

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MACKAY & DISTRICT PIPE BAND

*Collected and recollected by Jim
Anderson (Right)
(original member of the band formed
in 1926)*



By the end of 1996 the Mackay & District Pipe Band will have served the public of Mackay and District for 70 years. I am the only surviving member of the original band so the task devolves upon me to put on record as much of the history as I can remember or uncover.

The band had many ups and downs during those seventy years, but we are proud of the fact we have always been able to provide a band of some sort throughout that period even during the war years when all our able bodied members had joined the services. So far as I am aware it has never missed an Anzac Day Parade since 1928. In the war years a few of the too old and too young contrived to carry on the tradition.

Going back in the years, I am indebted to the late Alan Calder for some notes he wrote on an earlier Pipe Band which was formed in 1911, and was attached to the Mackay Caledonian Society which was quite strong in the early days, but faded somewhere in the 1920 s. The foundation members of the band were:- Pipers Jim Benson, (Pipe Major) John Campbell, Jim Stewart, John McIntosh, Neil Campbell, Peter Gibson and drummers Bob Porter and Bluey Burbeck. This band went under the name of Mackay & District Caledonian Pipe Band and Concert Party. By holding functions throughout the district sufficient finance was raised by 1914 to outfit the band with MacKenzie tartan kilts, and the name was changed to the Mackay & District Pipe Band. I have no information on the band from that date, and surmise that the 1914-18 war would have caused it to disband. Peter Gibson and Bob Atkinson, however, provided good service to the present band in its early days, and Bob Porter served as a side drummer with the local Brass Band for many years.

The idea of forming a new Pipe Band originated with the celebration of St Andrew's Day (30th November 1926). I was not concerned nor interested in Pipe Bands to any extent, but I remember there was some function (probably a concert) organised by the Caledonian Society and a scratch band had been formed to play for the occasion. I was 14 at the time and was among the onlookers. The band consisted of Pipers Bob Allen (Pipe Major) Bob Donaldson, Jim Tait, Ben Hayward Jr, and Bob Atkinson, Bass Drummer Alan Calder and side drummers Frank Lithgow and Bill Simpson. These men were all presumably members of the Caledonian Society. At the time there was dissension among the members of the society (not unusual, I think), so when it was there and then decided to promote the formation of a permanent band it was agreed that it would not be under the jurisdiction of the Caledonian Society. This was probably one of the reasons for the demise of the Caledonian Society.

An advertisement was placed in the Daily Mercury for pupils to learn piping and drumming. One of the principal instigators of the promotion of the band was Ben Hayward Snr. He and my father were friends, and though he never showed any interest in Pipe Bands my father enrolled me to learn drumming.

This was done without consulting me, but as an obedient son, I went along with it. I very much doubt that I would have joined of my own volition, yet here I am 70 years later, still here.

Unfortunately for me and my history the early records of the band which at the time were stored under Charlie Williamson's House in Nebo Road were inundated with water during one of the floods. When some years ago I sought them out, only the years 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1932 were available prior to 1948. These were in such a fragile condition due to immersion that the paper disintegrated as I examined them. In any case only the bare bones of the meetings were recorded, so there was little of any interest to be gained. As a result of this I have been unable to put firm dates to many of the happenings, but I am once more indebted to the late Alan Calder for his notes of some of the more important events. Some old photographs I have collected have helped, particularly in compiling the list of members over the years, but many of the dates of service are only approximate. Few people think to put dates on photographs. I doubt that the minutes would have helped on that score, as many members seldom or never attended meetings. The most important information obtained from surviving minutes was of the inaugural meeting.

The Date of the Inaugural Meeting was illegible in the minutes, but was held either in December 1926 or January 1927. I attended the meeting and I am inclined to think it was held in January. The Office Bearers elected at the first meeting were:

Patron: George Insch, A Firewood Merchant

President: Robert Atkinson, Ironworker

Vice President: Benjamin Hayward Snr, A Carrier and one time
Alderman of Mackay

Secretary: William Simpson, A Barber

Pipe Major: Robert Allen, A mill worker and former Piper & Bass Drummer
in the Royal Scots

There was no mention of a Treasurer or a Drum Major. James Boyd appears to have been in the office of treasurer, but we did not have a Drum Major for the first year or two. There was, I remember quite a long discussion regarding the name of the band, and finally it was agreed to adopt the previous name of the Mackay & District Pipe Band. It was hoped that some support would come from the District as well as the city, and this proved to be the case.

It is noted that Bob Atkinson did not act as chairman during the first couple of years. I don't know why, but George Insch chaired the early meetings. Ben Hayward was elected President in 1928 and continued in that office for a number of years. There is a posed photograph dated 1933 showing Mr Hayward as President, and another dated 1935 which states that Donald F. MacDonald was president, although he is wearing the Drum Major's uniform. Maybe he was wearing two hats at the time. I can't recollect him in either position, only as a piper. The date of this photograph is established, as there is a copy of it on a poster in the office of the Mackay Show Association, with the date and all names shown. Mr H James Kersey was president in 1947, but there is no other information on the intervening years 1936 to 1948.

Learners were enrolled and started to practise, the aim being to turn out a band on Anzac Day 1928. Bagpipes are just as difficult (if not more difficult) to master as any other musical instrument and some people may be surprised to know that we have to learn from music. It is not practical to carry music, so the tunes must be memorised. The only members with experience were Bob Allen, Bob Atkinson and Frank Lithgow, a former drummer with the Seaforth Highlanders, so they had to do the tutoring. Practices were held at Bob Atkinson's House in Gold Street. He must have had good neighbours, but of course, most of the time the pipers practised on practice chanters, and the drummers on boards.

There was some equipment available, Bob Atkinson had probably been holding it from the old band - some MacKenzie tartan kilts made from thick material pleated at the back to show the whole stripes, making them heavy as lead at the back unless they fitted perfectly. (which usually they didn't). This I understood was army style. Also on hand were some belts, buckles, sporrans, etc, a bass drum and four side drums but only half size, with brass shells and rope tensions. As a drummer I soon became aware of the problems with these drums which remained with us for many years. The brass shells had to be polished and the ropes and buffs whitened before every turnout, and the shells were not deep enough to be able to get much tension with the buffs on the ropes. Some years later we acquired full guard drums with wooden shells, but still with rope tension. The drum heads were skin (usually calf) and absorbed any moisture in the air, rendering them soft. Needless to say it was useless trying to play them in the rain. After a moderate amount of use the drums gradually pulled from the hoops so the drums had to be dismantled, the skins soaked in water and relapped onto the hoops. Rod tension drums may have been available earlier, but only came to our notice just before the second world war, and we were using vellum heads all the time in the army. With plastic heads and individual head tension nowadays drummers are able to do things that were impossible before. The only drawback - they are much heavier to carry, I know some items of dress were purchased because George Insch was thanked for the generous loan of thirty pounds for this purpose; not much these

days, but quite a sum at that time. The money was repaid in 1928.

So Anzac Day 1928 arrived and I was not too happy at the prospect of walking from McKenney Street to Gold Street wearing this kilt which, in my case, was too big for me, but I suppose the smallest available. We all assembled at Bob Atkinson's house in Gold Street. The pipers were:- Bob Allen, Bob Atkinson, Jock Boyd, Sid Dahms, Ben Hayward Jnr, Archie Hokins, Percy Hopkins, Keith McCubben, Alec MacKinnon and Hugh Stewart. The drummers were:- Alan Calder, Frank Lithgow, Jim Boyd and myself (Jim Anderson). I am sure that all these pipers did not play but I think there were eight. The four drummers played. The pipers had two tunes, Colonel Cruden (2/4) and The Cameron Men (6/8) and the drummers one beat for each tune. For practice on the way to the parade we played Colonel Cruden down Gold Street, into Shakespeare Street. We tried The Cameron Men with disastrous results, so Bob Allen decided to stick to the 2/4 tune only, throughout the march. Just to add to our troubles Alan Calder put his stick through the bass drum head, much to the annoyance of the Pipe Major. We had to borrow the Brass band's drum and someone (I think it was Jim Chalmers) had to rush the drum from one band to the other on the march.

In 1929 we unfortunately lost our Pipe Major, Bob Allen, who left Mackay, so the band had to carry on with the more advanced pupils in charge. In 1928, as I said before, Ben Hayward became President. At the same time Fred Graham Snr took on the position of Secretary and Bill Simpson became treasurer. (Bill Simpson did not hold the position very long because he and his young son were tragically drowned while fishing at the Town Beach, along with another man who was rescued by an old derelict who lived on the beach.)

Bob Allen's departure was a blow to the fledgling band, but there was still plenty of enthusiasm among the young members. Alec McKinnon and Alan Calder in particular were instrumental in keeping the band operating, and did their best to tutor the less advanced members. At the same time Frank Lithgow who was getting on in years, dropped out and Jim Boyd was recruited into the brass band leaving me as the only side drummer. To while away the time I started learning the practice chanter, and in fact was playing the pipes by 1932.

