

Band Blurb

May 2020



PRESIDENTS COMMENTS.

Hello Band Members

So much has happened since we touched base with you in January. Not least of course the B word! (No, not Band, BUBBLE)!

I'll talk about what we have been doing in Lock Down soon, but let's start with when things were untouched by COVID 19.

February was a busy month with some enthusiastic members of the Band competing at the Wellington Hawke's Bay Centre Contest, hosted by Napier Boys High School. The results were something to be proud of, with the competitors coming home with three trophies:

Marton Scottish Society Trophy	1 st street march grade 4
De Turret Cup	1 st medley grade 4
Wellington Nelson Cup	Runner up grade 4 band

Congratulations to all those involved and a big thank you to Richard Loan for leading the band through the competition.

Our junior members also did themselves proud at the Paeroa Games and they continue to maintain a very high standard of solo work. Results were:

Heath Awatere-Madden	1 st D grade piobaireachd
	1 st 2/4 march
	1 st overall
Morgan Awatere-Madden	1 st C grade piobaireachd
	3 rd overall

Liam, Morgan, Conrad, Heath and Caleb were also privileged to attend the National competition held in March in Invercargill. This was with the Hawke's Bay Caledonian Pipe Band who they practice with during their contesting season. As you know, we

Our Vision:

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

have a great relationship with our fellow Hastings band members and this gives a platform for our youngsters to improve their piping and drumming skills, taking part in competitions whilst still maintaining their band roots with Napier. Liam gives us an insight to the competition from his perspective.

NZ Pipe Band Championship - Invercargill

After spending many weeks in the lead up to the New Zealand Pipe Band Champs in Invercargill, having band practices outside on very cold Hawkes Bay nights and trying to acclimatise for what we thought would be a very cold nationals, we arrived in Invercargill to a very warm weekend with hot sunshine and warm temperatures. Greig and I were the last two people to arrive from the group in Invercargill, being on the flight from Auckland, arriving at around 9.50pm. I can say I have probably never been so excited to see a bed in my life!

Friday morning was quite pleasant, lets say it was on the fresh side but still pleasant. We were staying at the Ascot Park Hotel like most other bands. The complex is huge! Although, it was a really well maintained facility as well as having an awesome



breakfast bar, which the band members all went down to at some point during the morning for a feed. We then had a short band practice to finalise sound and what-not else before getting ready and heading to the grounds. By this time the day had warmed up significantly and was starting to almost represent a lovely day in Hawkes Bay. The grounds were immaculate and very well kept and,

in my opinion, we couldn't have had a better location for the nationals. As a band, our build up time was relatively short, as most people would rather have just sat in the shade, because the sun was beginning to get very hot and to many people's embarrassment, many of us got sunburnt ...

in Invercargill of all places. It seemed like an unlikely event to us all until it happened. Saturday again was another pleasant morning, although slightly earlier wake up time as we had the street march. At the tune up point we spent a lot of time listening to other bands, as we were last on and I must say listening to Manawatu No1 who were just around the corner was very



moving. Especially the big solid drone sound they had; it was as if the sound went straight through you. It was awesome to hear and really motivating as we weren't too far away from tuning up. The street march was quite enjoyable as it wasn't a really long street march, unlike the year before. After the street march, we all went back to the grounds to listen to the grade 1 & 2 bands which, once again, was a very close competition and personally I would find ranking the bands very hard, as all of the bands had really good performances.

A group of youths from many different bands spent time talking and enjoying the lovely Invercargill day and spent some time recreating photo shoots from the previous years nationals and getting to be a part of the outside of the circle



video on YouTube. This segment hasn't been active in the RNZPBA since 2013. It is basically a video mash up of pipe band people enjoying the atmosphere away from the band circle. Overall I thoroughly enjoyed nationals in Invercargill and found it to be a great opportunity to make bonds with other people in other bands and to see the process the top bands go through to get ready on competition day. I would like to say thanks to Jarrod and all the members of the Hawkes Bay Caledonian Pipe Band who made the trip happen and everyone who supported the band in many different forms.

