

Band Blurb

February 2021



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Message from the President

Welcome to the first newsletter of the New Year. It seems like only last week the November edition was being compiled, with warm wishes for a Happy Christmas! Seems like a distant memory now.

Your Band has continued to be very busy with parades in December and January. Leading up to Christmas, performances included playing at retirement villages, entertaining the locals at the Waipukurau Christmas event, the Touch of Tartan Concert staged at the Taradale RSA, the combined Christmas Parade with our friends from the Hawke's Bay Caledonian Pipe Band and of course the traditional parade for New Year's Eve.

More recently a traditional Burns Night was held at the Taradale Club where the Band entertained.

Mixed with these happy occasions, were two farewells to long standing supporters. Harry Renfree and Don McLeod.

Most of you knew Harry as our Patron and one of our strongest supporters. Harry would come along each Monday night and could be seen thoroughly enjoying the music and eagerly awaiting his favourite; Hector the Hero. Harry was our best fan, enthusiastically clapping and showing enjoyment even when we perhaps didn't earn the praise!

Despite ill health in more recent times, Harry was always positive, never complaining and simply enjoying his life.

Harry – we will miss you and your unwavering support.

Don McLeod also passed away. Don was a quiet spoken, kind man who also supported the band. My clearest memories of Don were when he accompanied us to Bundanoon in 2008. I was then relatively new to the band and it was my first trip away on such an occasion. Many of us had to share rooms and I ended up sharing with a very loud and persistent snorer. Thank you Don for very discreetly swapping my accommodation!

Harry and Don, we were truly privileged to be able to play at your farewells. Thank you for allowing us that honour.

I would also like to acknowledge the passing of Paul Thomson Thank you Paul for the time you gave to the Band assisting with door sales and raffles. Your quiet efficiency was appreciated.

Goodbye dear friends. Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.

Julie

Our Vision:

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

Harry Renfree



Harry, born in 1937 in Dunedin, the eldest of five children, was a Highlander supporter all his life. When the family moved to Alexandra in Central Otago he attended Alexandra primary and District High School and the Renfree family attended St Enoch's Presbyterian church.

His first job was with the Bank of NZ in Alexandra, later achieving a banking degree, by correspondence, from Otago University.

Major influencers on Harry's life were his ten years in the Territorials where he obtained a Commission, receiving two awards recognising his abilities, and the Boys Brigade, spending many years as a young boy in the ranks and later as an adult leader in Christchurch and Taradale.

He and Sue married in 1962 and Sally and Mike were born in Invercargill while Jane arrived when the family had moved to Lower Hutt where Harry was at the Head Office of Burroughs Computers. After two years in Lower Hutt, the family moved with Burroughs to

Christchurch and then in 1975 the Renfree family arrived in Taradale. Here Harry joined St Columba's church, resuming his Boys' Brigade leadership and spending time on the Board of Managers for 20 years and coordinating the parish garage-sale for a dozen years.

Harry's busy life included owning an antique shop in Taradale and running a number of half marathons with friend Marc Nel, his last one at age 70. He said that it was good for his ego to do these things! Many will remember Harry and Sue supplying flags and banners around Hawkes Bay as Budget Banners and later Bay Flags.

Other interests were the Napier Community Patrol (Harry always did the shift ending at midnight) and the Taradale Rotary Club. Harry believed genealogy was important, even writing a booklet on his family's history.

When Sue died suddenly 2008 Harry teamed up with Yvonne Dobbie, a long time friend of the family. Yvonne and Harry travelled extensively including ANZAC Day at Gallipoli, WWI trenches in France and Belgium, D-Day beaches in France, the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and visiting the Renfree church in Cornwall. Harry was proud to march in the large ANZAC parade in Melbourne, a parade that took three hours to pass the starting point.

Harry loved the pipes and pipe band. A supporter of the Drones and Sticks Pipe Band he became our President and then Patron. He played an important part in leading the merger with the City of Napier PB to form the Napier Pipe Band. On the Band's trips to Australia, which Harry referred to as the great expeditions, Harry was proud to represent the band at the various ceremonies and concerts the Band was involved in. He will also be remembered for carrying the flags behind the band at Anzac and other street parades.

