

Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

www.qhps.org

Newsletter - May 2009

May Meeting

on Monday May 25th 7.30pm

Balmoral Bowls Club
Jean Howie Drive, Morningside
Annual Patron's Trophy Contest
MSR for senior players (Open & Intermediate)

The test piece will be a March, Strathspey and Reel each of at least 4 parts.

Competitors are to submit two tunes of each type
of which the judge will choose one of each to to form the set to be played.

Prizes: 1st: Patron's Trophy and \$100, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$30

Entires by email to qhps@qhps.org, phone to 07 3397 4512 or before 7.30 on the night

The local Band competition season is now in full swing, with an excellent gathering last weekend at Yandina run by the Sunshine Coast Band. It was good to see many "retired" Pipers and Drummers who live in the area turning up for a perfect day at an excellent venue and some good Band playing.

Ipswich is only a couple of weeks away and appears to have a good Band and Solo entry, and Carrara and Warwick programs have just been released -- details later in this newsletter. We urge as many as possible to support the competitions so that they all go ahead with good entries - this can potentially form a good base for a rejuvenated contest season in Queensland, which can only be good for both Bands and Solo Piping.

Alex McConnell

Print Post Approved PP 445886/0003 Publisher: Q.H.P.S Inc PO Box 1252 COORPAROO DC 4151 Editor: A J McConnell Phone: 07 3397 4512 qhps@qhps.org Price 60 Cents 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.

2009 SOCIETY CALENDAR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 23® PIPERS' NIGHT

MARCH 23RD HORNPIPE & JIG CONTEST FOR SENIORS, 2 PARTED JIG FOR JUNIORS

APRIL 27[™] PIPERS' NIGHT

May 25TH Patron's Trophy Contest (MSR for senior players)

JUNE PIPERS' NIGHT

JULY JIMMY DURHAM MEMORIAL CONTEST (2/4 MARCH FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS)

AUGUST ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER (PAIRS OF PIPERS)

OCTOBER PIPERS' NIGHT

NOVEMBER JACK McCandlish Trophy (6/8 marches)

♦ After each competition, the floor is 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 early finish/more piping/more social time at the end of the meeting. Junior competitions are to start promptly and finish by 8.30pm.

PIOBAIREACHD GROUP

| 1 st February | 3 rd May | 2 nd August | 1 st November |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 8 th March | 31 st May | 6 th September | 6 th December |
| 29 th March | 5th July | 4 th October | |

MAJOR SOLO CONTEST

10th or 17th October

APRIL MEETING

A small crowd of about 20 turned up for our April Pipers Night. There were a number of apologies and some no doubt didn't make it because of colds and flu and the fact that Anzac Day was only two days prior. Apologies received included Jack Grant. and Reg and Glenys O'Malley

Maurie DeHayr was the first to play and his tunes included the 4/4s Bonnie Gallowa, The Auld Hoose and The Crusaders March, air Donald Ross of Vancouver, 6/8s PM Sam Scott and Leaving Port Askaig, 2/4 The Haughs of Cromdale and 25th KOSBs Farewell to Meerut and finally the polka The Royal Scots.

Your scribe was the next player and the tunes included a 4/4 the name of which I can't remember, the 6/8s *Rab's Wedding* and *Mrs Lily Christie*, air *The Dark Island* and the 6/8 *Dr Ross*.

Following was Garry Forno and the tunes he gave us included the 2/4 *Donald Cameron*, 6/8 *Dovecote Park* and the slow air *My Home*.

Tom Spiranac was next with his first appearance at the Society. His tunes included *Bonnie Mouse*, *Flett from Flotta*, *Gardens of Skye* and Loch Ruan.

Matthew Supranowicz was next and his tunes included 3/4s Colin's Cattle and P/M Angus MacDonald, and 6/8s Auld Adam and a mystery tune, then Samantha's Lullaby, Crossing the Minch, The Old Wife of the Mill Dust, Miss Elspeth Campbell. Dora MacLeod, Susan Macleod and Lt Col D J S Murray.

