



PIPE BANDS AUSTRALIA

South Australian
Branch



The Piping Shrike
December 2016

Pipe Bands Australia Inc

SA Branch

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NEXT ISSUE CLOSING:

Friday 17/ 2/17

Submitted articles should be written in plain text, in 10 point Calibri.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

ANDREW FULLER

Welcome to our third edition of the new electronic version of The Piping Shrike.

Summer School Scholarship applications have closed (November 30). At the time of writing this report (Nov 26), it was not yet known who the successful applicants were. The Summer School is being held in Melbourne, Jan 15-20. For those wishing to attend this event (not necessarily via scholarships) please refer to PBA's website for all details. The line-up of instructors is world-class and there is a wealth of knowledge and social interaction to enjoy.

Some of you will be aware of the Pipers' Night that is hosted by Colin Melville. It would be fair to say that this event has met a need in our 'scene' here in SA, and has been growing at a rate that is very encouraging. Attendances have been increasing significantly across the two held thus far. Pipe Bands SA encourages as many of you along to these meets as possible. The gatherings are entirely informal, completely engaging, and a lot fun. It is a great social outing with many a fine tune to either be heard or to join in with. The 'Christmas Edition' (a cue to dress for the occasion) is to be held on Saturday December 17, commencing at 7pm at the Prospect RSL (with full bar service). All are welcome. Please see the Branch Facebook Page for more information.

The RU Brown Piobaireachd Society will be holding their Christmas Meeting on December 9, commencing at 7.45 pm at the Prospect RSL. All are welcome to come and play a tune and also enjoy some piping.

We have communicated a Memo (from Pipe Bands Australia) to all band secretaries we have on record regarding membership of non-competition bands. Please feel free to contact the Branch Secretary for clarification on what this memo is detailing, should it be required.

VISIT THE PIPE BANDS AUSTRALIA Inc SA BRANCH WEBSITE AT

www.sa.pipebands.asn.au

AND

THE PIPE BANDS AUSTRALIA WEBSITE AT

www.pipebands.asn.au

FROM the EDITOR

Christine Gordon

This is the third edition of The Piping Shrike to be delivered electronically, with a copy also being placed on the Branch web site to provide a wider distribution.

Every member who has provided a current email address to the National Registrar is now receiving the Piping Shrike, however not all email addresses are up to date and emails to these bounce back. It is difficult ascertain which bands these people are with on the data base as most people do not generally identify themselves by name in their email address. A few of people have informed me of a change in their address so they could receive their copy of the Shrike. If you have not received a copy by email and wish to do so please check that your current address has been passed onto the national registrar by the band secretary so it can be amended on the data base.

The most important part of the Piping Shrike is the content and this is generally the most difficult to find. Chasing content takes up most of the time involved in putting an edition together. There are some who supply information by the due date or even before and I thank them for their support in this, but often I am chasing information past the due date.

Band news, especially special events, band, historical information, personalities and at the branch level special programs, educational information, and workshops. Reviews are also welcome.

Advertising is also now easier as I am no longer tied to having the size of the booklet where the number of pages is divisible by 4. Nor does the booklet need to be kept as small to kept costs down. While there is a limit to the size that can be sent digitally, there is more flexibility than with the hard copy version. Also, graphics and photos can be viewed in colour.



AROUND THE BANDS

CITY OF ONKAPARINGA PIPE BAND GOES INTERNATIONAL!

Local SA television identity Andrew Costello (better known as South Aussie with Cossie) had a great idea to help families in Cambodia. Instead of rocking up with a fistful of dollars and handing them out, he decided to implement his own banking system where cows replace money!

Known as *Cows for Cambodia*, he provides a pregnant cow to a family in need (they sign a contract with a fingerprint), the family looks after the cow until it gives birth. The family keep the calf (providing a significant boost to their wealth and well being) and return the cow to 'Cossie – a win/ win for everyone!

So, what does this have to do with the City of Onkaparinga Pipe Band you may ask?

Every year, 'Cossie track s off to Cambodia with a group of volunteers to help with the families- COPB's President (Keith Blyth) was one of those volunteers.

And you can't travel all that distance without your bagpipes!

So in August Keith and his wife headed off to Cambodia for a week, complete with 'Cossie's Team and a set of loan bagpipes from COPB (the ivory on Keith's bagpipes were an issue for customs). Next question: what do you play to large groups of Cambodians who have never seen or heard bagpipes? Answer– you play a lot!