Harry was a frequent attender at Band practices, often asking for his favourite tunes to be played so on the last occasions we saw him it was an honour to play "Hector the Hero" for him. Thank you Yvonne for bringing him along to practices and coffee when he could no longer drive. His love of the band was very apparent.

The combination of church, Boys' Brigade and the Territorial Army formed Harry's belief in the Christian principles to show care, live decently, hate injustice, help one's neighbour and friends, support good causes to make a difference, as we only come this way once, all principles that have been reflected in the life of Harry Renfree who died on 26 Dec 2020.

Don McLeod

It is with sadness that we record the death of Don McLeod, a long-time supporter of the band. Don played pipes as a young man in territorial and Wellington bands and was always proud of his McLeod heritage. He assisted us with the organising of several contests but will be fondly remembered for the role he played in our trips to Australia – arranging travel and accommodation and taking lots of photographs. A keen photographer Don produced the 2016 photo of the band that hangs on the band room walls. He was a keen runner and as organiser of the International Masters Games in Hastings invited the band to play for the opening ceremony. We extend our condolences to his wife, Ruth and their family.



Ouch!

Our much loved drummer Sone has dislocated and broken his elbow. Nope, not beating the drum too vigorously, rather having fun at Flip Out during the holidays.

Sone is in plaster and out of action for the next few weeks.

We send our warm wishes to you Sone for a quick and pain-free recovery. We will miss your cheeky smile at practice and parades.



Burns Night at the Taradale Club

A traditional Burns night, is the evening of 25th January, the birthday of the Scottish poet Robert Burns. Held at the Taradale Club, traditional celebrations in his honour took place. This of course includes the consumption of whiskey. Band members entertained the crowd and Nick delivered the Ode.



The original Address to a Haggis poem was written by Robert Burns to celebrate his appreciation of the Haggis. As a result Burns and Haggis have been forever linked. This particular poem is always the first item on the programme of Burns' suppers. The haggis is generally carried in on a silver salver at the start of the proceedings. As it is brought to the table a piper plays a suitable, rousing accompaniment. One of the invited artistes then recites the poem before the theatrical cutting of the haggis with the ceremonial knife.



I first became involved in the Haggis ceremony probably around 30 years ago originally just piping in. Over the years I saw many deliveries of the ode and one year I was asked to pipe in and did I know anyone who could recite the ode. I decided to have a go myself. My rendition is not entirely original, I have taken some aspects from several others as well some of my own ideas. My aim was to make it enjoyable and engaging for the audience, if you have seen it, you be the judge as to its success.

Nick Scannell

Address to a Haggis

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face
Great chieftain o the pudding-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy o' a grace
As lang's my arm*

*The groaning trencher there ye fill,
Your hurdies like a distant hill,
Your pin wad help to mend a mill
In time o need,
While thro your pores the dews distil
Like amber bead.*

*His knife see rustic Labour dight,
An cut you up wi ready slight,
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,
Like onie ditch;
And then, O what a glorious sight,
Warm-reekin, rich!*

*Then, horn for horn, hey stretch an
strive:
Deil tak the hindmost, on they drive,
Til a' their weel-swallow'd kytes believe
Are bent like drums;
The auld Guidman, maist like to rive,
'Bethankit' hums.*

*Is that there owre his French ragout,
Or olio that wad staw a sow,
Or fricassee wad mak her spew
Wi perfect scunner
Looks down wi sneering, scornful view
On sic a dinner?*

*Poor devil! See him owre his trash
As feckless as a wither'd rash,
His spindle shank a guid whip-lash,
His nieve a nit;
Thro bloody flood or field to dash,
O how unfit!*

*But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed,
The trembling earth resounds his
tread,
Clap in his walie nieve a blade,
He'll make it whistle;
An legs an arms, an heads will sned,
Like taps o thrissle.*

*Ye Pow'rs, wha mak mankind your
care,
And dish them out their bill o fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking
ware
That jaups in luggies:
But, if ye wish her grateful prayer,
Gie her a Haggis*

Phew - a lot of words for seasoned offal stuffed into intestines!

