

Band Blurp

May 2017



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS.

Welcome band members and supporters to this May newsletter.



Firstly I would like to congratulate our younger members who took part in the Hastings Highland Games over Easter and performed so credibly. Congratulations also to those who achieved placings in their competition events. You are the future of the band. Well done to you all.

Thank you also to all those other band members who played at the Highland Games. Easter more so than other weekends is a very busy time of the year but the way that you give your time to perform for the public of Hawkes Bay is a credit to you all.

The whole band family has been very busy in recent weeks and these activities are covered in the Pipe Majors report. Thank you for your commitment to the band and the public to whom you perform.

Supporters, thank you for your continued involvement with the band. You are part of the band family and we welcome you to any practice or parade where the band is.

Till next time – take care and keep well

Regards

Richard Manning

Our Vision:

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

PIPE MAJOR'S NEWS

What a good start to the year with several important milestones completed – Art Deco weekend, EIT Graduations, the HB Highland Games and most recently Anzac Day. In each case the Band has performed well, providing an important service to our community which is what we are about. Now comes a quieter period during the winter months when we can sharpen our skills and work on our repertoire.



My approach is to continue the development of the basics – playing our music well as a band. This requires each individual to work on their technique for which there are plenty of opportunities for improvement. For the youngsters we'll plan some workshops and for the senior members the recent survey indicated that many of you were also interested in a workshop. Watch this space.

For the youngsters and learners I'm now looking for an opportunity for everyone to achieve some of the certification from the RNZPBA College of Piping & Drumming.

Kerry Marshall
Pipe Major

"O'Ryan," asked the druggist, "did that mudpack I gave you improve your wife's appearance?"

"It did surely," replied O'Ryan, "but it keeps fallin' off!"

The Hastings Highland Games

Over two days of the Easter weekend members of our band competed at the Hastings Highland Games. Of the 44 people entered in the C and D grade events 11 were from Napier which is great. Everyone did well but our stand outs were Oscar who was second in the Novice on Saturday and then won the Novice on Sunday. Congratulations too to Morgan for her third placing in the D Grade HB Championship Strathspey and Reel event. Thank you everyone who paraded on Sunday - the organisers appreciate our attendance and there was good feedback from several people about our band's performance.

2017 National Pipe Band Championships

Over the weekend of 10/11 March 40 bands from around NZ and one from Australia took part in the national pipe band contest in Nelson. The lower grade bands did their thing on the Friday and then on Saturday morning the street march was staged in the Nelson CBD. For me one of the highlights of this is the massed G4 march which sees all the grade 4 bands march back up the street in a massed bands – stirring stuff. On Saturday afternoon the G2 and G1 bands play their music events with this years G1 winners being Canterbury Caledonian for the fourth year running. The concluding events were the displays and the mace flourishing, always popular with the public but the final massed bands and presentations were cut short because of the wet weather. Overall another enjoyable contest with some good music over both days.

Kerry Marshall
Pipe Major



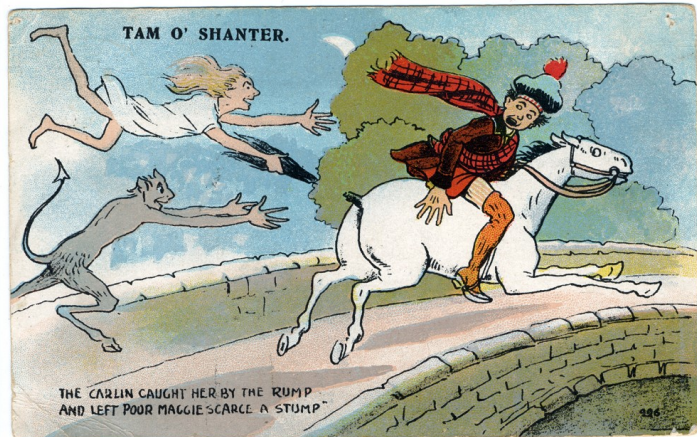
THE TALE O'
TAM O' SHANTER



A **tam o' shanter** (in the British military often abbreviated to **TOS**) is a name given to the traditional Scottish bonnet worn by men. The name derives from Tam o' Shanter, the

eponymous hero of the 1790 Robert Burns poem. (You may have read this rather long poem of the drunken Tam O'Shanter, on his horse Maggie, being pursued by all sorts of Warlocks, Witchies, Ghoulies and Ghosties.)