Still in 1929 we were aware that there were players in the Sarina District, and we had some discussions with them. Sarina was considered a long way off in those days, but the outcome was that they would join in with the Mackay and District Pipe Band. I don't know if they operated as a band in Sarina, but they were all except one, from the one family (the Lawrie's). Sandy & Willy being pipers, Andrew a bass drummer and Graham a side drummer. There were also two Graham's, George and John both pipers, who were nephews of the Lawries. two other Graham's, Tom and Jim came as learners (pipes and

side drum respectively), so that at one time there were eight of the one family in the band. Actually there were nine. Another Lawrie (Bob) though not a playing member was an ardent supporter and always on hand to assist. The other three Graham's shown on the list of members were not related to the Sarina family.

While on the subject of families it is interesting to note that two other families played a large part in the bands activities. Alec McKinnon and his brothers Angus and Tom before and after the war and brother Jack after the war were very prominent in the playing department, while his sisters Georgina (Ena) and Jean gave able assistance, Ena as a pianist at our dances and Jean as a Highland Dancer. Ena was married to Archie Hokins who also had long service as a piper. The other John McKinnon 1933/34 shown on list of members was not of this family.

The Macdonald brothers, Donald and Jim were keen players pre-war and after the war Jim's son, Alec was president for many years, and is still an interested member. Alec's four sons Stuart, Ken, Bill and Mark were all at one time pipers in the band. Stuart and Ken are now playing with Grade 1 bands in Brisbane.

The other Sarina player was Peter Gibson, an experienced piper who had been a member of the old band. He was a capable tutor and took on the duties of Pipe Major, which he held until 1948. Peter did his best to give the Mackay members tuition, but the problems of transport and his duties on his farm made it difficult for us to get together. Once a month we would endeavour to go to Sarina for the weekend, travelling down on Saturday afternoon, staying overnight distributed among Lawrie's, Graham's and Gibson's farms. On Sunday morning there would be a meeting. I had little interest in these meetings which always seemed to take the whole forenoon, with long heated discussions on seemingly trivial matters. The afternoon was taken up with band practice, and we would return to Mackay late in the afternoon, sometimes, if the Band happened to be playing at some function the Sarina contingent would stay overnight in Mackay, with the same Sunday morning meeting and band practice in the afternoons. Another piper Donald Gunn, had joined up with us and he had a small farm at Marwood roughly halfway between Mackay and Sarina so after a while we settled on meeting there on Sunday once a month, with the usual forenoon meeting and afternoon practice. Donald was a bachelor with only a small farm and a small house with practically no spare ground so we more often than not found ourselves marching on ploughed fields. We were practising then for the contest at Warwick on Boxing Day 1932, but more of that later.

In 1930, Jim Hasting, who had been a side drummer in the Cameron Highlanders, came to Mackay from Scotland, which provided the opportunity

for me to improve my drumming considerably. I still kept on learning the pipes, however, and as can be seen from the Photographs, I was playing pipes in the band at the 1932 contest in Warwick and on Anzac day 1933. After that as I was so often called on to carry a drum, I gave up the pipes and played as a drummer until about 1957 when I bought myself a set of bagpipes and joined the ranks of the pipers.

Until 1929 we wore our suit jackets with our kilts but in that year we acquired white duck tunics. These looked quite smart but unfortunately soiled very easily and shrank in the wash. In 1932 when we went to Warwick we were back to wearing our suit jackets as can be seen from the photographs. By 1935 we had outfitted ourselves in green tunics and MacKenzie tartan plaids to match the kilts, and these were worn until after the war.

With the joining of the Sarina Players the band was quite respectable in size and so enthusiastic that in 1930 we went to a contest in Rockhampton. There is a photograph of the band marching down the main street dressed in our white tunics. I cannot recollect much of that event, but the Bundaberg band, which was regarded as the best band in Queensland at that time, met us at the station, playing us to our accommodation with "The Blue Bonnets". They played the third and fourth measures which I had not heard before. This tune so caught my fancy that I have always regarded it as the most stirring march tune in bagpipe music. I can't remember anything of the contest, but I am certain we did not win any prizes.

Our enthusiasm continued and we settled down to practice, our aim being to enter the contest in Warwick, which we did on Boxing Day 1932. By this time I was playing pipes. We travelled by train, of course, staying overnight in Rockhampton, which would seem to have been something of an event for at least some of the Rockhampton Scots. As I mentioned before we were back to wearing our suit jackets by then, as can be seen in the two photographs taken outside the People's Palace where we stayed. All the next day was taken up with the long hot train trip to Brisbane and then to Warwick. I can say without fears of contradictions that the tunes we played at that Warwick contest were the heaviest ever tackled by the Mackay and District Pipe Band. The playing must have been well below today's standards, for one thing we had to play much faster than nowadays. In the Diagram March we played "The Drunken Piper", and "The Blue Bonnets". In the March, Strathspey and Reel the "Athol Highlanders March to Loch Katherine" "Maggie Cameron" and "Over the Isles to America". The layout of the diagram was similar to that used nowadays (when it is used), that is, shaped like a letter E with the middle leg extended backwards. The Band started at the end of the top leg, marched, round to the end of the bottom leg, counter marched, returned to the bottom end of the top leg again, countered marched. turned right at the middle and proceeded to the end of the backward leg. On this nerve racking journey the band had to play a

four part 2/4 march and then break into a four part 6/8 march, during all this there was a section pegged out on the long stretch which had to be travelled at 112 thirty inch paces to the minute. One steward carried a stop watch and another counted the paces, and one point was deducted for every pace or second over or under, all this of course in addition to points for playing and drill. The band having formed a circle and halted at the end of the march, waited for a signal from the judge and played its March, Strathspey and Reel. I can't remember anything about our performance except that I had to play next to the Pipe Major and the flies were very bad. I swallowed one with the first breath I took. All the counting of paces and seconds has been discontinued; bands play their marches much more slowly (too slowly at times I think), and the diagram has mostly been abandoned. There were three bands in A Grade, Bundaberg, Warwick Thistle and Mackay, and they finished in that order. In B Grade there were two Bands, Gympie and Mackay with Mackay winning. We received a magnificent cup which can to be seen in the photograph taken on Anzac Day 1933. I wonder what happened to it!

Prior to the war we attended and competed in contests - Maryborough 1936, Brisbane 1937 and Maryborough again 1939. I can't remember much about them, but I am fairly sure that we did not win anything. I do remember that at one Maryborough contest, the drummers had to compete in the dark when everyone else had gone home. That must have been at Easter 1939 because in 1936 I would not have been available, as that Easter I climbed Mt Dalrymple with a party of Rover Scouts.

Thinking back to the earlier days conditions were as one can imagine, much different from modern times. Nowadays members roll up to practice in motor cars, whereas in the 1920's and early 1930's most of us did not even own a bicycle. The only member with a motor car was Alec McKinnon who came to town from Farleigh, where his father was mill manager, in a Ford Model T, although he sometimes had to ride his bike. Later the McKinnons moved into Mackay and the Ford Model T disappeared.

We had Bob Atkinson's house for practice for quite a few years but later were granted the use of the Waterside Worker's Hall in east Victoria Street, which we used at least till the end of the war, and probably some time after. This hall was later presented to the Brass Band and was moved by them to its present location in a Street off Casey Avenue.

Raising funds has always been a problem. No rich sponsors have appeared to relieve band members of the necessity for raising their own finances. Pipers mostly acquired their own personal instruments and drummers their own sticks, but the band had to provide drums, reeds, pipe bags and other dress and equipment. A few donations were forthcoming from time to time, but mainly we had to rely on functions such as dances, concerts and street collections.

Dances were arranged at various centres from Calen to Carmila, but only in the crushing season when the cane cutters were in force. Working in the office of a motor firm, I was sometimes able to borrow an old truck to transport the band to various dances. I did not drive and I am not sure who did, probably Alec McKinnon. These old trucks were not very reliable but we usually managed to get there. Ben Hayward's cousin Jack Hayward was also a carrier, very modern with a motor truck, and we relied on him quite often for transport. He had seats which he attached one on each side of his truck, and we all piled in. There was no protection from the wind and dust, and coming home in the early hours of the morning could be very cold, especially as the functions always seemed to be held in the colder months. I am bound to admit that I did not have much interest in the dances, but as I was at those times usually the only side drummer available, I was obliged to turn out and play. It was always a gamble whether or not we would make a profit, as we had to rely on the locals for publicity. One of our members would comment that he had been told that Homebush, Sunnyside, Eton, Calen, Marian or some such place would be a good spot to hold a dance, and someone who lived locally was falling over himself to arrange such an event. There were no bitumen roads even in Mackay, very few gravel roads and the rest were tracks winding among the trees. Most were impassable in any kind of wet weather. The trip to the venue sometimes took nearly all Saturday afternoon, and when we reached the hall, which was sometimes near a pub or stuck out in the bush with no habitation in sight, we might find it deserted and no sign of the local who had promised to make the arrangements. It was always a relief to find that some arrangements had been made and the local was there with the billy boiling. If the organiser had let us down, all we could do was open up the hall if we could locate a key and tune up the instruments to make some noise. We had to supply music and supper. We were fortunate in having the services of a good dance pianist in Alec McKinnon's sister Ena, so she, along with a drummer (usually Frank Zemek) provided the music. Alec McKinnon could also play the piano but he required sheet music. He provided an occasional item and the pipers would also do one or two numbers. Jean McKinnon, Alec's sister and Agnes Hayward, Ben Hayward's daughter were often there to provide one or two items of Highland Dancing. Supper was served and the dancing finished at midnight when we cleaned out the hall and then departed for home.

