



# Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

## Newsletter

No.2, 2016



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

- ❖ Next Practice sessions – 7:30 pm, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August
- ❖ 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Scotch College Pipes & Drums – 3:00pm, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August

### **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event**

Most of you will know that pipe band traditions at Scotch College commenced from 1946 – so, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August this year, we will be celebrating (*and performing*) at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

Over the past 70 years the band has well fulfilled the vision of original piping tutor, **Danny Macpherson** (*ex Seaforth Highlanders*), becoming one of the icons of the school – and highlighting the Scottish contribution to our culture at official events and highland gatherings.

On Anzac Day, the Scotch College Pipes & Drums is a regular and prominent spectacle in the Melbourne ANZAC parade down St Kilda Road to the Shrine of Remembrance. The band also enjoys continuing competitive success in state and national band competitions, and overseas in Scotland.

Further event details can be found on the OSCA web-page – just click on this link: <https://www.scotch.vic.edu.au/media/171514/16082003.pdf>

### **2016 Solo Piping Successes**

You may not have noticed, but our very own Roger Sinclair recently won the C-grade solo Piobaireachd competition in Geelong in July – and in prior competitions, Roger gained 2<sup>nd</sup> place at PLC, and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Camperdown! And our D/M Ben Casey is also showing great piping skills: securing a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at Geelong, a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at PLC, and two 1<sup>st</sup> places at Camperdown! With the Victorian Championships at Scotch on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, we could see both pipers elevated to a higher grade next year!

### **OSP&D nudging our competition**

Proving just how much we've all improved our playing skills this past year, in our medley, Old Scotch P&D was just *three points* off the winner in Grade 4 at the Geelong Highland Games on 1<sup>st</sup> March this year! That performance helped to put us into 5<sup>th</sup> place overall, behind Warrnambool#1, Golden City, Geelong RSL and Maryborough.

And, in the preceding events, at Bendigo and Ballarat, we also put in several very good performances – some undue competition nerves leading to just a couple of errors.

Several of the judges have also offered very positive comments and congratulations this season on how much we've improved – encouraging us to 'keep it up'.

Unfortunately, however, we couldn't make it to the Victorian Championships this year (in Ringwood), because several key players had unavoidable family commitments. That's life! We're not so obsessed with competition, and consensus was that the band otherwise enjoyed a very good competition season this year.

A little more sustained effort and focus in practice, and at the band competitions, might even see us winning Grade 4 next year – with potential for being elevated to Grade 3. Great job, everyone, for the 2016 season!! Now, to sufficiently keep up our practice over winter...

☺ *Jock took two stuffed dogs to the Antiques Roadshow at New Lanark, last Thursday. "Wow!" said the presenter "This is indeed a very rare set of dogs produced by the celebrated Johns Brothers taxidermists, who operated in London at the turn of last century! Do you have any idea what they would fetch if they were in good condition?" "...Sticks..?" replied a slightly hesitant Jock.*

### **OSCA Annual Dinner 2016**

As usual, we again welcomed guests to the OSCA annual dinner with a performance out front of Leonda, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May. This event is always an **important showcase** for OSP&D, giving greater visibility of the band to the broader OSCA membership – not only to encourage former pipers/drummers to join us, but also to show our appreciation for the generous periodic financial grants by OSCA and the Victorian Scottish Cultural Heritage Foundation. So all playing members are strongly encouraged to participate and help ensure a *big* band turnout and a truly impressive sound.

This year, the keynote speaker was the Honourable Linda Dessau AM – the first female Governor of Victoria. A former barrister, magistrate, and judge of the Family Court of Australia, and a St Catherine's School alumnus, Ms Dessau praised the schools focus on developing boys into men of the future, and especially its unique indigenous program, and recalled fond past memories of Scotch and Scotch boys going back many years.

In thanking all those involved in organising the dinner, the OS Pipes & Drums was also specifically mentioned for its prominent role in the event - another very memorable performance!

