



Photos by Queensland Police Pipes & Drums

# Queensland Police Pipes & Drums fly the flag for Australia

By Cassie Glanville, Media and Public Affairs Branch

The Queensland Police Pipes & Drums (QPPD) recently played to rave reviews at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Scotland.

As the only band nominated to represent Australia, the QPPD donned their McDonnell of Glengarry tartan and left our shores for the cultural heartland.

The massed band of performers from around the world had just four days of rehearsals together before opening night.

Tattoo Chief Executive and Producer Brigadier Melville Jameson said it was one of the best massed pipes and drums with which he had ever been involved.

“The QPPD’s professionalism and musical ability contributed to the success of each performance,” he said.

The spectacular performances, sold out six months in advance, were seen by up to 217,000 spectators and a world-wide television audience of more than 100 million.

The QPPD took part in every performance during the 23-day tattoo and were honoured to have an audience with the Queen for the presentation of the Regimental Brooch to Her Majesty and “Beating the Retreat” at Balmoral Castle. This celebrated the formation of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The QPPD last performed at the international tattoo in Edinburgh in 1975, and drummer Paul Fraser is proud to have performed in both events.

“The atmosphere this year was fantastic – the stands were so close it was like you could look the

audience straight in the eye,” he said.

Mr Fraser joined Drum Major Senior Sergeant Peter Flexman, Pipe Major Roddy MacDonald and 20 other band members at this year’s tattoo.

Senior Sergeant Flexman said although the QPPD took part in each of the 26 performances it had been exhilarating every time.

“It is almost impossible to put it in words, but marching out of Edinburgh Castle on to the esplanade was nothing short of breathtaking,” he said.

Pipe Major MacDonald said that every night had been a highlight, but while in Scotland he also received a personal presentation from Major General Euan Loudon, the General Officer Commanding 2nd Division and Governor of

Edinburgh Castle.

“Major General Loudon presented me with my grandfather’s service record. It was an honour to be personally presented with such an important record of my grandfather’s contribution to the British army,” he said.

A highlight of the trip for the whole band was meeting the Watoto Children’s Choir from Uganda. QPPD members were honoured to present the children with gifts from Australia.

“All of the children have lost one or both parents to AIDS or war, and were a delight to meet,” Senior Sergeant Flexman said.

“There wasn’t a dry eye in the house when they performed at the tattoo.”



Queensland Police Pipes & Drums take centre stage at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

The QPPD has returned to Queensland and will again divide its time between official police and ceremonial events and community engagements, such as public concerts and visits to primary schools and nursing homes.

Senior Sergeant Flexman and Pipe Major MacDonald thanked Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson, Minister for Police and Corrective Services Judy Spence and Premier Peter Beattie for their support and encouragement.

“We also acknowledge the contributions from our biggest fans and supporters.

“If not for donations from Queensland Police Service members, the Queensland Pipes and Drums Supporters’ Association, Stanwell Corporation, Anglo Coal, Singapore Airlines and the Queensland Police Union of Employees, together with support from the community, we would not have been able to participate in this most prestigious event.

“The support received before the trip and since our return has been amazing.”

The next big event for the QPPD will be the Police Commissioner’s Christmas Carols to be held at

Suncorp Piazza, South Bank on December 9.



QPS Pipe Major Roddy MacDonald (left) and Drum Major Senior Sergeant Peter Flexman meet Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.