A Scots boy came home from school and told his mother he had been given a part in the school play. "Wonderful," says the mother, "What part is it?" The boy says "I play the part of the Scottish husband!" The mother scowls and says: "Go back and tell your teacher you want a speaking part."

Guess Who?

Despite meeting up each week, often we don't get to really know our friends of the Band. Here is some interesting information from one of our pipers:

"As a piper in the Upper Hutt Pipe Band we participated in many parades ie. Anzac Day, Blossom Festival, Retirement Villages, Christmas Parades, New Year's Eve playing in the New Year, Weddings and Funerals etc.

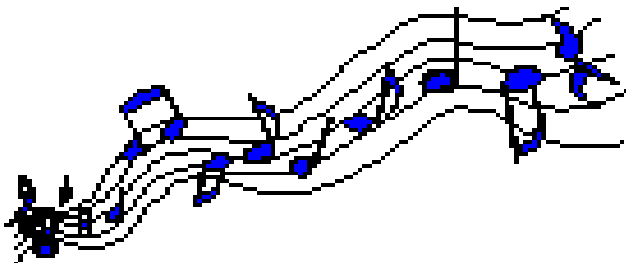
A highlight for me was when I participated in the New York Tartan Day parade in April 2009 marching down 6th Avenue.

Another highlight was participating in the 20 Mile Sponsored Walk on 14 April 1973 where the Upper Hutt Band led the walk from the Empire Hotel Featherston to the Provincial Hotel in Upper Hutt. It was organised to raise funds for the John Scaife Memorial Cancer Appeal Fund. We marched as a Band from the Empire Hotel to the bottom of the Rimutaka Hill then we played 2 pipers and 2 drummers in relays for one mile at a time until we arrived at the beginning of Upper Hutt City where we formed back into band formation and marched to the Provincial Hotel. I guess you could say it was a marathon event."

Thanks Ken for sharing these stories.



The Pipe Band Association



I was recently given a book which recorded the history of the NZ pipe band association from its inception in 1928 through to 1953. Initially pipe band competitions were controlled by the Piping and Dancing Association (formed in 1908) but in the 1920's there was a move for pipe bands to control their own affairs. Eventually in 1928 the Pipe Bands Association was formed.

Over the next two decades, contests appear to have been held mainly in the South Island. In 1939 in Christchurch, the Ruahine and Manawatu bands featured in the prize list so contest obviously weren't limited to just South Island bands. The 1940 Dominion contest held in Wellington included three college bands - Wairarapa, Wanganui and Scots (Wellington) but whether any HB bands were there is unknown because there is no mention of any in the winning bands.

In the early days of WW2 there was a request for a band to travel overseas with the NZ forces. Instruments were difficult to come by so a Vice-President of the Association travelled the North Island in search of pipes and drums. As a result when the 22nd Battalion left "the band was a first-class unit", all players being members of the Battalion. When they retreated from Olympus Pass they had to leave the instruments behind and rather than let them "fall into enemy hands" the Colonel went back and destroyed them.

In 1947 the contest was held in Wanganui where the Port Ahuriri band was second in the Quickstep, Selection and Drum Major's Display. Hastings were also at this contest gaining third place in the Drum Major's Display.

In 1952 the Association ran a separate C grade contest but it wasn't until 1957 that this became a regular

part of the national contest.

Napier was host to the Dominion Contest in 1953 with 24 bands from throughout the country competing. McLean Park saw 12,000 spectators watch what the HB Herald Tribune reported as a “scintillating display of precision marching The Port Ahuriri Caledonian drew first position and thrilled the crowd with when they slow-marched to ‘Over the Sea to Skye’.”

The B grade competition saw Port Ahuriri come first in the Inspection, second in the Street March and third in the Selection (behind Dannevirke and Districts and Hastings Scottish).

The contest in those days featured a Drum Head service (again 12,000 people at the park) with the newspaper reporting that Napier’s Rev J L Gray spoke of the character of Scotsmen “particularly, their God-fearing ways, which had kept their ideals intact and made their country really great”.

