



# SPORRAN CORRESPONDENT

wapolpipeband.com.au  
Sans Tache - 'Without Stain'

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For editorial inquiries please email [public.affairs.branch@police.wa.gov.au](mailto:public.affairs.branch@police.wa.gov.au)

## Pencil in Quarry concert now!

Many people agree one of the best outdoor venues in Perth is the Quarry Amphitheatre in City Beach. Its beautiful surroundings and spectacular backdrop are among many of the reasons WAPOL are returning to perform on the 3 and 4 February 2007.

The band has played a number of successful concerts at the Quarry in the past and for this reason expanded its shows from one night to two in early 2006.

"The format of this concert will be entirely up to the audience", explains Sergeant Peter Bannister, "We have had a variety of requests at previous concerts and believe it is time the band's supporters decide what pieces are performed on the night".

"There are a variety of compositions to choose from the



band's extensive repertoire. WAPOL would like your input on what tunes you would like to hear played at the Quarry concerts next year. A few that spring to mind include 'The Gael', 'Amazing Grace' and 'The Dark Isle'.

While it would be impossible to fit every request into a single concert WAPOL will endeavour to perform

as many favourites we can in an evening! So, put your thinking caps on as the musical selection for the night is left up to the audience!" Peter said. Requests will need to be placed well in advance of the concerts so get in early.

If you would like to request a piece of music ring pipers Adam Britten or George Solomon on 9370 7183.

### 40th anniversary books almost gone!

You will need to be quick to get your hands on a copy of the band's commemorative 40th anniversary book as supplies are limited!

Inside you will find numerous stories and images from both past and present detailing WAPOL's 40-year journey from a fledgling pipe band to its current concert styling.

With a run of only 500, the pictorial book portrays four decades of history from the band's inception and follows its growth as one of the most entertaining and innovative pipe bands in the world today.

To buy "40 Years in the Making" for \$30, contact Iain Hamilton on 9370 7185.

### Return of formal band dinner

After several years on the back burner the band has finally decided to revive its prestigious formal dinner. With formal attire and party attitude a must, this year's reunion dinner will be held at Tompkins on Swan in Alfred Cove.

The band will perform during pre-dinner drinks followed by a lavish three course meal. Be sure to bring your boogie shoes as the dance floor will be open for grooving and shaking most of the night!

Tickets are \$70.00 each and the price includes dinner and drinks for the evening. For tickets or more information please contact piper **Craig Bailey** in the band office on **9370 7183** or email him at [craig.bailey@police.wa.gov.au](mailto:craig.bailey@police.wa.gov.au).



## Band farewells Owen Leitch



August 1st was a gloomy day for many at the funeral of retired Commissioner of Police Mr Owen Leitch at Karrakatta Cemetery. A large turnout including numerous friends, family and police staff marched in procession with WAPOL leading the cortege to the chapel to 'Flowers of the Forest' and 'Mist Covered Mountains'. Officers from Mounted Section followed closely behind the band helping to mark the significance of the occasion.

Chaplain Barry May conducted a heartfelt ceremony in which many reflected upon the life of former Commissioner Leitch and his contributions to the Western Australian Police. Piper Michael Redmond played a haunting solo of

'Amazing Grace' during the committal, which one mourner said was, "a deeply stirring and fitting rendition".

WAPOL's best wishes and sympathies go out to friends, family and colleagues of Mr Leitch.

## From the OIC... Sergeant Peter Bannister

With the decision not to attend the 2006 World Pipe Band Championships being made early, those still wishing to attend had the opportunity to travel with other bands. James Cowie, Lachlan Boath Matt Walker and Sam Cowie have travelled with The Australian Highlanders (formally Nunawading), Dougal McConnell with The Band Club (St. Mary's, Sydney) and Alisdair McLaren with Strathclyde Police. To lose those members over this period has curtailed the band somewhat; however it has provided those wishing to attend the opportunity to do so.

With this article going to print just before the worlds, I can report that Strathclyde, with Alisdair on board, have had a tremendous run up by winning both the European Championships and Bridge of Allan. We look forward with great interest to see if this is the year for Strathclyde Police.

WAPOL looks to be as popular as ever with the calendar filling up at a great rate of knots. Apart from many local events, invitations have been received for WAPOL to appear in the 2009 Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the NYPD Pipes and Drums would like WAPOL to return to the Big Apple for the 911 memorial concert in September 2007. How fitting would it be to perform Roy's composition 911 in front of NYPD?

To satisfy our need to compete in Grade 1 we are also exploring the possibility of getting over to New Zealand in March for the national championships and a major concert.

Along with plans for a recording, the 'Scotch on The Rocks' Quarry concerts and fund-raising to make all this happen, we have some testing challenges to look forward to.



## An oldie but a goodie

Originally from Grangemouth, Scotland, Roy Hamilton has been with WAPOL since early 1995 where his musical talents have been put to good use for over 10 years. Not only is he an excellent side drummer, Roy also plays an integral role in the development and execution of the band's concert repertoire, where his composing, guitar and kit drumming talents come in extremely handy.

When he was just a wee fella Roy used to go to band practice with his father who was a member of the Muirhead and Sons Pipe Band. In 1970 he joined his first band, Wallacestone and District, and hasn't looked back since. In 1972 the family moved to sunny Australia where Roy became a member of the Coastal Scottish Pipe Band which his two brothers and sister also joined.

WAPOL plays a number of Roy's compositions in concert, some of which have been published by well known composers. A few others have been recorded and performed by various bands over the years including Auckland and Districts, Manawatu, Drumbue Kirkliston, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Victoria Police and Scottish Power.

"As a drummer it's a great thrill to hear so many bands play tunes I have written", Roy explains.

WAPOL looks forward to Roy's continuing contribution and it is likely you will hear a couple of his compositions at our next concert performance.