At this stage we decided to have supper and afterwards Maurie played again with his tunes including the 3/4s *Lochanside* and *Loch Maree*, 2/4s 79th's Farewell to Gibraltar and Siege of Delhi, 4/4s Murdo's Wedding and The Gallant 42nd, airs Gin I Were a Baron's Heir

and *Morag Duncan*, song airs *Rustic Bridge* and *Rowan Tree* and finishing up with *Liberton Pipe Band Polka*.

Matthew finished off the evening with a selection including *She Moved Through the Fair, Tam Bain's Lum, Lucy Cassidy* and finally some Irish reels and Irish jigs.

The raffle was won by Vic MacKay.

Despite the smallish attendance, it was good to hear a variety of players and an interesting variety of tunes. This type of night was one of the principal reasons for formation of the Society back in the 1960s (I know, I was there!) and we hope will become much better supported in future.

Piobaireachd Group

The May meeting proved to be an excellent one with 12 in attendance. Tam McGirr was the first to play and his tune was *Battle of the Bridge of Perth*, taken from a tape of Murray Henderson playing it. There was some discussion of the tune and the need to show the Cs strongly in the lemuluath, Taorluath and Crunluath variations.

There followed some discussion of the mode of operation of the group. Ross Campbell is happy to take on the task of preparing and presenting tunes. He has around 40 tunes under his belt and he has tended to concentrate on music with a strong melodic content. Other members expressed their approval of this course. Oherwise the format will stay pretty much the same as previously.

Next to have a tune was Sandy Dalziel and it was *MacFarlane's Gathering* (very similar to our set tune for the day). He leart this tune from Stiart Samson. Again there was some discussion and Ross Campbell commented that he thought Sandy might have made the Es of the cadences just a little too long.

We then went through the set tune, *Too Long in this Condition*. Ross had prepared notes on the tune and they are reproduced later in the newsletter. There was considerable discussion and we sang the tune through.

Morning Tea followed and afterwards Mark mcKenzie played *Tulloch Ard*, attracting positive comment. He was followed by Matthew Supranowicz playing *Battle of Auldearn No 2*.

The last tune of the day was given by Ross Campbell and it was *The Red Speckled Bull*. All aspects of his performance were very good.

"Raising the Standard"

The Scottish & Celtic Magazine of Queensland

Be fully informed and up-to-date on what is happening in the Scottish and Celtic Community, here and overseas. Progressive Calendars of Events for Pipe Bands; Highland Dancing; Scottish Country Dancing; Irish Dancing and Clans Congress are featured in each edition of "Raising the Standard"

Annual Subscription - \$28 (including postage)
Write to: ALBA Publications, PO Box 8024, Wynnum North, Qld 4178
07 3396 9025

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| М | 25 | Society | Meeting - | Patron's | Trophy |
|---|----|---------|-----------|----------|--------|
| | | | | | |

- 30 Wynum RSL Pipe Band Ceilidh. Contact: 07 3396 7333
- Y 29-31 Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival (NSW mid north coast) Contact 02 6553 2582
 - 31 Society Piobaireachd Group
 - 6 Queensland Pipe Band Championships Ipswich Contact 0414 776 361
 - 7 Queensland Solo Piping and Drumming Championships Ipswich 0414 776 361. See previous newsletter for details
- J
 U
 Bannockburn Dinner Qld Irish Association, Elizabeth Street, Brisbane. Contact: 3359 6662 Trevor Campbell Bookings essential by 10 June
 N
 - 22 Society Meeting Pipers' Night
 - 27 PBA Band and Solo Contest Carrara Gold Coast (Bands & Solos) Details later in this newsletter. Contact 07 3257 4527
 - 4 Aberdeen (NSW) Highland Gathering Contact 02 6543 8457

