

# SPORRAN CORRESPONDENT



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Sans Tache - 'Without Stain'

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Sporran Correspondent, the official publication of the WA Police Pipe Band. For editorial inquiries please email [public.affairs.branch@police.wa.gov.au](mailto:public.affairs.branch@police.wa.gov.au)

## Once-only chance to see 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert

Make sure you're part of the crowd on Friday May 12<sup>th</sup> at Burswood Theatre when the band gives its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert performance, aided by dancers from the WA Highland Dance Academy.

The concert is exactly 40 years to the day since the band formed in a meeting at the old CIB amenities room at the old Police Barracks in James Street, Perth.

Joining the band on stage for two numbers will be Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan on guitar, while the MC for the night will be well-known entertainer Max Kay.

Band piper Adam Britten said it was going to be a great show, with a nice mix of well-known old numbers, some new music and a touch of nostalgia.

"Coming off the back of the band's outing at the first Police Variety Concert at the Joondalup Academy in March, the guys are hyped up to put on a big effort for the anniversary occasion," he said.



Foundation band member, Mac Napier (bottom left) and current band members model uniforms worn over the years.

"It's likely there'll be plenty of former band members in the audience and it'll be great to have the Commissioner play with us again."

Ticket prices are: Friends of the Band members: \$22.35, Adult \$44.70, concession

\$39.70 and family (two adults, two children) \$117.00. You can get your tickets now by ringing Ticketek on 132 849 or going to [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au)

# Book tells 40 years in pictures

When the band celebrates 40 years on May 12 at Burswood, it will also release its new book, *A Pictorial History of the Police Pipe Band; Forty years in the Making*.

Written by Media and Public Affairs Director Neil Stanbury, the book carries photos from throughout the band's four decades, woven amongst an anecdotal history of the unit.

Neil said he, Craig Bailey and Barry Walker interviewed more than 30 former and current members, while Julian Anderson sorted through hundreds of photos in selecting the best for the book.

"There are some great pictures of the personalities, the trips and memorable moments.

One of the best photos, I think, is the band proudly marching out at its very first public performance at Perry Lakes in 1967," Neil said.

"The book tells of the best and worst times in the band's history and there certainly has been plenty to reminisce about. Even former Commissioners contributed pieces for the project."

The book has a full honour list of playing members, guest players and life members.

Priced at \$30, numbered copies from this limited edition run of *Forty Years in the Making* (500 copies only) can be bought by ringing the band on 9370 7185 or Police Public Affairs on 9222 1529. All proceeds will go back to the Pipe Band Supporters' Association.

## From the OIC... Sergeant Peter Bannister

The inaugural meeting of the WA Police Pipe Band was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1966 in the Criminal Investigations Branch amenities room located at the Old Police Barracks, James Street, Perth.

Now in Maylands, the band hasn't physically moved too far in 40 years but musically it certainly has.

The musical progression of the band has been nothing short of incredible, and something I'm sure those enthusiastic officers at that early meeting could never have envisaged.

From what is regarded as the most isolated city in the world, and arguably the globe's largest (geographical) police jurisdiction, the band has become one of the world's most respected pipe bands.

This respect has been gained not only for its world class concert performances but also in the Grade One competition arena. With distance the major obstacle inhibiting the band's involvement in competition, the success gained is quite a story.

With the top bands in the world competing for three or four months prior to the world championships the WA Police have but one week's competition preparation.

And participating only every second year on average the results have been phenomenal.

After its last World Pipe Band Championships in 2004 we qualified for the finals and placed eleventh.

In achieving this, WAPOL also became the number two Police Band in the world, behind Glasgow's own Strathclyde Police.

To celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary the band will stage a concert at the Burswood Theatre on the 12<sup>th</sup> May titled *Forty Years in the Making*.

The show starts at 8pm and bookings can be made through Ticketek at [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au) or on 132 849

The pictorial history book *Forty Years in the Making* will also be released and on sale during the evening, priced at \$30.

## New side drummer

Originally from New Zealand, Dougal McConnell first began drumming in Geelong, Victoria in 1986 and was originally taught by Lynette Staley.



He then played with the City of Newtown Pipe Band before joining City of Melbourne where he progressed to Drum Sergeant. In 1995, Dougal travelled to England to study and joined the Clan Sutherland Pipe Band in Coventry, where the band took 2nd place at the Grade 2 World Championships and won the European, Cowal and Champion of Champions trophies in 1997.

Returning to Australia, Dougal was with Victoria Police Pipe Band for their victorious trip to the World Championships in 1998. He later played with the City of Blacktown, St. Mary's Band Club and Bangkok Thistle Pipe Bands as his work took him from place to place.

A hotelier by profession, Dougal has recently moved to Perth and joined the band full-time.

## Off to Adelaide in May

The band is heading to Adelaide for that state's Police International Tattoo from May 5-7. WAPOL has done tattoos in Adelaide several times and last went in 2003, but on this occasion Drum Sgt Emlyn Brown and Pipe Sgt James Cowie are coordinating the music for the massed bands, while Peter Bannister will wield the mace. This year, other attractions include the Pipes and Drums of the New York Police Department, the US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet Band and outfits from Malaysia, the Netherlands and Switzerland. For more information on the tattoo, go to [www.policetattoo.com/performers.htm](http://www.policetattoo.com/performers.htm)