

Message from the President

Watts Up?

This quarter I would like to acknowledge one of our band members for their generosity with not only their time, but in donating items to the band. Steven Hill is that member. Stevie has been associated with the band as a learner, receiving tuition for the pipes from Kerry. Stevie is the “silent giver” having very generously donated goods to enhance the band member experience. This includes electrical equipment, a reed pressure gauge and more recently music stands. He is helpful and generous and a wealth of knowledge when it comes to anything electrical. Thanks Stevie from us all. Please do contact Steve for all of your electrical needs – Steven Hill Electrical Limited. Stevie, from each and every one of your friends at the Napier Pipe Band, we sincerely thank you for everything you do for us.



Julie

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AGM

Thank you to those who attended the AGM in June. The usual business was covered and your new Committee voted in as follows: President Julie Baxter, Treasurer Kerry Marshall, along with committee members Richard Loan, Aaron Watt and Nick Scannell, with Andrew Robertson continuing his 2 year term.



Vacancies still remain for other positions, including a Secretary. Your committee will endeavour to fill these positions during the year. In the meantime, thanks to Kerry for taking on the bulk of the secretarial duties.

This year the Piping Award was presented to Chelsea Fisher, the Drumming Award to Kellan Easton with Kerry Marshall receiving the Most Valuable Person award. Congratulations to you all – well deserved.

Our Vision

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

Changing of the Guard

You will by now be familiar with Aaron Watt and Andy Robertson, both are pipers who have joined the band as competent players. Aaron and Andy are being mentored by Richard with the view to having them take over the responsibility of Musical and Assistant Musical Directors later in the year. Of course, support will continue to be given after that date, including weekend review sessions which have been in place for some time.

Although this may seem like a big change for the band, Aaron and Andy have the full support of all players and the time and effort put into the transition will mean an almost seamless handover. Thanks to everyone for their absolute positivity and encouragement to all concerned with this change.

August Piping & Drumming Live (Napier RSA)

The band were very pleased to return to the Napier RSA in May. A performance was put on to a good crowd which included our drummer Kellan parading for the first time. Our second Piping & Drumming Live event is at the **Napier RSA** on **Sunday 25 August starting at 3pm**. This event is a "Members' Choice" one with players and supporters being asked what they would like to play or hear. Come along, listen to the band and stay on for a meal and friendship afterwards. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tea 'n Tunes

A relatively new initiative for the band has been a monthly get together known as Tea 'n Tunes. This started as an informal session to encourage players (especially those less confident) to stand up in front of others and play solo or in smaller groups. Everyone is invited to come along to listen and share a light afternoon tea.



On Sunday 21 July the Band held its monthly Tea 'n Tunes event at the Taradale RSA. Normally held at the Band Rooms at Nelson Park, we decided to try a larger venue and it seems that this was a success. Two highlights – the "Flash Mob" version of Highland Cathedral as well as Campbell playing Scots Wha Hae on his own. Great job Campbell.

Thank you all those who provided feedback - for example "I thoroughly enjoyed Tea'nTunes on Sunday. A full-on programme of piping - which was lovely!!" It was great having HB Caledonian PB members join us – thank you. Tea 'n Tunes will be back at the band rooms in September.

Napier's 150th celebrations.

On Saturday 27 July a small group of pipers and drummers played for the Taradale Winter Fest, the first in a series of events relating to Napier's 150th celebrations. The HB Caledonian Society was established in Napier in 1880 and the pipe band has been a feature of Napier activities for almost 130 years. Later in the year we'll be playing at a family day at Anderson Park and it would be great if our supporters were able to be there to show their support for the Caledonian heritage in this city. More details to come about this event.

Ceilidh Club

There is an invitation from the Ceilidh Club to join them at their events in August. The club runs 3 or 4 times a year and the next one will be mostly Scottish ceilidh dances. If any of our members might be interested in attending the club will have 2 workshops Aug 2nd and 9th, and a ceilidh on Aug 16th. These are held in the Clive Community Hall and feature live music. The club has a facebook page where you can see photos of the events or phone Helen on 027 345 4038.

Music

There are a number of tunes played by the band which are attributed to Robert Burns, the Scottish poet and lyricist, who is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland. In 2009 he was chosen as the greatest Scot by the Scottish public in a vote run by Scottish television channel STV.

