



# Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

[www.pipebandsqld.org/qhps](http://www.pipebandsqld.org/qhps)

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## Newsletter - October 2007

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October Meeting  
on Monday 22 October  
7.15pm for 7.30pm  
Balmoral Bowls Club  
Jean Howie Drive, Morningside

The meeting will be a "Pipers' Night",  
so all are warmly welcomed (and encouraged)  
to have a tune.

As the year begins to draw to a close, we once again had a successful Redlands competition. This year the venue was different but the solo entry was still large (despite the Solos being on the same day as the Bands) and the standard of playing was good. It was good to see a large party from Scots PGC in Warwick in attendance.

We are beginning to plan the program for the Society in earnest for next year, so please let the Committee (Maurie DeHayr, Reg O'Malley, Alex McConnell, Mathew Supranowicz, Lance Carey) know what you liked and didn't like and what you would like to see more or less of next year as well as giving us any new ideas you may have.

*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 particular officer or member of the Society.

## SOCIETY CALENDAR FOR 2007

January	13,14	Summer School
	29	Pipers' Night
February	26	Hornpipe & Jig (junior + senior)
March	26	Pipers' Night
April	23	Pairs of Pipers (junior + senior)
May	28	Patron's Trophy (MSR for seniors, should submit 2)
June	25	Pipers' Night
July	23	Jimmy Durham Memorial (2/4 March for juniors)
August	27	Annual Meeting + Slow Air & Jig (junior + senior)
September	24	Pipers' Night and Talk by Iain Bruce
October	22	Pipers' Night
November	26	McCandlish Trophy – 6/8 March Competition (junior + senior)
December		No meeting
January 28 2008		Veteran Pipers' Night

- ◆ For senior competitions, competitors to submit two of each tune type and play one.
- ◆ After each competition, the floor will be open for all as at a Pipers' Night.
- ◆ The aim is to start meetings at 7.30pm (7.15pm for a 7.30pm start) to allow an earlier finish/more piping/more social time at the end of the meeting. Junior competitions are to start promptly and finish by 8.30pm.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

About 25 members and guests were present for our September meeting, which was a piper's night, but also featured a talk from Iain Bruce.

In the absence of President Reg O'Malley, your scribe introduced the evening. We had apologies from Reg and Glenys O'Malley, Tom McGirr, Roy Gunn and Joan O'Neill.

To start off the piping, Matthew Supranowicz played a few tunes including *The Battle of Waterloo*, *Flett from Flotta*, *Wee Highland Laddie*, *She Moved Thro' the Fair*, *The Braes of Mellinish*, *Macleod of Mull*, *Jean Mauchline*, *Bruce Gandy's Farewell to the Iron Horse*, *Donald MacLellan of Rothesay*, *Susan MacLeod* and *Lt Col D J S Murray*.

Next Jim Johnston was asked to give a brief description of a new CD produced by 4EB called *Scots of the South East*. It mainly contains 18th and 19th century poetry, interspersed with fiddle and dance music.

Our next player was James Doran His tunes included the 6/8 *Miss Isabelle T MacDonald*, slow air *Shoreline of Lewis*, *McGuire's Jig*, an MSR consisting of *P/M Willie Grey's Farewell to the Glasgow Police*, *The Caledonian Canal* and a reel that he couldn't remember the name of. These were followed by *The Novocastrian Tatto*, *51st Highland Division*, *Bare Foot Through Brisbane* and *Highland*

### *Laddie.*

Iain Bruce then gave his talk. Your scribe took some notes of the highlights and these are reproduced below - all responsibilities for errors or omissions are mine, not Iain's!

Iain and his daughter Morag have recently returned from a memorable trip of five weeks starting with a visit to Gracelands for the Elvis Presley anniversary - Iain compared the structure of the Blues with some Piobaireachd and speculated that piping had had some influence on the development of the Blues.

They then went on to Scotland, to poor weather and traffic congestion! The first piping appointment was at Oban for the Argyllshire Gathering. At the Corran Halls in Oban he was sighted by Sam Young and introduced to a piper called Meg from Armidale who has been learning from Tom Spiers. Murray Henderson was surprised by seeing him (Iain) in the audience.

Iain noted that fine Piping is still an esoteric activity, with not many people in attendance despite the good quality of playing. He found listening to be a new experience - he had always competed before when in Scotland and it was different to be in the audience. Overall he was a little disappointed by the standard with either poor style, poor intonation or poor tuning detracting from some performances. He mentioned that Gordon Walker played very well in the

Senior Piobaireachd, with an excellent pipe and a great tune (*Bells of Perth*). It was the winning performance. He also was impressed by the former winners MSR competition.

