lauren's dad, Ewen, had the biggest smile we've ever seen when we turned out a "flash band" to play below the celebration venue balcony at Southbank. The secret to a 'flash band' is to appear out of nowhere to perform, and then fade away afterwards – so camouflage is the key. Graham had it down pat – see his photo later.

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2015 Band Leaders:

Pipe Major: David Forbes
Drum Major: Benjamin Casey
Lead Drummer: Scott Diener

New members:

Contact: Stewart Wallace - Tel: 0409 022 334

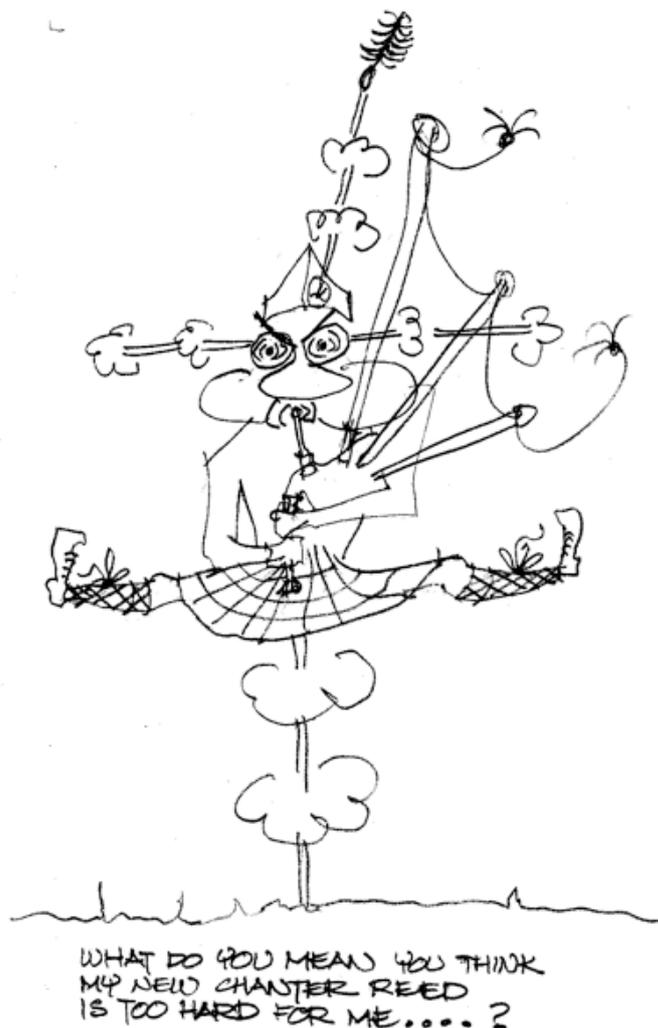
Webmaster: Andrew Buick – Tel: 0408 034 919

The dress-code at our recent 'flash-band' event – trying to 'blend in' at Southbank:

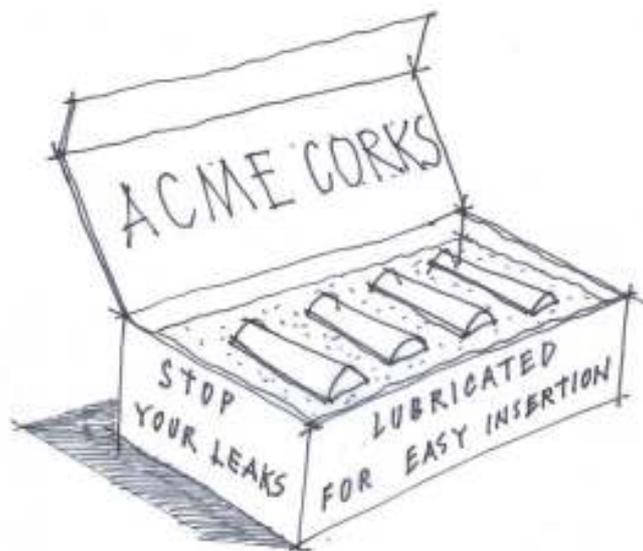


.....Graham, looking totally in his comfort-zone! Love the 'wheeled' pipes case!