Next month we will again see pipers, drummers and drum majors from all around NZ gathered in HB for their annual competition. I wonder what the people of 1953 would think of the contest as it is today – no quickstep, very few Drum Major’s displays, no drum head service and no military uniforms. However, I think they would be impressed by the huge improvements in the music and by the large numbers of young people involved in the pipe band movement.

Kerry Marshall

Waipukurau Christmas Event

A team of pipers and drummers travelled down to Waipuk in December to entertain the locals. The format was a bit different this year, rather than a parade, entertainment was in the form of various performers doing their thing half way down the main street.

The crowd seemed to enjoy the music and Kerry enticed the young dancers to an impromptu performance (or two) – in bare feet and civvies!

A great parade and fabulous to support the small community in Central Hawke’s Bay.



Facts about Scotland

- Scotland is home to the tallest waterfall in Britain, named Eas a’ Chual Aluinn. It is 658 feet, which is 3 times the height of Niagara Falls.
- The official animal of Scotland is the Unicorn.
- Scotland has approximately 790 islands.
- Scotland is home to the oldest tree in Europe. It is a twisted yew, and it has been around for 3,000 years.
- Edinburgh was the first city in the world to have its own fire brigade.
- There are over 600 square miles of freshwater lakes.
- The highest proportion of redheads are in Scotland.
- St. Andrew’s Links is known as the “home of golf.”
- Even though Edinburgh is the capital, it is not the largest city; Glasgow is the largest.
- The raincoat was invented in Scotland by a man named Charles Macintosh, who was born in Glasgow.

New Year's Eve



Another enjoyable evening was had by band members and supporters who played at various spots around Napier and saw in 2021. The bucket collection yielded \$702 and \$300 was donated by the Mission.

The Band surprised Bet and Don (past Secretary and hubby), playing at their home.

"Thank you to all the members who played for us last night. It was such a special thing to do and we absolutely loved it." (Bet)

Many thanks to all players and supporters, especially Lesley and Doug for their efforts with the collection buckets.

Napier Christmas Parade

On Sunday December 6th, we paraded in the sunshine with our friends from the Hawke's Bay Caledonian Pipe Band. There was a great turn out of pipers and it was pleasing to be at the head of the Parade. The march was followed by a relaxed social time back at the Band rooms.



Summer In The Park

On Sunday 14th February, the Band is joining with the HB Caledonian Pipe Band at Cornwall Park, Hastings. The two hours of entertainment will include piping and drumming as well as Highland dancing. You are invited to pack your chilli bin and your picnic rug and go along for a relaxing afternoon. Entry is free and the event starts at 3pm.

ART DECO CONCERT

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

NAPIER PIPE BAND

SATURDAY 20TH FEB
ST PAULS CHURCH, TENNYSON STREET
2.30PM

ADULTS \$10 | GOLD COIN 14YRS & UNDER | PAYMENT AT THE DOOR

The Band is once again staging a concert over the Art Deco weekend. This will be at the St Pauls Cathedral, Tennyson Street on Saturday 20th February commencing at 2.30pm.

Tickets will be \$10 per person, gold coin donation for kids 14 years and under. We would love to see you there!

Shuttle transport for band members and supporters will be available, free of charge, from the band rooms at Nelson Park to the venue.

Grant will again be your friendly and very careful driver.

Supporters - please advise Julie on phone 027 295 8373, or any other band member, if you would like a lift.



- ***A Scotsman was playing golf with a church elder. On the last hole the Scotsman missed a six-inch putt which cost him the match but, out of deference to his playing partner's status, he said absolutely nothing.***
"That," said the elder, "was the most profane silence I have ever heard."
- ***Why are Scotsmen so good at golf? They realise that the fewer times they hit the ball the longer it will last.***

Thank You Taradale RSA.

For some time the Band has been wanting to improve its sound, especially as it has a variety of pipe chanters. Pipe chanters with new reeds can be rather expensive, so a decision was made to apply for a grant from the Taradale R.S.A.

We received a letter from the Taradale R.S.A. to say that approval of \$3,000 will be given towards us purchasing 20 Shepherd pipe chanters and reeds – a cost of \$5,250.

