

# PIPE BANDS AUSTRALIA

*People. Performance. Music.*



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Dec 20, 2016



## Festive greetings from Pipe Bands Australia

On behalf of National Management Committee, I extend Season's Greetings and convey thanks for the efforts of those positively contributing to the advancement of Pipe Bands Australia and its promotion of education, training, engagement and performance.

This year saw the holding of our biennial championships and I again acknowledge Knox Grammar School, and particularly Ainsley Hart, for hosting our showcase event. A clear highlight of the championships, the first to be live-streamed to the world, was the number of bands in the juvenile events and the high standard of performance they attained. We wish continued progress to the Queensland branch under new chairman Andrew Roach in arrangements for the next championships while paying tribute to Don MacSween who recently retired as chairman after almost 20 years.

The year has certainly provided some unique challenges, challenges that have ultimately strengthened the resolve of the Australian pipe band movement to be one where people, music and performance are celebrated in a friendly and supportive environment matching the social expectations of contemporary society.

Education and training are integral to our future as a movement and the role of College in conducting educational workshops, providing clear pathways for advancement in skill proficiency and inspiration for our players must never be underestimated.

During the year, negotiations have been underway on future external financial support of education and training. These negotiations have significantly progressed in recent weeks and members will be informed of further developments as they occur. We have launched a new website in 2016 with additional resources to assist players, cleared the backlog of rule proposals requiring a ballot of bands and introduced long-service certificates for members having completed 25 and 50 years in the movement. National management committee believes contributions at all levels by individuals are worthy of recognition and will shortly open nominations for a series of outstanding contribution awards, including the PBA Hall of Fame. We are also investigating greater use of online platforms for improved membership management and access.

I hope that the Festive Season is one of goodwill and much-earned relaxation for you and your families and look forward with anticipation to our working together again in 2017 as we share the dream and the journey.

With Kindest Festive Wishes

Chris Earl  
President

President



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