

Appendix 13 (a)

Formation of Comunn na Feinne Pipe Band

At the Comunn na Feinne meeting held 7th March, 1907, reference was made to the formation of a Comunn na Feinne Pipe Band. The Society had previously “approved” of this and it was reported that, “good progress had already been made in that direction.”

On the 10th July 1907, it was reported that 14 pupils of the newly formed Pipe Band, “were making good progress under the tuition of Pipe Major Hugh Fraser, of Melbourne.”

On 23rd July, 1908 it was further announced that the young pipers “were enthusiastic and eager to make themselves proficient, and will be of great service to Comunn na Feinne on the occasion of the annual demonstration and entertainment. A Pipe Band was a long felt want by the Society for many years, and now it is practically an accomplished fact.” Hearing that the Band required six sets of Pipes to fully equip the Band, the President Phillip Russell, “generously donated £20, the price of two sets. This is one of the interests Phillip Russell takes in Comunn na Feinne.” It was also reported that a “generous gift” from another Scot towards the purchase of the remaining four sets, was greatly appreciated.

It was announced that the Pipe Band, consisting of ten pipers and three drummers, “headed by Drum Major Colin Reid, and Pipe Major Donald William MacDonald, made their first public appearance.”

Members of Comunn na Feinne Pipe Band, Instructor Pipe-Major Hugh Fraser of Melbourne.

Pipers

Alexander Reid	Donald W. McDonald	Alford Vernon Galbraith
Donald Gillies	Colin Whyte	William J. Galbraith
William Cust	William Shields	Archibald McLean
James Jackson	Alexander McAulay	Donald Robertson

Drummers

James Nebbett	Angus McIntosh	Phillip Hammond
Alexander Cameron	Alexander Stokes	

On the visit of the Governor of Victoria, Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael, and Lady Carmichael, to Geelong on 17th December, 1908, the Comunn na Feinne Pipe Band played a welcome to the official party.

A letter, dated Macedon 18th December, 1908, from the Hon. Victor Hood, private secretary to the State Governor, was received by James Galbraith, the Society’s secretary. It read:

“Dear Sir, Will you please take the opportunity of expressing to the Pipers the appreciation of his Excellency, the Governor Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael, and Lady Carmichael, of their kindly attendance and welcome accorded by them, which added considerably to the pleasure of their visit to Geelong.”

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Appendix 13 (b) 'The Australian Ladies Pipe Band'

The Band's record while overseas was an outstanding one. It was met at Glasgow Railway Station by a crowd of 42,000 people. It was the first Ladies' Pipe Band to enter the famous Cowal Games at Dunoon and at the Braemar Gathering in the presence of the King and Queen. But it did more than just get into the record books on the account of being an all-ladies' pipe band. "It won the Murray Trophy, the Cowal Gold Medal and nine individual silver medals" at the Cowal Games. In addition, Miss Gertie Oliver, who had connections to Geelong, "won the title as champion female Highland dancer of Scotland." (Julie Church, 'Ladies and Bagpipes', *Memento* Issue 36, pp10-12, National Archives of Australia, Canberra)

Miss Gertie Oliver, one of the pipers and dancers, had much personal success abroad. In Scotland, she played before Sir Harry Lauder and his wife ... In Jersey she played before His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor of Jersey. Mr Morrison, a personal friend of His Excellency, was present at the time and so admired her playing and dancing that he presented her with a clock."

Appendix 13(c) Formation of Pipe Bands in Victoria

Pipe Band	Approximate Date of formation	Pipe Major
Warrnambool	1905	John MacPherson
Camperdown	1906	John Fraser
Collingwood	1907	Hugh Fraser
Richmond	1907	Hugh Fraser
Hamilton	1906(??)	Phillip McCorkendale
Prahran Scottish	1906(??)	Watson Thorpe
Ballarat	1908	Alexander Shaw
Comunn Na Feinne	1908	Donald W. MacDonald
Noorat and Colac	1908	?
South and Port Melbourne	1910	Hugh Fraser
Colac	1912	Louis MacLennan
Maryborough	1914	Peter D. Stuart
Melbourne Highland	1919	Louis MacLennan
South&Port Melbourne Ladies	1918	Miss Jesse Thorne
Sunshine	1920	Louis MacLennan
St Kilda	1921	Cameron Stuart
North&West Melb. Ladies	1921	Mrs Jessie Young
Mordialloc	1921	Lachlan Cunningham
Leongatha	1922	James Robertson
Mildura	1922	Donald (Dan) MacPherson
Northcote and Preston	1922	Hugh Fraser
Royal Caledonian of Melb.	1923	George Dickson
Footscray Thistle	1925	Andrew Donald
Yarraville	1925	Lachlan Cunningham
Hawthorn City*	1928	Lachlan Cunningham
Horsham	1928	{?} Gillespie

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*Hawthorn City Pipe Band – This was the result of an amalgamation of the members of the old Collingwood and St Kilda Pipe Bands under Pipe Major Lachlan Cunningham. The Band first appeared at the Victorian Scottish Union’s St Andrew’s Day Gathering held at the Exhibition Buildings 28th November, 1928.

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