



2024 AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS



*The championships . . .
back to where it all began!*

Australian Pipe Band Championships

Friday, 12th April 2024

Band, Judges and Officials arrive in Maryborough and the Goldfields region.

5.30pm - 6.30pm: Judges and Officials meeting at the Maryborough Highland Society.

Saturday, 13th April 2024.

8.30am onwards: APBC2024 band sign in at Princes Park, Maryborough.

9.00am - 9.45am: Street Parade from the High Street Maryborough to Princes Park led by Dominic Andersen-Strudwick (Australian Drum Major Champion).

Street Parade bands: PBA registered bands not competing in the Championship will be offered free entry to Princes Park on the day.

10.00am - 4.30pm: 2024 Australian Pipe Band Championships
2024 Drum Major Championships.

12.30pm - 12.45pm: **Opening Ceremony, Princes Park.**

4.45pm: Massed Band, led by Cpl Benjamin Casey, 5th/6th Royal Victoria Regiment.

5.00pm: APBC2024 Results and presentations.

5.30pm - 10.30pm: Post Championships Entertainment (meals and music at the Maryborough Highland Society, 35 High Street Maryborough).

Location

Princes Park 8 Lake Rd, Maryborough VIC 3465

The Venue

Princes Park in Maryborough is one of Victoria's oldest recreation reserves with picturesque views and a magnificent grandstand that was built in 1895. From the old grandstand you will be able to catch all the action on the oval or you may wish to join us in the 250 sq meter Hospitality tent out on the oval.



Saturday 13th April 2024
Princes Park Maryborough Victoria

PROMOTED BY



*for more information check out
pipebandsaustralia.com.au/championships/*



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Saturday 13th April 2024
Princes Park Maryborough Victoria



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Message from Chair Pipe Bands Victoria

On behalf of Pipe Bands Victoria, I am delighted to invite you to Princes Park, Maryborough on 13th April 2024 to enjoy a fabulous celebration of Scottish music and culture at the Australian Pipe Band Championships. Victoria now has two World Champion Pipe Bands as well as six current Australian Pipe Band Champions, so we envisage a wonderful contest with performances from local, interstate and international pipe bands.

The 2024 Championships are returning home to Maryborough, where the first Australian Championships were held in 1961. I extend my grateful thanks to our Championship host, the Maryborough Highland Society. The Society was established in 1857 by the many Scottish emigrants who began arriving in Victoria from 1830 and continued the traditions of Caledonian Societies. So Maryborough is indeed a fitting venue for our event.

2024 also marks the centenary of the Victorian Highland Pipe Band Association. Pipe Bands Victoria seeks to acknowledge the centenary and a Street Parade for pipers and drummers will open the day's proceedings along the High Street to Princes Park.

I look forward to seeing you on 13th April 2024. Fáilte dhachaidh – Welcome home to Maryborough.

Karen Wallace
Chair, Pipe Bands Victoria

**For further information
please contact:**

Secretary APBC2024,
Mr David Telford 0430 160 325

Chair, Pipe Bands Victoria,
Mrs Karen Wallace 0438130365

Band entries [here](#) or www.trybooking.com/1120764
Drum Major entries [here](#) or www.trybooking.com/1121850



About

Your Hosts

The Maryborough Highland Society are one of Australia's oldest clubs having been formed in 1857. They have a full licenced venue that can hold 700 patrons with a Bistro, Sports Bar, Beer Garden and function facilities. They have a long and proud history of running large scale events including the annual New Years Day Highland Gathering (now into its 161st year) and were the hosts of the inaugural Australian Pipe Band Championships in 1961.

The International Judges

Donald MacPhee (Scotland)

Donald is a member of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA) adjudicators panel and the piping representative on the APMB. Across his contest career, playing with Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe band he has won 34 major championships, 8 Champion of Champions titles, 6 world championships and 2 Grand Slams.



Mick O'Neill (Scotland)

Mick is a member of the RSPBA adjudicators panel and a PDQB Assessor, holding RSPBA Advanced and Instructors Certificates. Mick is Head of the Pipe Band at George Watson's College in Edinburgh. Under Mick's leadership and tutelage, the school's bands have won more than 50 major band championships and over 130 major drumming championship titles.



Brian Switalla (New Zealand)

Brian is a Senior Judge on the New Zealand Panel for pipe bands and solo piping and, in 2016 became the first New Zealander to be elected a RSPBA Piping Adjudicator. He has adjudicated in New Zealand, Australia, Scotland, Canada and America. Brian has won 9 New Zealand Solo Piping Championships.



The Town

Maryborough, centrally located between Bendigo and Ballarat is a 1 hour 45 minute scenic drive from Melbourne Airport. As the economic hub for the Central Goldfields region it boasts four different supermarkets, major fast food outlets, department stores and numerous café and eating establishments.

The Event

In addition to Australia's best Pipe Bands, The Australian Pipe Band Championships will also include a Street Parade, Scottish Stalls, Food Stalls, Clan Tents, Scottish Dancing, Strong men and women events and the Girl on the Drum Spectacular. After the event everyone will be welcomed back to the Highland Society for a night of frivolity.

Where to stay

Whether you stay in Maryborough or surrounds or stay in one of the 2 Regional Cities of Bendigo and Ballarat just up the road, there are plenty of options for couples, families or groups. To help you find that perfect accommodation here are some handy contact numbers to get you on your way.

Central Goldfields Visitor Information Centre

1800 356 511 or visitmaryborough.com.au

Bendigo Visitor Information Centre

1800 813 153 or bendigoregion.com.au

Ballarat Information Centre

1800 446 633 or visitballarat.com.au

Getting here

Maryborough and Surrounds is accessible by road from a number of directions.

The journey is approximately a 2 hour drive from Melbourne either via the Calder Highway and Castlemaine or the Western Highway via Ballarat. The Pyrenees Highway also passes through the town connecting it to other parts of the state. Maryborough is a one hour drive from both Bendigo (along the C277) and Ballarat via Highway C287 through Clunes.