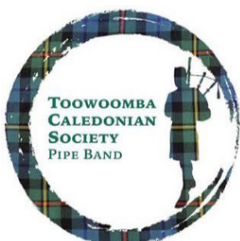




## From the editor:

Hi! My name is Tamika and I am the newly appointed Newspaper Editor and Publicity Officer for the Toowoomba Caledonian Society and Pipe Band! I have been somewhat affiliated with the Society and band since 2016 when I started to come to Ceilidhs with my then boyfriend (now fiancé), Lachlan Andrews, who was a tenor drummer at the time (now snare drummer, on his way to become a piper). For a short time I played in the band as a tenor drummer until Carpal Tunnel Syndrome got the best of me, I then became the bands unofficial photographer and I took upon the society's Facebook and Instagram accounts. My goal for this newsletter is to let our community know about upcoming events that our society plans, as well as performances and competitions that the band attends. Newsletters will also contain Scottish recipes, history, traditions, fun facts and more! I hope you enjoy reading! If there is anything you'd like to see in the next newsletter, do not hesitate to contact me at [publicity@tcspb.com.au](mailto:publicity@tcspb.com.au).



## What Events do TCSPB hold?

We hold Ceilidhs where our Pipe Band play many and various Scottish tunes. If you have not heard the term Ceilidh, this simply means a party where pipe music, dancing, singing, drinking, and eating occurs. My first Ceilidh was a very eye-opening experience which my wife and I thoroughly enjoyed.

Our Society also organized Debutant Balls for many years until school formals took over this function.

We conduct an Annual Burns Supper which celebrates Scotland's most famous poet, Robert Burns. This takes place as a formal dinner during which we hold an Address to the Haggis where a formal party in full Highland dress are piped into the hall carrying the haggis, a claymore sword, several glasses of whisky with one member reciting Robert Burns address he made over two hundred years ago. This is a very impressive address and attendees thoroughly enjoy the presentation.

Another Annual event is St Andrews Night where we acknowledge the Patron Saint of Scotland, Saint Andrew, with music, singing, food, drink, and dancing, very similar to our Ceilidh performances but with the accent on St Andrew.

(Written by President Colin McKay)

## Upcoming Event Dates:

**St Andrews Night**  
November 26th, 2022  
(See flyer attached)

**Toowoomba Christmas Wonderland Band Performance**  
December 3rd, 2022

**Burns Supper**  
January 21st, 2023  
(See flyer attached)

**Australia Day Band Performance**  
January 26th, 2023

More details will be available on our Facebook page closer to these dates.

## From the President - Colin McKay

Many of you will know about or have heard of The Toowoomba Caledonian Society and Pipe Band Inc., but are you aware of the role this organization plays in the Community of Toowoomba? Perhaps this is a good time to give you some background into our being. About nine years ago, my daughter Robyn informed her mother and I that she was learning to play the bagpipes. Now this statement came out of the blue but nevertheless, I for one was most impressed and excited. Why was this? Well, to give you a clue, my name is Colin Roy McKay and I am descended from Scottish migrants who emanated from Scotland to Australia arriving here in 1838.

My great, great Grandfather Angus Mackay as the name was spelt at that time, and which soon changed to McKay, was forced from his land in Scotland due to the "Clearances". These clearances occurred from the 1770's to the late 1850's, with many tens of thousands of Scots peoples being evicted from their lands in Scotland which their families had held for generations by Landlords who were often absentees' owners. In many cases terrified Highlanders were burned out of their homes and entire glens emptied.

But back to my story. With Robyn being a piper, I decided that I would like to know more about my Scottish culture, so I decided to become a member of the Toowoomba Caledonian Society and Pipe Band.

I soon learned that this Society was formed in 1870 by many Scots who had emigrated from Scotland due to the above clearances and that their intention was to maintain the cultures and traditions of Scotland. Scots love music and the pipes and drums of a Pipe Band always draw attention wherever they perform.

My joining The Caledonian Society and Pipe Band Inc. has given me an in-depth understanding of the traditions and culture of Scotland, and if you are a descendant of any Scots who came to Australia and you would like to take an active interest in our all things Scottish, then please feel free to become a member of this wonderful organization. My current position in our Society is that of President and you and your family members are cordially invited to attend any or all our functions which are advertised on our Facebook page and newsletters.



Pictured is President Colin McKay at our One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration in 2021



Would you like to come to our monthly committee meetings?

Our society meets on the first Monday of every month at the Dr Price Rooms (6 Little Street, Toowoomba) at 7pm.

Everyone is welcome to come and provide ideas, feedback or just to have a chat, however only members of the committee are permitted to vote.

If you would like to become a committee member join us at our Annual General Meeting in August (date will be advised closer)

## From the Pipe Major - Daryl Thompson

Our Society Pipe Band has performed at two major community events in the past month, The Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers and The Queensland Light Horse Competition.

### The Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers Grand Central Floral Parade

The Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers Grand Central Parade is held every year in September, the Carnival of Flowers brings over two hundred thousand people to Toowoomba each year and we have been honored to play in the carnival each year for 50 years or more!

