

 <p>Drones & Sticks Pipe Band</p> <p>Hawke's Bay, New Zealand</p>	<h1>Newsletter</h1> <h2>March 2014</h2>
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The President's Message

We have had the busiest time possible - Art Deco Weekend (3 events), and Relay for Life at Clive, and Waipawa Band Rotunda for an enjoyable presentation, and Supporters Night at the Taradale RSA. Whew - what a busy time !

Congratulations to all players who covered themselves in glory with the above performances - thanks for all your good work.

Many people have commented on your brilliant display on the Art Deco march and the stunning Concert. As always the excellence of your playing warms the hearts of more people than you realise.

Congratulations.

Harry Renfree President Phone 844 6539

Band Manager Vacancy

We are inviting a person to join our support team as the Band Manager. A job description is available for those interested.

Attendance each Monday at band practice and at parades when possible is a requirement, and you are invited to contact Harry on 8446539 if you are interested. Thanks.

Our Vision:

To be a musically competent pipe band, responsive to members' aspirations and respected in the community.

Musical Director's Message

One of the many challenges we face is having youngsters following in our footsteps. As pipers and drummers we create many great moments for people when we share our music but, unless we can encourage and support the youngsters the travelling will stop with us. In some parts of NZ, school bands are very strong but here in Napier we rely on Robert Arrell's efforts at Napier Boys High. I'm keen to keep supporting the development of our young talent and encourage everyone in the band to play a part in that. Over the next few months we'll be looking at the music and bringing some new music into the tune list. As the winter months approach its an appropriate time to sit around the table and learn some new tunes, so if you've got a favourite melody you think might be good for the band, please talk to Richard or me.



Cheers
Kerry

Napier School's Band

This year we decided to combine the Napier Boys' High School and Drones and Sticks young learners to compete as a combined Napier School's Band at the Turakina Highland Games in January. We had the welcome addition of Drum Tutor Geoff Bainbridge, helping out the NBHS drum corps of Jaron Thompson (snare) and James Matheson (bass). The pipers were Kurt Thompson, Bradley Hansen, Cameron Anderson, Greg Jackson (NBHS) and Angus Wilton from Drones and Sticks. The band was tuned up by Kerry Marshall and, under the command of Robert Arrell, stepped into the competition circle playing Scotland the Brave, Rowan Tree and Bonnie Galloway. They were a good choice of tunes in the end because the band played them confidently and gained an overall 3rd placing in the event. The pipers had been together as a group longer than the drummers and gained a 2nd place for themselves amongst the judges. There were four bands in the event – Scots College, Manawatu Youth band, Hawera High School Band.

Robert Arrell

Man blames fate for other accidents but he feels personally responsible when he makes a hole-in-one!

A Celtic Connection Concert:



The band staged its Celtic Connection Concert in the MTG Century theatre and is pleased with the result. Almost sold out, the concert has

received 'rave' reviews from those who attended and the band members are very grateful for the performers who supported them in presenting this high quality show.

Ray Downing reports that Saturday 22nd February was without doubt the hottest day of this summer, and before the start of the concert the band had already completed two parades. The Century Theatre proved to be a great venue with comfortable seating and air conditioning for the audience.

The concert opened with Highland Cathedral and a number of great tunes played by the whole band. It was evident from the first few bars that the effort Kerry had put into tweaking the chanters and constant tuning of the drones had really paid off. The audience continued to show their appreciation long after the band left the stage.

The Heather Brunsdon School of Dance then presented the first of their two items which were very professional.

Once again the Napier Schools Band showed off their amazing talent with an item including Mahri's Wedding and Scotland the Brave. This was followed by the Red Hot Nanas from Ashburton who brought a touch of Art Deco to the concert. A piping item from Jack Budge playing his Deger pipes supported by some talented pipers, Hugh Harrison and Richard Loan, and guitarist Scotty Smith, of the Kawekas band. This went down well with the audience.