J 5 Society Piobaireachd Group

- 5 Tartan Day Celebration Australian Scottish Community (Qld) South Bank Cultural Forecourt, Brisbane. 9am-4.30pm Contact 07 3359 8195(a/h)
- 18 Scots PGC Highland Gathering (Bands & Solos) Warwick Details later in this newsletter Contact 07 3257 4527
- 27 Society Meeting Jimmy Durham Memorial
 - 2 Society Piobaireachd Group
- A 15 Worlds Pipe Band Championships Glasgow Green
- U 24 Society Annual Meeting
- **G** 26-27 Argyllshire Gatheing, Oban
 - 29 Cowal Gathering Dunoon
 - 3-4 Northern Meeting, Inverness
- S 6 Society Piobaireachd Group
 - 19-20 Redland Highland Gathering Bands & Solos more information to follow
 - 28 Society Meeting Pipers' Night
 - 2010 3/4 Australian Pipe Band Championships Caloundra

VISIT THE COMING EVENTS PAGE AT www.pipebandsqld.org FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE ABOVE, INCLUDING WEB LINKS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

- **The Smallpipers Group** Contact Malcolm McLaren for meeting details mrmclaren@bigpond.com
- **The NSW Pipers' Society** meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Contact Ron Clement 02 9948 1914.
- 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

RADIO PROGRAMS

College of Piping Radio: You can tune in on the Internet on 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@qhps.org) 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

Highlands & Islands Solo Piping Competitions

- Oban - 2 May

A-Grade

Piobaireachd

1st Gavin Walker

2nd Fiona Manson

3rd Finlay Johnstone

4th Simon McKerrell

Judges: Hugh MacCallum, Neil Mulvie

MSR

1st James Murray

2nd Finlay Johnstone

3rd Allan Johnstone

4th Gareth Rudolph

Judges: Hugh MacCallum, Neil Mulvie

B-Grade

Piobaireachd

1st Faye Henderson

2nd Keith Bowes

3rd Peter McAllistair

4th Craig Sked

Judges: Ian MacFadyen, Ronnie McShannon

MSR

1st Ashleigh Bell

2nd Pamela Whyte

3rd Iain Marshall

4th Gordon Bruce

Judges: Hugh MacCallum, Neil Mulvie

<u>Dungannon Games</u>, <u>Banbridge</u> - <u>Northern</u> <u>Ireland – 9 May</u>

Grade 1

1st St Laurence O Toole

2nd Field Marshal Montgomery

3rd Ballycoan

4th Culleybackey

Bass Section: Field Marshal Montgomery

Drumming: St Laurence O Toole

Judges: Harry Stevenson, John Wilson (piping); Trevor Dear (ensemble); David Brown (drumming)

<u>Scottish Pipe Band Championships -</u> <u>Dumbarton – 16 May</u>

Grade 1 (MSR)

1st Field Marshal Montgomery

2nd St. Laurence O'Toole

3rd House of Edgar-Shotts & Dykehead

4th Strathclyde Police

5th Boghall & Bathgate

6th ScottishPower

Drumming: St. Laurence O'Toole

Judges: Andrew Wright, James Wark (piping); W. Goodall (drumming); Alistair Aitken (ensemble)

Grade 2 (medley)

1st Inveraray & District

2nd University of Bedfordshire

3rd Dumfries & Galloway

4th Ravara
5th 7 Towers
6th Lomond & Clyde
Drumming: Inveraray

Judges: Iain MacLellan, Ian Wood (piping); Jim Hutton (drumming); Bob Shepherd (ensemble)

Sunshine Coast 16 May 2009

The first contest at the Sunshine Coast in a number of years was held under cloudless Autumn skies at the excellent venue of the NYU Football Club at Yandina. The layout of the ground and clubhouse is just about ideal for a medium sized contest and the day ran smoothly with lots of good performances. The Sunshine Coast Band are to be commended for putting on such an excellent day and encouraged to do the same again in the future!