Also during 2020, the Taradale R.S.A turned 100 years old. Finally,



in November they were able to celebrate their 100 years. A Centenary dinner was held on the Saturday night where Ken McLoughlin piped in the President and official party and then, on Sunday morning, Nick Scannell piped at the Remembrance Service held at the Taradale Clock Tower.

Thank you Taradale R.S.A. for supporting us and the Band looks forward to participating at your ANZAC Day service and presenting several 'A Touch of Tartan' concerts during the year.

Turakina Highland Games

The annual Highland Games was held over the last weekend of January. Congratulations to all our players who entered. The results were:

- Morgan: 2nd B grade 2/4 March and 3rd B grade Strathspey Reel
- Liam: 3rd C grade Piobaireach and 1st D grade Piobaireach
- Ethan: 3rd Novice 2/4 March
- Florrie: 3rd Veterans Recital

Well done team. As always, you did yourselves and the Band proud.

Summer School

Once again the RNZPBA hosted Summer School. Held at Scots College in Wellington between 5th – 10th January, the goal of Summer School is for each student to gain knowledge and skills to become a better player.

Members of the band who attended thoroughly enjoyed their time there. Here's what Ethan, Florrie and Amber had to say:

I wasn't sure if veteran pipers could register but was assured all ages & stages welcome & that proved to be the case as i was one of 10 'adult' students, including a farmer from Te Kuiti & a Grade 4 piper from Canterbury. Our dates of birth were on our name badges which caused some amusement as we took to the scissors, not before i discovered i was the oldest by 2 months! We were not streamed into beginners, intermediate etc. so we were a motley crew but got on well, practicing as a group, helping each other, but also being able to jump into private lessons, learn how to write harmonies and attend general sessions of interest such as Scottish folk music & cane -v- synthetic reeds etc. It was a very busy five days & nights with fun activities including a quiz night, kitchen piping at the local pub where i got to try out the electric chanter with amplifier for a singalong to Flower of Scotland. There was a ceilidh on the Saturday night where everyone participated with gusto before our group 'performances' on the final day. The Tutors were some of NZ's top pipers & the boarding school food was amazing. Many people return year on year & i would recommend it to anyone who hasn't been before, including those like me & just looking to immerse themselves in a week of music with no particular agenda.

Florrie



This was my first time at piping summer school and it was a great experience. The tutors were really knowledgeable and great players and I learnt a lot from them like picking up some great tips for practicing. It was good being placed in groups where we learnt new tunes and performed them on the final day, this included my first jig which I really enjoyed. Summer School was really well organised with group sessions, and optional sessions covering all kinds of topics relating to piping and drumming. They even organised evening activities such as a tutor concert, the big pipe band quiz, and the ceilidh. At the start of Summer School I was out of my comfort zone, but by the end I had improved my technique, made some friends and I'm really glad I went.

Ethan

At summer school I learnt a lot of techniques that were pretty helpful and a couple new tunes. One I know but we played it different and the other was new to me. My group played those two tunes on the last day which was the concert. I enjoyed meeting new people and just learning new things. I really enjoyed some of the night events. My favourite night event would have probably been the Ceilidh, I had a lot of fun. Every day, at the end of the day, we would all get together and play in a massed band and at first it was a bit confusing for the drummers, because we didn't know who was playing lead or what we were playing, and when we would turn around to march back, the drummers would be all over the place and not in their lines.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to go to summer school this year. I really enjoyed it.

Regards
Amber



Parade Calendar



February

| | | |
|-------------|--|----------|
| Sunday 14 | Hastings Summer in the Park | 3.00 pm |
| 19th - 20th | Art Deco weekend | |
| Thursday 18 | Art Deco Star and Starlet Ball - 7.30 pm - War Memorial Centre | |
| Friday 19 | Art Deco Depression Dinner | |
| Saturday 20 | St. Pauls Art Deco Fete | 11.00 am |
| “ | Street Parades (start at Masonic Hotel) | 12.00 pm |
| “ | Concert at St. Pauls Church | 2.30 pm |
| “ | Art Deco Silver Slipper Ball - 7.30 pm - War Memorial Centre | |

March

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 19th - 20th | National PB Contest HB |
| 25th - 26th | EIT Graduations Hastings |