



Old Scotch Pipes & Drums

Newsletter

No.1, 2017



Upcoming Events *(more details on final page):*

- ❖ Inaugural small pipes session – 3:00pm Saturday 13th May (Wallace garage)
- ❖ Next Band Practice session – 7:30pm Wednesday 17th May
- ❖ OSCA Annual Dinner – Leonda by the Yarra – 6:00pm, Friday 26th May
- ❖ Scotch College Tattoo – Scotch – 5:45pm, Friday 2nd June

OSP&D 10-year Anniversary

Some of you may already have twigged – but 9 May 2017 represents a significant 10-year anniversary for OSP&D – and a very exciting journey it has been! Kicking off with an invitation to interested ex-players to come together in April 2007 to gauge interest/numbers, the first committee meeting was convened on 9th May 2007. At the time, we weren't too sure of the key focus, or how to ensure longevity. But here we are today, growing stronger every year – widely recognised in the bands community, improving our playing, building a strong camaraderie of common interests, and enjoying just playing & performing in various events.

☺ *A Scot and an Englishman happened to bump into each other in a borders pub. The Englishman smirks and asks the Scot "What's the difference between a skirt and a kilt?" "Well..." replies the Scot "that depends on how many o' yer teeth ye want tae keep!"*

Competition success

The recent 2016-17 Pipe Bands Victoria competition season brought some notable success to Old Scotch! Building on winning 'best pipe band' in the Melbourne ANZAC Parade several years ago (twice running), we are very proud this year to have secured our first 'silverware'! In the **Victorian Championships** in March, we scored an equal-third on points (*alongside Golden City PB*), and the very next week achieved a clear third placing at the **Ringwood Highland Games**. More particularly, our drum corps scored an impressive 2nd place in the Victorian

Championships and a very creditable 1st place at the Ringwood games! And our Ringwood performance brought us our very first shiny trophy! *See photo later.*

2017 ANZAC Parades

Once again the OSP&D proudly led the 2017 Croydon RSL ANZAC Parade down Main Street, Croydon on Sunday 23rd April – and then on Tuesday 25th April we were again prominent in the 2017 Melbourne ANZAC Parade down St Kilda Road, with our two flourishing tenor drummers! Led by Pipe Major David Forbes ('79) our performance attracted lots of television coverage (ABC) as we played up the full length of the forecourt – in no small measure due to our bright red hackles, and unique red-and-white diced hose. You can see a portion of our performance on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/qhwfLcOpSIM>



Post-march 2017: (L-R) Stewart Wallace, David Telford, Matt Fishbeck, Gordon Walker, Alison Wallace, Emma McConchie, and Scott Diener ... *pick something not quite right?*

70th Anniversary of Piping at Scotch

In September 2016, the band took part in the 70th anniversary of the initial formation of a pipe band at Scotch in 1946. The anniversary was a truly special occasion, mostly organised by Kerry Webb and attended by several members of the original band including ex-PM David Corbett. And our own president, Brian Symington, was appointed compere of the event.

An extensive photographic display, from several private collections, made for much discussion and recollection – along with memorabilia of our first piping tutor Danny MacPherson, who came from the Seaforth Highlanders in Scotland (*and who apparently referred to the Scots Guards, whose music books we all use, as 'those coont'rfeit Scots'*), and even one of the original rope-tensioned drums.

Members of that first band included: P/M David Corbett, D/M David Bishop, P/Sgt Ian Cameron, P/Cpl Darrell Davis, John Coppock, Dennis (Kerry) Elliott, Ray Howden, John Medley, Daryl Merigan, Ron Sheppard, and Ewen Wallace. Drummers were: D/Sgt David Hopkins, Peter McCausland, Basil Corr, and Don Hobbs.

With performances by the OSP&D, and both the No.1 and No.2 school bands, it was an historic occasion of which we were very proud to be a part. We even prompted another ex-school piper to dust off his playing skills and join us.



Piper Ewen Wallace (c. 1946)

Many thanks indeed to Kerry Webb for her energy and perseverance in pulling this whole event together.

☺ *I recently changed my car horn to gun-shot sounds. People now move out of my way much faster!*

OSP&D Committee 2017

As most of you will be aware, we are actively seeking to encourage a younger committee – and this year we convinced Peter West ('79) to nominate, enabling Stewart Wallace to step down. (*Actually, we are quite aware that our older members are merely aiming to become the back-rank larrikins!*) We also want to thank Bruce Webb ('79) for continuing as our Vice President – to assist Brian Symington ('65) as ongoing President, Colin Bates ('66) Secretary, and Graham Reid ('66) as Treasurer. Eddie Butler ('05) also continues on committee – and maybe next year we might see a few more younger nominations to ensure we retain a contemporary vision (*you know who you are!*).

