



SPORRAN CORRESPONDENT

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

November 2006



Official publication of the WA Police Pipe Band

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More worthy performances

WAPOL has had numerous band commitments over the last couple of months with some performances supporting a variety of worthy causes.

Bluey Day

Bluey Day at Kings Park on the 2 September was one such event which saw police officers and other emergency services staff shave or colour their hair in support of children living with cancer and other serious illnesses. After performing, band officers Dougal McConnell and George Solomon were more than happy to 'hop into the chair' and have some non-essential winter growth removed for the cause.

Perth Royal Show

The band played twice daily at the Royal Show which involved marching through the crowds and performing in front of the police pavilion. While a number of show-goers were startled by WAPOL's presence as the band advanced through the masses the overall response from the crowd was enthusiastic.

National Police Memorial

Some WAPOL members also flew to Canberra to join other police contingents for the National Police Memorial Service on 29 September. It was a large event which saw members of WAPOL accompany bands from other departments on the day. A solo piper also performed at a smaller ceremony held the same day at the Joondalup Police Academy.

Police Rangers Rally

On 10 October WAPOL travelled out towards Harvey for the Police Rangers Rally in which many cadets from around the state had been involved in a series of competitive events for a number of days. After being fed some delicious sausages in buns the band performed at the official closing ceremony. The heat was a bit much for some of the younger rangers, however, proceedings flowed smoothly and the cadets seemed more than happy to have WAPOL's support as they performed the final march past. Congratulations go to Iain Hamilton's son Sean and his team from Ballajura Community College who won the best unit overall and the physical challenges component of the competitions!



Amanda Young Foundation Concert

Last but not least, Sunday 29 October saw the band perform at the Amanda Young Foundation concert in

Southern River. Pipes and drums were played to an appreciative crowd which was followed by a tasty Devonshire tea in the beautiful surrounding gardens.

The foundation was formed to raise funds and awareness of the deadly meningococcal disease.

Vale Mick Wright

Sadly, in September long time supporter and life member of the band, retired Supt Michael (Mick) Wright, passed away. Mick was at the band's inaugural meeting in 1966 and a "founding father" of the band. Notably, it was Mick Wright who in early 1967 negotiated a \$6000 loan from businessman Sir Thomas Wardle ("Tom the Cheap") to establish the band. Without this money, uniforms and musical equipment would have been impossible to furnish. Wardle later converted the loan into a donation. Mick served in a number of districts and later became the



officer in charge of the Police Academy. Piper Paul Giovannetti played at Mick's funeral: "It was easy to see how well respected and liked Mr Wright is, through the show of support from friends and family at the service," he said.

WAPOL thanks Mr Wright for his many years supporting the band and sends its sympathies and best wishes to all his friends and family.

The Duke of Edinburgh inspects the parade at Maylands in 1973, watched by Senior Sergeant Mick Wright (left).

From the OIC... Sergeant Peter Bannister

Since the last *Sporran Correspondent* there have been some major changes to the structure of WAPOL. To take us on to our next challenges we welcome Alisdair McLaren into the Pipe Major's position and Adam Britten will assist as Pipe Sergeant.

Both members have extensive experience, knowledge and ability and I wish them well in these honorary roles. Although Alisdair is on leave he has spent considerable time at the band room with Adam and the band, working up some exciting tunes for the new concert repertoire.

I must thank James Cowie for his fine efforts, commitment and hard work as Pipe Major over the past ten years in taking the band to new levels in both competition and concert work. While James remains with the band as a piper, his leadership of the pipe corp over a decade has contributed strongly to the band's success.

We have lost several members since I last corresponded. Mike Redmond resigned to return to Queensland and then back to his home in New Zealand, while Lachy Boath has moved on to full-time police duties working out of Kiara Police Station. I thank both for their efforts but in particular Lachy for his good, loyal, service over a very long period and wish him well back in the field.

With the loss of Mike and Lachy and the impending departure of George Solomon in December, it is with regret that we have had to cancel both nights at the Quarry in February and the proposed recording at Mandurah's MPAC venue in March. We had received so many requests for the Quarry that it was very disappointing to cancel, however we are restructuring and recruiting for the future so as not to be away for too long.



Retrospective:

Scott Wilson

Scott Wilson was introduced to the WA Police Pipe Band in the early 1970s by pipe major and close friend at the time Angus Martin. Being a competent organist, Scott helped introduce a new playing style to the band through his accompaniment on the organ. He assisted the band in its development of more contemporary pipe band music through its inclusion of other instruments.

While not a piper or drummer himself, Scott was heavily involved in the composition of musical pieces as well as fundraising for the band. His efforts helped the band get to the Edinburgh Tattoo in 1975 although he did not join the band on that trip.

"I remember dad and others sitting around the kitchen table composing pieces for the band at the time", recalled his daughter Veronica Miles. She also remembered how other pipe bands at the time likened WAPOL's strange new sound to 'mickey mouse' music. If only they realised how far the band's musicality would progress in years to come!

Scott helped introduce WAPOL to a new kind of bagpipe music which has assisted the band in its development of some wonderful contemporary pieces to this day.