

# **Band Blurb**

## **January 2020**



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Hello to all Valued Band Members and Supporters and welcome to another year.

As usual, a number of band members (smaller in numbers this year) entertained the community from 6pm until midnight, seeing the New Year in at the Napier Sound Shell.

My sincere thanks go to those who played, especially Cameron (ex Napier Band member) who travelled up from Wellington to join the team. Here is a photo taken on the night, with comments from Kerry, on the great job everyone did.



### **Our Vision:**

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

***Good morning at the start of the new year***

***It seems incredible that it was 20 years ago that we stood at the top of Dolbel Reserve and watched the sun come up at the start of 2000. Now its 2020! We had a great night last night and I wanted to thank everyone involved. We played some great music and got a lot of very positive, and appreciative, feedback. A special commendation for our young drummers who managed to last the whole evening - your playing was top-notch, you played with lots of confidence and expertise. Thanks also to Ken and Neville for organising the programme; thank you to all involved in the supper and Mike and Penny for hosting us for that; and thank you to all the collectors.***

The efforts raised a little over \$1,200 and will help rebuild the band's bank account which was depleted somewhat in 2019 with a spruce up of the band hall.

Here are some key movements in the finances with year end looming:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>So far, this year's income has been</b> | <b>\$ 9,281</b>   |
| <b>And we spent</b>                        | <b>\$28,820</b>   |
| <b>Balance of funds</b>                    | <b>\$17,574 (split between on call and investments)</b> |

**Note that \$21,251 of the expenses has been for improvement on the band hall.**

Foreseeable large expenses include the purchase of new chanters and reeds for approximately \$8,000. It is hoped a grant will be approved to cover this cost.

Our lovable and hard working friend and supporter Bet Wilson has resigned from her position as band secretary. After 10 years admirably filling this role, Bet has decided to step back and become less hands on. Bet, on behalf of every single one of us in the band, we sincerely thank you for your loyalty, patience, dedication and friendship. You will be missed.

This means of course that we will be seeking a suitable person to fill this role. If you are interested, or would like to know more about the tasks undertaken by the secretary, please contact any one of the existing committee members.

As a reminder, your committee (post Bet) is Jason Kaan, Alan Lawton, Margaret Lumb and myself. Our next meeting is Wednesday 29th January 7pm.

Art Deco weekend is almost upon us. As well as the usual activities the band will be part of (including the much anticipated parade), we will be holding a concert at the St Paul's Church on the afternoon of the 22nd February, commencing 2.30pm. We would love for you to be there. It is always a success and I am sure the favourite Highland Cathedral will again be a tear jerker!

On 29th February, the Napier Boys High School will be hosting the Centre Contest. The Napier Pipe Band will be entering this; those band members involved have been busy practicing the set and medley over the break. This involvement with a contest shows for me the great diversity the band offers. Whilst we continue to be a community focused band, there remain opportunities for those with aspiration to compete, to do so.

This year the regularity of the newsletter will now be quarterly. Following this edition, you will receive an update in May, August and November (then February of 2021). It is always a challenge to get articles of interest - if you have anything which you think the wider band would find interesting, please, please send these to Don Wilson via [woodknot456@gmail.com](mailto:woodknot456@gmail.com). Many thanks.

In the meantime, enjoy summer, friends and family. I look forward to seeing you at the Art Deco concert in February.

Bye for now,  
Julie

## Coming Events

### January

Monday 20      First practice night  
Saturday 25      Taradale Club

### February

19 - 23      Art Deco Weekend  
Saturday 22      Band Concert - St Pauls Church  
Saturday 29      Wellington - HB Centre Pipe Band Contest - NHBS

### March

Saturday 14      Napier Memorial Event - Clive Square  
13 -14      National Pipe Band Contest - Invercargill  
Thursday 26      EIT Graduations  
Friday 27      EIT Graduations

### May

Friday 8      VE Day commemorations



## Ken's Kapers

Last year, Ken visited Israel and while there was asked to play his pipes at HaBonim a factory that makes valves, actuators and complex manifold systems for oil, gas and chemicals.

Below is an article that appeared in Habonim's quarterly magazine.



Of course it is in Hebrew, here is the English translation

***A "surprise show" in April.***

***Workers stopped for a few moments in the assembly department and the department's employees enjoyed a unique musical show.***

***During David McLoughlin's parents visit to the country, David's father (straight from New Zealand) came to visit the factory equipped with the Hamat Khalil (bagpipes) instrument. He told us briefly about the ancient instrument, and then we enjoyed our time with several musical pieces.***

***On behalf of all of us, thank you very much.***

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## BURNS NIGHT

*The Taradale Club have invited the Band to play for approximately ½ an hour for a Burns night. The evening starts at 7 pm and the Band will be playing at 8 pm. There is a three course meal available (\$35.00) I think. I would imagine you would have to book for this.*

*If you require any more information please phone Neville on 843 9012.*

## The Drumming History of Margaret Lumb

My time with pipe bands started when I was about 12 years old. I didn't play an instrument but my brother played for the HB Scottish Pipe Band and we followed him round for many years.

