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Queensland
Highland
Pipers'
Society

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May

2005

May Meeting Monday 23rd Balmoral Bowls Club, Jean Howie Drive, Morningside at 7.45 pm

**Annual Patron's Trophy competition
for senior players (Open and
Intermediate) - own choice March,
Strathspey and Reel**

Prizes: 1st: \$75 plus trophy, 2nd: \$50, 3rd: \$30
Enter on the night or ring the Secretary (07
3397 4512)

**Plus the beginning of the first round of
our Knockout contest – two pairs of
players will play with the winner of each
to go forward – see more details inside.**

From the Editor:

There's been plenty happening in the last month – including our new Piobaireachd group, the visit of Robert Wallace and the Celtic Celebration Committee competitions.

Coming up next weekend is the Kingaroy Gathering and early in June the Coffs Harbour contest. Add to this the Patron's Trophy and the start of the Knockout Contest and there is plenty to occupy our attention.

All this and more inside.

Alex McConnell

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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 other particular officer or member of the Society.

APRIL 2005 MEETING

A good crowd of about 35 to 40 turned up for our April meeting including lots of people with their pipes – the table along the side of the room was just about filled with them!

Maurie DeHayr took on the announcing duties for the evening in the absence of President Doug Thoresen. Apologies were received from Doug Thoresen, Bob Payne and Dave Sinclair.

The first piper was Robert Baker. He had a good firm sound and played us a musical selection including *Garb of Auld Gaul*, *Wearing of the Green*, *Minstrel Boy*, *Cha till MacCrimmon* and *74th's Farewell to Gibraltar*. This was a confident performance.

Next to play was Philip Cowan. Philip had an injured hand from a car accident which was going to be operated on soon so he wanted to have a few tunes in case he isn't able to play for a while after the surgery. Maurie said that Philip was going to play till his hand got too sore! After a bit of fiddling with the pipes to get the drones right, they were sounding quite firm and he turned in some good fingering for someone with a hand injury. His selection included *Hector the Hero*, *Mist Covered Mountains* and a jig.

[Update – Philip reports on his surgery: I have recently undergone reconstructive surgery to my right hand and wrist to fix the damage done when my hand was ripped apart in my recent car accident and so far everything is turning out well. I got most of the movement back in my fingers the other day after a week of not being able to even wriggle them, and should be able to play pipes some time in the future. It's going to take 6 months for my wrist to heal in full, but although I'll be limited to what I can actually do with my 'new hand' I should be able to play bagpipes in fine form once again.]

Jordan Whicker is almost becoming a fixture at our meetings now and this evening was no exception. His pipes were sounding very nice and also his fingers. His selection included *Major Manson of Clachantrushal*, *La Boem*, *The Big Birl*, *The Braes of Mellinish*, *The*

Magpie, *She Moved Through the Fair* and *Itchy Fingers*.

Keeping with the younger set of pipers, Vaughn Parker was next to play. On a nice resonant pipe he started off with some wee tunes including *Mrs Mary Grant* and *Colin's Cattle*. With his pipes settled down, he launched into the 2/4 *Colin Thompson* and continued with *Tulloch Gorm*, *Traditional Reel*, *Jimmy Blue* and *James MacLellan's Favourite*. His performance was marked by strong confident fingers and expression which improves each time we hear him.

Michael Redmond was our next piper, not having played for us for a while. Maurie introduced him as one of the pipers to play next month for the right to compete in Lorient. He had a good strong pipe and started with some light but musical tunes including *Kenneth J Macleod* and *Angus MacKinnon*. Next he played for us the Breton selection he has been learning for the Lorient contest. Then back to the Scottish stuff with two fine 2/4 Marches - *Major Manson of Clachantrushal* and *The Clan McColl*. A short break to wipe the sweat from the brow & he went on with *Caledonian Society of London* and *Brown Haired Maid* before playing the piobaireachd *The Glen is Mine*. He finished off with *College of St Anne's* and *John Patterson's Mare*. Certainly a wide spectrum of music!

