



**Queensland  
Highland  
Pipers' Society**

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**May**

**2002**

## **May Meeting Monday 27th**

**Balmoral Bowls Club,  
Jean Howie Drive,  
Morningside**

**at 7.45 pm**

The meeting will feature our annual **Patron's Trophy** Contest which is an **MSR for Senior players** (Open and Intermediate) -

**Prizes:** 1st \$75 plus trophy, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$30. Tunes are the competitor's choice (4 parts or more) and are played once

### **From the Editor:**

It's been quite an active month in the local piping world, with the Celtic Celebrations Committee finals and the Kingaroy Band Contest. Reports of both of these appear in this newsletter.

Overseas, Bill Livingstone, Willie McCallum and the resurgent Murray Henderson have been doing well as the Northern Hemisphere solo circuit gets under way while Strathclyde Police under their new Pipe Major James Wark won the first two Grade 1 band contests of the year.

Our meeting this month features the Patron's Trophy, an MSR contest for senior players (details above). Our judge will be Roy Gunn and we look forward to a strong entry.

*Alex McConnell*

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## HOW TO GET TO THE BALMORAL BOWLS CLUB

**For those who like to work out their own directions the UBD Reference is Map 160, Reference Q12.**

**From the Gateway Arterial**—turn north at the Lytton Road intersection (just south of the bridge), travel along Route 24 and the Route 23 (Wynnum Road) till you see the Colmslie RSL on your left. Turn in as if going to the RSL but go right through their carpark and continue along Jean Howie Drive for about 350 metres. Turn left into the Bowls Club car park.

**From the City**—go across the Story Bridge, left into Shafston Avenue, then into Lytton Road and Wynnum Road (Route 23). Go along Wynnum Road until you see the Colmslie RSL on your right. Turn in as if going to the RSL but go right through their carpark and continue along Jean Howie Drive for about 350 metres. Turn left into the Bowls Club car park.

**From the west (old Cleveland Road)**—Turn into Bennetts Road. Continue along Bennetts Road, across the railway line and a park will appear on your right. Jean Howie Drive goes through the park (the entrance to the drive is near the boundary of the Bulimba Cemetery). Go about 350 metres along the Drive and turn right into the Bowls Club car park.

All comments made in this newsletter reflect the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or views of the Queensland Highland Pipers' Society or of any officer or member of the Society.

### APRIL 2002 MEETING

The April meeting actually started early with Doug Thoresen warming up his pipes before 7.45 pm to the rapt attention of those who had already arrived. Actually he did a bit more than warming up as the list of tunes shows: *Lochanside, Colin's Cattle, Barren Rocks of Aden* (4 parts), the ground of *MacFarlane's Gathering, Donald Maclean's Farewell to Oban, Caledonian Society of London* and *Alex C MacGregor*.

In all, about 30 members and supporters turned up including Alistair McInnes at his first Society meeting ever. He's been to other events organised by the Society but never a meeting.

Doug reminded us about the upcoming Celtic Celebrations Committee final and other events in prospect. He also mentioned that Matt Rigby has taken over from Joe Joyce (amicably) as Pipe Major of St Andrew's.

Next to play was Ryan Hoffman. On a nice bright pipe with quiet drones he started with the 2/4 *74th's Farewell to Edinburgh* and went on to play a list that included *Trisha's Air, MacKinnon's Eight Pointed Mayhem, Turf Lodge, Train to Glasgow, Shetland Fiddler's Welcome, The Whistling Postman, The Jig for Clancy, John the Tree Lopper* and *Calliope House*.

His command of the instrument held up well. Despite being a little too ambitious with his material at times, he recovered well from glitches. Generally he handled the faster music well with phrasing holding on most of the time but with a few lapses.

Next to play was Alistair McInnes. On a fine instrument (1928 silver and ivory Henderson drones and Travaille chanter) he moved quickly through a traditional but certainly not conservative selection of tunes. Starting with the 2/4s *The 6th HLI's Farewell to Gallipoli* and *The Alma*, he

played two Archie MacColl airs: *The Widowed man at the Fireside* and *Betty MacPherson* and the Jigs *The Hen's March, Donella Beaton and Alex MacDonald*. All done with great fingers and music. He went away to fix a couple of niggling problems with the chanter, to return later in the evening.

