



**50 years
of
Working Together**

AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION

The Australian Pipe Band Association Inc. (APBA), also known as Pipe Bands Australia, is the governing body for all pipe band contest and related matters such as registration and grading throughout Australia. There should be no confusion about this but from time to time one may notice some different (outmoded) terminology being used. To understand why this occurs, it is useful to briefly trace the evolution of the APBA.

History

Colonisation of Australia commenced in 1788 and immigrants from Scotland clearly included some with skills in piping and drumming who eventually banded together in local groups. Little is documented from early settlement about bands. However, one present day band (Royal Caledonian Society SA) has evidence of its establishment in 1894.

In addition to the tyranny of distance within the country, a heritage of division has existed due to the different colonies of original settlement, which gave rise to the states within Australia, each with its own government. Consequently interaction between pipe bands was largely concentrated in areas of denser population, typically capital cities.

As the interest in bands grew and matured there was seen the need to form associations, some with bands of different types and some specifically for pipe bands. The Victorian Highland Pipe Band Association (VHPBA), formed in 1924, is in fact the oldest pipe band association in the world and although its function has changed, it remains active.

Federation

With the improvement in transport and communications, bands were able to reach more easily beyond state boundaries and the need to further formalise the association between them in the country as a whole precipitated the formation, in June 1960, of a federation of some state associations. In a short time each of the six states had a pipe band association as a member of the Australian Federation of Pipe Band Associations (AFPBA).

A key objective of the Federation was to develop and maintain a set of contest rules which could be adopted by each State Association to provide consistency in the conduct of contests to facilitate the participation of bands in States beyond their own. Notwithstanding, the rivalry between States that existed in everyday life was also evident in the broad pipe band community. The development of the rules was also cognisant of contemporary practice overseas, particularly in Scotland.

Transition

The greater impact of advancing technology on transport, communications, record-keeping and life in general brought the notion of transition from a federation of State Associations to a single, nationwide association into focus as an achievable objective. Subsequently, in June 1997 the Conference of AFPBA resolved to form the Australian Pipe Band Association Inc with the business of the existing State Associations transferring to Branches within the Association. The legal entity was created by incorporation on 29 August 1997.

Association

The Australian Pipe Band Association Inc, through its Branches located in the States of Australia, represents its members who are the players in, and the supporters of, the pipe bands in Australia. Currently there are approximately 3000 members registered to 130 pipe bands. (June 2010)

The control and management of the affairs of the Association is vested in its Council (20 members), comprised of elected officers and councillors representing each Branch.

There is a Committee (5 members), subsidiary to the Council, to which the Council may delegate any of its functions and powers. The Committee shall not amend or over-ride a decision of the Council except by a majority of four-fifths of the members of the Committee.

Branches

Branches have been established to further the pursuit and promotion of the purposes in their respective areas. They are the point of contact for the members in their area.

The control and management of the affairs of the Branch is, subject to the Rules of the Association and the APBA Branch Regulation, vested in the Branch Council.

The Branch Council consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen (2), Secretary, Treasurer, (Assistant Secretary), and Councillors representing each registered Band (2 per Band).

There is a body known as the Branch Executive, comprised of the officers of the Branch, which is subsidiary to the Branch Council and to which the Branch Council may delegate any of its powers or functions including powers or functions delegated to it by the Association unless the Association has otherwise directed.

College

The Australian Pipe Band College, established during Federation, is an integral part of the Association. The Council and the Committee administer the College.

Its objectives are related to the maintenance and further development of the standards of pipe bands in Australia. It does this through its Divisions: Piping, Drumming, Drill and Dress, and Rules and Administration. A Principal is appointed for each Division.

College Branches

There is a College Branch associated with each Branch of the Association. The College Branch serves the members and bands registered with the Association through the Branch with which it is associated. A Vice-Principal is appointed within each Division.

The College Branch Committee administers the College Branch. The committee is comprised of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and three other persons nominated by the Branch, together with the four Vice-Principals. The College Branch Committee may appoint an Administrator.

Current Operation

Business activity and funding was discussed at the Conference Meeting in 1999. Council resolved that the Branches would retain the responsibility for the activities related to members in their respective areas and for the Association to manage those matters required by the Rules.

The business activity of the Association is directly related to its level of funding, which is derived largely from membership subscriptions and registration fees, collected and processed centrally, then shared between the Association and its Branches in a ratio of approximately 1:4.

Milestone: 50 years of working together

The inaugural meeting of the Australian Federation of Pipe Band Associations was convened by the New South Wales Pipe Band Association on 11th-13th June 1960. This year, 2010, thus marks 50 years of working together as AFPBA and subsequently APBA.

Presidents

Year(s)	Name
1960	W C Stewart
1961	D MacLennan
1962	J Burrows
1963-5	G E Masson
1965-7	J Tait
1967-9	K S Clarke
1969-71	K K Williamson

Year(s)	Name
1971-73	D C Mackie
1973-77	G E Masson ¹
1977-87	D H Scotland BEM
1987-95	B A Neal OAM
1995-97	B H G McDonald
1997-(2011)	R G Gordon OAM

¹ Subsequently G E Masson OAM