Abide With Me was an obvious crowd pleaser played by a group of pipers and a drummer with Morgan as soloist. We were then entertained with an ensemble of brass players from the Napier Technical Memorial Band, under the leadership of David Apperley, with a medley of Scottish tunes ending with Glencoe, where they were joined by a small group of pipers led by Graeme. The final item from the whole band started with a Drummers Salute and included tunes such as Hector The Hero, Amazing Grace and Flower Of Scotland. At the end of the concert the band received a well-

deserved standing ovation.

A supporter was feeling a bit sorry for herself by lunchtime in her 'posh' but damp waitressing outfit at St Pauls fete, then having to rush off to the Crombie Lockwood building to change into D & S supporters getup, but when she took a good look at the band members she thought, 'What am I moaning about, I don't have to wear full uniform (particularly No. 1 uniforms) in 35 degree heat'. It was such a shame that no photos were taken of the march up Emerson Street - the band sounded and looked great - very exciting.

Then it was off to the concert - what a great afternoon and what great entertainment. The dancers put on a wonderful toe-tapping show. Congratulations to all involved. The only thing missing was the band song - that certainly gets everybody's toes tapping. On her return to her vehicle after the concert, she was approached by a young couple and asked if she was a member of the band - the reply was "No, I am a supporter" then asked if they had been to the concert, to which they replied that they had been and had thoroughly enjoyed it. They were particularly 'thrilled' (that was their word) to see how the band was nurturing the young players.

Many thanks to all concerned for the hard work put in to produce the concert.

Whether you are a supporter or player you should be proud that WE ARE, The Drones and Sticks Pipe Band.

HELP!

We've had a call from the organiser of the piping at the Highland Games, John Trevor, asking if anyone is interested in stewarding on the C/D grade board on the Saturday and/or Sunday. The job involves making sure all the pipers present themselves to perform at the right time. A great chance to hear some great piping. If you can help please contact John on 877 8657 or talk to Kerry.

Relay for Life

Band members enjoy supporting the Cancer Society's Relay for Life event which this year was held at Farndon Park in Clive. We led the Survivors' lap and then led all the participants on their first lap. Once again the band has been able to make a contribution to our community which is one of things that makes playing in a pipe band so enjoyable.

Piping with the NSW Police Pipe Band

Eleven tunes to learn in two months – yeah right! That was the challenge I was given when I accepted the invitation to play with the NSW Police Pipe Band at the upcoming New Zealand Pipe Band Championship, to be held in Tauranga early in March. I started on my chanter learning the tunes from music which I had to break down into phrases to get an idea of the tune. Fortunately, I knew two of the tunes - until I looked at the music and they had different settings! Oh well, never mind, just practice and get them right.

I needed to hear how the tunes go together, so, after the Art Deco concert, I went across the ditch to have two practices with the band. I found this to be a valuable and worthwhile experience, even though all the band members were not able to be at the practices.

I travelled up to Tauranga to practice with the band on the day before the contest. It was during this time that I realised how good the band was sounding, both with chanters and drones and fingering and expression. Playing the medley all the way through was tricky, as they had changed the timing between the tunes as well as extra notes being added in and seconds were played even during Colin's Cattle, which meant I lost focus. It was at this point I made a decision to step down from the MSR and Medley and focus on the Street March and Massed Bands. I knew that the band wanted to win grade 4A and my contribution would not win it for them and that I could possibly spoil it for them.

Some of the tunes were a little difficult in getting my fingers around them, until I looked at the programme and found they were tunes being played by Grade 1 bands – I guess nothing is supposed to be easy in life.

Overall, attending a National Contest is very rewarding, especially when you see so many young ones playing at a very high standard.

I can only echo Kurt's comments in our last newsletter and say that opportunities should be given to those who want to compete in various competitions and that we, who are older, should do what we can to encourage the younger ones in our midst.

I am now taking a well-earned rest and remember "Today's Preparations Determines Tomorrow's Achievements."