Ian Bruce was next to play. As usual his bagpipe did not disappoint. Listening to the 3/4's *The Shores of Argyll* and *Craigmillar Castle* it struck how even there he maintained an impeccable "Scottish snap". This carried on through the 6/8s *Murdo MacKenzie of Torridon* and another the name for which he couldn't remember. A couple of 2/4s followed – *The Conundrum* and *Mrs MacDonald of Dunach*. He finished up with *The Gordon's Salute*, introducing it with information from Roy's Gunn's new new book [see the advertisement elsewhere in this newsletter].

By now it was approaching ten but there was still time for Malcolm McRae to have a couple of tunes. Once again a good firm pipe and some solid and very musically rendered tunes including *Arniston Castle, The Grey Bob, My Home, Atholl and Bredalbane Gathering* and *The Australian Ladies*. As he went on the sound of the pipe steadily improved until the final Piobaireachd *Salute on the Birth of Rory Mor Macleod*.

Finally, Roy Gunn was prevailed on to have a tune. His pipe as usual had plenty of volume. His tunes included the 6/8s *The 1st Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, Farewell to Edinburgh* and *Dornkop*, the MSR *Father John MacMillan of Barra, Highland Harry* and *Bessie MacIntyre* and the Piobaireachd *Donald*

of Laggan, again introduced with information from the book.

By now it was certainly time for the raffle. Stephanie McRae was asked to draw the first prize and it was won by Jack Dearie. Second prize went to Innes Barker and third to Bob Cowan.

To finish off the evening, your scribe took over the announcing role to report that two members of the Society have been honoured with Celtic Honours by the Celtic Council of Australia (Qld) for contribution to Piping and Pipe Bands. They are our Paton Maurie De Hayr, and one of our longest standing members Sandy Campbell. All present gave a round of applause at this news.

Finally to supper.

Clan Campbell Society of Australia (Qld) Inc.

17th Annual Bannockburn Dinner

Saturday June 25, 7 pm for 7.30

Queensland Irish Association, Elizabeth Street, City.

Entertainment by Bun-Ber-E, Four Course meal

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Bookings and all Money to Trevor Campbell by 17 June: 3 Belfort Street, Stafford, 4053. Phone 3359 6662

LEGENDARY AND HISTORICAL NOTES ON CEOL MOR "INTRODUCE YOUR TUNE"

A handy, small reference book giving the stories on most of the tunes listed and indexed similar to the Piobaireachd Society Collection.

A must for every serious player of the great music to carry in the pipe case and a superb teaching aid.

Compiled by Roy Gunn for Topgunn Productions. \$20 plus airmail postage and handling \$6. Contact Roy Gunn, 31 Mariner Quays, 3 Lee Road, Runaway Bay, Qld, 4216. Phone 07 5529 2852

Piobaireachd Meetings

The first of our Piobaireachd Meetings took place at Rochedale High School on Sunday 1st May. We had ten Piobaireachd players and a number of other interested people in attendance, and a number of apologies from others who plan to participate in the future, so this was a very auspicious start.

At the start Malcolm McRae led a discussion as to how we should structure the meetings. Out of this discussion, it was decided that we will initially meet monthly around the first Sunday of the month at Rochedale High School for 3 hours from 10am to 1pm. A fee designed to cover the rent of the hall will be charged (at the first meeting this was \$5 each but may decrease if we get more participants) Viability will be entirely dependent on being able to maintain numbers.

A committee of Alex McConnell, Malcolm McRae (with proxy Roy Gunn while Malcolm is away in Scotland in the next few months) and Iain Bruce will ensure that a number of people are arranged to play a tune at each meeting (not precluding others from playing). There also could be a particular featured tune for each meeting. The aim is for tunes to be played at a decent standard and there will be plenty of time for discussion. The committee will need to consciously introduce new tunes.

Given that the sound of the bagpipe is such a significant part of a Piobaireachd performance, we may look at having a bagpipe workshop at one of our meetings or as an additional one. Tuition will not be the purpose of the meetings, although members are certainly expected to learn from the experience of participating and listening. If there is a demand, it may be possible to look at some class-based tuition separately from the meetings.

After all that, it was time for a tune! Malcolm McRae led off by playing *Lament for Captain McDougall*. In introducing the tune, he commented that the ground is very musical but that this is not very evident from the printed music – it's necessary to know how the tune goes. There is some variation as to how to play one phrase towards the end of the ground based on interpretation of various scores. Some play it with 5 pulses, but others with 4 – Malcolm plays 4. It contains a Taorluath Braebach and Cruiluath Braebach.