When the week had concluded, there **was hardly a village that hadn't heard** Scotland the Brave – the apparent tune of choice for Cambodians! Admittedly, 38 degree temperatures and 85% humidity do not create the best environment for playing the bagpipes – but then, we were breaking new ground and nobody seemed to mind!

The local Monks also displayed a **"growing" appreciation of the bagpipes** – after their initial wonderment and then **shock and horror at the sound!** 'Cossie's cattle breeding programme is successful; **thanks in part to the Monk's regular 'blessing of the bull' ceremony.** This involves chanting (a lot of it) and ritual **blessing by flicking 'Holy Water' on to the said bull.** The bull didn't seem to mind all of this pomp and ceremony nor the sprinkling of Holy Water – after all, his success rate has lifted to 100% since the Monks started the blessing!

Having blessed the bull, the Monks then moved on to a house we built (all in one day) – **one of our projects.** 'Cossie asked for a rendition of Scotland the Brave, once the Monks had finished their rituals. Strategically, we agreed I should stand near the Monks (respectful distance of course) and strike up as soon as they finished.

Ceremony over, I commenced the tune – much to the shock of the Monks! Their reaction quickly turned to warm acceptance and in a symbolic gesture (my take **on them taking the what's it out of the bagpipes**), proceeded to sprinkle both

the bagpipes and me with the Holy Water! Once completed, the Monk stood back and admired his handiwork – probably thinking in his mind (in **Cambodian of course**) **“Take that Jimmy!”**

The whole Blessing of the House Ceremony ended with a Cambodian version of the Highland Fling – not very flattering for those who are experts, but then again it is Cambodia!

The grand finale of bagpipe playing was **on the last night at a school that ‘Cossie** has helped to build – taking it from 16 to more than 170 students.



Playing Scotland the Brave – how else do you introduce the bagpipes to Cambodian children?

These children (primary age) and their carers **couldn’t get enough of the bagpipes** – as long as it included Scotland the Brave every second and third tune!

And as I packed away those remarkable and blessed with Holy Water bagpipes, I considered myself lucky to have been part of what was an amazing experience.

My thanks go to Andrew Costello – **‘Cossie to most of us** – for having the temerity to run with his heart and start an incredible programme in Cambodia that gives new meaning to helping people (his link is: cowsforcambodia.com)

I also want to sincerely thank the great City of Onkaparinga Pipe Band. On hearing my dilemma in trying to get my ivory bagpipes in and out of Australia, they got a set of customs friendly bagpipes together without giving it a second thought.



*Signing bags of rice with names of the donors who had paid for them on the internet the night before – known as the **“Rice Run”***

Our Pipe Band has gone truly international!

As we go into the festive season and start looking towards the New Year, I ask you all reflect on this great instrument we call the Highland Bagpipe - its rich history, its undeniable sound and its ability to cross international borders and appeal to people who may never see a set of bagpipes again, let alone hear them.

Not to mention a group of Cambodian Monks who are quietly smiling and telling stories about the day they blessed that crazy bloke from the City of Onkaparinga Pipe Band and the unusual Bull he held under his arm.

T

THE PIPES & DRUMS OF THE ROYAL CALEDONIAN SOCIETY OF SA

Ian Richardson and Don McQueen

Since the amazing activities of earlier in the year, the time since the last report has been a combination of rest and preparation for the end of the year. We began with renewing our acquaintance with Christmas Pageant repertoire but soon after the call came from Andre Rieu's management to see if we were interested in assembling 40 pipes and drums to join his production as part of **the show's finale in October. With the** assistance of The City of Elizabeth Pipes & Drums the entourage was completed. The music was not particularly demanding – Scotland the Brave, Amazing Grace and Wooden Heart - but knowing Andre is a perfectionist the combined troupe put in a good deal of practice in both music and drill. The drill included practice at stepping up to the stage and over a cordon of flower pots on to the edge while playing – just an added extra level of challenge particularly for the bass drummers. Close to the performance we were advised that Wooden Heart was to be omitted so our contribution to the night was modest. As it transpired the day of the performance began at 2.30pm in preparation for sound check and then it was a wait until 10.30pm before we were actually on. A long but interesting **day and one of those occasions you can't** reject.