Philip Cowan was next on a firm and resonant pipe. Starting in 6/8 time (with good expression) he went on to play through a range of traditional type music including *The Braemar Gathering, Lochaber Gathering, Blair Drummond, Pretty Marion* and *Crags of Tumbledown*. Then he got a bit more modern with *Blowing in the Wind, MacArthur Road, Aerlie's Big Day, The Big Birl, The Pumpkin's Fancy* and *Clumsy Lover*.

Matthew Rigby then blew up the quintessential instant bagpipe and launched into a short but musical performance, starting with 3/4s and 4/4s. The tunes included *Colin's Cattle, Green Hills of Tyrol, Calderhead, Crusaders March* and *David Rose of Rosehall*.

Adam Britten was next to play on a strong but nicely balanced pipe. He started out in 6/8 time with *Isabel T MacDonald* and *Mrs Lily Christie* played with plenty of lift. He then played *Dr EG MacKinnon, Arniston Castle* and *The Rookery*. He showed excellent Strathspey and Reel expression. To finish he played the Irish Set he had been practicing for the Celtic Celebration Contest which ended with a fast and furious finale. The hallmark of all his tunes was excellent control.

Iain Davidson was next to play, on a much

more compliant bagpipe than he had at the previous meeting. He gave us a musical *Duncan Macrae of Kintail's Lament*.

Society stalwart Iain Bruce was our next piper on a much quieter but still resonant instrument contrasting with those heard before. As usual he included in his selection a number of musical but perhaps lesser heard pieces - where he dredges them from is a mystery! We are lucky to have among us someone with the patience to sort through what is available and come up with such gems. He played the 3/4s *Borve Castle, Donald MacKinnon* and *The Land of Trees*, the air *Fear A' Bhata*, the 2/4 *Calum's Road*, the air *Morag Beag* and the jigs *The Tenpenny Bit* and *The Seagull*. As the pipe was more finely tuned as he went on it acquired the mystical floating quality as the chanter and drones locked together. He finished up with the piobaireachd *Catherine's Lament*.

Alistair McInnes now returned. A few smaller tunes to get the pipe settled (6/8s *Dr Bill Costello of Grafton* and *The Braemar Gathering*, hornpipe *Murray's Fancy* and Jig *Donald MacLennan's Exercise*) and he was into his piobaireachd *The Old Men of the Shells*. Although the instrument seemed a little out at first the drones locked in really well after the ground. This is a distinctive sounding tune and Alistair really brought out its distinctiveness and kept the theme going well throughout.

Doug then wrapped up the evening, saying it had been a wonderful night of piping and reminded us of coming events. The raffle was drawn by Alistair McInnes and won by Matthew Rigby and all retired to supper.

## Society Meeting Program for the next few months

May ..... Patron's Trophy

June ..... Pipers Night

July ..... Jimmy Durham Memorial - 2/4 March for Junior players (Elementary & Sub Intermediate)

