

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHA'S LIKE US? DAMN FEW, WE'RE THE BEST

This was an outstanding Brigadoon, one of the best for years, the weather was extremely kind to us and once again the sound of the pipes could be heard from early morning wafting across the town and as usual all roads lead to the magical town of Brigadoon

With the weather on our side the crowds started to roll in, the first cars queuing up at 6.30am to get parking, then the coaches, with the ever increasing numbers soon the town was alive and ready to go. Brigadoon was to live up to its reputation of the *"Ideal family friendly fun day out"*

The crowd for the day has been estimated at approximately 14000 visitors, several thousand more than previous years, what a terrific result for Brigadoon.

A real coup for Brigadoon and a huge hit with the spectators on the day was the introduction of Highlander Celtic Rock Band from Newcastle, they were exceptional, this was Celtic music at its very best, but with an entirely different sound, the sound of ROCK. The group consisted of the usual bagpipes but this was accompanied by electric and acoustic Guitars, electric Fiddle and drums, the end result was marvellous and had the crowds rocking on the oval. This is a show not to be missed; they received a tremendous response from the very appreciative audience, their rendition of Flower of Scotland had the crowd in full voice, and the finale Auld Lang Syne was just an ideal way to end a day of truly highland entertainment. The band have just released the maiden CD and it was snatched up like hotcakes. Needless to say they will certainly be a part of Brigadoon for some time to come.

As usual we had a magnificent display of traditional pipe band music. There were 22 bands in total, over 500 performers, what a great turnout for the gathering, we really appreciate the time and effort put in by those bands who make the annual pilgrimage to perform so well for us.

The street parade was a wonderful sight, a procession of bands playing such a broad variety of music that really entertained the spectators.

However the best was yet to come, at the opening ceremony the audience were treated to an outstanding massed band display, an advance in full strength all 22 bands at once was a sight to behold, and not to be



out done the closing ceremony was just as impressive with the lone piper Sam Young from NSW Police Pipe band giving us a fitting end to what was a great days performance. Congratulations must be given to the senior drum major of the day Gavin Kearney, from Canberra and the Brigadoon bands coordinator for choreographing these displays

The Scottish Country and Highland Dancers both groups gave wonderful displays of their own kind of dance to very appreciative audience, and the infamous dashing White Sergeant where all can participate was a wonderful spectacle.

The Southern Highlands Obedience and Kennel Club were outstanding, their control of their dogs was just terrific, and it is one event that has great popularity with the visitors.

Due to such a gorgeous day, weather wise, a highly successful family day was had by all, as more people than ever participated in the games and heavy events. A huge crowd supported and encouraged a new competitor to Brigadoon; Colleen Harradine from Collombatti Rail, North Coast, and Colleen was the Female Heavy Weight Grand Champion taking out both the Heavy Weight events. Ben Simpson from Rodd Point in Sydney's inner west and Lee Mitchell from Bullaburra in the Blue Mountains tied for the Male Grand Champion, Lee also tossing a perfect score for the Open Male Caber Toss. Our local girl Carma Burchell from Bowral taking the Female Caber Toss for the 7th time. Special mention goes to Peter Reed from Moss Vale, Peter broke his own record in the Haggis Hurling by 5 metres, the record now stands at 37 metres, in addition Peter broke the Heavy Weight thrown for distance with a weight of 30kg to record a 5.47 metre throw.

Preschoolers were also catered for with two new events, both thoroughly entertaining for the crowd; a special caber toss and the kilted dash - fastest female for the Kilted Dash was Piper Wales from Moss Vale and fastest male was Samuel Clifton from Robertson.

The Tartan Warriors lived up to its reputation of being a major attraction at Brigadoon, with the anticipated challenge by Derek Boyer coming back to throw down the gauntlet to the resident champion and others, the writing was on the wall, this was going to be good. Derek Boyer certainly outclassed his three competitors in the NAB Stones of Manhood when he lifted the sandstone balls weighing from 100kgs to 165kgs as though they were lightweight medicine balls on to the tops of full size whisky barrels. Only Craig Reid was able to lift all five stones but Derek did it in the fastest time. This is the fifth time Derek has won the event and it was a fitting farewell as he was cheered with loud encouragement from the huge crowd. Derek is taking up a career as a movie actor.

Another factor in our day was to be the largest water bottle FREE event in the world, as the world is aware Bundy on Tap caused a major sensation when they announced that there would be no more bottled water sold in Bundanoon.

Brigadoon has supported this cause and our gathering became bottled water free, and it was a total success. With the cooperation of Culligans Water we were able to ensure that free water was available to all our visitors, even those that brought their own bottled water were allowed to refill without charge. Our sincere thanks to the members of BoT and of course the Brigadoon committee who are changing the way people think about bottled water, what a win for the environment.

Well done all.

DATE FOR THE DIARY - 2 APRIL 2011

ENDS

Media interviews and images

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