



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

Newsletter

No.1, 2016



Upcoming Events *(more details later):*

- ❖ Ballarat Bands Comp – Lake Wendouree, Ballarat – Sunday 29th March
- ❖ Next Practice sessions – 10:00 am, Sunday 6 March - and 10:00 am Sunday 13 March
- ❖ **Annual subscriptions for 2016 are now due**
 - *Cheque/cash to Graham – still only \$80 pa (or \$40 for students)!*

Scots Day Out - Bendigo

This year, Sunday 13th Feb, the day began with rather a pleasant morning for our street march down View St – but it did gradually warm up after that. It wasn't excessively hot – max 34° - so the band turned out in pretty reasonable number. We even cracked several photographs in the Bendigo Advertiser:

Scroll down the page and click left/right through the photographs at: <http://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/3725796/scots-day-out-photos/#slide=42>

Got a bit muggy by around 5pm, after the mandatory massed bands ceremony – and Eric let us down a bit, by stocking too few beers & assorted refreshments. I think he was a little embarrassed with that state of affairs and has learned his lesson. We'll see if he comes good next week!

According to P/M David Forbes we did present some moments of really great sound – possibly only let down by competition nerves and a lack of confidence (and over reliance on 'cues' for transitions, perhaps?). The judging sheets made rather similar observations. Still, we're all enjoying getting out there, and having a crack – and that's important for a band like us!

☺ *Jock was travelling by train, seated next to a stern-faced clergyman. As Jock pulled out a modest whisky flask from his pocket the clergyman glared and said reprovingly, "Look here, I am sixty-five and I have never tasted whisky in my life!" "Dinna worry, Minister," smiled Jock, pouring*

himself a generous dram. "There's no risk at all o' you startin' now!"

OSP&D Committee 2016

As you'll all be aware, our AGM was convened on Sunday 20th February – with members in particular agreeing to further rotating our committee. This year we welcome Bruce Webb into the role of Vice President. And we're very pleased to see Eddie Butler also join the committee, to help us maintain a more contemporary vision. While Keith Heale has stepped down from committee, we are greatly appreciative of his willingness to continue as informal quartermaster looking after the various uniform matters arising from time-to-time. The committee is systematically pursuing further rotation over the next couple of years – in particular to encourage our younger members into band leadership & development roles.

☺ *Angus was quite proud that he had recently attended a Temperance lecture given by Scotland's top medical man, recognised for his extensive medical knowledge and expertise but also a noted anti-drink campaigner. So Angus felt that he now well understood the serious effects of whisky. The speaker began by placing a live, wriggling worm in a glass of whisky. After a moment or two it died and sank to the bottom. The speaker said quietly to the audience, "Now my friends, what does this tell us?"*

Angus seriously considered the results of the experiment, and confidently raised his hand to observe, "If you drink whisky you'll not be bothered by worms!"

Royal Edinburgh Tattoo - Melbourne

While OSP&D just missed the cut for participation in this epic event, courtesy of serving with the Army Reserve (5/6 RVR) our own D/M Benjamin Casey played with the combined services (Army, Navy & Air Force) band – and got many a nice photograph (see later). Ben reports that it was a most enjoyable experience – and a great opportunity to create friendships with some very impressive yet friendly and engaging bandsmen from Scotland, New Zealand and interstate. Several OSP&D members also went along as spectators, and reported that it was indeed a most entertaining show.

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2016

As a heads-up, our good friends over at 5/6 Royal Victoria Regiment are contemplating once again participating in the *real* Edinburgh Military Tattoo in July – but are a little light on numbers, and are seeking additional pipers & drummers. At this stage, they are exploring ‘interest’ only. It would involve departing late June (around 25th?) and being away for *all* of July. It seems that accommodation & meals are ‘provided’ – so it may involve only the airfares & ‘extras’ expenses – and any extra travelling you might add on. Good opportunity to learn some new tunes – have a bit of fun – meet some impressive pipers and drummers – and immerse yourself in the rich REMT atmosphere.... Let myself (Stewart) or Peter Falconer know ASAP if you might be interested, and we can put you in touch with the RVR fellows.

☺ *A Scotsman, an Englishman and an Irishman were in a bar and had just started on a new round when a fly landed in each glass of beer. The Englishman took his out on the blade of his Swiss Army knife. The Irishman blew his away in a cloud of froth. The Scotsman lifted his one up carefully by the wings and held it above his glass. "Go on, spit it out, ye wee devil," he growled.*

Birthday Boy

As some of you will be aware, Keith Heale celebrated his 70th birthday just recently – quite a score! Many of us didn't think he was much past 55, with those enduring good looks! He had a small party, and joined by a few friends – and Brian stepped in to present a few tunes:



Keith and Judy are currently building anew on their beach house block down at Rye – and they've generously offered to host our end-of-year BBQ down there, this year. So pencil the date in your diaries for Sunday 11th December (TBC).

