

# TASMANIA POLICE PIPE BAND



The Tasmania Police Pipe Band, wears Fletcher of Dunans tartan in honour of the then Commissioner of Police at the time of its founding in 1969, Mr P W Fletcher CBE, MVO, JP.

The Band is well-known, not only within Australia, but also overseas. Overseas performances include, The Royal Tournament at Earl's Court in London and the Searchlight Tattoo at Colchester UK in 1975; four seasons at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo (1975, 1984, 1989 and 2002, the latter to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the accession to the throne of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II); the Java St. Andrew Society annual Highland Gathering in Jakarta on several occasions; the Hawaii Scottish Society Highland Gathering in Honolulu in 1995; and in November 1996, a prestigious Vice-Regal Beating Retreat Ceremony with the Bands of the Royal Hong Kong Police and the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Police in the Crown Colony prior to its return to China.

By invitation, in 1984 and 1989 the Band appeared in street marches along the famed Princes Street in Edinburgh with the former world champion Lothian and Borders Police Pipe Band.

National appearances include:

- the Tasmania Military Tattoo in 1972, 1976 and 1977 ,the Anglesea Barracks Military Tattoo 2004 , the Tasmania Police Centenary Tattoo 1999 and the Launceston Bicentenary Tattoo 2006;
- the Perth, West Australia Sesquicentenary Tattoo;
- the International Police Tattoo in Adelaide in 1986, 2001 and 2003;
- the Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Sydney Australia) in 2005;
- the Australian Bicentennial Military Tattoo in 1988;
- the National Police Memorial Parade in Canberra in 2006; and
- the Victorian and Australian Pipe Band Championships on many occasions as well as local Tasmanian championships and charity concert tours.

On Anzac Day 1988, the Tasmania Police Pipe Band was honoured by leading the parade to the Royal saluting base on the Queen's Domain Hobart Tasmania for the Queen's visit to Hobart.

In March 1999 the Tasmania Police Pipe Band featured in the New Plymouth Searchlight Tattoo in New Zealand. Upon return to Tasmania the Band participated in the Tasmania Police Centenary celebrations, including a Police Expo, and hosted a Centenary Police Tattoo in Hobart and Launceston. Guest bands included the (then) world champion Victoria Police Pipe Band, the Pipes and Drums of the Queensland Police, the Band of the South Australia Police and the Australian Army Band Tasmania.

## 12<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Tasmania Regiment and HMAS HOBART

The Band has regularly participated in Australian Defence Force Beating Retreat ceremonies and Anniversary Concerts and is affiliated with the 12<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Royal Tasmania Regiment (RTR) and HMAS HOBART as the honorary Pipes and Drums of those two units. The Band has supported the Battalion when it exercised its right to the freedom of the cities of Hobart and Launceston. The Band has also appeared with other Defence contingents and the Australian Army Band Tasmania, in the Beating Retreat ceremonies at Port Arthur on each occasion that these occurred.

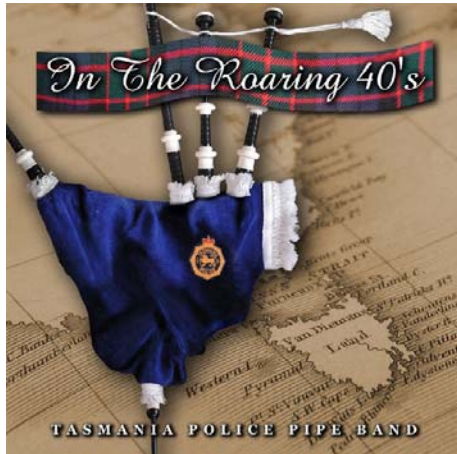
Other duties on the local scene include all Graduation Parades at the Tasmania Police Academy, concerts and farewells for visiting cruise ships, Hobart and Launceston Christmas Pageants, school fairs and other community events and a host of other negotiated parades.

The Pipe Major is Steve Percival and the Band is led by Drum Major Tony Bidgood.



## Compact Disc

The Band has recorded and released a compact disc of music, part of the Band's regular rendition, which has a broad attraction to people of all ages. Available at \$20.00 from the Band Administration and selected sites.



## Membership

The membership of the Band is totally voluntary and includes a small percentage of serving Police Officers. The majority of the membership is drawn from the community and included teachers, students, corporation executives and retired members of the community.

## Engagements

The Band is available for engagements both on a contractual basis and for charity occasions. These are dependent on availability of members and the size of the Band desired.

The Band also provides a link to members of the community seeking single pipers or a mini band for weddings and ceremonial occasions where pipe music or a band may be suitable.

### Like to join the Tasmania Police Pipe Band?

The Tasmania Police Pipe Band welcomes any people wishing to learn Piping and Drumming. Minimum age is 14 years and some previous musical experience is an advantage.

The Band practices on Tuesday evenings in Hobart, with a number of members based in Launceston.

### For More Information

For more information on any issue relating to the Tasmania Police Pipe Band, please contact:

#### Band Administration

Inspector W Moore

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