August ..... Annual Meeting

# What's On

<b>M A Y</b>	24,25	Pipers' Retreat—Tenterfield School of Arts Museum & Theatre. Registration \$10. Contact Shauna Bolton 02 6736 1232
	25	Brisbane Clans Pipes & Drums Highland Debutante Ball - Riverside Ballroom 7 pm to midnight. Contact Mavis Williams 3849 8271 or Kate Wyse 3369 2232
	27	<b>Society Meeting—Patron's Trophy</b>
<b>J U N E</b>	22	European Pipe Band Championships - Belfast
	22	Bannockburn Dinner (at the Irish Club, Brisbane) Sponsored by Clan Campbell and Clan MacDonald. Contact Trevor 07 3359 6662
	24	<b>Society Meeting—Pipers Night</b>
	30	Tartan Day Celebrations - 9.00 am to 4.00 pm, Cultural Forecourt, South Bank. Contact 07 3359 8195. Pipe Bands, Highland Dancing, Stalls and much more.
<b>J U L Y</b>	6	All Ireland Pipe Band Championships—Kilkenny City
	13	Wynnum Services Memorial Club Pipe Band 25th Anniversary Celebration. \$35 a head (incl, dinner) 7.00 pm to Midnight. Contact Faye Davis 07 3886 7801
	13	Toowoomba Caledonian Society Highland Debutante Ball—Indoor Bowls Hall, Toowoomba. Contact 07 4632 8455 (A/H 4635 1486) Tickets \$20
	22	<b>Society Meeting—Jimmy Durham Memorial</b>
	27	British Pipe Band Championships—Ayr
	27	Redlands Highland Debutante Ball—Community Hall, Smith Street, Cleveland. \$28 (concession \$14). Contact Danni Hartley (3286 5714) or Cynthia McGrath (3286 7909)
<b>A U G U S T</b>	2-11	Interceltique Festival de Lorient—Brittany
	7	Silver Chanter Competition—Dunvegan Castle, Skye
	10	World Pipe Band Championships—Glasgow Green
	21,22	Argyllshire Gathering, Oban
	26	<b>Society Meeting—Annual Meeting</b>
	31	pswich Thistle Pipe Band Contest. Limestone Park, Lion Street —Contact Liz McGhee 0414 776 361. See separate notice
	31	Cowal Championships—Dunoon
<b>L A T E R</b>	4,5 Sep	Northern Meeting, Inverness
	28 Sep	Wynnum Highland Gathering—Contact Glenys O'Malley 07 3822 6563
	26 Oct	Glenfiddich Championship, Blair Castle
	2 Nov	Bratach Gorm Competition—London

**The NSW Pipers' Society** meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 6 Holterman Street, Crows Nest. Contact Ron Clement – 02 9948 1914

**The WA Pipers' Society** meets on the 3rd Saturday at the Autumn Centre, Inglewood. Contact John McMurchie – 08 9401 9587

If you need more details about any of the above events and a contact is not mentioned, ring the Society Secretary (3397 4512 after hours) and we will see what we can dig up for you.

**Scottish Radio Programs**      **SBS Radio** – Brisbane FM 93.3 – Thursday nights 10-11 pm  
**4EB** - FM 98.1 – Thursday afternoons 2.15—4 pm  
**2RDJ** - FM 88.1 - Wednesday morning 6 am - 9 am

## The Society has a new photocopier

A you'll remember, the subscription levy struck this year was to help to fund the replacement of the Society's old photocopier which has been around since November 1991. It was becoming very difficult to get parts and expensive to service so it has now been retired. Repair costs over the last couple of years have been nearly \$1,000.

The replacement is a machine just a couple of years old but with much greater capacity in both speed and features than the old one. It has cost \$2,000, much less than it would have done even a few months ago, because the swing to digital copiers has meant that there is almost no secondhand market for anyone wanting to sell a conventional copier, even a fairly new high capacity machine. Those who get the printed edition of the newsletter will notice the big increase in quality.

As a by-product, we may be able to offer Society members very good rates if they have any large photocopying jobs to do for themselves or other organisations they are involved in. When we have worked out the cost per copy, we will advertise this in the newsletter

# CONTEST RESULTS

## Celtic Celebration Committee Competitions 27, 28 April QIA Rooms, Brisbane

### **Under 19 Solo Contest**

1. Matthew Supranowicz
2. Cory Dale
3. Ryan Hoffman
4. Jordan Whicker

### **Fosters Challenge Kitchen Music Contest**

1. Ian Campbell
2. Martin Frewen
3. Athol Chalmers
4. Murray Mansfield

### **Malaysia Airlines Australasian Final for the Festival Interceltique De Lorient (see report in this edition)**

1. Danny Boyle (Vic)
2. Martin Frewen (NZ)
3. Tracy Murphy (Vic)

## Highlands & Islands Festival May 3-4

### **Piobaireachd**

1. Murray Henderson, Park Piobaireachd No.2
2. Willie McCallum, Lachlan MacNeill Campbell of Kintarbert's Fancy
3. Roddy MacLeod, Lament for the Viscount of Dundee