Liam Reid



And we made it to the front page of the local Newspaper!! Although not really for the right reasons.

“Busker brings pipe band to a halt so he can finish his act”, was the headline from the Napier Art Deco Festival parade. Here is a photo of the chaotic moment.

The Band also put on another fabulous concert at the St Paul's Cathedral. Thanks to Heather & Paul for manning the door, everyone for selling tickets, the band members who entertained and of course to you all for supporting another event.

March saw us all in lockdown. Despite this, band members continue to hold a 'virtual practice' each Monday evening by linking in on line to music and each other. Thanks very much Kerry for setting this up. It is AMAZING to talk to each other, see the music, hear others playing and continue to enjoy what is the heart of the Napier Pipe Band ie. the camaraderie.



St. Pauls Cathedral.



Every Thursday band members are encouraged to play for the essential workers. Here is some fabulous coverage by HB Today Penny Madden got for her efforts from the balcony of her Church Road home. Good on you ,Penny!

That's it from me. I look forward to seeing you all again in person. In the meantime, stay safe, stay positive - love those with you and those who can't be with you. Appreciate what you have.

Julie

New Member

We welcome a new member to our band - Ethan Jones. We are sure that you will enjoy your time with us Ethan.

Goodbye from the Napier RSA

Unfortunately, this year the Napier RSA will be utilising each of the available Sundays to promote fundraising trivia. This includes the Sundays that the Pipe Band has been performing the last two years.

The Band is exploring other opportunities which may be available to continue with weekend performances like this.



Notice of AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held at 7.30pm on Monday 8th June 2020 at the Napier Pipe Band Hall, Nelson Park.

Business of the evening will include:

- Approval of Previous Minutes
- President's report
- Financial report
- Election of Officers
- Proposed Rule Changes
- General Business
- Awards and Recognition



A full agenda will be available on the night.

Any proposed Rule changes will be forwarded to playing members for consideration prior to the AGM.

The meeting will be followed by a light supper. We would love to see you there.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE: The meeting will only take place if the rules set by the Government relating to COVID 19 as at the 8th June allow. Any change will be notified by the Secretary prior. Please check your emails or phone Bet on 844 0055 for the latest information.



Annual Subscriptions

By now you would have all received an invoice for this year's subs. The amount for a single playing member and an associate member (supporter) remains unchanged at \$40 and \$20 respectively. Your Committee was very pleased to introduce a new, reduced fee of just \$15 for students.

Thank you all for attending to payment promptly.

Please note that only fully paid up playing members have voting rights.

Vacancy for Secretary/Treasurer

As you know, Bet is retiring from this position after 11 years of supporting the Band in this capacity. We need someone to fill this vacancy (it doesn't have to be a playing member). Could this be you?

Qualities required include:

- Effective communicator
- Well organised
- Skilled with email, word and spreadsheets

The Secretary/Treasurer fills a Committee position with meetings every two months. If you are interested, please contact Julie or Bet for more information and/or a copy of the Job Description.

Bet Wilson - A Short History

I was born in Masterton. There were seven children in our family, so life was pretty full on. When I left Wairarapa College to start work, my first job was working for a solicitor as a shorthand typist. He was a crazy old man. He used to come to work and shut himself in his office and during the morning stagger out. It didn't take me long to work out why. We used to listen for the drawer to open and the cork to pop, so we knew he was sampling something stronger than water. After 18 months I left and went to work for the Wairarapa Catchment Board, where I worked for 8 years – a great job. Whilst there I bought my first bike – a red Raleigh 20, I thought I was quite smart on this bike and used to ride home up Lincoln Road past the Telephone Exchange, where a certain red-headed guy worked. He had a little blue Austin 7 which I thought was pretty cool. The romance progressed over the years and Don and I were married in 1960 in Masterton.

When Don got a transfer with Telecom, we sold our home and moved with our son and daughter to live in Napier. We later had another two daughters, so life was pretty busy.

After a while, Don joined St Augustine's Scout Group as a leader and our son started cubs. I volunteered to be Secretary and this started my long association with the Scout movement.