Grade 4 Mini Bands

1st Sunshine Coast 2nd Qld Highlanders No 2 3rd Scots PGC "A" Pipe Corps Scots PGC "A" Drum Corps Qld Police Juvenile "B"

FULL BANDS

Grade 4

1st Qld Highlanders No 2 2nd Bundaberg Caledonian 3rd Sunshine Coast Pipe Corps Qld Highlanders No 2 Drum Corps Bundaberg Caledonian

Grade 3

1st City of Brisbane 2nd Ipswich Thistle Pipe Corps City of Brisbane Drum Corps Ipswich Thistle

Grade 2

St Andrews played for comments only

Grade 1

1st Qld Highlanders No 1 Pipe Corps Qld Highlanders No 1 Drum Corps Qld Highlanders No 1

Dress (Overall)

1st St Andrew's

Drum Majors

1st John Grace 2nd Dominic Andersen-Strudwick 3rd Betty-Ann Stephens

Pipe Corps Encouragement Award

Noosa & District

Too Long in This Condition

This tune, which is strikingly similar to "The MacFarlanes' Gathering", is thought to be a MacCrimmon composition and Donald Mor seems to have been the most likely composer, as it is known that he was in Sutherland in 1612 because he was specifically mentioned in historical records of the day (a Royal Pardon) as having been involved in a skirmish between Donald Duaghal MacKay and the Earl of Caithness (a Sinclair) over some coin counterfeiting. Donald Mor was there under the protection of Donald Duaghal MacKay after fleeing the MacKenzies, having recently burnt a village in Kintail in revenge for the murder (by a MacKenzie) of his brother, squinting Patrick, from which, as you know we got another Donald Mor MacCrimmon tune; "A Flame of Wrath for Squinting Patrick". The story that seems to fit the origin of this tune was that Donald Mor was being ignored by everybody at a MacKay wedding and he was drowning his sorrows for this neglect. It is thought that it was probably during this period of exile that Donald Mor taught the MacKays who were later to become the famous piping family of Gairloch.

There is another story relating to the aftermath of the Battle of Sheriffmuir in 1715, which would make Patrick Mor MacCrimmon (Donald Mor's son) the likely composer. We will never know, so take your pick!

It is fairly easy to learn and is not a long tune. It is fun to play because it has a nice Suibhal variation and a lovely bright Crunluath Fosgailte variation.

There are a number of settings of this tune with a variety of variations and I have chosen to follow the timing of R. U. Brown and R. B. Nicol which is very clearly laid out in CD 4 of 'The Masters of Piobaireachd' series. Brown followed the PS setting, but timed the ground more closely to the way it appears in Donald MacDonald's published book. On that CD, Brown also illustrated a GDE variation that John MacDonald of Inverness used to play, and another attractive variation that appears in Donald MacDonald's book and in Binneas is Boreraig. I found the GDE variation of particular interest, as it was given to me by my teacher, Ian Matheson, back in the 1950's as an exercise

for perfecting the GDE gracenote combination.

Lewis Turrell of NZ played it at the 2004 Adelaide recital and gave a masterly performance on that occasion, timing it the way it is written in the PS and Kilberry collections. It is very nice, and play it that way if you prefer, but I think that Brown's way has more musical appeal, so that is what I am presenting to you today.

If you have not already purchased the Nicol/Brown 'Masters of Piobaireachd' series of CD's, I recommend that you do so whilst they are still available. The series of ten CD's has come to an end and as they are a highly valued resource, they will not always be available.

The tune is clearly in two-bar phrases, and once again, if you try to get the timing from the published score (PS or Kilberry), you will be led astray. eg the succession of crotchets in the Crunluath variation are not played like that at all!

Jimmy McIntosh wrote the manuscript settings I am providing today (*available on request: Ed*) for the 1999 Spring edition of 'The Voice' a USA magazine and have been designed to reflect the actual timing used by Bob Brown, Bob Nicol and John MacDonald of Inverness.

The following are extracts from Jimmy McIntosh's article:

What we generally hear is what is printed in the PS book on page 211, and also in the Kilberry book. But it is doubtful if this was played as such before 1938 when book 7 was published, and many of the old players regretted that the tune had been altered in this way.

The first setting I have printed is the way Bob Brown and Bob Nicol played the tune. Brown had the tune from his first teacher, Jonathan Ewen and then had it polished up later when he went to George Allan. He had great success with it. The difference from what we hear today is in the timing of the notes after the Edre and Dare movements in the Urlar and its doubling. It is interesting to note that this timing corresponds more with the Crunluath variation than does the PS setting.