Pageant season has already begun and the coming few weeks will be well occupied. At the time of writing the Credit Union Pageant has already heralded the beginning and we expect to conclude with a trek to Port Broughton just prior to Christmas. Included in the lead up to Christmas the band will participate in the St Andrews night function held at the Port Adelaide Caledonian Society in conjunction with the Royal Caledonian Society on the evening of 26 November.

It is pleasing to acknowledge the inclusion in the band of Kate Krieg, Gavin and Elise Scarman in their first performances with the band over the last couple of weeks.

Next year is beginning to look busy with some of our number heading to New Zealand for the National Championships in March 2017 but our main focus will be preparing for the coming Edinburgh Military Tattoo in August.

We trust everyone in the Pipe and Drum band community have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and that 2017 is full of enjoyment and fine performances.

RSL BLUE LAKE HIGHLAND PIPE BAND

Barry Ward

Since my last report the weather down here has not got any warmer making outdoor playing very uncomfortable.

It has been very welcome that most of our engagements have been indoors.

One payout was for the Saint Martin's School multicultural day where we saw what the other national groups can do in Drumming, dancing and singing.

We had an enjoyable afternoon at the **RSL "music from the Tattoo's" afternoon** where we had an opportunity to air some of our Limestone Coast Tattoo music.

This year the Limestone Coast Tattoo in its 5th year commemorates 100 years of war and peace which corresponds to the 100th year of the RSL. All the music comes from the various wars and conflicts since the Boer war through to today.

This year we are combining with the Naracoorte Highland and the Horsham City Pipe Bands and had a combined practice with them both at Naracoorte a few weeks ago to prove the music and Drill.

The Scots Dragoon Guards are playing a concert in the Sir Robert Helpman theatre the day after the tattoo and may have a detrimental effect on the patronage. We received a phone call this morning that they are going to discuss with us the possibility of playing at their concert. Do not know at this stage the requirement but whatever it is we will need to be at the top of our game.

Our learners both drumming and piping are progressing quite well now playing in the band. We really do need them for the future.

They all played at the A Coy 10/27RSAR. Army cabaret last Saturday night and some of the tunes brought tears to some for all the right reasons. The next

engagements are the Mount Gambier Christmas parade and then the Limestone Coast Tattoo. After that we are in to the South East Township Christmas parades, Cadet Presentation parades and New Years Eve. We already have engagements in January.

On a sadder occasion we lost past Committeeman Kenneth (Rocky) Dennert and Immediate Past President Barry Suckling in consecutive weeks. Our commiserations go to their families.

Learner Piper Ben Phillips is going to Malaysia to attend the world Scout Jamboree in December. He has been asked to play his pipes at their concert in front of thousands of scouts. We are setting him up so he can look after his own pipes and play tunes with 100% confidence. One would be naive to think that there will not be some other competent pipers present. We wish him well and hope all goes OK.

To all the other band fraternities, have a nice break and come back refreshed for another year.

CITY OF ADELAIDE PIPE BAND

Jac Mogey

The City of Adelaide Pipe Band have had a busy year! Following a change of leadership in August, the band has turned its focus to the future and begun work towards realising some ambitious plans.

New drums

A major step in the band's plans for improvement has been the purchase of a brand new set of Premier drums. Drum Sergeant Neil Mogey expects to take

delivery of the new drums early in 2017. Neil is a fan of the Premier brand, having played them in international Grade One competitions in the past. The band looks forward to having a new look and new sound to the drum corps.

Band Members out and about

Tenor drummer Monica Vorster recently competed in the Australian National Championships with the Western Australia Police Pipe Band, who won the Grade One competition. We are proud to have Monica in our ranks and benefit enormously from her knowledge and skill in tenor drumming. City of Adelaide pipe band will also be well represented in the 2017 New Zealand Pipe Band Championship in March. Currently the band will be contributing players to three different New Zealand bands: Auckland and District in Grade One, City of Nelson in Grade Three and City of Tauranga in Grade Three.

Closer to home, the band has enjoyed recent opportunities to march out with other bands from South Australia. Christmas pageant season is upon us and it has given us the chance to meet up with the wider pipe band community at parades and gatherings. We were able to play as part of a massed band after the Salisbury pageant and joined in with the City of Elizabeth pipe band after the Munno Para pageant. A few band members were privileged to **perform at the St Andrew's Day celebrations** which formed part of the 25th wedding anniversary celebrations for Pipe Major Willie Dowie and his wife Caroline, from the City of Elizabeth Pipe Band.