I was asked to take on the role of Area Secretary for the Waiapu Scout Area. I gained my Wood Beads (the Leader Training Badge) and have attended several Scout Jamborees and had lots of different jobs, from HQ staff, a telephonist, office assistant and as a cook in one of the many sub-camps. After 13 years as Area Secretary, I

decided that I had had enough so resigned. Not long after, I was asked to take up the position of National Secretary for the Baden Powell Guild of NZ and I held this job for 13 ½ years.

I noticed an advert in the newspaper from the Rotary Club calling for expressions of interest in forming a Probus Club in Taradale. I went along to the first meeting where there was only a handful of people. A second meeting was called and there was about 18 people in attendance. This looked promising and after selecting a President, I offered to be the Secretary. This proved to be an interesting exercise, setting up a new Club right from scratch. After many meetings with the help of Rotary member, the late Ron Commin, we were away. Don was roped in also, making the lectern, name tag box and membership cards along with many other jobs necessary when starting a new club. It was very interesting and it wasn't long before we had a good membership with a waiting list of interested people. I was Secretary for 6 years then decided I had had enough of all the paper work so decided to resign from this position.

Not long after resigning as Probus Secretary, I had a phone call from a man called Harry Renfree, asking if I would take on the job of Secretary for the Drones and Sticks Pipe Band. To this day I don't know how he thought I could do the job. I thought it would be a challenge and decided to give it a go. I then had a call from Kerry Marshall asking if I would consider doing the Treasurer's job as well. He asked if I could write receipts and bank money – which I could do, so I took this job on as well.

Don thought I was absolutely crazy taking on two jobs of an organisation which I knew nothing about. However, this has proved a most rewarding job and I have enjoyed it immensely. I have attended many band parades, a trip to Australia and experienced the friendship of all the band members for the past 11 years.

I am a foundation member of the local walking group – which was originally formed by the YMCA and I attend meetings for Grey Power, U3A, Forest and Bird, help with Tiffany's Variety Club and also have a small weekly job at All Saints Church.

We have eight grandchildren who we try to see as often as we can.

I **do** touch base – I feed Don well. Life is pretty good really.

New Look Newsletter

The next edition of the newsletter will look a little different. For those of you who receive this in email you may not even notice! If however you get the newsletter posted, it comes to you in a booklet form. This means that we have to have exactly the right amount of pages for it to be neatly folded, stapled and filled up with information. Sometimes this can be a little challenging!

From now on we will be producing the newsletter in a simple A4 format. Same interesting information, just simpler and more efficient to produce.





And what is ANZAC Day without a Pipe Band?

Despite not being able to parade or play together, members donned their uniforms and played a tune at 11am on Saturday 25th April. Photos were taken and compiled together in a Remembrance video, which was posted on YouTube. Click on this link <http://www.napierpipeband.nz/news/anzac-day-2020/> or check out the Anzac Day post on the bands website.

Thanks to all who contributed.

Fascinating Scottish Castles

Scottish Castles.... there's really nothing else quite like them!

There are over 3000 castles in Scotland, that's roughly one for every 100 square miles - a pretty impressive figure. Why does Scotland have so many castles? That's a fair question given how tiny the country actually is, but if you know anything about Scottish history the answer is pretty clear....

It's because this nation has a very contentious, battle-strew and bloody past, with numerous invasions (the Normans, Vikings and Romans to name a few), and (until the 18th Century) an ongoing, almost continual, conflict between Scotland and the rest of Britain!

Although some were built at the location of previous fortresses, or abbeys, in general Scotland castles were built with military purposes in mind, and that's why you'll find them in some of the most spectacular locations.

Whether perched on the very edge of a cliff, with the ocean pounding the rocks far below; on an island at the meeting point of 3 deep lochs; on a 'spur' of ancient volcanic rock overlooking heather-covered glens; or on craggy snow-covered mountainsides; the locations were carefully chosen by 'canny' Scots.

The fact that so many castles are still standing is testament to the skill and foresight of the ancient Scottish people who built them.