When Bob Brown heard John MacDonald of Inverness play this tune, he heard a different setting altogether. The 2nd setting I have printed is what John MacDonald played. This is the Donald MacDonald setting and has a completely different 1A' Variation that was cut out by the PS. To quote Bob Brown, "It is a terrible pity and a mistake. It's a lovely variation and should have been left in." John MacDonald played this variation as I have printed it, making the first note in the group of three as a dotted quaver followed by two semi-quavers, whereas the Donald MacDonald setting has three equal notes. In the doubling, the tempo is lifted noticeably. In the Variation 2 Singling, you will notice, there is no cadence ending the first phrase. In the Urlar and Doubling, you will notice he played GDE gracenotes instead of Low A taorluaths and the timing, you will see, is closer to what Brown & Nicol played. This is a tremendous setting and it would be a joy to hear it being played again. It is a terrible loss to our music that we allow these nice settings to be lost. Perhaps it would be more productive for the Piobaireachd Society to publish a book of alternative settings to the popular tunes to let people hear and see them, rather than transcribing and publishing obscure manuscripts! A few may be interested in these manuscripts or use them for reference, but not many will actually be played on the boards.

Ross Campbell - 3 May, 2009



Qld Branch

Pipe Band and Solo Competition

Saturday 27 June 2009

Carrara Sports Grounds Area 6 Gold Coast

(note that this is on the other side of the main road to the venue used last year)

www.pipebandsqld.org

CONDITIONS AND CONTEST RULES

- All competitions will be conducted under Australian Pipe Band Association (APBA) Rules
- All entries and fees must be received on or before
 Friday 5 June. Please make all cheques payable to
 the Australian Pipe Band Association Queensland
 Branch
- Competitors may only compete in their registered grades. Correct Highland Dress or registered band uniforms must be worn while competing
- There must be at least 3 competitors in each solo event otherwise the event may be cancelled. If there are fewer than 6 nominations, 1st and 2nd prizes only will be awarded.
- Solo competitors are to register with the judge of an event prior to the event commencing
- Only fine tuning (maximum 2 minutes) permitted in front of judges in solo competitions
- All trophies are to be collected on the day unless alternative arrangements have been made.
- All competitors are to arrange their own
 accommodation. Assistance will be given on request
 to the Secretary
- All competitors to compete at their own risk. No liability is accepted for injury or loss sustained by any person taking part in any event.
- The organisers reserve their right to alter the programme and times as provided in the APBA rules.
- All soloists and band persons should endeavour to participate in the Massed Band
- 12. Pipers accompanying solo drummers must wear highland dress or registered band uniform

EVENTS

SOLO PIPING

Event 1 Learner Chanter (2 parts march) Event 2 Elementary March (4 parts 2/4) Elementary Slow Air (2 Parts) Event 3 Sub-Intermediate MSR (4 parts March, 2 parts S'spey & Reel) Event 4 Event 5 Sub-Intermediate Slow Air (2 parts) Event 6 Intermediate MSR (4 parts each) Event 7 Intermediate Hompipe & Jig (4 parts each) Event 8 Open MSR (at least 4 parts each) Event 9 Open Hornpipe & Jig (at least_4 parts each) Event 10 Open Piobaireachd (3 tunes to be submitted) Event 11 Restricted Piobaireachd (pipers not graded Open for Piobaireachd) - 1 tune to be submitted.

