



Canberra Highland Society & Burns Club

Media release

9 June 2017

Bird? Plane? No, flying kilts

The Canberra Burns Club Pipe Band will be taking advantage of Canberra's new direct flights to Singapore when our players take off today for the South East Asian Pipe Band Championships.

The Burns Club Pipe Band is the first Australian pipe band to compete in this competition under the lead of pipe band major Athol Chalmers, who is also the Burns Club President.

Mr Chalmers said: "Previously the trip was too expensive and time consuming for our players, who have day jobs and many other obligations. But now we are able to take 14 pipers and 8 drummers to Singapore to compete in this prestigious event over the June 10 and 11 weekend.

"On this trip we also hope to generate international interest in Canberra by encouraging the 10-15 pipe bands in South East Asia to also take advantage of the direct international flights. We will be inviting them to participate in the Canberra Burns Club Highland Gathering which takes place in Kambah each October," Mr Chalmers said.

The Canberra Burns Club Pipe Band has been working hard to build strong, mutually beneficial international relationships, which will both benefit the Territory and promote Scottish culture in Canberra.

Mr Chalmers said: "The direct flights to Wellington have also opened up opportunities in the very strong New Zealand pipe band community." The Canberra Burns Club is currently marketing the

October Highland Gathering to bands in the north island of New Zealand.

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