

Band Blurb

March 2018



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are back into operational mode again with the band performing at many events since my last report, most notably Napier's Art Deco weekend. Not only did we have the whole band taking part at St Paul's Church Fete but also the street parade in the early afternoon in searing heat. I have heard, and no doubt you have to, nothing but praise for the way the Band Paraded up the main street. Individual members also assisted with other Art Deco functions over the period of the festivities and grateful thanks are extended to all those who took part.



Our younger (and some not so young) members along with the Napier Boy's High School Band, have been practicing hard for the National Pipe Band Championships which are being held in Rotorua on the weekend of 10/11 March. They are competing as the Napier Schools Band and as you may have gleaned from the wording, this report was written prior to the contest. In anticipation good luck to you all for a successful and happy contest.

Thank you once again to all band members and supporters

Richard Manning

President

Canny Scots

At an auction in Glasgow a wealthy American announced that he had lost his wallet containing £10,000 [\$20,000USD] and would give a reward of £100 to the person who found it.

From the back of the hall a Scottish voice shouted, 'I'll give £150.'

Our Vision:

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

PIPE MAJOR'S REPORT

The start of our year has been characterised by very humid weather which makes piping and drumming more challenging. Not only are our Monday night band practices rather warm affairs but, for pipers, maintenance of our instruments is essential.



It begins with managing the moisture content through regular drying especially after a long blow like the Art Deco parades. Making sure that seasoned bags have the right amount of moisture and that drone reeds are dry are basic steps. For all members keeping your hydration up is also important.

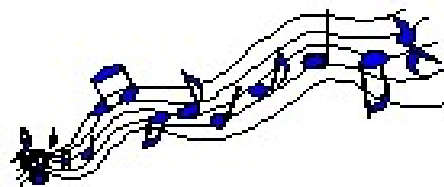
Our youngsters have been working hard in readiness for their Juvenile competition in Rotorua on 9th March. They competed at Turakina at the end of January and gained a very creditable third placing and several of our young people also gained placings in their solo events. We congratulate them all on their hard work and commitment – that is what will lead to an enjoyable pipe band experience.

We apologise to everyone who turned up at the Sound Shell at the beginning of February. Due to unforeseen circumstances the City of Hastings Pipe Band withdrew and we didn't think we could sustain a good performance with all the other events going on.

The first of our ***Piping and Drumming Live*** events at the Napier RSA was a big success. The audience gave us a lot of positive feedback and we were able to play a variety of music and to give individuals the chance to perform in front of an audience. Don't forget that all our band members (playing and associate) are welcome to these concerts and there is the opportunity to stay for a meal afterwards. The Napier RSA has granted us reciprocal visiting rights so you don't need to sign in if you can produce your band membership card. Put 4pm Sunday 25 March on your calendars for our next one.

So that we can provide varied music during the year at these concerts we are putting some time into refreshing some of our older tunes and learning some new music.

Regards
Kerry
Pipe Major



Art Deco 2018

The Band's commitments for this occasion started on the Thursday evening with Ken and Liam playing at the Ball and on Friday evening Penny Madden and her grandchildren, Morgan, Heath and Conrad, playing for the Depression Dinner.

Saturday was another scorcher of a day and we tuned up by Tiffen Park and then marched into the grounds of St Paul's Church where they were busy with Devonshire teas and a few stalls. The band playing here always attracts people to the area. The members wearing full-dress are very much in demand wherever we go for people to have their photographs taken with and they certainly look impressive leading the band.

We then went up to the Masonic Hotel and marched (playing) down the main street to Clive Square where the Navy Band and vintage cars were gathering for the big parade back up Emerson Street to the Parade. This involves about an hour standing around in the square for the band, waiting for our turn to join the parade and, along with the heat,

makes it very tiring (especially for the 'oldies').



We were then free until a parade

Sunday morning, except for Cameron who had the Saturday night Depression Dinner to play at by himself.