4. Robert Wallace, The MacDougalls' Gathering

Judges: Iain MacFadyen, Jimmy Young, Walter Drysdale

### **March, Strathspey & Reel**

1. Willie McCallum, "Capt. Campbell of Drum A Voisk," "Susan MacLeod," "John McKechnie's Big Reel"

2. Alan Russell
3. Gavin Walker
4. Stuart Liddell

Judges: Iain Maclellan, Walter Drysdale

### **Hornpipe & Jig**

1. Niall Stewart, "Calum Campbell's Caprice," "The Old Wife of the Mill Dust"

2. Willie McCallum
3. James Murray
4. Stuart Liddell

Judges: Iain MacFadyen, Jimmy Young

## William Livingstone Sr. Memorial Invitational Hamilton, Ontario - May 11

### **Piobaireachd**

- 1st Bill Livingstone, "Lament for the Earl of Antrim"
- 2nd Ed Neigh
- 3rd Robert Crabtree, Toronto

**MSR and Hornpipe/Jig**

- 1st James McHattie
- 2nd Michael Grey
- 3rd Bill Livingstone

**South Burnett Pipe Band Championships—Kingaroy—12 May—see report in this newsletter.****Grade 1**

- 1. Qld Highlanders No 1

**Grade 2**

- 1. Qld Police Juvenile

**Grade 3**

- 1. Qld Highlanders No 2
- 2. Ipswich Thistle
- 3. Scots PGC

**Grade 3 Mini Bands**

- 1. Qld Police Juvenile No 1
- 2. Qld Police Juvenile No 2

**Grade 4 Mini Bands**

- 1. Queensland Highlanders No 2 A
- 2. Queensland Highlanders No 2 B
- 3. Scots PGC
- 4. Clan Stuart

**Festival Interceltique De Lorient Australasian Final**

There was a comfortable crowd for the start of this premier solo event at the Tara Ballroom in the QIA rooms on 28 April. A platform had been erected in the centre of the dance floor about a metre high, with the spectators at tables around the outside. The weather outside was dull and rainy so the atmosphere was just right for an indoor piping contest.

The previous day had seen kitchen piping contests and an under 18 contest. Apparently the standard of all but the top few performances in the kitchen piping had been a bit below par. The winner of the contest was the evergreen Ian Campbell. The Under 18 had been quite a good standard overall, however. The judges were Joe Joyce and Sam Young.

The contest consisted of a Breton Selection, followed after a re-tune by an MSR. After all the players had played these elements, they came back in the same order to play an Irish selection each. The judges were Nat Russell, Iain Bruce and Jean Pierre Pichard (from Brittany).

**Breton Selection/MSR**

The first player was *Adam Harvey* from NSW. His Breton selection a mixture of tempos and time signatures that was quite attractive but a little aimless in structure for my liking. His march was played at a good tempo and expressed well but with an unfortunate screech in the last part. The Strathspey was played with good snap but the reel never quite got going.

*Adam Britten* was the next competitor. His Breton selection started out with an attractive air. He then proceeded to some marches and then dances. His march was a bit light in fingering and he had a few places where the tempo was a little irregular. The strathspey a bit square and the same with the reel - both sounded a bit nervous. The Reel improved in the last couple of parts.

Victoria was next in the person of *Danny Boyle*. His Breton selection had noticeably more unusual notes than the previous players (to those of us who are a bit sensitive about these things). He built the temp up gradually. His quick playing was quite impressive but emphasised that one needs a lot more background to understand this music. Back to the more familiar with his MSR. He missed a birl in the first part of the march and lost the rhythm a few times. The strathspey was much better and the reel went well for the most part.

The trans-Tasman influence was next with *Murray Mansfield*. This was the first quiet bagpipe! All the other so far had been quite powerful, but uniformly well tuned and holding throughout. His Breton selection started out in a contemplative mood before moving up tempo. His MSR started with a march played at a very deliberate tempo and the drones just not quite right. He played a nice strathspey with good snap, spoiled a bit by the drones continuing to drift. The reel went very nicely.

Queensland's evergreen *Ian Campbell* was the next competitor with perhaps the best balanced bagpipe so far. He started out with a pleasant Breton air and his selection seemed to contain more slow

passages than previous players. That said his quick passage at the end of his selection was most impressive. The bagpipe was re-tuned we were into his MSR which was played at good brisk tempos. He kept good expression throughout and the reel went especially well.