As mentioned before, there were no bitumen roads, and I can remember on one occasion we were bogged on the Sarina road just past the Greyhound Hotel on our way to hold a dance at Sunnyside. By the time we had extricated ourselves, it seemed to me that we had pushed the truck all the way to Sunnyside, and dressed in kilts too. On another trip we had to Eton, we arrived there fairly early and most of the members passed the time in the pub which adjoined the hall. Belatedly, they decided to march up the street to attract the customers but by then it had become quite dark. The street was gravel with plenty of loose stones and the march was uphill. At the rear of the band was the Bass

Drummer and myself. What with dodging stones and trying to keep up I did not notice until we reached the top of the rise that Charlie was no longer with us. We went back and found that he had tripped on a stone, fallen forward on his drum which had rolled forward carrying him with it and left him with his head and hands on the ground and his feet waving in the air unable to right himself. It was too dark to see what he had under his kilt! I might mention that at that time the Bass drum was carried by a harness which was hooked to the drum, top and bottom.

Another time, or it may have been the same time, we were in Eton and it started to pelt down with rain early in the night. Jack Hayward had driven us out in an old ambulance car, and had enjoyed himself in the hotel while the dance was on. The rain was still pouring down when we left for home, and it had been with some trepidation that we boarded our transport. With the rear door closed and no windows we were in utter darkness. The road was a quagmire and Jack was not the best of drivers at any time. He kept roaring the motor to get through the boggy patches and dodging from side to side to avoid obstacles. In the back we were bounced around, not knowing what was going on, but expecting to crash into something any minute. Thankfully we were to arrive home safely.

In some country places it was astonishing where the people would come from, there would be a hall with nothing around but thick scrub, and one could be forgiven for expecting nobody to turn up, but finally they would start to arrive, sometimes mum and dad and all kids. While the dance was on there would be young children asleep under the forms which were usually set around the walls for the women to sit. The men usually congregated at the door and outside. I suppose there was little entertainment in the country then, and a trip to Mackay would have been an event. Dances were not as easy to organise in Mackay as there was plenty of opposition, but we usually had to turn out on Hogmanay, after which the band members would go "First Footing". There were several homes, that were regular ports of call. These were the days before breathalysers.

In 1935 Bart Langley who was learning the pipes and was a cabinet maker, made a beautiful bedroom suite for the band to raffle. We would erect a stall in Victoria Street on Saturday evening to display the suite, and the band played while some supporters sold tickets. Guess who won the suite - my mother. We made quite a handsome profit, which was what enabled us to purchase the tunics and MacKenzie tartan plaids that we wore on Anzac Day 1935 and Maryborough in 1936.

There were some girl dancers who while not actually attached to the band, were always available to give displays of Highland dances at our functions. I have already mentioned Agnes Hayward and Jean McKinnon, and later Phyllis

and Ruth Smith, Zoe McLennan and Elspeth Calder who usually marched with the Band in street processions (see Photograph). All those girls were a great help to the band, and were always eager to assist.

A word or two about Drum Majors, whom most Piper Majors regard as necessary evils, in fact at the present time not so necessary in the opinion of some. If the Drum Major does not have a good knowledge of the tunes he is inclined to lose the step or stop the band playing at the wrong time. If he gets out of step it worries the players, particularly young ones, to the detriment of their playing, and there is at least one photograph in the collection which shows the drum major out of step. Being in the front he has no way of checking if he does not know music. If a piper stops playing or a drummer drops a stick it probably goes unnoticed but if the drum major drops his mace everybody laughs, unless it is in a competition when everybody cries.

Bob Atkinson was our Drum Major from 1929 to 1930 and again from 1947 to 1954 but he was always available whenever there was a vacancy, and he can be seen leading the band in 1962. One might say he was almost obsessed with dress and drill and he had a little drill book which he seemed to carry around with him always, and eagerly produced to substantiate contentions. He was not inclined to accept any criticism from the Piper Major or anyone else. He was very impressive marching in front of the band, but was inclined to get carried away. He often had us playing a tune endlessly till the pipers were absolutely breathless and wondering when he would remember to stop us. On occasions the Pipe Major had to wave us to stop. Dress and drill then were regarded as the most important and such an action by a Pipe Major most unprofessional, but has become quite the accepted thing nowadays.

Bob hailed from Northern Ireland and was a rabid Orangeman. One St Patrick's Day we were lined up in Shakespeare Street preparatory to joining the St Patrick's Day procession. A new drummer I had never seen before turned out wearing a green sash. All went well until Bob spotted it; he reared up and I was sure he was going to attack the misguided fellow with his mace, but peace was restored when the drummer removed the offending sash. Needless to say I never saw him again. Thinking back I am surprised Bob permitted himself to join a St Patrick's Parade. I remember on one occasion we were performing the Diagram March at a contest and we were doing the first left wheel; at that point there were two pegs on the left. The band wheels on the first peg and finishes inside the second. Chest out and flourishing his mace Bob missed the first peg and wheeled the band on the second, with the result that we finished up outside the diagram. Bob tried to convince us that a rival Drum Major had removed the first peg. We did not win the diagram march.

Bob was an enthusiastic member never-the-less and contributed a great deal to the band. These little mishaps can happen to anyone, especially a Drum

Major.

Jim Hastings who had been in the Cameron Highlanders was persuaded to take the Drum Major's job. He carried on from 1931 to 1935 quite successfully without being spectacular, although he appeared at times to be somewhat diffident. As I found out later, he was having hearing difficulties.

Our first meeting with the next Drum Major was quite dramatic. The Governor of Queensland was visiting Mackay and was scheduled to arrive on the mail train which always was expected to arrive at 8.00 p.m. In Boddington Street in front of the station entrance the Mayor and City Aldermen, sundry local dignitaries, the Brass Band, the Pipe Band and crowds of lesser folk were waiting breathless with anticipation. As usual the buzzer buzzed, signalling that the train had left Paget Junction, and all were on their toes. Suddenly from the station entrance appeared a man resplendent in red tunic, belt and silver buckles, feathered hat etc. "Attention" somebody cried and we all obeyed. The uniformed figure sauntered down the steps quite unconcernedly and walked up to the Pipe Band, and by this time it was realised that the train was not yet at the station. He introduced himself to the band as Bill Brunton, and he informed us later that the uniform was of the Legion of Frontiersmen; he did not mention which frontier. I don't know if his action was deliberate, but I suspected it may have been. In no time Bill was our Drum Major, and in my opinion was the best we ever had, from a drill point of view. He was not over spectacular but always seemed to be in command of the situation. He seemed to know what was required and did it with the minimum of fuss. He was our Drum Major from 1936 to 1939. Bill was reputed to be a bit of a ladies' man, and was slightly injured by a bullet in mysterious circumstances. He left Mackay but we saw him again in the Redbank Army Camp in 1942, where he was Drum Major of the Brass Band. He came back to Mackay briefly in 1960-1961, and acted as our Drill Instructor during his stay.

Bill Aitcheson who followed in 1940 was quite adequate and non-assuming. He was a trotting enthusiast, and was badly injured in a harness racing accident, this happened after he had relinquished the Drum Major position.

Here is an instance of what not to do when the Drum Major makes a mistake, it happened on an Anzac Day just after the parade. I can't remember why, but we were marching west along Gordon Street playing, our destination being the RSL Hall which at the time was in Macalister Street. Jim Chalmers was standing in as Drum Major, and instead of turning right into Macalister Street he kept on going straight ahead. Alan Calder who was on the right of the front rank took no notice of the Drum Major and turned right. The right half of the band followed him and left half followed the Drum Major. Realising what had happened the left half plus the drum major had to scurry around and join up. In a circumstance like that the whole band should have followed the Drum

Major.

The most significant event just prior to 1939-45 was the building of the Mackay Harbour. There are photographs of the band playing at the laying of the foundation stone in 1936 and also attending the opening ceremony in 1939. Robert Gardiner in the photograph joined the army later and served with the 2/25th Battalion in its Pipe Band.

The war which had seemed a long way away suddenly came to our doorsteps in 1941, when Japan entered the fray, Colonel Porter of the 2/31st Battalion which had been in action in the Middle East wanted a Pipe Band and he requested one of his officers who had been wounded and returned to Australia, to try to recruit one. He contacted various centres in Queensland and recruited Hugh Hay, a well known Pipe Major to form a band. Many of our members had been on the verge of joining the services and this seemed as good an idea as any. Nine of us enlisted in a body. Jim Anderson, Alan Calder, Donald Gunn, Jim Hastings, Bert Langley, Angus McKinnon, Alec McKinnon, Tom McKinnon and Bill Stewart, Archie Hokins was rejected on medical grounds. By various means we were drafted into a band and eventually posted to the 2/31st Battalion which by this time had returned to Australia and was camped at Caboolture. We were not officially bandsmen but stretcher bearers, and served in that capacity in the Owen Stanley campaign in Papua. Of the 18 members two were killed (no Mackay men) and three badly injured (all Mackay men) Bert Langley was shot in the buttock and lost control of his foot. Tom McKinnon was shot in the chest, and Bill Stewart lost a leg and won a Military Medal. All three of them were of course discharged from the army and only Tom McKinnon played with our band again. The rest of us remained in the army till the end of the war. As mentioned previously the band carried on during the war, thanks to a few old stalwarts, assisted by any of us who happened to be home briefly on leave.