☺ *So the political pundits are now saying that Brexit could well be followed by: Grexit, Departugal, Italeave, Czechout, Oustria, Finnish, Slovakout, Latervia, and Byegium. While only Remania will stay!*

### **Croydon RSL ANZAC Parade**

Our two new tenor drummers, Alison and Emma made their very impressive debut performance at our annual Croydon RSL ANZAC Parade on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Both Alison and Emma are ex-PLC pipers, so already have extensive knowledge of the tunes (*they can pick all your mistakes, pipers!*) making a great foundation for their tenor beatings! We received so many comments on the addition of the *flourishing* tenors - such a wonderful visual spectacle, and big lift in our sound quality. Huge 'cheers' ladies!

### **Australian Pipe Band Championships**

As many will be aware, we were considering having a crack at the 2016 Aussie Championships, this year to be convened at Knox Grammar in Sydney in [October?]. But, with the relatively late consideration, several of our key players had already coincidentally booked family holidays for that same time. However, building on our impressive state performances in 2016, next year might well be shaping up as good timing for our debut at the National competition. We're intending to get earliest planning proposals in place to enable everyone to work their diaries accordingly, and put in some serious practice. Stay tuned!



**Australian Aboriginal Didgeridoo**

**Needs Work**

**Free to Good Home**

### Our lead tipper

As some of you may be aware, our lead-drummer, **Scott Diener**, brings an impressive heritage to the L/D role within OSP&D. Along with our P/M and several other pipers of renown, we are lucky to have such accomplished players on the band:



Scott began his drumming career with Canberra City Pipes and Drums who were also acting as the official band to the Australian Federal Police. Scott was with Canberra City for 5 years starting as a learner drummer and working his way up to become Drum Sergeant and Lead Tip. Later shifting north, Scott soon became lead drummer and Drum Sergeant with Townsville RSL Memorial Pipes & Drums, it was with the RSL band that Scott was introduced to band and solo competition. During his time up north Scott also had the opportunity to play with 3RAR in the Queensland Championships in Grade 3. Eventually coming back down south, Scott has been Lead Drummer of OSP&D almost since its inception – nearly ten years, now.

Worthy of hero status, Scott consistently wears his characteristic smile (see a fine example above), gets along to almost every band practice & event (as well as being a 'champion dad' to three young ladies not yet in

teens), and his unwavering dedication to coaching, tutoring and further developing our drum corps, writing new scores, and an obvious dedication to building the band in every respect. Always ready to help and provide advice, Scott is hugely valued by the band. And, he's just one of those special personalities you can't help but warmly greet on every occasion.



### 2016 Melbourne ANZAC Parade

The band again prominently waved the **Old Scotch** flag in public by undertaking two runs down St Kilda Road as part of the annual Melbourne ANZAC Parade. And this year, with our new mid-section drummers (*cheers, again, to Alison and Emma!*), we presented a fantastic visual spectacle along with greatly improved sound. This year we were also given a special role as the *final band*, leading the RSL ANZAC marshals down to the Shrine of Remembrance – with a truly wonderful performance up the forecourt in front of the entire contingent of bands, all the march participants and the broader audience. Well done!

As the organisers seek to spread the accolades around, Watsonia RSL Pipes & Drums took out 'best band' this year, but we understand that Old Scotch was again right up there with the best (*maybe in 4<sup>th</sup> place?*) - always pushing other bands to seriously work their turn-out and drill.



## Scotch at European Championships

At this year's Euro championships, Scotch placed a very creditable 4<sup>th</sup> overall – but, more impressively, was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in piping! A hearty 'well done!' to the boys – and to their tutor Mark Saul and his internationally accomplished & dedicated support team: Kyle Warren, Scott Birrell, and Brenton Earl – along with all the supporting parents and, as official drones tuner, our very own Brian Symington.

## New tunes New tunes

Our P/M, David Forbes, is continuing to review our tune sets, to keep us moving along and progressively lift our playing skills. As you'll all be aware, David has started us working on several new tunes:

- **The Atholl & Breadalbane Gathering** – an old favourite 2/4 march of years past for many of us;
- **Epic** – a great 'performance' tune, including a rather sprightly harmony part;
- **Jig of Slurs**, as a medley tune likely to be familiar to many; and
- **MacArthur Road** (possibly **The Pigeon on the Gate**) as a new medley reel.

If you haven't already collected them at practice, the music scores for all of these tunes should soon be up on our web-site. So most of you should already be working on them.