Ken McGloughlin



Parade Calendar

March

- Mon 17** Practice at Band Rooms 7.30pm.
Thur 20) EIT Graduation Ceremonies Hawke's Bay Opera House
Fri 21) " " " " " " " "
Mon 24 Practice - venue EIT
Fri 28 'Retirees' afternoon tea 2pm Band Rooms Nelson Park
Mon 31 Practice - venue EIT

April

- Mon 7** Practice - venue EIT
Sat 12 Napier Ingleside 7.30pm at Asher Hall
Mon 14 Practice - venue EIT
Sun 20 Highland Games Hastings
Mon 21 No practice (Easter)
Fri 25 Anzac Day - Taradale, Napier and Waipawa

Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang the best.

The Summer Series

Waipawa Band Rotunda - Nelly Jull Park

On Sunday 2 March the band performed for the people of CHB in the Waipawa CHB Promotions Summer Series concert. The band rotunda in the park was refurbished some years ago and this was the first time we have played there. It is a great venue and they have invited us back to play for other events. Being able to get up on stage and play a good variety of tunes which the public know and can enjoy is something we are pleased to be able to do.



Sewing Ladies.

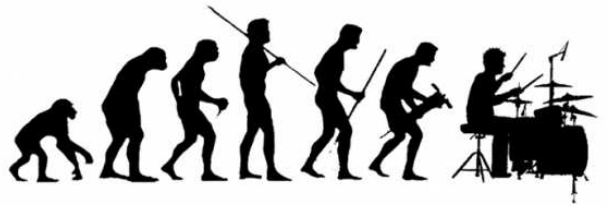
Our band is having a kilt day when the players kilts will be changed and inspected. Some sewing or mending may be needed and we would be pleased to hear if you could be able to assist.

The date is yet to be finalised but will probably be a Saturday morning sometime soon.

Please phone Harry 8446539 if you can help

Drumming - The Ancient Art

The history of drums began with the emergence of human civilization. Drum beating as it is popularly known has been associated with the birth of humankind. The drum is also called a



membranophone and means an instrument that makes sound by striking a prolonged membrane with some type of object, typically a curved stick.

Drums consist of a hollowed out piece (called the body) and a covering extended over the end of the drum. It is a common notion that the body of the drum generates the sound; it is in fact the membrane and its vibration that creates the sound when struck.

Following the history of drums, it is presumed that their origin could be as early as in 6000 BC. Mesopotamian excavations discovered small cylindrical drums dated 3000 BC. Inside caves in Peru several wall markings were found which show the use of drums in various aspects of communal life. The American Indians used gourd and wooden constructed drums for their rituals and ceremonies. The drums are not always used for creating music only, they have also been used for communication purposes.

In African tribal cultures, drums bore an important part in the use of rituals and religious ceremonies. The people of different African tribes relied on the use of drums to express themselves and important messaging was done through series of drum beats along the length of the jungle. African drums and drummers provided an addictive and unique sound that deeply influenced Western Rock and Roll music.

So, take a bow, Drummers - you have been around for a long time!

Comments From a Group of Supporters

We think that the RSA Supporters Nights are really good and having the dancers perform was a pleasant change.

However, we were not that happy with the food available - it was not up to a good standard.

The concert in the main street was very good and the Band marching between the cars was excellent.



***Don Stuart leading the band
up Emerson Street.***

Art Deco Parade

Central Hawkes Bay Capers

Once again, Drones and Sticks entertained in Central Hawkes Bay. This time at Nelly Jull Park, Waipawa, on the 2nd of March. It was a sunny afternoon with a very relaxed audience who fully appreciated the variety of well known tunes and this band's adaptability to entertain with full, or part groups, solos and drum salutes to give a wide dimension of abilities. Perhaps, there could be further extension into broadsword dancing by band members or supporters (food for thought). Those who gave individual performances were Kerry, Graeme, Ken, Geof and Don and the group of young players, who inspired two of the audience to enquire about tuition on the pipes.

After the performance, band members and supporters adjourned to Rod's home for afternoon eats and drinks along with sustained attempts at petanque and croquet, at which Shona and Bradley displayed remarkable skills!

In all, a very pleasant afternoon.

Rod Appleton-Seymour.

Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow.