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Jul 13, 2018

Our pipers and drummers star on world stage

Australian pipe bands are jetting the world to perform on the international stage during the Northern Hemisphere summer.

Four Pipe Bands Australia bands – Royal Victoria Regiment Association, Manly Warringah, The Scotch College Perth and Brisbane Boys' College – will form five files in the massed pipes and drums at the 2018 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the Tattoo's Pipers' Trail comprising players from around the world will include 11 Australians in its team of 50.

REMT chief executive and producer Brigadier David Allfrey MBE said: "This is extraordinary. A great Australian showing."

Pipe Bands Australia and REMT have an ongoing international friendship of support and encouragement to provide performance opportunities for Australian pipers and drummers.

The number of Australian band files is this year's REMT is possibly the largest since all Australian state police pipe bands appeared in 1975.

Pipe Bands Australia president Chris Earl said: "Again, the REMT is providing an international stage for so many of our members to share and celebrate their music in the experience of a lifetime at Edinburgh Castle."

Brisbane Boys' College will also be competing in major pipe band events including the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow.

Joining them on Glasgow Green will be 2016 World Grade 3B championships Perth Metro now promoted to Grade 3A and its Number #2 band in Grade 4B while Murrumba (Queensland) will compete in Grade 4A.

Also appearing at Glasgow Green will be The Scots College Sydney. A separate TSC contingent has just returned from appearing the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo.

Australia's current drum major flourish champion Benjamin Casey, who will be leading RVR Association Pipes and Drums in the REMT, will contest the drum major solo at the Worlds.

In July, the Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipes and Drums from Melbourne performed in the Basel Tattoo. The Rats, formed as a living memorial to those who served in the World War Two battle, are regular performers in both Edinburgh and Basel.

Each year hundreds of Australian pipers and drummers head to Scotland and Europe for



tations and pand championships but 20 to is possibly the largest number yet promoting Australia on the international stage.



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