Carrara Contest 27/6/09 SOLO ENTRY FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:-

The Secretary PO Box 1328

NIANAE

COORPAROO DC 4151

Phone 07 3257 4527

An electronic copy of this form is available at www.pipebandsqld.org

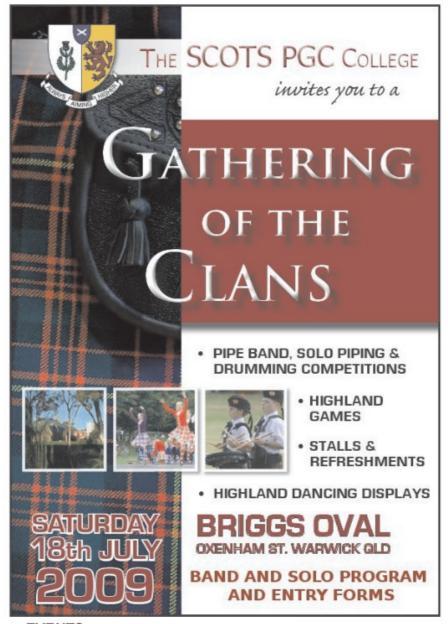
ENTRIES CLOSE LAST MAIL FRIDAY 5 JUNE 2008

| INAIVIL_ | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| GRADE | | | |
| Piper / I | Drummer / Drum Major (| cross out inapplicable d | escriptions) |
| PHONE | | | |
| Address | | | |
| Email | | | |
| Event No | Event Description | Entry Fee (\$5) | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

Please include a stamped addressed envelope

for return of the contest draw if you have not supplied an email address

Please make all cheques payable to the Australian Pipe Band Association Queensland Branch



EVENTS

SOLO PIPING

| SOLO FIFIN | 10 |
|------------|---|
| Event 1 | Learner Chanter Under 15 (2 parts any time sig) |
| Event 2 | Under 15 Slow Air (2 parts)/ 2/4 March (4 parts). May retune. Additional prizes for 1st each tune |
| Event 3 | 15-18 years 2/4 March (4 parts), S'spey and Reel (2 parts each). Additional prizes for 1st March and 1st S/R |
| Event 4 | Open MSR (all tunes 4 parts) |
| Event 5 | 18 and under Piobaireachd – Submit one tune – participate for comments if you can play Urlar & one Variation |
| Event 6 | Open Piobaireachd (Over 18 or graded open for Piob) – Submit 3 tunes |
| Event 7 | Open Event (all ages) - 4 minutes of musical selection (must |

include 2 parts of hornpipe or jig)

ENTRY FEES:

| BANDS | | SOLOS (per eve | nt) |
|-----------|---------|----------------|--------|
| Grade 1/2 | \$50.00 | Learner | Free |
| Grade 3 | \$40.00 | Under 15 | \$2.00 |
| Grade 4 | \$30.00 | 15-18 | \$3.00 |
| | | Open | \$5.00 |

Scots PGC Warwick Contest 18/7/09 SOLO ENTRY FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO:-

The Secretary
PO Box 1328
COORPAROO DC 4151

Phone 07 3257 4527

An electronic copy of this form is available at www.pipebandsqld.org

ENTRIES CLOSE LAST MAIL FRIDAY 19 JUNE 2008

| NAME_ | | | |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| GRADE | | | |
| • | Drummer / Drum Major (| cross out inapplica | able descriptions) |
| Address | 3 | | |
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| Email_ | | | |
| Event No | Event Description | Entry Fee | |
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| TOTAL | | | |

Please include a stamped addressed envelope for return of the contest draw if you have not supplied an email address

Please make all cheques payable to the Australian Pipe Band Association Queensland Branch

CONDITIONS AND CONTEST RULES

- All Band competitions will be conducted under Australian Pipe Band Association (APBA) Rules
- All entries and fees must be received on or before Friday 19 June. Please make all cheques payable to the Australian Pipe Band Association Queensland Branch.
- Competitors may only compete in their registered grades. Correct Highland Dress or registered band uniforms must be worn while competing
- There must be at least 3 competitors in each solo event otherwise the event may be cancelled. If there are fewer than 6 nominations, 1st and 2nd prizes only will be awarded.
- Solo competitors are to register with the judge of an event prior to the event commencing
- Only fine tuning (maximum 2 minutes) permitted in front of judges in solo competitions
- All trophies are to be collected on the day unless alternative arrangements have been made.
- All competitors are to arrange their own accommodation.
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- All soloists and band persons should endeavour to participate in the Massed Band
- Pipers accompanying solo drummers must wear highland dress or registered band uniform