The interruption of the war years meant that the old era finished and a new era began. We had to pick up the threads and start again. Musically we were much improved from our army experience but of the ten who joined the forces only five were now available. Bert Langley and Bill Stewart were unable to help due to their disabilities and Jim Hastings, Donald Gunn and Bob Gardiner did not return to Mackay. There was nevertheless a spirit of enthusiasm and optimism in our ranks. After almost 20 years there were still five of the original members, Bob Atkinson, Alan Calder, Alec McKinnon, Archie Hokins and myself (Jim Anderson), and Peter Gibson and a couple of the Sarina members were still with us, besides a few others from Mackay.

Jim Kersey was persuaded to take on the office of President and held the office with distinction until 1957, Andrew Fordyce took office in 1959 and continued until 1973. Since the war we have had a series of long serving Presidents,

all able men who served the band well. Alec MacDonald accepted the office in 1976 when two of his sons began to play with the band. Eventually all four of his sons joined and all were pipers, Alec served very successfully until 1987. Although his sons no longer are members, Alec is still an interested member. Our present President Jim Mackay has been an able leader since 1991.

Peter Gibson resigned as Pipe Major in 1948 and after that his position was filled by some of our younger members until 1967. In that year Cleve Alcorn came to Mackay, Cleve had served with us in the 2/31 Battalion Band and since then had a wealth of experience as Pipe Major of several bands in Queensland. Cleve was kept busy with his business interests in Mackay, so he was always ready to resign in favour of others, but when a vacancy occurred he could be relied on to step into the breach. He was Pipe Major on four different occasions from 1967 to 1987 totalling 13 years and remained a most valuable member of the band until his recent death. In between there were two other strong Pipe Majors Ian Moore on two occasions totalling 5 years and Wayne Clarke 3 years. This was the period of the bands greater achievements. Notwithstanding the rapid changes in Pipe Majors the band was very active during the years immediately after the war. We had quite a volume of recruits and players moving into the city, and many of them became valuable members of the playing team, but strangely enough none of them are with the band now. Many dropped out early, but the ones who became really proficient all seemed to leave the district. Street collection on Saturday nights were an ongoing source of income. One Saturday per month the band would play in Victoria Street while one or two supporters would take around collection boxes. There were always plenty of people on the streets on Saturday nights who appreciated our music. This source of revenue dried up quite suddenly with the introduction of television. We held several annual Highland Balls which were initially quite successful but when they started to show losses they had to be discontinued. Bob Fredrickson Snr did much of the organisation with these functions, and it was no fault of his that they had to be abandoned.

During the 60's we made many trips to outside centres in the district and on quite a few occasions we went far afield, playing and collecting. Some of the more successful ventures I have been able to trace were Proserpine 42 pounds. Collinsville 75 pounds. Bowen 45 pounds and Clermont 70 pounds. These were pounds, not dollars and represented very substantial additions to our funds. We also ran a few dances in the country which were only moderately successful.

As well as those fundraising exercises the band has always given its services free to civic and charitable functions. It is noted from the records that in 1960 the band had 28 public engagements which would I am sure apply similarly to other years around that period. That was more than one per fortnight, which is quite a heavy drain on member's spare time, considering that the band prac-

tised sometimes twice a week.

During the 1950's the band was invited to join the local CMF with no commitments expect to be available for any parade required by the army, which meant little more than attending the annual fortnights camp. Some members declined the offer probably not happy with the idea of the camp, but enough of us joined to assure a reasonable band. We received army pay for time spent at practice plus the camp. Alan Calder was appointed WO1 and Alec McKinnon and I were made sergeants. We went to camps at Sellheim, Atherton Tablelands and Colston Park outside of Sarina. The main problem was that the army kept transferring the local company between Rockhampton and Townsville, so it was never sure whether it was of the 42nd Bn or the 31st Bn. Eventually a band was formed in Rockhampton under Cleve Alcorn so we faded out.

The band travelled to Rockhampton on three occasions, in 1950 to a contest (no success) in 1955 to their Centenary Celebrations, and in 1957 to a Musical Festival. During this period also, the Ayr Caledonian Society was holding a Pipe Band Contest on New Years Day each year, and we attended quit a few, but not so far as I can remember with any success. There is certainly no mention of such in the records. On the way to the contest in 1964, the bus on which the band and some supporters were travelling met with an accident just north of The Leap, The road had just recently been formed and the edges were soft no doubt due to rain. The bus rolled over the bank and one of our supporters was killed, several others being injured. Needless to say we did not compete that year. I was not on the bus, having for some reason skipped the contest.

For the Mackay Centenary Celebrations in 1962 the Mackay Band applied to the Queensland Pipe Band Association for permission to have the Queensland Championships held in Mackay, and was successful. Sixteen bands from centres from as far as Cairns to Brisbane competed in three grades. Highland Dancing Titles were held concurrently with the Band Championships. The organising committee did an excellent job, and the whole undertaking went off like clockwork, being voted an outstanding success by all concerned. According to my calculations between 750 and 800 pounds was offered in prize money as well as trophies. On top of that appearance money of 45 pounds was offered to bands not participating in the prizemoney plus one pound for every bandsman. This I estimate would have cost another 500 pounds, some of the money was donated by citizens and business people, but the committee organised drinks and souvenir stalls. I know there was a profit because it was placed in a separate fund to go towards a similar venture at a later date. This was held in 1966, the Queensland Championships being again held in Mackay. Although successful it was not nearly so well supported as the 1962 event, particularly by Grade1 bands. In 1971 we again held the Queensland Championship successfully but with only reasonable support. So far as I am aware no other Queensland Championships have been held North of Bundaberg. The bands in the South

do not appear to be interested in spending time and money fostering bagpipe music outside their own area. Admittedly the Queensland Police Band has visited the North on several occasions, but theirs is a professional band, and all their expenses were paid by the taxpayers or those engaging their services.

The last record I can find of the bands competing in Ayr was on New Years Day was 1965. Also at Easter 1965 we competed at a contest in Cairns. The next year 1966 was of course the year of the Queensland Championships in Mackay and again in 1967 we competed in Cairns. It would appear that around about then was when the Northern Zone (QPBA) was formed. The reason for this was to enable us to run our own contests under the auspices of that body.

All bands competed on the same level, without reference to grading. This created quite a lot of enthusiasm in the north and in 1984 there were ten bands competing, including Darwin. Usually there were seven or eight bands in the event, which provided interesting competition. I have no record of results up to 1971, but we were champion band in 1972, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1978 1981 and 1982. Probably the main reason for our success in the 1970's was the improvement in our drumming. We were fortunate that in 1970 Ainslie Rowland was transferred to Mackay, he was a first class side drummer having played in Grade 1 for the Queensland Irish Association band in Brisbane, and he was responsible for introducing the modern style of drumming to our drum corps. This enabled us to match Cairns which had been the Champion Band until then. In many instances the extra points gained by our drum corps was the key factor in our success. When Ainslie was transferred from Mackay in 1976 the momentum continued for a couple of years, then in 1980 we were able to locate another Grade 1 drummer again from the Queensland Irish Association in Brisbane who was keen to come to Mackay. This was Chris Forster who won championships in Bass, Tenor and side drum in the south. We were able to find him employment and he proved to be a tower of strength. Chris is still a member with much the same drum corps and it is a pity that our piping strength has declined.

In 1981 Dr Iain Mathewson one of our pipers, wishing to return to Scotland for a short period, arranged for a doctor to exchange with him for six months, his replacement was Dr John MacAskill of Fort William, a "Gold Medal" piper and one of the best known in Scotland. Our members were delighted when John turned out to play with us on many occasions. He tutored the band to such good effect that at the Easter 1982 contest in Ayr to celebrate the Ayr Centennary we won all events and were presented with a special cup donated for the occasion. This fine cup is on display in the foyer of the Mackay Library, on a stand and case made for it by Alec Cameron our present Pipe Major. We entered for the Queensland Championships in Brisbane in October of the same year and we won the Grade 3 event against 15 other bands from Queensland and Interstate. On this occasion we also won the Mini Band Contest. That year

was destined to be the high point of our achievements, as we began losing some of our better pipers. We competed again 1983 but only managed 4th place. Again in 1984 we competed in the Queensland Championships at Bundaberg but our ranks were so depleted that we had little chance. In fact we would not have competed but that we had promised the Bundaberg organisers that we would attend. All the Southern trips are costly in fares and accommodation, so unless the band has some prospect of doing reasonably well, it is difficult to justify the cost involved. Certainly there is some benefit in measuring our standard against the bands in the South, and we did enter again in 1990, this time in Grade 4 (we had been relegated from Grade 3 at our own request). The drummers did quite well, but all the band could do was eleventh in a field of 17. Those trips do provide experience for our members, particularly the younger ones, and it is hoped that we are able to continue them at least periodically. It is significant that the Mackay Band is the only one North of Rockhampton with the possible exception of Cairns which has entered the Queensland Championships when held in the south. Now most of the bands have dropped out of the North Queensland competition. The Easter contest in 1995 held in Mackay attracted only three bands one of which was Rockhampton which had only competed once before. The other two bands were Burdekin and Mackay. So the numbers of competing bands rose gradually to 10 in 1984 and declined gradually to three in 1995. The competition was not held in 1996, what happened to Townsville (they once had two bands), Cairns, Mt Isa, Innisfail, Atherton Tablelands and Proserpine? We hope that they are at least keeping it alive in their own areas, even if they are not showing the flag elsewhere.