The 2022 Carnival of Flowers Parade was no different to any year before, we held pride of place as the premier band - first in the parade. On the day, we fielded a large band, with a special guest appearance, as always, from Shane Richardson – the brother of one of our long-term pipers – Duane. Shane plays on a regular basis with the Gold Coast Tweed Pipe Band and originally comes from Toowoomba.

The band was simply stunning during the entire parade. Once we arrived at Queen's Park, we had enough stamina to play for our Stand Bearer from Bernadette's School of Highland Dancing to dance a Highland Fling. We also played a high-level suite – "The Steam Train to Mallaig" as well as a couple of extra tunes – which were appreciated by the crowd in Queen's Park. Thoroughly enjoyed this day and very proud of our band's representation of our Society on the day.



Pictured is band members Larissa Harrison and Jess McIlwaine performing 'The Highland Fling' with Annabelle Spies from Bernadette's School of Highland Dancing after the parade had ended.

### The Queensland Light Horse Competition - Pittsworth

On Sunday the 25th of September, our band played at the Queensland Light Horse competition at Pittsworth. Our Society's involvement and support for the local Light Horse has been consistent since its inception in the late 1800s. This is something we, as a Society, are extremely proud of, and has been officially acknowledged by the Queensland Light Horse Association.



Pictured is our band playing at The Queensland Light Horse Competition in Pittsworth



## New Zealand & South Pacific Pipe Band Championships 2024

Did you know that New Zealand claims the highest number of pipe bands per capita in the world?

Each year the Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands Association Inc (NZPBC) hold the New Zealand & South Pacific Pipe Band Championships. Anywhere between 40 and 60 bands compete every year! We are hoping to be there competing in the championships in Auckland in 2024.

## From the Chieftain - Irene Batzloff

As one ages, events of our early life are sometimes a live "fuzzy" at the edges, however I shall try to remember and share my Scottish Heritage with you in this Society newsletter.

My heritage has been handed down to me from my father's side of the Crawford family. My Dad's father worked as a painter for the Laird at his castle in Tarbert, Loch Fyne, Argyll, Scotland. It is believed that for health reasons the family decided to emigrate to a warmer climate, and as grandfather already had a brother living in Warwick, Australia, he and his wife and family of ten children (8 sons and 2 daughters, a further son was born whilst here in Warwick) in 1909 boarded the ship "Whakatane" bound for Australia. Grandfather's brother, also a painter, had already established a business there, and that determined their settling in Warwick. They set up their home at "Mount View" later to be named "Pringle Cottage" in Dragon St., site of the Warwick Historical Society today. As the sons grew older, he put them to the same trade but for my father, this was not to be. So when he and my mother married, they moved to Toowoomba, and set up their home here.

I was their only child, and on my father's repatriation from W.W.2 after being wounded at Tobruk, in 1942, he was keen to have me learn Highland Dancing. Thus, at around 8-9 years of age, I commenced these lessons under the tutelage of Ailsa Ogilvie, who taught in the Caledonian Society room above Horton's Motor Cycle Shop in Little Russell St. next door to the Olcott Hall. Once students had mastered all the Highland Dances, plus the Jigs and the Hornpipe, I then moved into the Ballet section of the Royal Academy of Dancing syllabus, passing all the Grade examinations, (there were 5) plus the first of the Major section which gave me membership of the British Royal Academy of Dance. In those days there were no opportunities to regularly compete against other dancers in districts or interstate, as happens now, to gain progress in standards, but here in Toowoomba we did have the annual Eisteddfod with a Dance section, which was widely contested with all forms of dance.

I continued with my dance classes throughout my primary and secondary schooling, and even when I went to Teachers' College in Brisbane, I enrolled with a teacher, Mrs. Anderson, who taught in the Valley. Whilst here at home during my learning period, there were other dance schools namely those of: Phyllis Flohr, Dawn Hillocks, and Leah Wain, to name 3. My teacher's brother, Graham, played the pipes for all our classes, as did Leah's brother Doug, for her classes.

I still keep in contact with Ailsa Ogilvie, who now lives at the Sunshine Coast, near family members, and at 93 years of age, she still sounds as "chirpy" as ever, though health-wise has her problems. Her brother, Graham's funeral notice was recently in "The Chronicle" - he passed away in Young, NSW, aged in his early 90's.

After the end of the Second World War in 1945, when Peace was declared, social life was reignited, and in 1948 the first Highland Ball was celebrated by the Society in the RSL Hall in Ruthven St. Seventeen young ladies made their debut that evening partnered by Thistle Pipe Band members and attended by 4 flower girls and 2 heralds.

The flower girls were all dancers from Ailsa Ogilvie's studio, and Heather Ross and I were the heralds. The Balls continued each year for about 2-3 decades (I made my debut back in my Sub-Senior year in 1953), but sadly, with the popularity of television's arrival soon after, they lost the public's support.

For this edition my "ramblings" end here, but hopefully I can contribute to include in further editions some past memories.