Matthew Supranowicz then played *The Battle of Auldearn No 2*. Introducing it, he commented that it had "lots of variations". It includes a Tripling. In discussion afterwards Malcolm McRae commented that Matthew had lost the phrasing a little sometimes – especially in the Singlings of the Taorluath & Cruiluath which became a little boring. He sang an example of the corrections he would make

Iain Bruce played *Hector MacLean's Warning*. Discussion afterwards focused on the length of the E's preceding B's in the ground.

Roy Gunn then played *The Park Piobaireachd No 2*. He described it as having the sound of a Lament.

Finally Malcolm McRae played *The Lament for Mary MacLeod* – Mary was reputedly a Skye poetess who had an affair with a MacCrimmon piper.

Maurie DeHayr expressed the thanks of those present to Malcolm for starting off this new venture within the Society and some more discussion about the next meeting followed.

For next month, the following volunteered to play. I've included the Piobaireachd Society and Kilberry Book references for those who want to look them up:

Maurie DeHayr: *All the Old Men Paid Rent but Rory* (Piob Book 11 p 348).

Roy Gunn: *Lament for Donald Duaghal Mackay* (Piob Book 13 p 431, Kilberry No 113 p118)

Max Yeo: *Catherine's Lament* (Piob Book 5 p 189, Kilberry No 94 p 101))

Iain Bruce: *The Glen is Mine* (Piob Book 6 p 162, Kilberry No 101, p 107)

Matthew Supranowicz: *Lady Doyle's Salute* (Kilberry No 99, p106)

This meeting will be on 5 June, followed by one on 10 July (to avoid Tartan Day on 3/7) and

another on 7 August. Further dates to be advised.

We are assembling a special list of people interested in these meetings so that we can easily reach them to tell of any changes in plans for the meetings, etc. if you would like to be on this list please tell the secretary (07 3397 4512 or qhps@optushome.com.au). Each newsletter will also carry a "Piobaireachd page" like this one to keep everyone in the Society in touch with this new venture.

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Knockout Contest

This month sees the first two "matches" in our Knockout Contest, which will conclude with the November meeting. The test piece is a Medley selection of 3-5 minutes.

The "first round" will be played over the May, June, July and August meetings, with two "matches" each meeting. In September and October, we will have the quarter finals (two each meeting) and in November we will have the Semi-Finals and Final.

Sponsorship has been arranged for the prizemoney from the Wynnum Services Club. 16 entrants are needed and we still have some vacancies which we need to fill urgently.

Ring the Secretary on 07 3397 4512 or email on qhps@optushome.com.au if you would like to enter.

What's On

Most of this information is also on the APBA Qld website. Go to www.pipebandsqld.org and click on "Coming Events". There are links to web pages for events, email contacts, etc

M A Y	21	South Burnett Band and Solo Contest- Kingaroy - Contact Alex McConnell - 07 3257 4527- Kingaroy Showgrounds. Solos in the morning, Bands start at 12.30
	23	Society Meeting - Patron's Trophy and Knockout Contest
	28	Redcliffe Pipe Band Ceilidh – Bramble Bay Bowls Club, Woody Point – 7pm – Tickets \$10. Contact Joseph or Elizabeth Lally 3293 0673
J U N	5	Society Piobaireachd Meeting – Rochedale High School
	11-12	"Celtic Thunder" - Festival of the Celts - Coffs Harbour Showground and CBD. Contact 02 6651 3399
	25	Bannockburn Dinner - Brisbane - Clan Campbell Society – see advertisement elsewhere in this newsletter
	27	Society Meeting
J U L	3	Tartan Day - South Bank, Brisbane - Australian Scottish Community (Qld) – Contact 07 3359 8195 or 07 3855 1072
	10	Society Piobaireachd Meeting – Rochedale High School
	25	Society Meeting - Jimmy Durham Memorial Contest
A U G U S T	7	Society Piobaireachd Meeting – Rochedale High School
	13	World Pipe Band Championships - Glasgow Green - RSPBA
	13, 14	Sunnybank RSL Highland Gathering
	22	Society Annual Meeting
	24,25	Argyllshire Gathering, Oban
	27	Ipswich Thistle Band and Solo Contest - Queensland Pipe Band Championships
28	Combined Scottish Societies of NSW Solo Contest	
S E P	7,8	Northern Meeting, Inverness (actually at Aviemore this year)
	26	Society Meeting

The Smallpipers Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the QPBA Rooms, Old Museum Grounds, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane. Contact Malcolm McLaren - mrmclaren@bigpond.com

The NSW Pipers' Society meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6 Holterman Street, Crows Nest. Contact Ron Clement – 02 9948 1914.