Our band of course, did not devote all its time to competition. It has always endeavoured to make itself available for civic and public occasions, and calls from charitable and religious organisations, free of charge. In recent years, these engagements plus certain others for which payment or donations were received have totalled between 28 and 42 per year. In addition individual pipers have been supplied for wedding, funerals and social functions. I am happy to state that those individual players always turn over any fees or donations received to band funds. It is worth noting that band members receive no fees or allowances other than accommodation and travelling allowance to contests or functions outside the district. In most cases engagements are at the weekends and often at short notice, and as members have other commitments it is sometimes difficult to field a full band, but we do our best to oblige. Luckily with a Pipe Band three or four pipers can do a useful job with the help of a couple of drummers, of course we have our problems. Often we have to play in the rain which does not do our uniforms much good, and believe me, trying to play with water running down the chanter is, to say the least, distracting. Long slow processions which stop and start are frustrating, and I can remember on one occasion having to march behind a fire-breathing dragon, which belched smoke all over us. Smoke may not affect the pipes, but it certainly affects the pipers. On another occasion we had to paddle through the detritus left by a

team of bullocks up ahead, and we were wearing white spats. We now try to arrange with the parade marshal beforehand to avoid those annoyances.

Reverting to the subject of equipment, this is always a matter of considerable expense. Pipers usually like to purchase their own pipes, mostly secondhand, but bags, covers, drone cords, reeds and matched chanter have been supplied by the band. Drummers do not have their own drums, so these are supplied by the band, and side drums require replacement about every 10 years. The drummers would prefer them sooner as new improvements and attachments are continually being introduced, but there is a limit to our financial capacity. As a matter of interest a set of four side drums in 1972 cost \$572, in 1982/3 \$1725, in 1985 \$2285 and in 1995 \$3726. Dress needs to be added to and replaced continually. By 1939 we had more or less full dress of Mackenzie tartan. From the photographs which I have estimated was taken in 1952 the Mackenzie tartan was still worn, but in 1954 we were wearing Cameron of Erracht tartan kilts. We acquired these from the disbanded Queensland Cameron Highlanders. In 1963 Mrs Beryl Kennedy granted permission for the band to hold snap raffles at Taylors Hotel. A committee headed by Abbie Phillips and Clyde Parnicott worked long and hard to raise money from these raffles to equip the band fully, and by 1969 had raised sufficient funds. The band was equipped from head to toe, kilts, doublets, Argyll jackets, full pipers plaids and belted drummers plaids, glengarry and balmoral bonnets, hair sporrans, leather sporrans, hose, spats, and full Drum Major equipment. As you can imagine we were very proud of our new dress and wore it for some years, actually until 1973. By that time we had been wearing white shirts in place of tunics in hot weather, and finally we decided, in the interest of comfort, to discard the full dress altogether, as it was not required in competition under Grade 1. Kilts suffer considerably from wear especially those of the drummers, and the colours fade from constant sunlight.

It is noted that in 1963 a motion was passed that pith helmets be used when outdoors. These were purchased and issued. The motion was never rescinded, but most of the helmets seem to have disappeared. Keeping track of equipment issued is most difficult, and we have lost many items over the years.

In 1979, feeling obliged to replace our kilts, we changed our tartan to Ancient Mackay. All items of equipment are expensive to buy, and we are frequently replacing items damaged or lost. The last kilt we replaced cost \$690. To equip our band we need at least 20 kilts, preferably more, to allow for changes in personnel of different sizes, and we also need some smaller kilts to fit younger players. As you may realise the matter of finance is crucial to the continuation of the band, just to keep our equipment in reasonable order. Such items as shirts, ties, hose, bonnet hackles, etc. are short lived, while cane reeds, drum heads and drum sticks break, all expensive items. We have over the last 20 years tried many different means to keep funds trickling in, snap raffles at the

Commercial and Austral Hotels, Ceilidhs, pie and lamington drives, raffles outside Alcorn's Bakery in Andergrove, and in this we have had great help from a small handful of ladies, mostly wives or mothers of band personnel. There are so many other organisations chasing finance that members need to work hard to cover expenses. How we envy those organisations sponsored by Poker Machines.

I must be careful not to use "bandsmen" now, as in 1978 we enrolled our first lady piper, Dawn Toomey. Dawn came along to bring her son to drum practice, and finished up learning the pipes herself. She proved to be a very capable member of the band, and also a most efficient secretary for many years. We were sorry when the Toomey family left Mackay. Since then we have usually had one or two lady members, and they have proved to be more enthusiastic than most of the men.

The idea of having a building of our own has always been attractive to members, as we have been forced by circumstances to change our venue for band practice on quite a few occasions, I am not sure when we left the Waterside Workers Hall, but in 1961 we were using the Railway Institute Hall (10/- per wk). From there we went to an old building at the back of Taylor's Hotel loaned to us by Mrs Kennedy. From there we went to the Old Drill Hall in Gordon Street until it was removed, and after that to the Cricketer's Hall in Harrup Park (\$5 per week). Since that hall has now acquired a liquor license we were obliged to move to the ATC Hall in Bridge Road, where we are now located.

In 1972 we applied to the City Council, and were granted the lease of a block of land in Lamb Street. We investigated the possibility of a new building and had plans and specifications prepared but felt the cost was beyond the Bands capacity to finance. We had hopes of obtaining a suitable building for removal, but after several attempts without success, we surrendered the land in 1976. Perhaps we are better off as we are. We have no problems of maintenance, vandalism, cleaning etc, and to date our outlay has been minimal.

Throughout the life of the Band we have often been struggling for players. Either we would be short of pipers or short of drummers, but we always managed to carry on. The photographs show that there was good strength in 1935, 1963, 1972, and 1983. In between these dates there would have been some lean periods. in 1963/64 we placed advertisements in various newspapers for a Pipe Major, offering 5 pounds per week as an inducement. Of course we would have had to place him in employment. The fee does not seem much but 5 pounds (\$10) was worth a lot more at that time than it is now. We also considered sponsoring a suitable piper from Scotland. Graham McDonald, our Vice President at the time was the Australian Commissioner of the Clan Donald Society, and he made some enquires through that society but nothing came of it.

Currently we have a good drum corps, but are struggling for pipers. The necessity for us to have learners playing to make up the members in the band may I feel, cause the more experienced players to become browned off, having to stick to the same simple tunes. Learner drummers can play in the band in a relatively short time, but a learner piper has to master the practice chanter before attempting to play the pipes, which is almost another instrument altogether and can be a somewhat intractable one, as well. Maybe too much emphasis has been placed on contests, and for the sake of the less experienced players, having to stick to the same old tunes. This can become boring and uninteresting to the more experienced players. Perhaps the discontinuation of the North Queensland Contests may be a blessing in disguise. It removes a moral obligation to support the event each year, whether ready or not, for we have missed competing on only one occasion since the inception of the event.

The Mackay City Council has given financial support to the band for many years I am not sure when it started probably in the 1950's and from memory the council allotted 100 pounds per annum shared between the brass band and the pipe band, our share being 30 pounds- In 1966 the amount was \$70 in 1986 it was raised to \$250 in 1989 \$500 and 1991 \$1000. In addition, in 1995 the Council assisted with the purchase of a new set of side drums to the extent of \$2000. We have always been most grateful for this assistance.

On the 5th December 1990 the band became The Mackay and District Pipe Band Incorporated. Apart from the principal effect of this, which was the removal of possible action for damages from individual members to the band as a corporation, a change in the control of the band was required to be made under the act. Previous to corporation all band members were eligible to attend and vote at meetings. Now an Executive Committee conducts the business of the band, and only they may vote on any motions. In practice any member may attend and speak, but may not vote. There are of course, the usual avenues open to members to call a special meeting of all members and an Annual General Meeting is mandatory. In practice it is very seldom that a member other than the Executive attend the monthly meetings.

As can be seen many have served the band in some measure over the years (202 in all, 180 players and 22 non players according to my list). No doubt I may have missed a few, but I have done my best to collect all the names, many of whom I cannot even remember. At present we have a membership of 29 (22 players and 7 non players), of the playing members there are six who have been members for 25 years or more. Apart from the writer who has been spared to serve for the full 70 years, these are Robert Sturgeon 49 years, Donald Wait 32 years, Alexander Cameron 31 years, Graham Dixon 27 years in two stints, and Alexander (Lex) Cameron 25 years. Apart from these, there were others who served the band for long periods notably Alec MacKinnon 44 years, Alan Calder

38 years, Bob Atkinson 36 years, Cleve Alcorn 29 years, John Hayward 27 years, (Sandy) Lawrie 26 years, and Peter Gibson 25 years.