☺ Two of our retired band members were relaxing at the golf club. Angus reports: "wife asked 'whatcha doing today?... and I said 'Nothin'.. she said 'But you did that yesterday!' so I said 'I hadn't finished'..."



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### 2016 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

### 2016 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

*OSP&D performs for Croydon RSL ANZAC Memorial 2016:*







*Dawn Service - our Piper Peter Falconer and Bugler Nigel Edwards on The Professionals' balcony.*



*Simpson - from a school book of yesteryear*

**Australia commemorates Vietnam War veterans on 50th anniversary of Battle of Long Tan**  
Australia's Vietnam War veterans will be honoured with a series of commemorative events this year to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan said today.

The Battle of Long Tan took place on 18 August 1966. It was one of the fiercest battles fought by Australians in the Vietnam War, involving 108 men from D Company and 6RAR and more than 2,000 Viet Cong troops.

D Company were greatly assisted by an ammunition resupply by RAAF helicopters, close fire support from Australian artillery and the arrival of reinforcements in APCs as night fell.

"On the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan we honour and commemorate all those who served in Vietnam, including the 521 Australians who died and more than 3,000 people who were wounded, injured or became ill as a result of the conflict," Mr Tehan said.

"Our Vietnam War veterans made great sacrifices for their country and this year, the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, is an important opportunity for all Australians to acknowledge their service and sacrifice.

"It was very pleasing to see our Vietnam Veterans leading our Anzac Day marches this year".



*ANZAC Sunday - Old Scotch Pipes & Drums*

#### **Tribute to Australia's Vietnam Veterans**

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, today officially opened the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia's 2016 National Congress in Canberra.

"Australians were involved in many engagements, including Operation Crimp in January 1966, 1968's heavy fighting around Bien Hoa and Long Binh during Operation Coburg, the battles for Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral, actions during Operation Goodwood around Hai Dich in 1968-69, the battle of Binh Ba in 1969 and in 1971 the Battle of Long Khanh.

"We must never forget the price that our Vietnam veterans paid for their service, especially this year, in which we mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August.

"The bravery, tenacity and sacrifice of the Australian and New Zealand soldiers in the Battle of Long Tan, and the support provided to them by the RAAF and by artillerymen from Australia, New Zealand and the United States are remembered as one of the Vietnam War's defining moments.

Mr Tehan also acknowledged the role the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia had played in the establishment of a dedicated counselling service to meet the needs of veterans and their families.

### **VALE**

W. E. E. Barkway  
24/05/16 Service Member  
T. Maddock  
08/05/16 Affiliate Member

#### **Need some assistance?**

Or just a chat? Call:  
Helen King 9723 4635  
Alan Baldwin 9723 4828  
Bereavement Officer  
Sam Berrie  
0417 395 910

*Jack Powell ('12) & Victor Hortin ('12) at the memorial of one of Scotch's Olympians (rowing), Dave Boykett ('52) - 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016:*



*And here's our travelling non-beer-drinking (“..haven't had one in 40 years!”) mate, Andrew, looking pensive in Argentiere:*





*...my granddad had a sign like this in his workshop:*



*.. and, finally, as they say in Scotland:*



*..courtesy of Dave Telford's rambling around the Internet..*



## OSP&D Practice Sessions (May – December 2016)

(Note: some dates may change – we will try to provide earliest email advice)

### May

Tuesday 24th

Friday 27th OSCA at Leonda

### June

Sunday 5th

Tuesday 14th

Sunday 19th

Sunday 26th

Tuesday 28th

### July

Tuesday 5th

Tuesday 12th

Sunday 24th

### August

Tuesday 2nd

Tuesday 9th

Tuesday 16th

Sunday 21st

Sunday 28th

### September

Tuesday 6th

Tuesday 13th

Sunday 18th

Sunday 25th

### October

Tuesday 4th

Tuesday 11th

Sunday 16th

Sunday 23rd

Sunday 30th

### November

Tuesday 8th

Tuesday 15th

Tuesday 15th

Sunday 20th

Sunday 27th

Tuesday 29th

### December

Saturday 3rd Daylesford Highland Games [tbc]

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# For Sale



## Stove-Fridge Combo

.....having a slow day in the office? ...just pity this poor bloke (*and where can the drunks run and hide anyway?*):



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