The NSW Solo Pipers Club (a new group) meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Blacktown Pipe Band Hall, Blacktown Showground, Richmond Road, Blacktown. Contact 0412 602 983 or at www.blacktownpipeband.com. Each meeting is a competition based on age rather than grade

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

Scottish Radio Programs	4EB - FM 98.1 – Thursday afternoons 2.15—4.30 pm
	2RDJ - FM 88.1 - Tuesday morning 9 am - 10 am

For more details about any of the above events where a contact is not mentioned, ring the Society Secretary (07 3397 4512) and we will see what we can dig up for you.

*If we don't know about your event (social, musical, fundraising or whatever) we can't publicise it in the Newsletter. So **tell us** and get **free publicity**.*

CONTEST RESULTS

Dr. Dan Reid Memorial Recital-Competition - San Francisco – 16 April

Masters

Piobaireachd

- 1st Roddy MacLeod, *Black Donald's March*
- 2nd Willie McCallum, *The Blue Ribbon*
- 3rd Stuart Liddell, *Black Donald's March*

MSR

- 1st Willie McCallum
- 2nd Jack Lee
- 3rd Roddy MacLeod

Jig & Hornpipe

- 1st Willie McCallum
- 2nd Jack Lee
- 3rd Stuart Liddell

Urlar

- 1st Willie McCallum, *The Park Piobaireachd #1*

Cameron-Gillies Recital-Challenge

Piobaireachd

- 1st Jori Chisholm, *Andrew MacNeil of Colonsay*
- 2nd Roderick MacLean, *The Battle of Bealach nam Brog*
- 3rd Alastair Dunn, *Lament for Mary MacLeod*

MSR

- 1st Jori Chisholm
- 2nd Alastair Dunn
- 3rd Roderick MacLean

6/8 March

- 1st Alastair Dunn
 - 2nd Jori Chisholm
 - 3rd Roderick MacLean
- Judges: Angus J. MacLellan, Archie Cairns

Scottish Pipers Association Competitions - Glasgow – 23 April

Piobaireachd

- 1st Iain Speirs, *I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand*
 - 2nd Stuart Shedden, *MacLeod of Raasay's Salute*
 - 3rd William Geddes, *March for a Beginner*
 - 4th John Angus Smith, *Clanranald's Salute"*
- Judges: Hugh MacCallum, Ronnie Lawrie, Jimmy Young

Former Winners MSR

- 1st Iain Speirs, *Edinburgh City Police, Arniston*

Castle, John McKechnie

2nd Stuart Liddell

3rd Allan Russell

Judges: Barry Donaldson, Angus J. MacLellan

Invitational Highlands & Island Solo Piping Competitions -Oban, Scotland – 29-30 April

Piobaireachd

- 1st Willie McCallum, *MacNeill of Barra's March*
 - 2nd Murray Henderson, *Park Piobaireachd No. 2*
 - 3rd Stuart Shedden, *The Old Men of The Shells*
 - 4th Angus MacColl, *In Praise of Morag*
- Judges: Tom Speirs, Jimmy Young, Iain MacFadyen

March, Strathspey & Reel

- 1st Angus MacColl, *Mrs. John MacColl, Maggie Cameron, The Sound of Sleat*
 - 2nd Willie McCallum
 - 3rd Gordon Walker
 - 4th Stuart Liddell
- Judges: Jimmy Young, Tom Speirs

Hornpipe & Jig

- 1st Angus MacColl, *Lucy Cassidy, Lochaber 2000*
 - 2nd Gordon Walker
 - 3rd Willie McCallum
 - 4th (equal) Donald MacPhee, Niall Stewart
- Judges: Iain MacFadyen, Ronnie Lawrie

16th Annual Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association Piobaireachd Challenge - Antigonish, Nova Scotia – 6 May

Professional

- 1st Andrew Rogers, *MacLeod of MacLeod's Lament"*
- 2nd Rowan Manson, New Zealand
- 3rd Elizabeth Drury, New Zealand

Grade 1 Amateur

- 1st Scott MacIntosh, *March For A Beginner*
 - 2nd. Alex Gandy
 - 3rd Kevin Dugas
- Judges: Bob Worrall and Bruce Gandy.. Bruce Gandy did not judge the Grade 1 event.