The present Officer Bearers are:

President	James Mackay
Secretary	Jill Mackay
Treasurer	James Anderson
Pipe Major	Alexander Cameron
Drum Major	Ian Watson.

There are a few other Pipe Bands In Queensland which have operated uninterrupted for 70 years, and we should be proud to be members. Even though fortunes have ebbed and flowed through the years, I feel confident that the Mackay and District Pipe Band will survive to serve Mackay for many years to come.

The band having come to the 70th year of its life, I am proposing that the anniversary should be St Andrews' Day (30th November) which was the day in 1926 when the movement was set about to form a band.

There is little more I can say except to pay particular tribute to Graham Dixon for the invaluable assistance he has given in copying and enlarging many of the old photographs for inclusion with this history. For putting my written efforts into print, my thanks go also to our efficient secretary Jill Mackay, who has been secretary to the band for the past nine years.

BAND MEMBERS 1927-1996

(* non-players)

Aitcheson William 1940-50	Cluff Peter 2011-
Alcorn Ann* 1991-2009	Colman Robert 2005-2013
Alcorn Cleveland 1967-95	Cooper Donald 1956
Alexander Alan 1935-38	Corneille Jody 1988-89
Alexander Donald 2003-2004	Cruikshanks Robert 1994-2011
Allan Jason 1990-99	Currie Glen 1956-57
Allan Laurie 1970; 1991-2011	Currie John circa 1936
Allen Robert 1927-29	Dahms Sid* 1927
Anderson James 1927-96	Dair Alexander 1928-40
Armstrong Frederick 1959	Dean Alexander 2010-
Armstrong Harry 1968-70	Dean Ian 2010-
Atkinson Jake 1951-58	Dempster Robert 2007-2009
Atkinson Robert 1927-63	Dew Chris 2013-
Baldock Trevor 1986-20036	Disteldorf Tim 2008-2009
Barkley Kenneth 1948-51	Dixon Gareth 1994-96
Bartrum Alexander 2001-2004	Dixon Graham 1965-74; 1980
Boston Virgil 1956-58	Dobson Robert 1990-99
Boyd James 1927-28	Don Bridget* 1995-96
Boyd John 1927-28	Don Candice 1994-96
Boyd William 1965-66	Don Joshua 1994-95
Brauer Clive 1960-62	Doolan Paul 2010-
Breadsell James 1956-73	Drake Gordon 1956-61
Brown William 1959-61	Drake Stanley* 1955-61
Brunton William 1936-39; 1960-61	Duncan Ian 2009-
Burgess Ross 1973-78	Durkin Robyn 2014-
Burne Jack 2009-2013	Eastwick Tony 2000-2001
Cairns Eric 2002-2006	Elliott Chris 1965-66
Calder Alan 1927-64	Everett Vince 1959-61
Callen Mark 1976--80	Findlater Gordon 1979-81
Cameron Alexander (Lex) 1972-2001	Finlay Erin 2006-2008
Cameron Alexander 1966	Fordyce Andrew* 1959-70
Cameron Haydn 2007-2009	Fordyce David 1956-59
Cameron Ian 1982-96	Forster Christopher 1980-91; 1994-2013
Cameron James 1982-96	Forster Daniel 1994
Cameron Robert 1982-84	Forster Scott 1987-88
Carter Malcolm 1988	Forster Troy 1987-90
Castley Noel 1960-61	Fraser Reginald 1935-37
Castley Norman* 1960-61	Frederickson Alan 1963-71
Chalmers James 1935-55	Frederickson Robert (Jnr) 1965-71
Christie William 1950-52	Frederickson Robert (Snr)* 1961-76
Churchill Lawrie 1973-75	Gardiner Robert 1930-40
Clarke Wayne 1984-87	Garioch Dugald 1962-83

Gaylard John 1952-56	Lithgow Francis 1927-37
Gibson Peter 1929-53	Lock Anthony 1976-79
Glencourse Judy 1986-87	Longair Andrew 1935-51
Graham Frederick (Jnr) 1928-31	Lord Robert 1993-94
Graham Frederick (Snr)* 1928-31	Lowe Alan 1927-28
Graham George 1929-48	Luyken Lewis 2014-2015
Graham James 1931-35	MacDonald Graham* 1963-66
Graham John 1929-40	MacDonald Alexander* 1975-2009
Graham Robert 1944-54; 1963-64	MacDonald Donald 1950-56
Graham Thomas 1932-36	MacDonald Donald F. 1935-54
Grant Paul 1962-66	MacDonald James 1934-51
Gray Aaron 2014-	MacDonald Kenneth 1975-86
Gray David 1962-65	MacDonald Mark 1985-88
Gunn Donald 1930-46	MacDonald Stuart 1975-86
Hamelink David 2005-2007	MacDonald William 1976-89
Hanson Luke 2003-2006	Mackay James* 1991-2002
Hartley David 1973-74	Mackay Jill* 1988-2002
Hastings James 1930-42	Martin Derek 2007-
Hayward Benjamin (Jnr) 1927-28	Martin Fraser 1993
Hayward Benjamin (Snr)* 1927-46	Martin Paul 2003-2003
Hayward John 1936-63	Mathewson Catriona 1981-87
Hazeldene Val 1985-92	Mathewson Iain 1975-2009
Hokins Archibald 1927-48	Mathieson Robert 1940-46
Hokins Percival 1927-29	McAskill John 1982
Howcroft Darryl 1960-83; 1988	McBroom Hugh 2012-2012
Howcroft Harry* 1960-78	McCahill Oliver 2014-
Howcroft Lorraine* 1976	McCahill Tim 2014-
Hunter James 1929	McCall Ainslie 1951-56
Insch George* 1927-29	McCubben Keith 1927-28
Jarrett Michael 1983-84	McElligott Mervyn 1949-55 1963-66
Johnson George 1951-62 1997-2011	McGee John 1987-92
Jones Alan 2014-	McGhie Thomas 1951-68
Kenny Francis circa 1934	McGiffin Tony 2009-2013
Keogh Daniel 1999-2006	McGregor Robert 1958-59
Kersey H. James* 1946-57	McGregor William 1948
Kidd Paul 1973-74	McIntosh John 1957-61 1997-2011
Kirkwood Tim 2008-2009	McIntyre Stuart 2006-2012
Lamb Harrison 2015-	McIntyre Victoria 2009-2012
Langley Albert 1934-49	McKay Harold 1948-49; 1964-65
Law Ross 2006-2012	McKinnon Alexander 1927-70
Lawrie Alexander 1929-54	McKinnon Angus 1934-49
Lawrie Andrew 1929-32	McKinnon John 1933-39
Lawrie Graham 1929-48	McKinnon John G. 1946-53
Lawrie Robert* 1932-36	McKinnon Thomas 1936-55
Lawrie William 1929-48	McLean A. (Scotty) 1936-39

McLean Alison 2005-2013	Sinclair Chris* 1993-96
McLucas John 1932-34	Sinclair Kelsey 2015-
McNally Sean 1982-94	Single Cameron 2011-2014
McNamara Maurice 1956	Smith Charles 1934-48
McNaught David 1956-57	Smith Chris 1981-86
McNeill Alexander circa 1936	Smith Jason 1981-92
Moore Ian 1971-79	Smith John* 1981-89
Morgan Robyn 1989-90	Stevenson Denis 1956-68
Moy Victor* 1971-76	Stewart Hugh 1927-39
Murray Ross 1991-96	Stewart William 1940-42
Murry Tanya 1988-90	Strang Gabriel 2014-
Norcott D. 1960-63	Strang Mark 2014-
Orr Deborah 1987	Sturgeon John 1948-49
Orr Rangie 1999-2006, 2014-2015	Sturgeon Robert 1948-2003
Page Ross 1987-92	Sturgeon Wallace 1955-59
Parnicott Clyde 1967-75	Tapnell Lindsay 2013-2013
Peacock Kay 1981-82	Thompson Graham 1981-96 1997-2003
PetkovVesselin 2007-2009	Thompson Kathleen* 1991-2003
Phillips Albert 1952-68	Thompson Kay 1961
Phillips Lew 1952-67	Thomson Cameron 1994-95
Phillips Malcolm 1952-65	Tolcher Bruce 1950
Phipps Jamie 1993-94	Toomey Dawn 1978-87
Piercy Jordon 2006-2008	Toomey Dean 1977
Porter Margaret* 2007-2009	Vella Ben 2013-2014
Potts Hal 1955-64	Wait Donald 1965-99
Priest Helen 2014-	Wallace William 1950
Pugh Harry 1971	Watson Ian 1992-2011
Quealy James 1956-59	Watts James 1955; 1973-74
Rae Alan 1948-50; 1958-63	Wells Robert 1948-51; 1959-64
Rae John (Jnr) 1962-73	Weston Artie 2015-
Rae John (Snr)* 1961-76	Willets Hunter 2005-
Rankin John 2006-	Williams David 1963-66
Reid James 1936-40	Williamson Charles 1953-73
Richards Barry 2013-2013	Williamson David 1959-63; 1976-78
Rogerson Kim 2012-	Wilson Carl 1974
Rowe Mackenzie 2009-2011	Wilson Lachlan 2012-
Rowe Malcolm 2011-2011	Wilson Marnie 2012-
Samford Gill 2005-2006	Winton Brian 1973-91; 1996
Rowland Ainslie 1970-76	Winton Peter 1960-65
Ryan Edward 1956-64	Woodrow Bruce 1976-96
Schneider Simon 2014-	Young Ian 1952-55
Shandiman Lionel 1987-89	Zeigler Gary 1928-29
Shipton Colin 1999-2004	
Simpson William* 1927-29	
Sinclair Andrew 1990-96	