It is a huge event for Napier and we are very lucky to be a part of it. We always receive a positive response wherever we go and share some great moments with the public. In case you're worried about our position towards the back of the parade, this is not any disrespect but rather an acknowledgement that we can entertain the crowd when the parade comes to a standstill as it tends to do quite frequently. Some of the cars are somewhat temperamental so we are able to keep a buzz going for the spectators if there is a break in proceedings, something we enjoy doing.

Penny Marshall



In March 1988 a cyclone hit the east coast of NZ and by an amazing coincidence HB was struck by a devastating storm on the weekend of March 9/10/11, the thirtieth anniversary of Cyclone Bola.

Back in 1988 the City of Napier PB was travelling to Rotorua for the national contest, a

journey that took many hours and this past weekend our members were affected by the bad weather as they travelled to Rotorua for the 2018 contest with some having to go via Palmerston North or over the Gentle Annie road.

Despite that the youngsters arrived safely, completed their preparations and entered the competition circle on Friday afternoon as if they had done this many times before. They played well and, although the results weren't what we wanted, the feedback from the judges was very positive. This is a great start and a good foundation for us to build on.

In case you are wondering who the Napier Schools Pipe Band is it comprises young people from six Napier Schools including Tamatea Intermediate, Tamatea High, Porritt Primary, Maraenui Bilingual, St Joseph's Māori Girls' College and Napier Boys' High School. These young people are supported by members of the Napier Pipe Band.

At their first competition at Turakina in January they were placed third in the juvenile section. This was their first appearance at a national contest and we hope not their last.

On Saturday morning they participated in the street march an experience made all the more exciting as their drum major was none other than the world champion, Brian Wilson, who hails from Ireland. The band marched confidently with great music over the course and did a great job.

Band members should all feel proud of their younger members who acquitted themselves so well.

Cheap and cheerful lodgings

A lodger in a Scottish guest house in Milngavie, near Glasgow, was on his way to the bathroom carrying his shaving gear, when the landlady stopped him and said, 'Have you got a good memory for faces, Mr MacGregor?'

'Och aye,' Mac replied.

'That's just as well,' she said, 'because there's no mirror in the bathroom.'



Pain and suffering is inevitable but misery is optional.

To the Napier Pipe Band

Hello this is Conrad.

I most liked about summer school was the help I was given to learn heavy technique on my chanter. The summer school gave me the ability to play my pipes more comfortably and consistently. This has made my piping easier and more enjoyable.

Thank you. Conrad.



Kia ora this is Heath.

I would like to thank everyone that helped us to get to our fun learning experience at the Summer School of 2018. Not only have we improved from our journey, we have also gained confidence while playing. We learnt some fun, fast tunes in Christchurch and its nice to transfer these songs over to the band.

Thanks very much. Heath.

Hi this is Morgan.

Firstly, I would like to thank the band and the committee for helping us to attend Summer School in Christchurch. It was such an amazing experience to be able to participate as a youngster. After leaving, it opened my eyes to the many opportunities that are available to me as a band member.

Some of the worlds best pipers were there tutoring me during the week. It was nice to show off the skills that I have learnt from Richard and Kerry, and the band. It was also great to learn how I can improve my playing to make a better sound, while having fun.

At the end of the week, our separate groups were required to present a song or a medley, in a concert. We all decided as a group what we would like to do, whether it be traditional or even kitchen piping (which is also something we learnt about). Returning from summer school, I think that I have not only improved, but have been shown new opportunities that piping can present.

I have returned with an even bigger love for playing the bagpipes. I would definitely recommend this to anyone wanting to have a week of fun, while still learning, because it is not only for the younger attendants. And lastly, I thank you again for helping me with the opportunity I have had in attending such an awesome event.

Tēnā koutou

From Morgan Awatere-Madden.



National Pipe Band Contest.

Well, everybody finally got away to the National Pipe Band Contest after all the very heavy rainfall in the morning.