I got more involved when my brother and Neville, who played for the City of Napier, became friends.

Brian brought Neville home and introduced him to me and we went out to the HB Scottish Christmas Celebration, after that it was all pipe band.

Neville and I were married, then along came Sarah, then Tracey - we were just too busy.

When the girls were teenagers, Neville went back to the pipe band and a little while later I decided that I would like to learn an instrument and I found out that I could learn to play the base drum. I played along-side Ian Wilson for a number of years and, when he retired from the band, I took over and have been playing ever since.

I have really enjoyed my years playing and they seemed to have passed by very quickly.

Margaret Lumb



**TEAM**

**UP**

**WITH TREMAINS**

**IF YOU ARE  
THINKING  
ABOUT MOVING.**

Are you, or someone you know, thinking about moving?

If so, contact Tremains Real Estate to list the property and mention to Tremains that you want to Team Up with Napier Pipe Band. When the property is sold by Tremains, we will be given \$500.00.

A great fundraising opportunity for our Band.



**Kerry and Penny Marshall.**

Kerry and Penny celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in November 2019 with family and friends.

Congratulations and best wishes to you both from all of the Band members and supporters.



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Napier Pipe Band membership  
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Waist 35 - 40cm

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## Food In Medieval Scotland

Ordinary folk in medieval Scotland did not enjoy a great deal of variety in their diets. Common foods included oat breads, porridge, stews and thick soups called pottage. Those who lived close to the sea also had fish in their diets. Honey was used to sweeten food and some people kept cows for milk and chickens for eggs. Vegetables such as kale, beans, peas and onions were commonly used. Nuts, fruit and berries gathered from the woods supplemented the diet of poor people but a poor harvest or bad winter often meant starvation. By contrast, wealthy Scots enjoyed a rich and varied diet. The landowning classes were able to enjoy the game which they hunted on their estates and only the wealthy were allowed to enjoy the fish caught in their rivers. A medieval banquet might include wild boar, venison, rabbit, grouse and other game birds, fish and foods which are no longer eaten today such as peacock and swan. They also enjoyed an array of fruits which were often made into fritters. At this time, pepper and spices, which had first been brought to the country by returning Crusaders, were available to the wealthy and salt was seen as a status symbol as it was so expensive to buy. Throughout the medieval period, trade between Scotland and other European countries, particularly France, flourished and this had an influence on the types of food eaten. Records of a banquet held at the court of King James IV show the extent of feasting with dozens of deer, boar, piglets and other delicacies on the menu, alongside Florentine pie which was made from oysters, rabbit and other meats encased in pastry. It was during the late medieval period that records of Scotland's national dish, haggis, are found for

the first time. It is thought to have originated out of necessity as people were mobile and needed to carry food with them. Just as people carried oatmeal with them to make porridge or oatcakes they began to carry a small amount of offal with them in a bag made out of a sheep's stomach. It is possible that this practice originated in Scandinavia and was brought to Scotland by the Vikings.



### **The Advent of the Potato**

The potato first arrived in Scotland in the late sixteenth century and quickly became a staple in the diet

of its people. The reliance on the potato as a source of food amongst the lower classes of Scotland ultimately led to tragedy. The Highland Potato Famine in the 1840s was caused by a Europe-wide potato blight. As a result of starvation, many died, while 1.7 million Scots were compelled to leave their homeland to seek a better life in the USA, Canada or Australia. Some landowners forced their tenants onto ships and transported them to Canada, where they had to start over. By 1857, the famine was over and crops of potatoes became abundant again. They have formed an important part of the Scottish diet ever since and can be found in traditional dishes such as haggis, neeps and tatties, steak pie and mash, mince and tatties, potato scones and Cullen Skink (a smoked haddock soup). The consequences of the potato famine highlight the effect that food can have on a country's history. Although there were other socio-economic factors involved in the depletion of the Scottish population during the 18th and 19th centuries, the potato famine played a large part.

The law of heredity is that all undesirable traits come from the other parent.

Always remember - you are unique. Just like everyone else.

By the time that a man gets to greener pastures, he's too old to climb the fence.

Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.

### **Membership**

We bid a fond farewell to Finn Downing and Robert Arrell as playing members and thank them for their past support.

New members are always welcome.