DRUM MAJORS

1929-30 Robert Atkinson
1931-36 James Hastings
1936-39 William Brunton
1940-41 William Aitcheson
1942-46 James Chalmers
1947-54 Robert Atkinson
1955-60 Hal Potts
1960-61 William Brown
1962-63 Alan Rae
1963-64 Hal Potts
1965 Peter Winton
1965-66 Chris Elliott
1966 William Boyd
1967-75 Clyde Parnicott
1976-78 Ross Burgess
1979-91 Bruce Woodrow
1992-2001 Ian Watson
2014 Tim McCahill

PIPE MAJORS

1927-29 Robert Allen
1930-48 Peter Gibson
1949-52 Alan Calder
1953-54 Mervyn McElligott
1955 Ian Young
1956 Alan Calder
Alexander McKinnon
1957-60 Gordon Drake
1961-63 James Breadsell
1964 Robert Wells
1964-67 Denis Stevenson
1967-72 Cleveland Alcorn
1972-75 Ian Moore
1976 Cleveland Alcorn
1976-79 Ian Moore
1980-84 Cleveland Alcorn
1985-87 Wayne Clarke
1987 Cleveland Alcorn
1988 Graham Thompson
1989 Ross Page
1990-94 Graham Thompson
1995-2005 Alexander Cameron
2005-2011 Deborah Orr
2011-2012 Stuart McIntyre
2012-2012 Hugh McBroom
2012-2014 Deborah Orr
2014-2015 Lewis Luyken
2015- John Rankin

ROLL OF HONOUR

PRESIDENTS

1927-28 Robert Atkinson
1928-34 Benjamin Hayward (Snr)
1935- Donald F. MacDonald (further
records to 1946 are lost)
1946-57 H. James Kersey
1958 Robert Atkinson
1959-75 Andrew Fordyce
1976-87 Alexander MacDonald
1988-89 John Smith
1990 Bruce Woodrow
1991-2002 James Mackay
2002-2009 Ian Watson
2009-2011 Stuart McIntyre
2011- Ian Duncan

TREASURERS

1927 James Boyd
1928 Alan Lowe
1929 William Simpson
1930 James Anderson (No records
available to 1948 when John
Hayward was in office)
1948-62 John Hayward
1963-64 Robert Frederickson (Snr)
1964-76 John Rae (Snr)
1977-2002 James Anderson
2002-2004 Trevor Baldock
2004-2007 Eric Cairns
2007-2010 Margaret Porter
2010- Ian Dean

SECRETARIES

1927-28 William Simpson
1928-31 Frederick Graham (Snr)
1931-41 Alexander McKinnon
1942-47 James Chalmers
1948-49 James Anderson
1950-53 Mervyn McElligott
1954-56 Lew Phillips
1957 Alexander McKinnon
1958-69 Charles Williamson
1970-76 Dugald Garioch
1976 Lorraine Howcroft
1977 David Williamson
1978-80 Bruce Woodrow
1981-87 Dawn Toomey
1988-2002 Jill Mackay
2002-2005 Deborah Orr
2005-2009 Robert Colman
2009-2012 Victoria McIntyre
2012-2013 Ross Law
2013-2013 Sharmaine Moyle
2013- Derek Martin

LIFE MEMBERS

Alcorn Ann
Cameron Alexander
Cameron Alexander (Lex)
Dixon Graham
Forster Christopher
MacDonald Alexander
Mathewson Iain
Orr Deborah
Sturgeon Robert
Wait Don

Ian George Watson (Toby) passed away on
5-12-2011 at the age of 76.

James Cree Anderson passed away on
7-1-2003 at the age of 90.



1929 - On the steps of the old QN Bank

Rear: A. Calder, F. Graham (Sec), R. Atkinson.

Middle: A.R. McKinnon, R. Allen (Pipe Major on Bass Drum), H. Stewart.

Front: A. Hokins, G. Zigler, J. Anderson, P. Hokins.



1930 — In Rockhampton

D/Major: R. Atkinson 1st Rank: P. Gibson (P/M), John Graham, G. Graham, A. Calder.

2nd Rank: A. Hokins, W. Lawrie, Blank, Alex Lawrie.

3rd Rank: A.R. McKinnon, Blank, D. Gunn.

Bass Drummer: Andrew Lawrie.

Sides: J. Hastings, G. Lawrie, J. Anderson



December 1932 — Rockhampton on the way to Warwick

(Mackay Bandsmen in kilts)

Standing L to R: P. Gibson (P/M), A. Hokins, A.R. McKinnon, J. Hastings, T. Graham, J. Anderson, W. Lawrie, A. Calder, D. Gunn.

Seated L to R: G. Lawrie, J. McLucas, Andrew Lawrie (in hat), Jim Graham, Alex Lawrie.



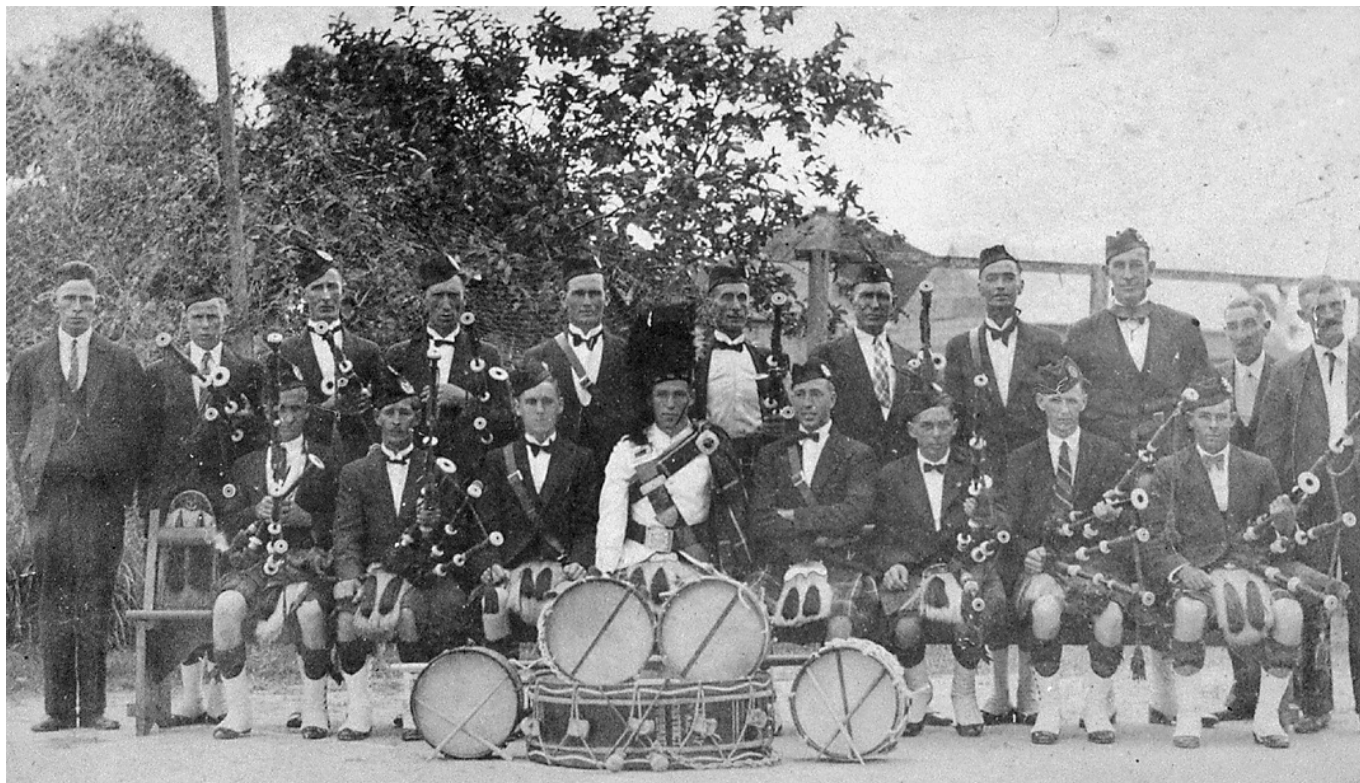
1933 — Photo taken on Anzac Day

Rear: B. Hayward (pres), A. Langley, J. Hastings (D/M), R. Lawrie.

Centre: A. Hokins, A.R. McKinnon, John Graham, T. Graham, D. Gunn.