☺ *A mate of ours has two tickets to this year's Grand Prix - box seats plus accommodation. But he didn't realise when he bought them that this is going to be on the same day as his wedding - so he can't go. If you're interested and want to go instead of him, it's at St Peter's Church in Toorak Road, Toorak at 3pm. Her name is Louise. She's occasionally moody, but nice.*

Drum Major vacancy

Regrettably, and after many years of fine service, our Victorian and Australian champion Drum Major, Ben Casey, has been enticed away to other challenges, so we now have a vacancy for a Drum Major. This role would certainly suit a past-student Drum Major, who will bring knowledge of standard mace signals and appropriately impressive drill and bearing. If anyone knows of a suitable candidate we would be very grateful if you would encourage them to come along and join us.

☺ *I decided to change calling the lavatory 'the John' and instead now refer to it simply as 'Jim'. I feel so much better now saying 'I went to Jim, this morning'.*

OSP&D supporting Cancer Research

OSP&D has played for another worthy fund-raiser event this year – kicking off the 24-hour '**Relay for Life**' event, convened at the John Gardiner Reserve in East Hawthorn on 25th March. In the past we have also played at several other fund-raising lunches and dinners associated with cancer research. Supporting cancer research is not only an excellent cause in its own right, but is also a personal issue for a number of our members who have been '*touched by the magic wand*' and continue to deal with ongoing and/or post-treatment issues. OSP&D also frequently supports various 'men's health' activities, and is keen to lend its support to other such worthy initiatives.

OSP&D honours old collegians

The OSP&D also continues to regularly provide pipers to ensure an appropriate farewell to old boys of the school on their inevitable passing away.

An OSP&D piper also played for the funeral of Danny McPherson's daughter, Angela who passed away in January this year, aged 91. Angela was a prominent person in Scottish Dancing for many years.

2016 AFL Grand Final Parade

In response to a request from the City of Melbourne Pipes & Drums, who had a clash of events, OSP&D supplied five pipers and two drummers to form a composite band to lead the 2016 AFL Grand Final Parade from the Victorian Parliament all the way to the Melbourne Cricket Ground. It was certainly an enjoyable event, in front of a very large crowd, and our band uniform with its flashes of red and the emblazoned Old Scotch bass drum, clearly stood out – subtly highlighting the important historic linkage between the modern game of Aussie rules and Scotch College.

☺ *Letter from Harrods: Dear Mrs MacLennan: Over the past six months, your husband Angus has been causing quite a commotion in our Knightsbridge store. We are aware that he has recently retired, and so now seeks every day to keep himself busy. However, we cannot tolerate this type of behaviour and, as a result, may regrettably need to ban your entire family from shopping here again if even one more incident occurs. We have documented all incidents, and recorded them on our store video system. Three of our clerks are currently attending counselling. I attach a summary listing of these incidents for your reference.*

*Yours sincerely,
William Brown - Managing Director*

*MEMO - to Mr Rajiv Sengupta, Complaints
Re: Mr Angus MacLennan - incidents whilst shopping with his wife*

- 1. 23 Nov 2005: took 24 boxes of condoms and put some in other people's trolleys while they were not looking.*
- 2. 23 Nov 2005: set all the alarm clocks in Housewares to go off at 5-minute intervals.*
- 3. 10 Dec 2005: made a trail of tomato juice on the floor leading to the toilets.*
- 4. 23 Dec 2005: approached an employee and, in an official tone, told her: 'code 3 in housewares!' ...and then watched what happened.*
- 5. 10 Jan 2006: approached the service desk and asked to put a packet of M&Ms on lay-by.*
- 6. 23 Jan 2006: moved a 'caution - wet floor' sign to the carpeted area.*
- 7. 15 Feb 2006: erected a tent in Camping, and told other shoppers they could come in if they'd bring pillows from the Bedding department.*
- 8. 5 Mar 2006: when a clerk asked if she could help him, he threw himself on the floor, began to cry and wailed 'why can't you people just leave me alone!'*
- 9. 26 Mar 2006: peered directly into the security camera - used it as a mirror, and picked his nose.*

10. 10 Apr 2006: while handling shotguns in the Outdoors & Hunting department, asked the clerk in a low voice if he knew where his antidepressants might be.

