



The Queensland Police Pipes & Drums.

Police Service represents Australia at Edinburgh Military Tattoo

By Karmen Turner, Media and Public Affairs Branch

The Queensland Police Pipes & Drums (QPPD) will be Australia's sole representatives at this year's prestigious Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

In August, they will perform for a sold-out crowd of 208,000 at Edinburgh Castle and a worldwide television audience of 100 million.

The invitation to perform follows a successful appearance at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo's "A Salute to Australia" in Sydney last year.

"This invitation is a great honour and recognises the band's standing within the international community," Senior Sergeant Peter Flexman, Officer in Charge and Drum Major, said.

"We're very excited as it represents a fantastic opportunity to elevate

the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and the Pipes & Drums on to a global stage."

The Pipes & Drums last performed in Edinburgh at the 1975 tattoo.

The 2006 event marks the 57th year of the tattoo and runs from August 4 to 26, featuring 24 scheduled performances.

Twenty-three members of the QPPD, comprising 13 pipers, nine drummers and a drum major, will travel to Scotland at the end of July to attend a three-day rehearsal with other members of the massed band.

"There's plenty of planning involved in a trip of this magnitude, but everyone's on a high and just can't wait to get there," Senior Sergeant Flexman said.

"We've been putting all our efforts into getting there and making our

performance a success. For some of us, this may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Founded in 1958, the Queensland Police Pipes & Drums has won many state, national and international championships. They perform at a variety of official engagements and serve the community by entertaining at charity events, festivals and shows across Queensland.

They established the Kops in Kilts program for schools and the aged care program, performing at nursing homes and hospitals, incorporating a blend of traditional, modern and popular children's music.

Members also instruct and mentor the Queensland Police Juvenile Pipes & Drums whose 28 members, ranging from seven to 19 years of age, have won acclaim

in numerous national and regional competitions.

The Queensland Police Pipes & Drums is generously assisted by the Queensland Police Pipes & Drums Supporters Association, along with a number of other organisations including Anglicoal, Singapore Airlines and Stanwell Power Corporation.

To help fund their appearance at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the Queensland Police Pipes & Drums will hold two concerts, Echoes of Edinburgh, at Brisbane City Hall on Friday May 26 at 2pm and 7.30pm. The cost is \$20. The shows will also feature the Australian Army Band Brisbane, Scottish and Irish dancers, Irish folk band The Jar and guest vocalists and musicians.