**Tracy Murphy** from Vic was next. She started out her Breton selection at a brisk tempo. A most varied and musical selection, a bit less abstract sounding to my ears than some of the previous efforts but the drones were going out a bit at the end. Her MSR had good tempos and expression throughout - possibly one of the best as far as consistency goes so far, but marred by a couple of chanter squeals in the reel.

Brisbane's **Darin Cook** was next to ascend the platform. He started his Breton selection with some brisk sounding tunes. Like some of the earlier competitors, his selection seemed to lack structure, with simply alternating slow and fast bits- this is unlikely to win converts to this type of music! His MSR started out with one of those marches that just had everything in the right place but played a bit too deliberately. He took about a measure to settle into the strathspey but from then on it was a nice piece of music. The reel had nice bits in it but the pulse was not sustained right through and the drones went off in the second half.

**Marti Frewen** was the next competitor. His Breton selection was spoilt a bit by the pipes not being quite right from the start, although they seemed to improve as he went on. It seemed to be predominantly quicker music. His march had good tempo but some variation in expression. The strathspey started with good snap but the tempo varied towards the end. The reel had too little pulse and seemed to be struggling along.

Next to the other side of Australia with **Alasdair McLaren** from WA. He started his Breton selection with a slow piece. His bagpipe had a very bright tone but the drones started to go off a bit. He finished with a stirring piece. His MSR started with promise. Despite a couple of wobbles in the 3rd part it was well sustained, albeit at a pretty deliberate tempo. The strathspey was well expressed with plenty of snap but some tempo variation. The reel had a lack of pulse and continuity.

Finally **Athol Chalmers** on a quieter bagpipe. He started the Breton selection with a slow piece. It was a musical sounding selection able to be appreciated by a non-aficionado. In his MSR he started with a good March but had an error in the 2nd part of the strathspey which was also played a bit "square". The reel very quick but kept going well.

After a half hour break the Irish selection began

**Adam Harvey:** Nice musical feel throughout with good tempo and time signature changes. Lovely jigs.

**Adam Britten:** Jigs not as well defined as Adam. Some of the really complex stuff was not quite on the beat - this applied to both jigs and reels.

**Danny Boyle:** Started with an air with a lot of use of slurred notes. The jigs had plenty of work in them but expression was well maintained. The selection was quite pleasant but there was a feeling of sameness about it.

**Murray Mansfield:** Jig rhythm was well sustained and the same with reels. Not the same spectacular fingering as Danny Boyle but I found it more musical and better phrased apart from the last burst of reels which was a bit flat.

**Ian Campbell:** Some nice jigs although a bit afflicted with sameness. After an air with plenty of "effects" his reels were very quick but held together. He had a spectacular finale - a real crowd pleasing performance.

**Tracy Murphy:** A nice air to start but she seemed to be struggling with the pipe a bit. A long selection of reels which could have become boring but managed to keep interest due to consistent good phrasing and a tempo that did not go over the top. The concluding jig was not quite so good.

**Darin Cook:** He started with a jig rather than an air and kept music going fairly well without too much excessive speed. After another air he played a set of reels which also held together fairly well.

**Martin Frewen:** Nice start into a jig. Followed with into an air and then the reels with another air and then more reels and finishing on a couple of jigs. Good to see some structure in the selection rather

than just a batch of reels and a batch of jigs..

*Alisdair McLaren:* An air to start and then into the jigs. Another air and then the reels which again were a bit the same as each other but at least the tempo was kept down a very little bit. Disintegrated into notes and nothing else at the end.

*Athol Chalmers:* Air to start before the reels and then the jigs. All kept going well with consistent expression -not spectacular but very pleasant to listen to.

To conclude the afternoon, all the competitors were called out to the platform for photographs and the announcement of the results (see in the Results section of this newsletter) and a couple of speeches were made. Jean Pierre spoke and commented favourably on the improving standard of the playing over the years, especially in his area of specialty, the Breton music. Much of this music is comprised of dances which are highly variable in rhythm and structure, hence the difficulty for outsiders in getting a grip on its structure.

Alex McConnell

## **South Burnett Pipe Band Championships**

Saturday 11 May was a clear dry day in Kingaroy filled with the sounds of Bands large and small. A cool breeze (sometimes gusty wind!) kept up all day so the temperature stayed moderate at the Cricket and Sporting Club.