R.U. Brown Solo Piping Contest - Adelaide - 8 May

Piobaireachd:

Open: R.U. Brown Gold Medal

- 1st Greg Wilson (NZ) *Lament for MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart No 2*
- 2nd Alistair MacInnes (NSW) *Craigellachie*
- 3rd Peter Hewlett (SA) *Isobel MacKay*

Intermediate: R.U. Brown Silver Medal

- 1st Adam Britten (WA)
- 2nd Asher Suradjinata (Vic)
- 3rd Tim McLeod (Vic)

Mervyn Hall Bronze Medal

- 1st Brian Scown (SA)
- 2nd Tim MacNamara (WA)
- 3rd Ryan Post (SA)

Novice :

- 1st Liane Barrowcliffe (SA)
- 2nd Iain Fife (W.A.)
- 3rd James Pearse (W.A.)

Ceol Beag

Open : Hamish MacKenzie Perpetual Trophy

- 1st Greg Wilson (N.Z.)
- Equal 2nd Ian Lyons (Vic) Marion Honsburgh (N.Z.)

Intermediate: Ewan Masson Perpetual Trophy

- 1st Brian Scown (S.A.)
- 2nd Steve Harris (Vic)
- 3rd Jonno MacIntyre (S.A.)

Sub Intermediate: Jim Smith Perpetual Trophy

- 1st Cameron Finlayson (S.A.)
- 2nd Melanie Inglis (S.A.)
- 3rd Miranda Booth (Vic)

Elementary: Mervyn Hall Perpetual Trophy

- 1st Kaz Takehara (S.A.)
- 2nd Lachlan Chilwell (W.A.)
- 3rd Braedan Bolt (W.A.)

Scotch College Pipers: Malcolm Massie Perpetual Trophy

- 1st Sebastien Mignot (S.A.)
- 2nd Alice Hiscock (S.A.)
- 3rd Becky Wheldrake (S.A.)

Annual SPA Knockout Final - Glasgow – 12 May

Stuart Liddell defeated Chris Armstrong
Semi Finals (March & April)

Stuart Liddell defeated Gordon Walker

Chris Armstrong defeated Stuart Cassells.

Earlier eliminations were Margaret Houlihan,
Angus MacColl, Donald MacPhee, and John
Patrick.

William Livingstone Invitational Solo Piping Competition - Hamilton, Ontario – 14 May

Piobaireachd

- 1st Andy Rogers, *The Gathering of MacNabs*
- 2nd Jacob Dicker
- 3rd Ian K. MacDonald

MSRHP&J

- 1st Andrew Hayes *Mrs. John MacColl, Bogan Lochan, Loch Carron, Moving Cloud, Donella Beaton*
- 2nd Ian K. MacDonald, *Inveran, John Roy Stewart, Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran, The Captain's Pledge, Alex MacDonald*
- 3rd Jacob Dicker, *Arthur Bignold of Lochrosque, Lady Loudon, Lexy McAskill, The Jolly Beggarman, John Patterson's Mare*

Overall

- 1st Andrew Rogers
 - 2nd Ian K MacDonald
- Judges: Willie Connell, Iain Macey and Reay Mackay.

Also competing but not in the prize list were
James Beaumont, John Cairns, Michael Grey
and Lionel Tupman

Dunbar Pipe Band Contest - Dunbar, Scotland – 14 May

Grade 1

- 1st Vale of Atholl
 - 2nd Strathclyde Police
 - 3rd Boghall & Bathgate
 - 4th Lothian & Borders Police
- Drumming: Strathclyde Police; Bass-section:
Strathclyde Police

Grade 2

- 1st Drambuie-Kirkliston
 - 2nd Torphichen & Bathgate
 - 3rd Tayside Police
 - 4th Grampian Police
- Drumming: Drambuie

Malahide Pipe Band Contest - Dublin – 14 May**Grade 1**

- 1st Field-Marshal Montgomery
- 2nd ScottishPower
- 3rd St. Laurence O'Toole.