Upcoming events

Fundraising: The month of December is busy for the City of Adelaide Pipe Band. We are raising funds to help cover the **cost of the new drums, so you'll find us** out manning barbecues in the next couple of weeks. We are hosting sausage sizzles at Prospect Bunnings on Thursday 8 December and Saturday 17 December, and will be performing at the Bunnings Family Christmas Night on Thursday 8 December.

Pipers' Night: The final Pipers' Night for 2016 will be at the Prospect RSL on Saturday 17 December at 7:30pm. The two **previous Pipers' Night events have been** great fun, featuring music from pipers of all abilities, accompanied by musicians on a wide range of other instruments. **The Pipers' Night is an informal gathering:** come on down and have a tune!

Watch This Space: There are many events planned for 2017. So far, the following are on the agenda

- City of Adelaide 25th Anniversary Dinner – April 2017
- War Time Quiz Night – April 2017
- Combined Pipe Bands Ball – July 2017

Details of events will be published in early 2017. For information regarding upcoming events, please email Jac on events@adelaidepipeband.com.au



RU BROWN PIOBAIREACHD SOCIETY

Craig Ritchie

Following on from our recent AGM, to help fund events the committee resolved to write to SA based Society members and supporters to advise our programme for the ensuing year and to invite them to consider paying a small contribution to the Society. Subscriptions are \$25 individual or \$50 per family. Subscriptions can be paid by internet banking or directly to the treasurer at a meeting.

The Society holds regular solo piping nights throughout the year. All are welcome, so come along and enjoy an evening of piping (both Ceol Beag and Piobaireachd).

To help pipers wishing to learn or improve their piobaireachd playing the Society runs tutorials from time to time. Three tutorials are planned during 2017. Costs, including tutoring fees are met by the Society.

The May RU Brown Competition will not be held in 2017, however it will resume in 2018.

The Ernest Dowler Memorial Gold Medal will be held in April 2017.

The AGM will be on the 6th of October 2017.

Prospect RSL, 48 Willcox Avenue starting at 7:45pm. The RSL operates a cash bar and there is a supper break during the night for tea, coffee and delicious shortbread etc.

Program Outline		
Date	Activity	Location
Fri 09 Dec 2016	Solo piping	Prospect RSL#
Fri 05 Feb 2017	Solo piping	Prospect RSL
Fri 02 Jun 2017	Solo piping	Prospect RSL
Fri 04 Aug 2017	Solo piping	Prospect RSL
Fri 01 Sep 2017	Solo piping	Prospect RSL
Fri 08 Dec 2017	Solo piping	Prospect RSL
Fri 03 Mar 2017	Tutorials	To be advised
Fri 05 May 2017	Tutorials	To be advised
Fri 07 July 2017	Tutorials	To be advised
Fri 06 Oct 2017	AGM	Prospect RSL
Fri 07 April 2017	Competitions	To be advised

RESULTS 2016 SILVER CHANTER :

1st Brett Tidswell

2nd Stephen Ross

3rd Brian Scown

B grade:

1st Anna Doecke

2nd Gabrielle Doecke

3rd Stephen Ross

C Grade:

1st Jonno MacIntyre

D Grade:

1st Andrew Thomson

2nd Heather Pennell

3rd Ken Tung

Judge: Sam Young



*Merry Christmas
and
best wishes
for
2017*



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PIPE BANDS SA

CALENDAR 2016 –2017

Dec 17 SAT 7:00pm Prospect RSL (48 Wilcox Ave Prospect)

Dec 31 Scottish Associations Date Book forms due as directed

Feb TBA Mon 7:00 pm Branch Council Meeting TBA

Feb 5 Fri 7:45 pm RU Brown Meeting Soc Prospect RSL

Feb 19 Fri Piping Shrike Articles Due

April TBA Mon 7:00 pm Branch Council Meeting TBA

May 20 Fri Piping Shrike Articles Due

June 2 Fri 7:45 pm RU Brown Meeting Soc Prospect RSL

June TBA Mon 7:00 pm Branch Council Meeting TBA

Dates and Times are subject to change without notice.

Contact the Branch Secretary to confirm Branch event details.

Contact organisers of other events advertised on the calendar