Next day was Games Day, including the march to the field by the competitors starting from Station Square. One of the traditional tunes played is the *Argyllshire Gathering* but this year they even played *The Little Cascade* on the march! Ian was not very impressed by the noise, lack of places to sit, bad toilets, etc.

He then gave some impressions of the Northern Meeting in Aviemore. During the refurbishment of the Eden Court Theatre in Inverness where the contest was formerly held, it was found that it was originally very poorly built, so costs have escalated, but it is now nearly finished and the Northern Meeting may go back there in future years. Aviemore is very high class. Iain reported that one senior player told him that the theatre is not ideal - there is an air conditioning buzz and the theatre also soaks up sound. Iain spoke with the Secretary and Treasurer of Piobaireachd Society and various other people. He heard one tune in the Silver Medal - Margaret Dunne - and it turned out to be the winning performance. He found himself at one point sitting next to Bob Kilgour formerly of the Scots Guards. He listened to the Clasp competition and the former winners MSR. This featured very precise playing but perhaps not as convincing as he remembered from the past.

They also went to the Braemar Gathering which hadn't changed since Iain was last there (as a competitor). It is a great public spectacle - with the serious piping away from the main field. The Queen arrives about 1pm and stays for an hour or two. Again, there was noise, lack of seating and bad toilets! He was a bit disconcerted to find a speaker tied to the cairn in memory to the Bobs of Balmoral near to the Piobaireachd platform. Some general comments about the piping included some younger players with very poor posture. Also, the standard of tuning was not always good: the drones might be tuned together but not to the chanter. Another point was poor "tuning phrases" and many people stopping one tenor while tuning.

The journey home was made rather more stressful by a delay for 7 hours at Inverness airport leading to a missed international connection and an overall delay of 24 hours - the joys of international travel.

Finally Vaughn Parker played us a few tunes including *The High Level, Bidy from Sligo, James MacLellan's Favourite, Loch of the Birds, Jolly Tinker, In and Out of the Harbour, Rakish Paddy* and *Frances Mouton's*. His pipe was not going particularly well at the start but improved during his performance.

The raffle was drawn by Helen Doran and won by Sandra Supranowicz and we adjourned for supper.

## Piobaireachd Group

Our October Meeting started with eight in attendance and finished with eleven. Malcolm McRae and Iain Bruce were back from their travels, although Roy Gunn was unable to be there.

Malcolm started off the piping with *The Bicker* after a bit of a warm up. He was followed by Tom McGirr with *Lament for Alasdair Dearg MacDonnell of Glengarry*. The pipes were not quite "on song" but the performance was enjoyable. Malcolm commented that it is a fine little tune which has been played in senior competition. Malcolm commented that it usually is played with an a'Mach because of a lack of singlings in the variations. Tom McGirr asked about whether an a mach should be played in *Too Long in this Condition*. Malcolm said that the tune is a fogsailte tune and there are two schools of thought. One is to play an open fogsailte as an a mach but there is another opinion that the open and closed fogsailte should not be mixed in a tune (which is his own view). It is really a matter of preference and style but Malcolm's opinion is that it doesn't really add anything.

Yasu Hamilton was the next player with *The Earl of Seaforth*. She had learned the tune by listening to Bob Brown sing and play parts of it on a Masters of Piobaireachd CD and also listening to a recording of Iain Duncan playing it right through. This was an example that others could follow.

Iain Bruce then played the *Marquis of Argyll's Salute*, which he had learnt from Jimmy MacIntosh. Ian Davidson read the story of the tune from Roy's book.

Next we looked at the set tune for the day, *The Old Woman's Lullaby*. The tune has various names and was at one stage set for the Clasp (but not since the 1970s), although it lacks advanced variations. Malcolm warned against slipping into playing it in half phrases, rather than flowing right through the phrases. After singing through the tune, we broke for morning tea and afterward Malcolm played it on the pipe.

Finally we had two more tunes - Matthew Supranowicz playing *Lament for the Viscount of Dundee* (using his new MC<sup>2</sup> chanter) and Vaughn Parker playing *Kinlochmoidart No 1*.

Once again a very full and enjoyable meeting.