Celtic Celebration Committee Musical Selection Contest – Brisbane – 14 May**Senior**

- 1st Michael Redmond
- 2nd Casey Wilkes
- 3rd Andrew Kuiler

Junior

- 1st Christopher McLeish
- 2nd Vaughn Parker
- 3rd Max Yeo

Celtic Celebration Committee Australasian Piping Final (competing for trips to Lorient) - Brisbane- 15 May**MSR**

- 1st Matthew Supranowicz
- 2nd Casey Wilkes
- 3rd Michael Redmond

Breton Selection

- 1st Martin Frewen
- 2nd Casey Wilkes
- 3rd Matthew Supranowicz

Irish Selection

- 1st Casey Wilkes
- 2nd Martin Frewen
- 3rd Matthew Supranowicz

Overall

- 1st Casey Wilkes
- 2nd Matthew Supranowicz
- 3rd Martin Frewen

Because Casey Wilkes has previously won a prize bagpipe in this competition, the prize pipe was awarded to Matthew Supranowicz. All three placegetters now have the opportunity to compete at the Festival Interceltique in Lorient in August.

Judges: Robert Wallace - Principal of the College of Piping Glasgow, Michel Le Tenier Vice President Bagad de Lorient, Adrian Jefferies Professional Irish musician and uilleann piper, Australia

Special Contest for three placegetters from Junior Contest on the Saturday

- 1st Max Yeo
- 2nd equal Christopher McLeish & Vaughn Parker

NEWS

Ipswich International Tattoo on Stage – Take 2

Last year Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band staged a very successful and entertaining event and they had the courage to follow it up with another this year on 16-17 April. The venue changed this year to the Ipswich Civic Hall, which is much more "theatre-like" than the large auditorium used last year.

Their courage was amply rewarded, with an even better production than previously. The line up of acts included the Nunukul Yuggera Indigenous Dancers, the Viva la Musica Orchestra, Australia's Federation Precision Drill Team, the Amberley Cadet Brass Band, a number of Pipe Bands in addition to the hosts, the Cambrian Youth Choir, the Thistle Highland Dancers, QIA Dancers and solo singers.

The Massed Bands were very good despite the

small stage. The compere was invisible and tightly scripted, which kept good feeling of continuity throughout.

Despite there being a bit of a low spot in the middle of first half and the orchestra not having quite the same "bite" as the last year, all the acts were professionally presented and entertaining. The indigenous dancers and the drill team were particularly impressive, without wanting to take anything away from the other acts.

"Black Bear" at the end worked really well despite the massed band splitting in two and marching out down the aisles at each side of the theatre- I was waiting for it to disintegrate but it didn't!

Congratulations are due to Ipswich Thistle for this excellent production, which is mounted with only minimal opportunity for rehearsal and which came at the end of a very active period for the Band, with their trip to New Zealand for the National Championships where they won Grade 4 and then to

Maclean for the Highland Gathering at Easter where they came 2nd in Grade 4.

Tommy Pearston, 1921-2005 - died on May 4 at the age of 84.

Tommy Pearston co-founded the College of Piping with Seumas MacNeill in 1944, but because of his relatively quiet and unassuming nature he lived in MacNeill's shadow. He was instrumental in the development of the Institute of Piping, and set about with MacNeill to create the first organized civilian teaching system since the MacCrimmons. Today's College of Piping owes as much to Tommy Pearston as it does to Seumas MacNeill.

As a competitor he was known most for his talent in piobaireachd, and he won the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal in 1968.

Tommy Pearston's funeral took place on May 9 at Linn Crematorium in Glasgow. He is survived by his wife, Betty, his son, Douglas, and daughter, Sheila.

*From the PPBSO website
www.piperanddrummer.com*

Robert Wallace Recital in Brisbane

As part of his tour of Australia, Robert Wallace gave a recital on 12 May at the Balmoral Bowls Club. He was supported by two young local pipers, Jordan Whicker and Matthew Supranowicz. Altogether we had a couple of hours of excellent piping.