Valet David Boykett OAM

Many of us recall Dave Boykett from our school days – either as disciplinarian phys-ed master sending many a boy around again for not putting enough into it, or as a dual Olympian and inspiring rowing coach who oversaw many successful ‘Head of the River’ events - and set numerous lads on the path to Kings Cups, and oarsmen in

Commonwealth and Olympic games. Sadly, after a 34 year career at Scotch, and retiring in 1996, Dave passed away on 10th February this year, after a long illness. OSP&D was very proud indeed to provide two pipers – Jack Powell and Victor Hortin – for Dave’s commemorative service at Scotch. Dave will no doubt be hugely welcomed at the Pearly Gates, as one of very few indeed to be such a winner ‘on the water’.

☺ *Jock was returning home from the pub, smelling like a distillery.*

He flopped on a bus seat next to a priest. His tie was stained, his face was plastered with red lipstick, and a half empty bottle of whiskey was sticking out of his torn coat pocket. He opened his newspaper and began reading. Then he asked the priest "Father, what causes arthritis?"

"Well my son, it's the result of loose living, being with cheap, wicked women, too much whisky and a contempt for your fellow man."

"Well I'll be damned!" Jock muttered, returning to his paper.

The priest, feeling a little guilty, said, "I'm very sorry. I didn't mean to upset you. How long have you had arthritis?"

"I don't, Father. But I was just reading here that the Pope does."

Melbourne ANZAC Parade

We are again already planning our 2016 Melbourne ANZAC Parade. This year, in addition to a solid pipe corps, we will hope include a new mid-section to our

drum corps – tenor drummers Alison and Emma!. So, we are anticipating this year to be an epic ‘big-sound’ turn-out for the OS P&D band - if everyone can make a special effort to be involved. We’ve already won the ‘best pipe band’ award two years in a row! So ‘pencil the date’ in your diaries for Monday 25th April.

Also, as it remains a special centenary year of WW1, and the ANZAC parades around the country are again likely to be substantially larger than past years – with many more groups and individuals taking part. The bands parading in the Melbourne parade are again being asked to lead more than one group – and we have volunteered to do *two* runs down St Kilda Road to the Shrine of Remembrance. This will mean that we ensure immediate boarding of the shuttle bus at the end of our first run, to make it back to Flinders street in time for our second run. Reassuringly, the abundant supplies of bottled water and ANZAC biscuits will again be there, as usual, to keep us going.

We have not yet been advised of any **rehearsal** of the massed bands segment (to bed-down ‘special’ tunes such as Waltzing Matilda, et al), as was convened last year – but we will let you know ASAP if this is called.

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2014 Committee Members:

President: Brian Symington - Tel: (03) 9818 8414

Vice-Pres: Bruce Webb - Tel: 0411 364 255

Treasurer: Graham Reid

Secretary: Colin Bates

Committee: Eddie Butler, Stewart Wallace, David Forbes (PM), Benjamin Casey (DM)

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

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

2015 Band Leaders:

Pipe Major: David Forbes – Tel: 0403 266 145

Drum Major: Benjamin Casey

Lead Drummer: Scott Diener – Tel: 0435 769 140

New members:

Contact: Stewart Wallace - Tel: 0409 022 334

Webmaster: Andrew Buick – Tel: 0408 034 919

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Melbourne) 2016:



D/M WOII Colin Hughes-Smith, Benjamin Casey, and three others from 5/6 RVR



And our own D/M Benjamin also made friends with several of the Coldstream Guards

Keith presenting his birthday speech to the neighbours – apparently, all sitting out in their own backyards - did the beer run out...???



PEOPLE & PLACES

bendigoadvertiser.com.au/multimedia



GETTING READY Bands prepare in Hamilton Park before getting down from the set.