As well as making original compositions, Burns also collected folk songs from across Scotland, often revising or adapting them. His poem (and song) "Auld Lang Syne" is often sung at Hogmanay (the last day of the year), and "Scots Wha Hae" served for a long time as an unofficial national anthem of the country. Other poems and songs of Burns that remain well known across the world today include "A Red, Red Rose", "A Man's a Man for A' That", "To a Louse", "To a Mouse", "The Battle of Sherramuir", "Tam o' Shanter" and "Ae Fond Kiss".

The address to the Haggis is one of Robert Burns well known Scottish poems. The title refers to the national dish of Scotland, haggis, which is a savoury pudding and the poem is most often recited at a "Burns supper". As most of you will know at this cultural event celebrating the life of Robert Burns everybody stands as the haggis is piped in on a silver salver to the host's table. The host or a guest will then recite the poem while slicing open the haggis at the right moment with a ceremonial knife. The ceremony concludes with the toast to the haggis, which is the highlight for many.

We get to play at some unusual places

There's no bull about the first one! In June, Andy and Julie were once again in the paddock contributing to the atmosphere at the Hallmark Angus Bull Sale, hosted by Max Tweedie who runs a stud farm just up past Tutira. Even though the punters were more interested in the bulls, the music was definitely appreciated. "Max told us he even left a scotch thistle in the paddock for authenticity! This time it was a very chilly day, with fingers not moving quite as deftly as they should! But there's nothing quite like a wee dram afterwards to help warm up." Julie and Andy are looking forward to returning in September.

And then in July Kerry played at the opening of a new culvert, again up in Tutira. The Hastings District Council has rebuilt the Chrystal crossing which was destroyed in the cyclone. Shona Chrystal was killed when a slip went through their home just above the crossing and, as she loved all things Scottish, the council invited Kerry to play at the opening ceremony. "It was very cold and my fingers struggled with even the simple tunes. However, it was an honour to play for the family and the Council".

All Puns Intended

- Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.
- A set of jumper leads walk into a bar. The bartender says, 'I'll serve you, but don't start anything.'
- A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm, and says: 'A beer please, and one for the road.'
- An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.
- Why was the sand wet? Because the sea weed!
- What did the policeman say to his tummy? Freeze, you're under a vest.
- What do you call a blind dinosaur? Doyouthinkhesaurus.

MODO

You've all heard of AI but will it compose bagpipe music? In his article *Could AI write Bagpipe music?* Andrew Douglas of the Dojo University explores the impact that AI might have on our beloved little niche of the music world here in bagpiping and pipe bands. You can read his article on the Band's website – just use the search option to find MODO (music of digital origin)

An Update from the Piping & Drumming Academy

The aim remains to engage paid tutors to establish teaching systems, for both piping and drumming, in schools here in Hawke's Bay. The trustees have secured some funding from a local business man (\$100,000 over three years) and is working on increasing that before an approach is made to potential tutors. Obviously the funding sources must be sustainable over the three to five year timescale of the project so the trustees, Aaron Watt, Sally McKenzie, Julie Baxter and Jarrod Cawood are working on a project to improve fund raising capability for the Academy and our bands.

Polo Shirt Anyone?

The band is ordering casual polo shirts, adorned with the new logo. The option to purchase is extended to all supporters for a cost of \$45. The shirts come in a variety of sizes with both a women's and men's cut, available in light grey or black. The fabric is 95% cotton 5% elastane knit. The orders will be finalised very shortly so if you are keen, please let any band member know asap. Thank you to those of you who have already placed an order.

Shakespeare and Bagpipes

It seems that even Shakespeare included a reference to bagpipes in his works:

*Some men there are love not a gaping pig, Some that are mad if they behold a cat,
And others when the bagpipe sings i'th' nose cannot contain their urine; for affection,*

From The Merchant of Venice, Act IV, scene i

Pub Charity Grant

We are grateful for the support of Pub Charity Ltd and will certainly be frequenting their venues here in Napier when possible: Sideline Bar, The Bay View, The Duke Of Gloucester and The Station.



Upcoming Parades

Sunday 25 August	Piping & Drumming live	Napier RSA 3pm
Saturday 21 September	Hastings Blossom Parade	starting at 1pm
Saturday 26 October	Otane 150 th celebrations parade	starting at 10am



You are most welcome to come along to any practice on a Monday night at 7pm at the Band Rooms, Jull Street, Napier.

Check out www.napierpipeband.nz – calendar - for upcoming parades or send an email to news@napierpipeband.nz for an update.