11. 15 Apr 2006: darted around the store, looking around suspiciously while loudly humming the 'Mission Impossible' theme.

12. 26 Apr 2006: in the Motoring department, practiced his 'Madonna look' using different-sized funnels.

13. 1 May 2006: hid in a clothing rack and when people browsed through, yelled 'pick me! - pick me!'

14. 12 May 2006: when an announcement came over the loud-speakers, he assumed a foetal position and screamed 'no! no! Morag - it's those voices again!'

And last, but not least, just today, 16 May 2006: went into a fitting room, shut the door and waited a while - then yelled very loudly 'hey, somebody! I need some toilet paper in here!'

Xavier Boderiou – Breton Piper

Several of us ventured down to Starward Distillery in Port Melbourne, last week, to hear renowned young Breton piper Xavier Boderiou perform. Xavier has also played with Simon Fraser University pipes & drums (multiple World Champions) – and also manufactures pipes and reeds. He is certainly a very talented piper, and we heard some nice Breton tunes (including lots of C-naturals) along with quite a medley of hornpipes, jigs and some very challenging march tunes.

Also on the performance card for the night were Josh Chandler (VicPol), Will Sincock ('15), and an impressive young lady (still just in Yr11) from Warrnambool – one of Donald Blair's protégés.

Apparently, the distillery hosts periodic summer piping performances – lots of chairs, throw open their doors (a partly outdoor show!). Worth keeping an eye out for these.

The distillery production venue itself is also worth visiting – they run daily guided tours! A little trivia knowledge: Starward

Distillery produces two barrels (200L) of Australian single malt whisky per day – and it is a very nice malt, indeed. Worth a taste! See photo later.

VPA Solo Piping

For those interested, we've included the dates of the VPA solo piping competitions in the calendar of dates (attached later). And the D-grade VPA tune requirements for 2017 are:

- Sat 30 April (Haileybury):
 - 2/4 march (4pts)
 - Strathspey/reel (2pts each)
- Sat 20 May (Camperdown):
 - 2/4 march (4pts) into Strathspey & reel (2 pts each)
 - 6/8 march (4pts)
- Sat 17 Jun (PLC):
 - 2/4 march (4pts)
 - Strathspey/reel (2pts each)
- Sat 1 Jul (Ballarat):
 - 2/4 march (4pts) into Strathspey & reel (2 pts each)
 - 6/8 march (4pts)
- Sun 27 Aug (Geelong):
 - 2/4 march (4pts)
 - Strathspey/reel (2pts each)
- Sept Vic Championships (Scotch):
 - 2/4 march (4pts) into Strathspey & reel (2 pts each)
 - 6/8 march (4pts)

D-grade Piobaireachd: Ground & 1st variation

OSP&D Small Pipes

We've been talking about getting our little group of small-pipers together for a while – and it's time we actually did something! So you will see in the attached calendar of activities, we've scheduled in some proposed 'practice' dates – aiming for one Saturday afternoon per month (3-5pm). It will be a bit experimental at first – we'll see how we go. Initially, the key focus is likely to be on developing a stable repertoire that we can all get our heads/hands around. Eventually, we might try developing some harmonies and possibly even some 'performance' sets.

It will be fairly informal - open to all interested folk, whether or not you own or have access to small pipes (*just bring your practice chanter, if no small pipes...*).

Canberra Burns Club Highland Gathering

Most of you will be aware that we have decided this year to have a crack at our first interstate competition – the Canberra Burns Club Highland Games.

This will involve either flying up to Canberra on Friday afternoon, or sharing a self-drive mini-bus, and overnight hotel/motel accommodation, and compete on Saturday. Return flight costs are around \$300 (or you might choose to drive up Friday), while the minibus contribution is likely to be much less – maybe \$25-50/head. We are aiming for a special block-booking rate at a conveniently-located hotel/motel. Return would either be via minibus on Saturday evening, or you might choose to stay-over to watch the Sunday events, and make your own way back on Sunday evening. Further details will be advised in the next month or

so. So, do get along to practice, so we can make for a big band sounding great!

Australian Championships 2018

And to give ourselves a little more of a challenge, the band has also decided to start working towards participation in the 2018 Australian Pipe Bands Championships – which will now be convened at Brisbane Boys Grammar School in Toowong in April next year.

