

Police pipes entertain at Brownsholme

A visit last week by the Police Pipes and Drums to the village in Highfields had more than 40 of them tapping to jigs and reels, and swooning to The Skye Boat Song and Amazing Grace.

Even Irish tunes like *Maggie, It's a Long Way to Tipperary*, and *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling* (played on

Scottish bagpipes) had everyone smiling. Also smiling was Duncan Stewart, a resident in the village, and the father of the new Queensland police commissioner Ian Stewart.

Sitting in the front row and wearing a Royal Stewart tartan cap, Mr Stewart expressed a strong connection

with ancestral Scotland.

"My parents were both from Scotland. They became fruit growers at Stanthorpe, but when Mr Stewart was very young, they moved to Toowoomba."

He served in World War Two, and for many years operated a fruit and vegetable mart in Toowoomba, before

moving to Highfields 15 years ago. Mr Stewart is very proud of what his son has achieved in the police force and was in Brisbane for his son's swearing-in as commissioner and for family celebrations for some time after that.

It was the third visit of the Police Pipes and Drums to Brownsholme Retirement

Village, the first some years ago. The band works with the Police Media and Public Affairs section, and generally gives two concerts each day sometimes with a smaller section such as the one which performed at Highfields where they had six pipers, two snare drums and a base drum.

The band has formal police performances, and in recent weeks took part in ceremonies for the incoming police commissioner Ian Stewart, and the outgoing commissioner Bob Atkinson.

Between brackets of the pipes and drums, spokeswoman Hazel Osborne said the band had an expanding role in schools, which from this week would go beyond their "Cops in Kilts" performances.

From this week the Police Pipes and Drums would combine this with a new schools program, which involved teaching safety to children, incorporating aspects of other programs including the Daniel Morcombe work.

She said the Pipes and Drums visited the Mounted Police unit each month to train new horses.

The pitch and sharpness of the pipes assists in training police horses in crowd situations. But at Brownsholme the pitch was mellow, evoking suitable emotions among those who attended. - Miles Noller reporting.



The police commissioner's father Duncan Stewart, surrounded by the Police Pipes and Drums contingent at Brownsholme Retirement Village at Highfields. ABOVE: From left - Patrick Murphy, Ian Strudwick, Liam Cox, Hazel Osborne, Steve Clark, Mark Lees, Andrew Stainthorpe, Alistair Bremner, and Derek Adie.

Block party just over a week away

The Highfields Christmas Block Party will be held on Friday, December 7, at Highfields Village Shopping Centre.

Now in its fifth year, the block party is set to attract thousands of local residents to the huge array of festive entertainment.

Highlights include a climbing wall with bungee jumps, free jumping castles, bungee cord runs, bucking bull, free face painting, art and craft stalls, food and drinks, licensed bar, Heritage Bank fireworks at 8.30pm, Little Axel, giveaways, live music. Special guests the Lamplights will entertain.

Santa will arrive at 6.30pm and there will be an opportunity for photos with Santa.

The Block Party is a not-for-profit community event organised by the Highfields Lions Club and supported by the retailers of Highfields Village Shopping Centre and Heritage Bank.

Lions president Peter Butzbach said much planning and effort had gone into the

event to ensure a great night of entertainment. Last year more than 4500 enjoyed the festivities.

Mac Stirling, Managing Director of Lauder Pty Ltd, developer of Highfields and the Highfields Village Shopping Centre, said the Block Party had established a great tradition of celebrating the Highfields community.

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Bowls club step closer to re-opening

The re-opening of the Highfields Bowls Club has moved a step closer.

Highfields Junior Rugby League Club has signed a three-year lease with an option for a further three years.

Club president Dan Aldons says they are now finalising all licensing arrangements with the Queensland Licensing Commission.

He says it is hoped to have

an announcement in the near future. It will probably be known as the Highfields Community Club.

The original owner of the Bowls Club, property developer Lillypilly Investments, went into liquidation in March last year, with about 12 staff losing their jobs. The \$5.5 million club opened in November 2009 and was trading at a profit when it closed.

Hail storm

Hail bigger than marbles struck Crows Nest late last Thursday afternoon.

The official rain gauge registered only 4 mm. The town recorded a more substantial reading of 45 mm on November 18 from thunderstorms throughout the evening. - Kevin Bridge.

Highfields Better Business BREAKFAST

Tuesday, December 4 - 6.15 for 6.45am - Zelly's Restaurant

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