

PIPE BANDS AUSTRALIA

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[Events](#)

[Results](#)

[Awards](#)

[Members](#)

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[Championships](#)

[Solos](#)

[Workshops](#)

[National Council](#)

[Awards](#)

[Q](#)

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The Tattoo Legacy: Enhanced online learning in Australia

Pipe Bands Australia will develop an expanded and enhanced online learning portal to assist players in developing best-practice skills under a donation from the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Board of Trustees of REMT has made the gift after the tremendous success of its overseas tour in 2016 that included sell-out performances in Melbourne over four days.

The "legacy donation" follows ongoing discussions with Tattoo chief executive officer and producer David Alfrey, production manager Steve Walsh and Pipers Trail project officer Stevie Small who all praised the commitment and skill of Australian bands during those performances and those bands who have appeared in the Tattoo in Edinburgh.

In thanking the Tattoo board chairman, Edinburgh Lord Provost Rt Hon Donald Wilson, for the legacy gift, Pipe Bands Australia president Chris Earl said: "Pipe Bands Australia has long cherished the close fraternal ties with the REMT, links stretching back more than 50 years that have provided performance opportunities and a wonderful experience for so many of our bands and their players over that time. It has also been our privilege to provide assistance to the Tattoo management and production teams when the spectacular has come Down Under.

"We are pleased that along with opportunities going forward for our bands to participate in the Tattoo, the advent of the Pipers Trail project as part of the Tattoo now provides additional pathways for individual pipers and drummers dreaming of that once-in-a-lifetime experience of performing on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle."

The principals of PBA's Australian Pipe Band College are currently preparing content concepts for the enhanced online education and training platform for early implementation with the aims of engaging the public on the musical journey of bands and motivating young people to take up pipes or drums, educating instructors to provide quality tuition and chart pathways for players towards fine practice, rehearsals and performance skills.

They are also considering whether any elements of college examinations can be included in the new portal to increase access for pipers, drummers, drum majors and administrators wishing to obtain qualifications.



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