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New scholarship to assist Australian pipers

Pipe Bands Australia has today announced an annual scholarship to assist with education and training of young pipers jointly established with Victorian Highland Pipe Band Association with a bequest from the estate of the late Peter Cook.

The fund will be jointly administered by PBA and VHPBA with annual awards totalling up to \$2000 being made over at least the next 10 years. The scholarships are available to members of Pipe Bands Australia and affiliated organisations.

Peter Cook tragically lost his life in a car accident just days before the 2014 Australian Pipe Band Championships. He had been secretary of Pipe Bands Victoria for more than a decade at the time of his death and had been recognised with life membership of Pipe Bands Australia through the branch.

He had a lifelong passion for piping and pipe bands, but in particular, solo piping and was heavily involved with the former Pipers' Club of Victoria as an executive member.

His passion for piping and bands was unwavering, and he dedicated much time to the function of every organisation promoting piping with which he was involved.

Peter bequeathed a sum of money for the advancement of solo piping, and his family have elected to establish the Peter Cook Memorial Scholarship in his honour and perpetually acknowledge Peter's love of bagpipes.

Pipe Bands Australia president Chris Earl said: "This significant bequest from the Cook family will most appropriately honour Peter's unselfish and generous in his support of the piping and pipe band community throughout his life, providing support and assistance to new generations of pipers with aspirations for the future.

"The scholarship will focus on educational and training opportunities and is open to all pipers across Australia."

VHPBA president Tim McLeod said: "Peter Cook's loyalty to the former Pipers' Club of Victoria and the pipe band movement was highly valued and respected over many years.

"His contributions as a piper and administrator deserve recognition and this scholarship will be a lasting legacy for his great passion and commitment."

Pipe Bands Australia and Victorian Highland Pipe Band Association expresses its appreciation to the Cook family in establishing the Peter Cook Memorial Scholarship.

Applications for the 2019 scholarships are now open and will close on 30 June 2019. The application form may be downloaded at www.pipebandsaustralia.com.au/cook-scholarship



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