The Band stayed at the All Season Holiday Camp in very comfortable cabins. At 10.30 on Friday morning we arrived at the stadium and Kerry took the Band through where to go to for tuning and assembly. We then had free time to have a look around. We met again at 3 pm to start tuning up for our event.

The Band played at 3.57 and played very well

On Friday evening we all went out for dinner and Saturday morning saw us assemble for the street march at 9.00 am, where our Drum Major was the three-times world champion Drum Major, Brian Wilson - he was great with our young people.

The Band played very well again in the street march and, with Brian Wilson leading, this gave them a good lift to play well - and they did!

Then there was a massed band display for Grade 4 - our band included. It was great. When the street march was over the Band went back to the camp, got packed and headed back to Napier.

Over-all, the Band deserves a big congratulations for their effort over the whole weekend.

I hope that each and everyone, including supporters, enjoyed themselves.

Neville

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.

Coming Events



Band Calendar

March

Sun 25 March **Piping and Drumming Live** Napier RSA, 4 pm.

April

Sun 1 Hastings Highland Games, 12 noon.
Tue 10 Princess Alexander Resthome, 2 pm.
Tue 17 Hampton Court Resthome, 1.30 pm.
Wed 25 Anzac Day

If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Napier Pipe Band is to be held on Monday 11 June 2018 at the Band Rooms) commencing at 7.30 pm.

The business to be transacted at the AGM will be:

- * Approve the minutes of the previous AGM.
- * To receive the President's and Pipe Major's reports.
- * To elect the Committee.
- * To receive the financial report.
- * To transact any other business that may be lawfully brought forward.

Nominations for all Committee positions must be received by 4 June 2018.

The Committee has set subscriptions for the 2018/19 financial year as follows:-

- * For Playing members \$35.00
- * For Associate Members \$20.00
- * The maximum per family to be \$70.00

If members would like to receive the RNZPBA magazine, please add an extra \$15.00 when paying your subscription. Life members can also receive the magazine without an additional fee

'Tossing the Caber'

What is the caber toss?

It is a heavy athletic event at Highland/Scottish Games. A caber is a 15 - 23 feet long log, usually peeled, weighing between 70 and 200 pounds (depending on who you ask, and the type of tree). The athlete squats with his feet flat on the ground and wedges the caber between his shoulder and neck, pushes upward with his hands, and lifts it slightly, just enough to slide his interlocked hands beneath the smaller end. (During the event, no one can assist him in lifting it.) Then, with the caber resting against his shoulder, he lifts and stands upright. He must balance the log in the air. Remember, the heavier, larger end of the log is up, so he may stagger around a bit until it is balanced. He takes a short run forward and flips the log in the air. He must make the large end hit the ground and the small end flip over and land straight ahead, away from him. This is an event of accuracy rather than distance, so it doesn't matter how far he throws it. For the best score, the small end of the caber needs to land at the 12 o'clock position, straight out from the thrower.



Caber tossing, also called turning the caber, or the "tossing (or casting) of ye barr" was first recorded as an athletic event in Scotland at a 1574 "wappinschawes" (weapon-showings) which were sporting contests of strength, agility and speed which related to military prowess.

As for the history of caber tossing...

"The history of the caber is elusive. The term 'caber' derives from the Gaelic word "cabar" or "kaber" which refers to a rafter or beam. The most prominent legend surrounding the origin of the caber toss is that of breaching barriers or crossing streams during wartime. In the Scottish highlands, you often have freezing-cold streams that you need to cross. During battle, the caber was tossed from one side of the stream to the other to quickly make a bridge, allowing fellow Scotsmen to cross and continue on to chase rival clans. This is why the caber is tossed for accuracy, rather than distance."

This makes perfect sense. Scotland is a very wet place, with many lochs, bogs and streams. It would take lots of practice and great skill to put the caber exactly where it needed to be, across the stream, and not in the stream where it might float away.