

Celtic Piping Club Overview

16 July 2016

Overview of the Celtic Piping Club

The Celtic Piping Club is the hub for Australia's Celtic piping community. It provides a network for people who play or are interested in the various types of Celtic pipes including uilleann pipes, Scottish smallpipes, Northumbrian pipes, Border pipes and other bellows-blown or mouth-blown pipes.

Following the receipt of seed funding from a very generous anonymous donor, the Club was formally launched in June 2013 at the National Celtic Festival in Portarlington, Victoria. Prior to this time there had been a number of ad hoc workshops presented at festivals, private homes and Celtic music schools. By 2013 there was such a keen interest amongst players that the Club was created in an informal capacity.

The communications and activities of the Club are primarily administered by Geoff Jones (Geelong, Vic.) and Sarah Wade (Melbourne, Vic.) with assistance from a small group of enthusiastic supporters. At this stage there are no formal membership requirements to be part of the Club and new subscribers to the email newsletter are always welcome.

Aims of the Celtic Piping Club

- to generate opportunities for individuals and groups to play or experience Celtic bagpipes;
- to develop community and fellowship around appreciation of Celtic bagpipes and music;
- to encourage the study, practice, performance and development of the musical repertoire; &
- to promote the development of Celtic bagpipes and piping in Australia.

Key activities of the Celtic Piping Club

- to develop and promote a programme of piping gatherings and events, e.g. sessions, concerts, guest players/makers;
- to facilitate and encourage tutoring/learning opportunities;
- to provide piping resources including online information, music & reference books, pipes for loan or hire, and membership of allied organisations;
- to maintain a database of participants/members; and
- to distribute regular communiqués regarding Celtic piping in Australia to members and the wider piping community.

Club Status

- Not-for-Profit Community Group
- Not currently incorporated (but planned)
- Club has own community group bank account, PayPal account, and website
- No paid membership (but planned – particularly to help pay for ongoing costs, e.g. insurance)
- Current 'membership' consists of subscription to email newsletter, generally published monthly
- Currently 192 subscribers ('members')
- Club events include public & private 'jam' sessions, workshops, presentations/demonstrations, concert performances, hosting other performers, residential weekends
- Annual turnover <\$15,000
- Club does not own Club Room or premises