# What's on.....

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22 **Society Meeting** - see Calendar for details

4 **Piobaireachd Group – Rochedale High School – 10am to 1pm**

4 Combined Scottish Societies (NSW) Band Contest - Castle Hill Showground

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V

11 NSW State Solos - Scots College, Bellevue Hill

21 Rockingham (WA) Solos. For information Raylee Riley - vrriley@bigpond.net.au

23-25 Duckadang Retreat for Pipers and Drummers - contact Caithe Cameron on 0409 896 164 or via email at lca31486@bigpond.net.au

26 **Society Meeting** - see Calendar for details

D  
E  
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1 Daylesford Highland Gathering, Victoria Park, Daylesford, VIC.

2 South Qld Regional Dancing Inc High Tea - contact Sandy Green on 38514881 or sandygrn@bigpond.net.au

2 7&8/3 New Zealand Pipe Band Championships - Papakura - www.nzpipebands.org.nz

0 21 & Maclean Highland Gathering

0 22/3

8 2/11 Australian Pipe Band Championships at Castle Hill, NSW.

**The Smallpipers Group** - Contact Malcolm McLaren for meeting details - mrmclaren@bigpond.com

**The NSW Pipers' Society** meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Baptist Church, Willoughby Road, Crows Nest. Contact Ron Clement – 02 9948 1914.

**The NSW Solo Pipers Club** 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

**Canberra Pipers Society:** contact Sean Hodgman ph 6282 2795 or email u4114272@anu.edu.au OR Jamie Forsyth 0419 631 999 or email jamesrforsyth@hotmail.com

**RU Brown Piobaireachd Society of South Australia:** Contact Sue Kempster 08 8264 3329 skempster@adam.com.au

**The WA Pipers' Society** meets on the 3rd Saturday at the Autumn Centre, Inglewood. Contact Mrs Alma Dender – 08 9448 7446

## 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. \$20 plus airmail postage and handling \$1.

Contact Roy Gunn, 31 Mariner Quays, 3 Lee Road, Runaway Bay, Qld, 4216.

Phone 07 5529 2852

**RADIO PROGRAMS**

**College of Piping Radio:** You can tune in on the Internet on [www.college-of-piping.co.uk/html/radio.htm](http://www.college-of-piping.co.uk/html/radio.htm)

**4EB - FM 98.1** – Thursday afternoons 2.15—4.30 pm

**Radio 997 FM (Redcliffe)** – Sundays 12noon to 3pm

**Burnett River Radio (91.5 FM)** - Thursdays 7pm to 9pm

**For more details** about any of the above events where a contact is not mentioned, ring or email the Society Secretary (07 3397 4512 or [qhps@optushome.com.au](mailto:qhps@optushome.com.au)) 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

**Scottish Junior Solo Piping****Championship - 22****September****Harry Beattie Intermediate****MSR 13-16**

- 1st Ian Wilson
- 2nd Scott Wood
- 3rd Walter Glendinning
- 4th Calum Graham
- 5th Christopher Dorman
- 6th Craig Weir

**Mackay's of Carnoustie Junior Piping Champion 2007 (13-16)**

- 1st Ross Forrest
- 2nd George Stewart
- 3rd Faye Henderson
- 4th Andrew McPhee
- 5th Fiona Mitchell
- 6th Michael Spittal

**Carnoustie Bicentennial Trophy, Best in Angus:**

Faye Henderson

**Junior Piobaireachd Champion 2007 (13-16)**

- 1st Faye Henderson
- 2nd George Stewart
- 3rd Alisdair MacDonald
- 4th Andrew McPhee
- 5th Michael Spittal
- 6th Sarah Muir

**Scottish Junior Champion - 2007 (13-16 Years)**

- 1st Faye Henderson
- 2nd George Stewart

3rd Andrew McPhee

**Champion of Champions 2007 (Best MSR) (Practical Pipers Society Trophy)**

Craig Killen, Strachur

**Best Piobaireachd (Robert Henderson Piobaireachd Cup)**

Faye Henderson, Kirriemuir

**Overall Champion of Champions**

- 1st Faye Henderson
- 2nd George Stewart
- 3rd Craig Killen

**Under-13 Scottish Champion 2007 (Sponsored by the National Piping Centre, Glasgow)**

- 1st Bradley Parker
- 2nd Connor Sinclair
- 3rd Andrew James Clark

**Royal National Mod - Lochaber – 13 October****Piobaireachd**

- 1st Willie McCallum, *Lachlan MacNeill Campbell of Kintarbert's Fancy*
  - 2nd Gordon Walker, *Lament for the Earl of Antrim*
  - 3rd Angus MacColl, *The Red Speckled Bull*
  - 4th Niall Stewart, *Lament for Donald Duaghal MacKay*
- Judges: Iain MacFadyen, John