Matthew Supranowicz, Robert Wallace and Jordan Whicker

Robert played twice, with each bracket including a piece of Ceol Mor. In the first stint he played the very melodic nameless tune *Hiharin dro a dro* and in the second *The King's Taxes*.

Along with this there was plenty of good light music across the whole range for the Highland Bagpipe. All this despite Robert's bagpipe making heavy weather of the transition from Glasgow to Adelaide to Sydney and then Brisbane in a week or so! Combined with rainy and humid weather in Brisbane this led to large amounts of water on the reeds by the end of his first bracket and much drying out before the second one.

After the recital there was a good chance for those present to meet and talk with our visitor. He extended an invitation for all to visit the College of Piping whenever they are in Glasgow.

We also took the opportunity to present to him for the College Museum a "Brian Boru" chanter made by Henry Stark of London. This was donated by Jock Stewart, a long time member of this Society who can unfortunately not get to meetings very frequently because he lives near Stanthorpe and is unable to drive long distances. Jock had the chanter restored before sending it to us to present to Robert.



Society Secretary Alex McConnell presents the chanter to Robert Wallace

Celtic Celebration Committee Contests 14-15 May

As has become traditional, mid-May saw the committee run its Feast of Piping weekend. The Saturday was devoted to an own choice selection divided into junior and senior divisions. As your scribe only got there for the last player, he can't comment in any detail but by all reports it was an excellent afternoon of piping in the very conducive surroundings of the Queensland Irish Association's Tara Ballroom. The results are in the Contest Results section.

On the Sunday there was an excellent crowd of around ninety back in the Tara Ballroom to listen to the Scottish, Breton and Irish selections played by each of the seven competitors, who were Cory Dale (Qld), Matthew Supranowicz (Qld), Martin Frewen (NZ), Andrew Kuiler (NSW), Sen Hodgman (ACT), Michael Redmond (Qld) and Casey Wilkes (NZ).

For the first time there was a judge from each of the Scottish, Breton and Irish Piping worlds (Robert Wallace - Principal of the College of Piping Glasgow, Michel Le Tenier Vice President Bagad de Lorient, Adrian Jefferies Professional Irish musician and uilleann piper, Australia).

The afternoon was ably compered by Tom McGirr, who has recently been recruited to serve on the Celtic Celebration Committee, and the competitors played their MSR and Breton selection first (with just a re-tune between the two), coming back later in the same order to play their Irish Selection.

We certainly heard much interesting music and some very good bagpipes, which must have tested the judges. The final result is that Casey Wilkes, Mathew Supranowicz and Martin Frewen will represent Australasia in Lorient this year.

Robert Wallace on behalf of the judges congratulated the competitors and made favourable comments about the standard of playing. He suggested that it is not always a good idea for pipers to spend a long time tuning on the boards, because this sometimes leads to putting the bagpipe out of tune rather than into it. He also commented that all three traditions of music represented in the competition need to have their music played with good "lift" and expression. Aiming for absolute maximum speed in playing will sometimes work against the music and should be avoided.

Jean-Pierre Pichard from the Festival Interceltique de Lorient also spoke and urged us to have a long term plan to develop a public for our music. He said that at the end of WWII there were perhaps 12 pipers left in Brittany and the local piping nearly died out to be replaced by Scottish and Irish piping, but after many decades of effort in building a public for Breton piping, they now have 20,000 pipers and can attract crowds of 80,000 to piping events.

Finally, we should make the committee's task less of a thankless one by thanking them: Kathleen O'Malley (official delegate of the Festival Interceltique de Lorient), Geoff Goward, Alan and Jane Hancox, Robert and Christine Wilson and Tom McGirr. They put in a great effort to organise this event each year and piping in this part of the world is richer for their efforts.

HOW TO GET TO THE BALMORAL BOWLS CLUB

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

Contributions. We always welcome contributions to the newsletter – post or email your article to the Secretary or ring to discuss what you want to put in and we will be glad to help.

Pipers Needed We often get calls for solo pipers for weddings funerals, parties, etc. If you would like to be on the list we refer these people to, please give us your name, contact details (preferably phone or mobile), the times you are available and, if you wish, the fee you usually charge. We will put you directly in touch with the person who wants to hire the piper and you work out final details with them. People available for New Years Eve or Anzac Day are particularly needed.