There was a large entry in the Grade 4 contest, both for full bands and mini bands and the judges (including your scribe) were kept pretty busy with performances spaced at 6 minute intervals from 11 am through to the conclusion at about 5 pm. The co-operation from bands with the marshals was excellent, to the extent that a number of performances actually ran early! Almost unheard of. Although there was only one entry in Grade 1 (Qld Highlanders) and one in Grade 3 (Qld Police Juvenile), both their performances were of a good standard. The results of the contest are in the Results section in this newsletter.

In Grade 4 there were 9 entries in the full band contest and 14 in the mini bands. With each of these playing both a Selection of Marches and a Musical Selection there was a fair bit of variety in choice of music as well as standard of performance.

As always, the things to look for were sound, musicality and good execution. Out of these, sound is surely the necessary element. This was well illustrated by Ipswich Thistle, who have obviously been working very hard on their sound. Although their tunes were not very complex, they played them well together and with good expression, helped along by everyone in the band obviously being able to hear what was going on and play musically together because of the clear sound. As a result they ended up with a creditable second place in the full bands.

Another important aspect in Grade 4 is to play tunes that all the players can manage. This may mean avoiding compound time (6/8 or 9/8) if it's too much of a strain for some of the fingers to get the "snap" into it or if the players don't understand how the "snap" should sound. Much the same applies to strathspeys in the Musical Selection. Also jigs need to be played at a reasonable tempo or not at all if they are not to sound like a poor attempt at a quick 6/8 march.

Having said a few critical things, it's important to recognise that the standard of instruments and playing in Grade 4 has improved immeasurably over the years. Since I'm getting a bit old now, I can remember a time when you might seek to avoid going near a Grade 3 contest (there was no Grade 4 then) because the majority of the pipes and the playing was pretty sub standard. That is definitely no longer the case and it's now possible to comment in a constructive way on just about every performance.

The prize giving had to be done in the gathering dark with the ground lights turned on because of the long program but I'm sure everyone went away having had an enjoyable day. Once again the South Burnett Band should be commended for keeping this contest going and also for attracting such a substantial entry. Their hamburgers were really excellent as well!



The next morning your scribe decided to re-live some of the ancient days mentioned above and we headed out to Wooroolin north of Kingaroy to see if we could still find the sportsground where the Wooroolin Contest used to be held back in the late 60's and early 70's if I remember correctly. Sure enough it's still there and doesn't seem to have changed much over the years apart from a concrete block toilet block. I wasn't able to check whether the flies for which the location used to be so memorable were still around, but that was probably a check I could do without!

*Alex McConnell*

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## **Appeal for Assistance**

We're always on the lookout for material for this newsletter, and from time to time members have contributed very substantial articles, so if anyone feels like writing something for all of us to share please don't be shy.

It would be good if someone can provide a report on the **Pipers Retreat** due to be held in Tenterfield on **24, 25 May** as your normal scribe can't get there due to work commitments. Even better, if we had more than one account from different points of view we could give members a really good idea of the feel of the weekend.

Material can be submitted either on paper or electronically—just send it to the Society PO Box or the Secretary's email address on the front of the newsletter.

# IPSWICH 2002

## GATHERING OF THE CLANS

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### ANNUAL

## PIPE BAND & SOLO PIPING AND DRUMMING COMPETITION

Solos commence 8.00 am—Pipe Band Competition—12 noon

# Saturday 31<sup>ST</sup> August 2002

Please come along and join with us for the day, savour the unique sound of the bagpipes and drums, witness the spectacle of tartans on parade and visit the many stalls displaying their traditional wares. Plenty of food and drink stalls on site for the hungry and thirsty so why not come along and have a lovely day out. We would greatly welcome your support in our efforts

**DIRECT ENQUIRIES PLEASE TO SECRETARY**

**LIZ MCGHEE MOBILE No. 0414 776 361**

**CORRESPONDENCE TO PO BOX 689 BOOVAL 4304 QLD**

Entry Forms will be available soon for solo and band events. The contest will again feature the Roddy MacSween memorial. The music for this was published in the newsletter last year—if you need a fresh copy please contact the society Secretary