Wilson

**MSR**

- 1st Angus MacColl
  - 2nd Gordon Walker
  - 3rd Willie McCallum
  - 4th Peter Hunt, Glasgow
- Judges: Jimmy Banks, Ian Duncan

**Hornpipe & Jig**

- 1st Angus MacColl
  - 2nd Willie McCallum
  - 3rd Roddy Weir, Edinburgh
- Judges: Iain MacFadyen, John Wilson

**South Queensland Pipe****Band and Solo****Championships - Redlands 14 October****BANDS****Grade 1/2**

- 1. Qld Highlanders No 1
  - 2. St Andrew's
  - 3. City of Brisbane
- Drum Corps: Qld Highlanders No 1

**Grade 3**

- 1. City of Brisbane
  - 2. Ipswich Thistle
  - 3. Maclean and District
- Drum Corps: Ipswich Thistle

**Grade 4**

- 1. Bellinger River District
- 2. Qld Police Juvenile

3. Sunshine Coast  
Drum Corps: Qld Police Juvenile

**Eddie Santaguiliana Memorial  
Encouragement Award:** Clan  
Stuart

**Best Dressed Overall:** Gold Coast  
Tweed

**Best Drilled Overall:** Qld  
Highlanders No 1

**Drum Majors Contest**

1. Tom Coates
2. Mitchell Forbes
3. Dominic Anderson

**SOLOS**

**Learner Chanter**

1. Meggie Doran
2. Nicholas Johns
3. Kate Johns

**Elementary March – Heat 1**

1. Tom Schultz
2. James Doran
3. Bruce Fraser

**Elementary March – Heat 2**

1. Brandon Reick
2. Helen Lyster
3. Amos Fox

**Elementary March – Final**

1. James Doran
2. Bruce Fraser
3. Helen Lyster

**Elementary Air – Heat 1**

1. James Doran
2. Ben Tomkins
3. Andrew Dow

**Elementary Air – Heat 2**

1. Bill Johnson
2. Brandon Reick
3. Garrett Kleinschmidt

**Elementary Air – Final**

1. James Doran
2. Ben Tomkins
3. Garret Kleinschmidt

**Sub-Intermediate MSR**

1. Yasuchiyo Hamilton
2. Adrian Gersbach
3. James Nelson

**Sub-Intermediate Jig**

1. Yasuchiyo Hamilton
2. James Doran
3. Angus Wheeler

**Intermediate MSR**

1. Yasuchiyo Hamilton
2. Vaughn Parker

3. James Nelson

**Intermediate Hornpipe & Jig**

1. Vaughn Parker
2. Christopher McLeish
3. Yasuchiyo Hamilton

**Open MSR**

1. Matthew Supranowicz
2. Tom McGirr
3. Vaughn Parker

**Open Hornpipe & Jig**

1. Matthew Supranowicz
2. Vaughn Parker
3. Tom McGirr

**Open Piobaireachd**

1. Matthew Supranowicz
2. Tom McGirr
3. Yasuchiyo Hamilton

**Restricted Piobaireachd**

1. Yasuchiyo Hamilton
2. Nic Barber
3. James Nelson

**TRIOS**

1. Vaughn Parker, Christopher McLeish and Antonis McLeish
2. Rod McGrath, Adrian Gersbach and Simon Want
3. Edward Jensen, Jordan Whicker and Jirik Haselgrove

## “Raising the Standard”

The Scottish & Celtic Magazine of Queensland

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**Subscriptions for 2007/2008**  
**are now due.**

**The Annual Meeting decided to keep the annual figure at \$25.00**

**If you haven't paid yet, can you please either**

**1. Post your subscription to the Society PO Box**  
PO Box 1252, Coorparoo DC, QLD, 4151

**or**

**2. Pay it at the October meeting**

**or**

**3. Transfer it to the Society bank account**

**BSB: 084 009**

**Account No: 20 785 7044**

**Please attach your name to the transfer AND**

**send an email to [qhps@optusnet.com.au](mailto:qhps@optusnet.com.au) to advise of the payment.**

**If paying by mail or in person, please use the form at the foot of the page to make sure we allocate the payment correctly.**

**If you are unsure if you still owe back year subscriptions, contact the Secretary by sending an email to [qhps@optusnet.com.au](mailto:qhps@optusnet.com.au) or leaving a voice message on 07 3009 0494 (note that this is only an answering service). We will then send an advice of any outstanding fees.**

**Queensland Highland Pipers' Society**

**Subscription 2007/2008**

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**NAME \_\_\_\_\_**