The tam o' shanter is a flat bonnet, originally made of wool hand-knitted in one piece, stretched on a wooden disc to give the distinctive flat shape, and subsequently felted. The earliest forms of these caps, known as a blue bonnet from their typical colour, were made by bonnet-makers in Scotland. By the year 1599 five



bonnet-makers guilds had formed in cities around the country: Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Perth, Stirling and Glasgow. At the end of sixteenth century, it was said that the Scottish caps were the normal fashion of men and servants, and they remained so throughout the seventeenth century.

Similar in outline to the various types of flat bonnet common in north-western Europe during the 16th century, the later

tam o' shanter is distinguished by the woollen ball or toorie decorating the centre of the crown; the name itself did not enter common usage until the early 19th century, subsequent to the popularity of Burns' poem. The term came to denote a hat, along with the Glengarry and the Balmoral bonnets. The Balmoral was sometimes simply described as synonymous with the tam o' shanter.

Before the introduction of inexpensive chemical dyes in the mid-19th century, the Scottish knitted bonnet was made only in colours easily available from natural dyes, particularly woad or indigo (hence "blue bonnet").

In the First World War, a khaki Balmoral bonnet was introduced in 1915 for wear in the trenches by Scottish infantry serving on the Western Front. This came to be known as the 'bonnet, tam o' shanter', later abbreviated among military personnel to 'ToS'. It replaced the Glengarry – which was the regulation bonnet worn by Scottish troops with khaki field dress at the start of the war. Originally knitted, the military tam o' shanter subsequently came to be constructed from separate pieces of khaki serge cloth.

Some regiments of the Canadian Army wear different coloured toories: the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada have traditionally worn dark green; The North Nova Scotia Highlanders wore red toories during the Second World War; and the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders wore blue. Most regiments, however, wear a khaki toorie, matching the bonnet. In many Canadian regiments it is traditional for soldiers to wear a ToS, while officers (and in some cases senior non-commissioned officers) wear the balmorals instead.

The tam o'shanter is generally in rough khaki wool, while the balmoral is in finer quality doe-skin of a pale tan or grey shade.

Anzac Day

This year the band completed a number of parades for the Anzac Day commemorations.

It started with pipers and drummers attending the dawn services at Taradale's Lone Pine and Napier's Sound Shell.

Then followed the whole

band leading the parade for Taradale's civic service. The Band then split into two groups, one travelling to Waipawa and the other going into Napier for the services in those two places. The Napier group went back to the Napier RSA to play and then met up with the Waipawa contingent back at the Taradale RSA where the band performed for the big crowd gathered there.

Finally a piper played a lament at the Atawhai Rest Home's afternoon service. A busy day reflecting our member's commitment to supporting our community.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Napier Pipe Band is to be held on Monday 12 June 2017 at the Tamatea Community Church, 1 York Avenue (by the roundabout) commencing at 7.30 pm.

The business to be transacted at the AGM will be:

- * Approve the minutes of the previous AGM on 13 June 2016.
- * 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 5 June 2017.

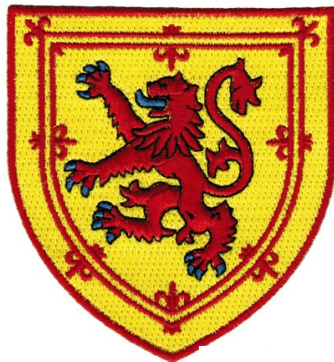
The Committee has set subscriptions for the 2017/18 financial year as follows:-

- * 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



Ah Weel. Ah didna want to play wi' that lot, anyway!



SOCIAL GET TOGETHER AND AFTERNOON TEA

AN AFTERNOON TEA IS BEING PLANNED FOR SUNDAY 25 JUNE 2017 AT THE BAND ROOMS, COMMENCING AT 2 PM.