Front: P. Gibson (P/M), J. Anderson, G. Lawrie, J. McLucas, Jim Graham, Alex Lawrie, A. Calder.

(Band which won the B Grade Championship at Warwick. Missing: W. Lawrie and Andrew Lawrie)
(Both T. Graham and J. Anderson had their 21st birthdays on this day)



1934

Standing: R. Lawrie, A. Dair, A. Calder, A. Langley, J. McDonald, D. Gunn, P. Gibson, J. McLucas, John Graham, unknown, B. Hayward.

Seated: A.E. McKinnon, Alex Lawrie, J. Anderson, J. Hastings, G. Lawrie, R. Gardiner, A.R. McKinnon, A. Hokins.



1935 — Mackay and District Pipe Band

Recently the above band had new uniforms made, and it is pleasing to record that the workmanship throughout was carried out in Australia, for which the Band is to be commended. The Band presents a most striking appearance in their new uniforms, which is in keeping with the excellent music stirring and and sweet, rendered by this fine combination of men. In the group are:

Back row from Left: P. Gibson (P/M), A. R. McKinnon (Secretary), A. McKinnon, A. Hokins, A. Lawrie, A. Dair, A. Calder (Bass Drummer), The Mayor (Alderman G. Moody), H. Moody, D.F. MacDonald (President), D. Gunn, A. G. Langley, A. Alexander, R.D. Fraser, J. McKinnon, J. graham (Pipe Sergeant).

Front Row: A. Longair (drummer), Graham Lawrie (drummer), J.C. Anderson (Leading Side Drummer), J.F. MacDonald.



1936 — Mackay Harbour — Laying of the Foundation Stone

L to R: Pipers: A.R. McKinnon, A. Dair, D. Gunn, J. McKinnon, R. Gardiner. Drummer: J. Anderson.
Pipers: A. Hokins, P. Gibson (P/M), A. Langley, D. McDonald, J. Currie. Drummer: A. Calder
(Bass)



1936 — Maryborough Contest

D/Major: W. Brunton.

1st Rank: P. Gibson (P/M), J. Reid, A. Alexander, A. Calder.

2nd Rank: (obscured A.E. McKinnon, H. Stewart, A.R. McKinnon.

Bass: C. Smith.

Sides: J. Anderson, T. McKinnon.



1939 — Maryborough Contest

Rear: F. Lithgow, A. Hokins, J. Chalmers, T. McKinnon, C. Smith, J. Anderson, A.R. McKinnon, A. Longair.

Middle: J. Hayward (behind Mayor), Alex Lawrie.

Front: P. Gibson (P/M) J. Reid, W. Brunton, G. Moody (Mayor of Mackay), A.E. McKinnon, A. Calder.



1942 — 2/31st Pipe Band at Redbank before joining battalion

(Mackay personnel in bold)

Rear: C. Alcorn, J. McMillan, J. Stephen, J. Alexander.

2nd Row: D. Gunn, Col. Toll (Patron), G. Scott, **A.E. McKinnon**, J. Hastings, B. Dent, A.R. McKinnon, Capt. A. Skinner, **A. Langley**.

3rd Row: H.F. Hay, **A. Calder**, H.W. Hay (P/M) **W. Stewart**, J. Anderson.

Front: C. Scott, T. McKinnon.

Missing: J. Aitkenhead, W. Taylor.

KIA were C. Scott and J. Aitkenhead, badly wounded were **A. Langley**, **W. Stewart** (MM) **T. McKinnon**.



1945 — 2/31st Bn Pipe Band at Petrie

1st Rank: Hugh Hay (P/M), Harry Hay, B. Dent, **A.R. McKinnon**.

2nd Rank: **A.E. McKinnon**, N. Stuccliffe (Bugler), Jack Hay, J. McMillan.

3rd Rank: **A. Calder**, J. Stephen< **D.O'Keefe**, **D. Gunn**.

4th Rank: W. Stubbs, **J. McKinnon (Bass)**, P. Sheehan.

5th Rank: **J. Anderson**, J. Sheehan, D. Kennedy, W. Taylor.

6th Rank: Hugh Hay (Jr), Jock Hay, S. Jenkins, H. Sullivan.

(Mackay members in bold)



Circa 1944-45 — Anzac Day in Wartime

D/Major: J. Chalmers.

Pipers: R. hathieson, A. Calder, R. Graham, R. Atkinson.

Bass: C. Smith.

(Cannot identify any others except dancers Elspeth Calder, Zoe McLennan and Phyl Smith.)



Circa 1958 — Anzac Day

D/Major: H. Potts.

L File: G. Drake (P/M), J. Atkinson, A.R. McKinnon, J. Quealy.

C/L File: J. Hayward, C. Williamson, D. Fordyce, J. Anderson.

Bass: Obscured but certainly R. Sturgeon.

C/R File: obscured, V. Boston, T. McGhie.

R File: A. Calder, others obscured.

(Patron: R. Atkinson marching at left rear of band)



1963

Rear: E. Ryan, M. Phillips, D. Stevenson, T. McGhie.

Centre: H. Potts (D/M), D. Williamson, D. Howcroft, P. Winton, R. Sturgeon, D. Gray, J. Anderson, J. Breadsell (P/M).

Front: A. Phillips, D. Garioch, A.R. McKinnon, R. Wells, C. Williamson, J. Rae, R. Atkinson (patron).

Insets: A. Fordyce (President), R. Frederickson (Q/M).



1972

Rear: R. Sturgeon, D. Wait, A. Rowland, D. Howcroft, G. Dixon.

Centre: C. Parnicott (D/M), A. Calder (Patron), A. Fordyce (President), R. Frederickson (Q/M), J. Rae (Treasurer), C. Alcorn (P/M).

Front: I. Moore, A. Cameron, D. Garioch, A.R. McKinnon, J. Rae (jnr), J. Breadsell.

Inset: J. Anderson.



1971

D/Major: C. Parnicott.

1st Rank: C. Alcorn (P/M), D. Garioch, A. Cameron, J. Breadsell.

2nd Rank: A.R. McKinnon, J. Rae (obscured), R. Frederickson, J. Anderson.

3rd Rank: R. Sturgeon (Bass), D. Wait (Tenor).

Sides: A. Rowland (out of picture), G. Dixon, D. Howcroft.



1981 — Contest

1st Rank: C. Alcorn (P/M), S. McDonald, K. McDonald, A. Cameron.

2nd Rank: I. Mathewson, D. Toomey, W. McDonald, D. Howcroft.

3rd Rank: B. Woodrow, R. Sturgeon, D. Wait.

Sides: C. Forster, Lex Cameron, G. Dixon, B. Winton.



1983

L to R: C. Forster, J. Smith, S. McNally, D. Toomey, D. Wait, D. Garioch, W. McDonald, K. McDonald, A. Cameron, R. Sturgeon, C. Alcorn, J. anderson, S. McDonald, J. Cameron, I. Mathewson, R. Cameron, C. Mathewson, G. Dixon.

Centre: C. Smith, B. Woodrow.



1984

L to R: C. Alcorn, A. MacDonald, A. Fordyce, C. Forster, B. MacDonald, J. Smith, A. Cameron, S. McNally, R. Sturgeon, K. MacDonald, D. Toomey, D. Wait, B. Woordow, C. Smith, J. Cameron, S. MacDonald, I. Mathewson, C. Mathewson, R. Cameron, D. Garioch, G. Dixon, A. Calder, J. Anderson.



1987 — Anzac Day — Playing in the Rain

D/Major: B. Woodrow.

1st Rank: W. Clarke (P/M), J. Anderson, J. Smith, C. Alcorn.

2nd Rank: I. Mathewson, T. Baldock, M. McDonald, A. Cameron.

3rd Rank: W. MacDonald.



1987 — River Street

D/Major: B. Woodrow.

1st file: W. Clarke (P/M), (obscured), (obscured), T. Forster, C. Forster.

2nd File: J. Smith, J. Glencourse, T. Baldock, R. Sturgeon.

3rd File: (obscured), J. Anderson, C. Mathewson, (obscured), L. Cameron.



1990 — South Pacific Championships, Brisbane

Back Row L-R: B. Woodrow, J. McGee, B. Winton, R. Sturgeon, G. Dixon, D. Wait, R. Page.

Front Row L-R: C. Forster, J. Anderson, C. Alcorn, D. Orr, T. Murry, A. Cameron.



1995 Australia Day

D/Major: I. Watson (out of picture)

1st Rank: A. Cameron P/M; L. Allen; J. Cameron.

2nd Rank: R. Dobson; Candice Don; R. Murray.

3rd Rank: J. Allan; R. Cruikshanks; A. Sinclair.

Bass: R. Sturgeon.

Sides: I. Cameron, (others not visible)



1994 Townsville

Back Row L-R: L. Allen; I. Cameron; J. Allen; R. Cruikshanks; L. Cameron; J. Cameron (P/Major); R. Sturgeon; R. Murray; G. Dixon; T. Baldock; A. Sinclair; D. Orr; D. Wait; I. Watson (D/Major).

Front Row L-R: C. Thomson; G. Dixon; J. Phipps; J. Don; D. Forster.