SCOTS DAY OUT

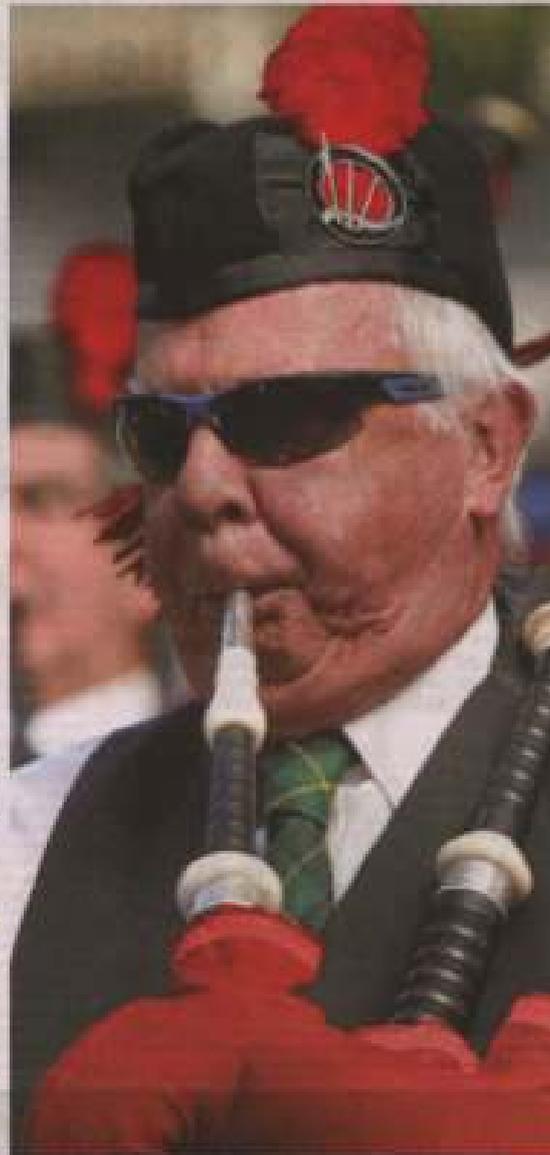
Thousands of people flocked to Hamilton Park on Saturday to take in the 10th day of the celebrations. Bendigo Advertiser photographer Glenn Baxter was there to capture the action.



BEAT THE HEAT Some go out in kilts and sporrans and others in casual wear at the 10th day of the event.



RUNNY IN TRADITION As well as dancing and feasting there's a lot of playing of what Scottish soldiers are often in...



CAPTAIN'S ADDRESS A number of pipe bands performed in the street parade, including the address with their leader, Captain, Glenn Baxter.



LEADER ADDRESS The band leader says the 10th day is a day to mark the 10th day of the event.



WOMEN IN TRADITION Some women in kilts and sporrans are also part of the event.



DELICIOUS THE EVENT Some people enjoy the food and drink at the event.



DANCE TOWN There are a number of dance competitions held including a traditional Scottish and modern competitions.



TALENTED YOUNGSTERS Some members of all ages took part in the parade.



SCOTS REPRESENTED The 10th day is a day to mark the 10th day of the event.

Bendigo Advertiser – February 16, 2016

OSP&D Calendar (February – June 2016)

(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, 28 Feb: Ballarat Highland Gathering, Lake Wendouree – Full Band Contest

Sunday, 6 March: Practice, 10:00am Pipe House

Sunday, 6 March: VPA Solo Piping – pre-season clinic, The Stables, Richmond

Sunday, 13 March: Practice, 10:00am Pipe House

Wednesday, 16 March: Practice, 7:30pm Pipe House

Sunday, 20 March: Geelong Highland Gathering, Goldsworthy Reserve, Corio

Wednesday, 30 March: Practice, 7:30pm Pipe House

Sunday, 3 April: Ringwood Highland Gathering, Jubilee Park – Victorian Championships

Friday, 8 – 10 April: South West Coast Piper Drummer Workshop, Warrnambool

Wednesday, 20 April: Practice, 7:30pm Pipe House

Sunday, 17 April: Croydon RSL ANZAC Parade & Service

Sunday, 17 April: VPA Solo Piping competition, Haileybury

Monday, 25 April: Melbourne ANZAC Parade

Sunday 1 – 2 May: R U Brown Piobaireachd Society competition

Sunday, 8 May: Practice, 10:00am Pipe House

Wednesday, 18 May: Practice, 7:30pm Pipe House

Saturday 21 May: VPA Solo Piping competition, Camperdown

Friday, 27 May: OSCA Annual Dinner, Leonda

Sunday, 19 June: VPA Solo Piping competition, PLC Burwood

Sunday, 16 July: VPA Solo Piping competition, Geelong

Sunday, 21 August: VPA Solo Piping competition, Ballarat (TBC)

Saturday, 3 Sept: VPA Solo Piping competition – Vic Championships, Scotch College

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