THIS IS FOR ALL BAND MEMBERS, SUPPORTERS AND LIFE MEMBERS—A GOOD CHANCE TO COME ALONG AND SOCIALISE.

Coming Events

Monday practices are at the Band Rooms, Nelson Park, unless otherwise indicated.

May

Sat 13 Napier Caledonian Society Ingleside

June

Sat 10 Napier Caledonian Society Ingleside

Mon 12 Band AGM



Ten Unusual Facts About Hogmanay in Scotland

With 2017 just turned the corner we take a look at some of the more interesting facts surrounding Hogmanay.

1. Many Scots still use Hogmanay to practice the tradition of first footing, when it is customary to visit a friend or neighbour just after midnight to celebrate the New Year. While the traditional gift of a lump of coal for the host's fire may not be as common as it once was, it's still bad luck to show up empty handed, so be sure to take along your tippie of choice.
2. Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations were the site of the World Record for the largest country dance. 1914 people danced Strip The Willow at the 'Night Afore Fiesta' on 30 December 2000.
3. Mystery still surrounds the origin of the word 'Hogmanay', with old Gaelic, Flemish, and Norman Dutch all being cited as possible influences on the word.
4. A common misconception across the globe is that Auld Lang Syne should be sung with the participant's hands crossed from the start, but in Scotland it is still customary to join hands normally during the first verse before crossing them for the second.
5. Another common error is that Robert Burns wrote Auld Lang Syne in its entirety, but Burns himself based his version on an older song which was known to exist up to 70 years before his 1788 version.
6. Edinburgh's famous Hogmanay party has drawn thousands to Princes Street every year since 1992, with headlining music acts and a whole range of festivities. But before the official party was launched, revellers used to gather near the Tron kirk on the Royal Mile to celebrate the bells.
7. For almost 400 years Christmas wasn't celebrated in Scotland due to the Protestant Reformation. This meant that for many, Christmas was just another day at work, and the big celebration would be at the Winter Solstice holiday which became Hogmanay.
8. For the braver souls among us South Queensferry offers the perfect Hogmanay hangover cure: The Loony Douk. On January 1st each year dozens of 'loonies' gather next to the Firth of Forth and take a quick dip in the icy waters.
9. Glasgow's George Square hosts a Hogmanay concert, with up to 30,000 revellers drawn to the area to celebrate.

10. Another old Scottish custom is *redding*. This is the act of cleaning the house before the bells to get the New Year off to a fresh start. In years gone by it was particularly important to ensure that all fires were cleared of ashes so new ones could be started. Juniper was also burned to help ward off any evil spirits that had accumulated throughout the year

Read more at: <http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/ten-unusual-facts-about-hogmanay-in-scotland-1-479923>



Even the Vikings Were Afraid.

The Viking reputation as bloodthirsty conquerors has endured for more than a millennium but new research shows that some Norsemen approached these islands with more than a little trepidation.

Uppermost in the minds of the Icelandic merchants weighing anchor off Scotland in the Middle Ages were the ferocious reception they expected from hostile locals, dangerous landings, the incomprehensible language and the terrible weather (very foggy).

Advice handed down to Norse travellers in the 13th century warns those making the journey to Scotland that they did so at their own peril. A new analysis of the classic Icelandic Sagas (Islendingasagur) has unearthed the following counsel: "Icelanders who want to practise robbery are advised to go there ... but it may cost them their life."

Another tells of a Scot identified as Grjotgard, a kinsman of Melkolf, king of Scotland (Malcolm II). His flotilla of 13 vessels bristling with fierce, angry-looking warriors intercepted a party of arriving Icelandic traders in a western sea loch: "You have two choices. You can go ashore and we will take all your property, or we'll attack you and kill every man we lay our hands on," the Scot warned them.

Orkney historian Tom Muir said the raiders typically preyed on easy targets such as monasteries but the trouble was not all one way: "The truth is there were raids both ways and the Norse had every reason to fear Celtic neighbours."