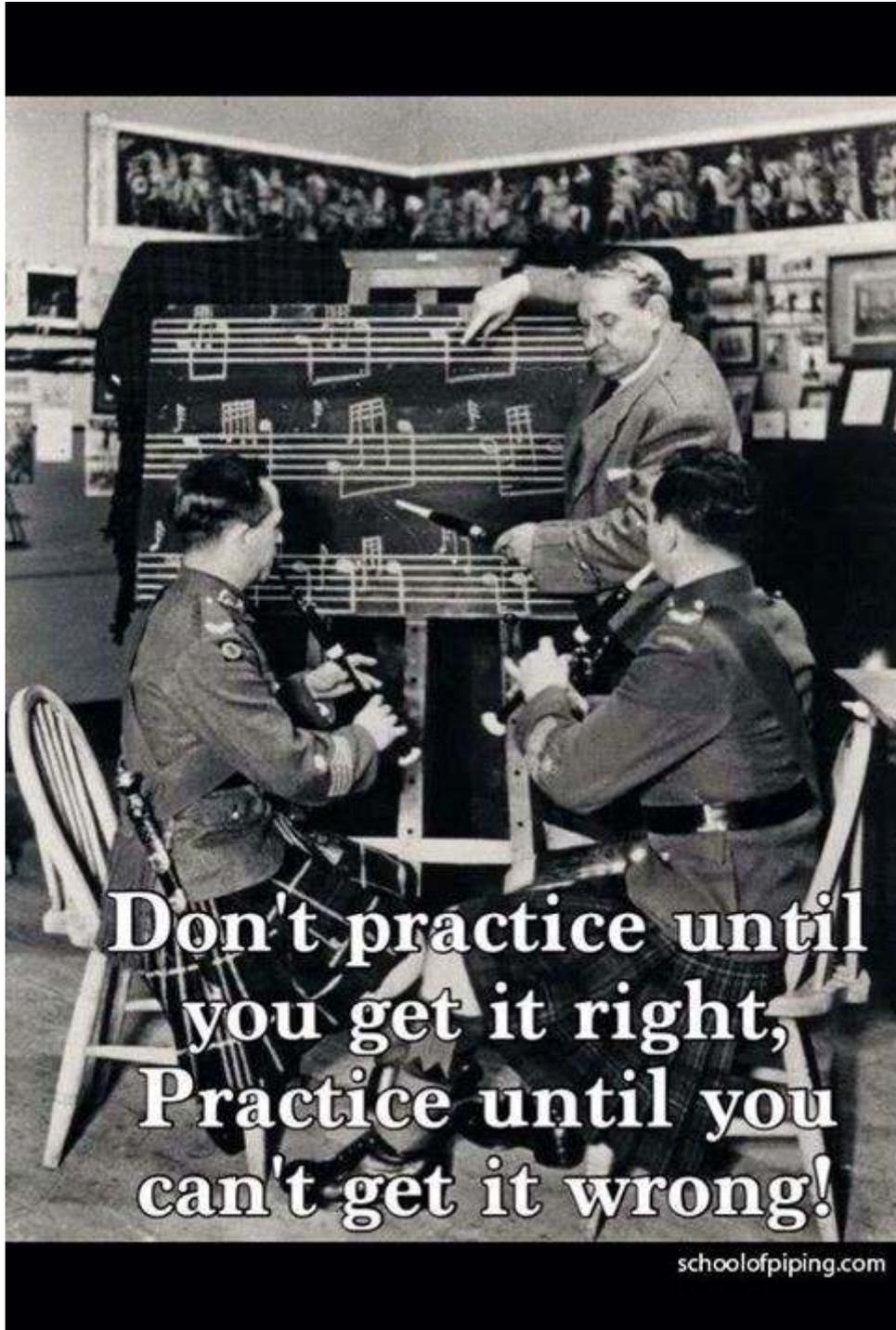
Graham sent us a cartoon, that seems to be suggesting some concern:



...so our P/M recommended the **Piper's Helper** kit:



A historical photograph that you'll all appreciate: (apart from the sage advice) the photo shows: PM Willie Ross standing by the board; PM Donald MacLeod of Seaforth Highlanders (taught our Danny MacPherson) sitting to left; PM William MacLeod of Queens Own Cameron Highlanders to the right – who went to Canada after the war. Talk about a 'master class'! The photo was taken at the Army School of Piping, Edinburgh Castle during WW2 and dates to 1943-1944



**Don't practice until
you get it right,
Practice until you
can't get it wrong!**

schoolofpiping.com

...interesting top-hand finger positions?

For our extended mailing list: introducing our new P/M David Forbes ('79) who this year very courageously took over the OSP&D reins from Brian Symington ('65):



OSP&D member playing at Dracula's (Bran) Castle in Romania, earlier this year (as you do):



...luckily, Dracula didn't wake up – he must just love the skirl o' the pipes!

Preliminary OSP&D Calendar (Jan - April 2016)

(Note: we will include the OSP&D practice dates in our next newsletter)

JAN. 1 (Friday) **Maryborough:** New Year Gathering (For info only: non-competition event)

FEB. 13 (Saturday) **Bendigo:** Scots Day Out - Competition

FEB. 28 (Sunday) **Ballarat** Highland Gathering - Competition

MARCH 20 (Sunday) **Geelong** Highland Gathering - Competition

APRIL 3 (Sunday) **Ringwood** H.G. - Victorian Championships

APRIL 24 (Sunday) **Croydon RSL** ANZAC March & Service

APRIL 25 (Monday) **ANZAC Day** March - St Kilda Rd

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