Chieftain- Irene Batzloff (nee Crawford)



## Traditional Scottish Tablet

### What is Traditional Scottish Tablet?

Traditional Scottish Tablet is a bit like fudge, although it has a harder and slightly grainy texture that melts in your mouth. It is a must try when visiting Scotland, or follow this recipe and make your own!

### Ingredients:

- 900g (4.5 cups) of white sugar
- 250ml (1 cup) full cream milk
- 1 tin (397g tin) of sweetened condensed milk
- 85g (6 Tbsp) of butter

### Method:

1. Slowly dissolve the sugar, milk and butter until smooth. (This can be done in a pot on the stove but it's also easy to do in the microwave and lowers the risk of burning). Put in a microwave-safe bowl and blast for 90 seconds at a time on a low or defrost setting. It'll take approximately 6 times in the microwave for it to melt into a smooth mixture.
2. Pour the liquid into a large pot on the stove. If you're using an electric stovetop you can use a trivet to stop the mixture burning.
3. Add the condensed milk and bring it up to a boil (stir continuously to stop it catching on the bottom of the pan) .
4. Briskly simmer for about 20 minutes until the mixture darkens to a caramel colour, stirring continuously
5. Take off the heat, quickly beat the mixture and pour it into a buttered swiss roll tin

Note: Be sure to use full-fat ingredients or the recipe won't work correctly!



## Christmas 2022

### Toowoomba Christmas Wonderland

Our band has been asked to play at the 2022 Toowoomba Christmas Wonderland light display in Queens Park! We will be there on opening night! We will be playing from 7.30pm to 8.15pm on Saturday 3rd of December.

We look forward to seeing everyone and playing a Christmas carol or ten! (much to pipe Major Daryl's disgust!)

On behalf of the Toowoomba Caledonian Society and Pipe Band, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all in 2023!



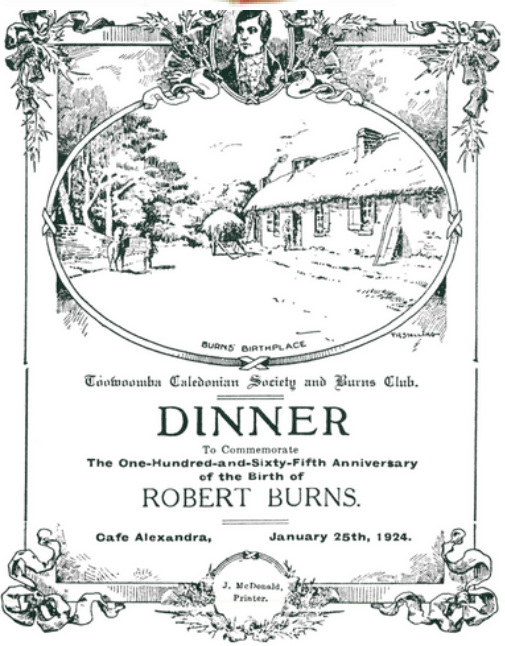
## A Blast from the Past!



SOUVENIR. "FOR AULD LANG SYNE"  
Toowoomba Caledonian Society.  
Reception and Banquet



To Mr. Harry Lauder.  
CAFE MAJESTIC, TOOWOOMBA,  
Saturday, July 18th, 1914, at 1-0 p.m.  
Chairman - GEO. GEDDES, Esq. Chief.  
Noo brither Scots, frae faur an near,  
Come fast, nor langer tarry:  
I'ee warrant ye, we'll get guid lear  
Wi' twa bit oors wi' Harry  
DEWAR'S ORCHESTRA. Master of Ceremonies  
Mr. W. HILLOCKS



*Toowoomba Caledonian Society and Pipe Band*

# *St Andrews Night Ceilidh*

*November 26th, 2022*

*Doors open at 6:45pm for a 7pm start*

Pipe Band Displays  
Guest Performances  
Highland Dancing  
Scottish Country Dancing  
Raffle  
Licensed Bar  
Tea & Coffee Station  
BYO Supper

Cash & EFTPOS available

To reserve tickets, please email  
[RonimcTCS@gmail.com](mailto:RonimcTCS@gmail.com)

Drayton Hall  
39 Brisbane  
Street  
Drayton, 4350



Entry Costs  
Adult - \$10  
Under 18 - \$5  
13 and under - Free

*Toowoomba Caledonian Society and Pipe Band*

# *Annual Burns Supper*

*January 21st, 2023*

*Doors open at 6pm for a 6:30pm start*

*The Oaks Hotel*

*25 Annand Street*

*Toowoomba City, QLD, 4350*

*\$80 per head*

*Tickets are essential and are available to purchase now  
until the 14th of January!*

*Tickets will not be available at the door.*

*To book, visit the EventBrite link on our Facebook page  
or email Laura at [secretary@tcs\\_pb.com.au](mailto:secretary@tcs_pb.com.au)*

Traditional Haggis Ceremony

Poetry Readings

Pipe Band Performances

Musical Performances

Dancing

Traditional Haggis Entrée, Main and Dessert

Licensed Bar available throughout the night

We hope you can join us to celebrate the life of Sir  
Robert Burns!

