



PIPE BANDS AUSTRALIA

President CHRIS EARL

Secretary STEVEN PATTERSON

24 March 2020

MEMO National Council
Branch secretaries (for distribution)

CHAMPIONSHIP DATE

With new government directives on social distancing and advice they will be in place for at least six months, the 2020 Australian Pipe Band Championships have been officially postponed to April 2021.

An assessment of date options and consideration of government directives and advice in response to the coronavirus pandemic by Pipe Bands Australia, host branch Victoria and promoter Maryborough Highland Society concluded that proceeding with a deferred October date could not be guaranteed based on current government information and requirements for Australian people.

The original provisional postponed date in October, or later in the year, would also have increasingly presented greater challenges for participation by both school and community bands. An October date may also have allowed bands only limited musical preparation.

To ensure greater certainty for bands and championship patrons, the host branch and promoter have selected the weekend of 10 and 11 April – the weekend after Easter when the 116th Maclean Highland Gathering will be held in northern NSW and the weekend before the Bundanoon Highland Gathering. All decisions remain subject to further government direction and review. The closing date for confirmation of original entries/new entries will be 5 January 2021.

Pipe Bands Australia, Pipe Bands Victoria and Maryborough Highland Society appreciate the support, understanding and patience of people from across the pipe band community and within the Maryborough and central Victoria district over the past two weeks in these difficult and challenging times for all Australians.

We again ask all members of our pipe band family to remain safe, observe government advice and find ways to keep the music going.

Chris Earl
President
Pipe Bands Australia

Tim McLeod
Chairman
Pipe Bands Victoria

Malcolm Blandthorn
General Manager
Maryborough Highland Society

PO Box 3695 Rhodes 2138
www.pipebandsaustralia.com.au