Again, the idea is to fly up Friday afternoon, to compete in the G4 section on Saturday, and then fly back Sunday afternoon.

Again, watch this space for further details, and do get along to our practice sessions to get the tunes embedded into your subconscious. ☺

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2017 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, Peter West, and David Forbes (PM)

2017 Band Leaders:

Pipe Major: David Forbes – Tel: 0403 266 145

Lead Drummer: Scott Diener – Tel: 0435 769 140

OSP&D periodic newsletter:

Contact: Stewart Wallace - Tel: 0409 022 334

OSP&D web site:

Contact: Andrew Buick – Tel: 0408 034 919

2017 Melbourne ANZAC Parade – a little damp, this year:



D/M (acting) Brian Symington leading us down St Kilda Road



OSP&D Drum Corps – (from far side): Ian Bell, Scott Diener (lead), Kim Coillet, Peter West (missing: John 'Traz' Zelcer & Simon Chandler)

Good turnout of pipers parading down St Kilda Road, 25 April 2017



And our much-valued mid-section drummers – Emma & Alison (both ex-PLC P&D pipers):



Starward Distillery, Port Melbourne – now there's a grand 'piping' venue!



Breton Piper (& Simon Fraser University PB), Xavier Boderiou, at Starward



Our first trophy! (...the one on the left..!!)



OSP&D about to perform at the Daylesford Highland Games in December 2016



Croydon RSL Parade



Danny McPherson (L), with Australian Prime Minister Bob Menzies - 1951



OSP&D Calendar (April – December 2017)

(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/Other activities)

Sunday, 30 April: VPA Solo piping – Haileybury College
Wednesday, 3 May: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Saturday, 6 May: The Pines Learning Centre, Doncaster East (11:45am)
Saturday, 13 May: Small pipes practice session – venue: Wallace garage (3:00pm)
Wednesday, 17 May: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Saturday, 20 May: VPA Solo piping – Camperdown
Wednesday, 24 May: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Friday, 26 May: OSCA Annual Dinner – Leonda by the Yarra (6:15pm)
Wednesday, 31 May: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Friday, 2 June: Scotch College Tattoo (5:45pm)
Saturday, 10 June: Small pipes practice session – venue TBC (3:00pm)
Monday, 12 June: Queens Birthday holiday
Wednesday, 14 June: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Saturday, 17 June: VPA Solo piping – Presbyterian Ladies College
Sunday, 25 June: 10:00am Band Practice session – Pipe House
Saturday, 1 July: VPA Solo piping – Ballarat Grammar
Wednesday, 5 July: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Saturday, 8 July: Small pipes practice session – venue TBC (3:00pm)
Wednesday, 12 July: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Wednesday, 23 July: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Wednesday, 3 August: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Saturday, 12 August: Small pipes practice session – venue TBC (3:00pm)
Sunday, 13 August: 10:00am Band Practice session – Pipe House
Wednesday, 23 August: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Sunday, 27 August: VPA Solo piping - Geelong
Saturday, 2 September: Small pipes practice session – venue TBC (3:00pm)
Sunday, 3 September: 10:00am Band Practice session – Pipe House
Wednesday, 13 September: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Sunday, [XX] September: VPA Solo piping – Scotch College (Vic Championships)
Sunday, 17 September: 10:00am Band Practice session – Pipe House
Sunday, 24 September: 10:00am Band Practice session – Pipe House
Saturday, 30 September: Small pipes practice session – venue TBC (3:00pm)
Sunday, 1 October: 10:00am Band Practice session – Pipe House
Wednesday, 4 October: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Saturday, 7 October: Canberra Burns Club Highland Gathering
Wednesday, 18 October: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Saturday, 28 October: Small pipes practice session – venue TBC (3:00pm)

Sunday, 29 October: 10:00am Band Practice session – Pipe House
Wednesday, 8 November: 7:30pm Band Practice session – Pipe House
Saturday, 11 November: Remembrance Day
Sat or Sun, 18 or 19 November: Very Special Kids Parade
Sat or Sun, 18 or 19 November: Open Garden Day – Warratina Lavender farm, Wandin
Saturday, 25 November: Small pipes practice session – venue TBC (3:00pm)
Sunday, 26 November: 10:00am Band Practice session – Pipe House
Saturday, 2 December: PBV Daylesford Highland Games
Sat or Sun, 9 or 10 December: OSP&D end-of-year BBQ function (venue TBD)

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OSP&D De-briefing session – following our performance at The Pines Leaning Centre