

# Band Blurb

May 2021



## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hi Team

It has been a busy, busy time since the last newsletter, in no small way due to the holding of the National Pipe Band Contest held at the Mitre 10 Park in March. Many of you will know this first hand as you helped out with preparing packs, catering, setting up, parking, marshalling - and a vast number of other tasks - to ensure the smooth running of this event.



I would like to extend my personal thanks to you all for your contribution and trust you have enjoyed a well deserved break.

I have recently returned from a few weeks of tripping around the South Island. Our former Patron, Harry Renfree, often came to mind as Grant and I travelled through the unique and barren countryside of Alexandra. We were lucky enough to try out the newly built (and almost complete) cycle trail which follows the Clyde Dam, cycling through vineyards in their Autumn glory and through the Old Town at Cromwell.

I must confess pipe practice was not high on the agenda and this certainly showed on my return to practice! (Sorry Team). It was great though to see everyone again, including a new piper who has joined the Band.

It was with sadness we recently farewelled Dave Mitchell, one of our Life Members. It was a privilege to be asked to play music at his farewell and those who attended certainly got a sense of Dave's commitment to his family.

It is appropriate at this time to make mention of the Band's other Life Members:

Hugh Harrison

Joe Jenkins

Richard Loan

Ian Mansfield

Kerry Marshall

Val Mitchell

Wayne Valler

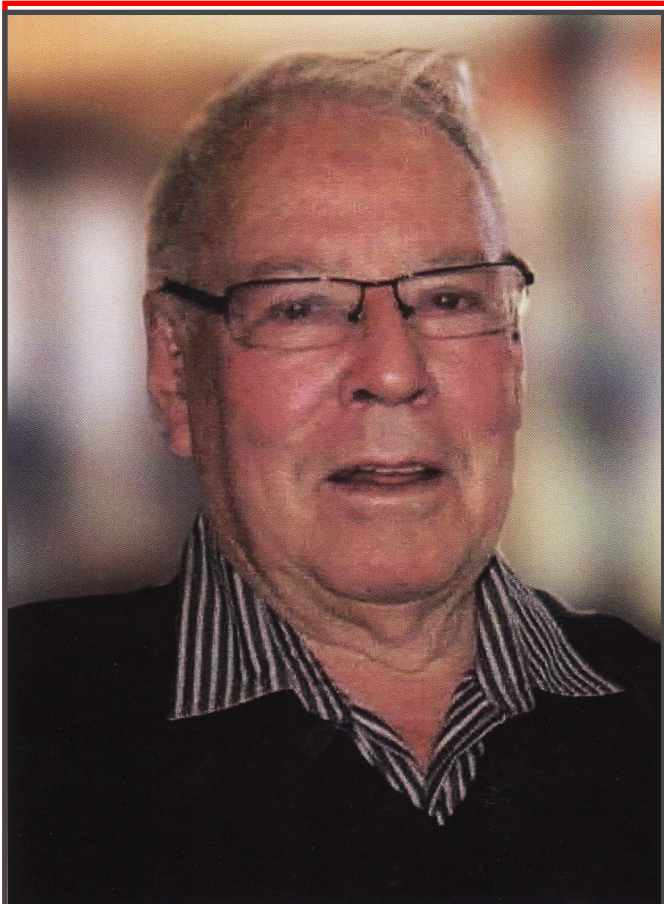
Life membership is bestowed on an individual who has rendered outstanding services to the Pipe Band. Thanks to those aforementioned for their past and ongoing contribution to the success of the Napier Pipe Band.

I look forward to seeing you at the Taradale RSA this Sunday 30th May.

*Julie*

### **Our Vision:**

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



## Dave Mitchell

Dave, who died in May, played with a number of bands including the Scottish Society in Christchurch, and here in the Bay with the Port Ahuriri, the HB Scottish and with the City of Napier pipe bands.

He held many positions in Napier's pipe bands including Pipe Sergeant, President and Custodian, and he and Val were made life members of the Band in recognition of the great contribution they made to the band over so many years.

Dave, an engineer at the now closed Whakatu freezing works, was a very practical man. He even set up a compressor to help blow in those hard McAllister reeds – however, he was caught out when the pipe major needed to alter one of his reeds and found engine oil on it.

He helped procure the Napier City Rovers club rooms on Nelson Park and transform it into the present hall which has served Napier's bands well

- the main hall is called the Mitchell Room in recognition of the work done by Dave and Val for the band.

When we think about Dave Mitchell the list of adjectives includes approachable, hard working, helpful, reliable, supportive, cheerful and kind.

We have been privileged to have shared our pipe band lives with Dave; we have been helped and supported by him and we are grateful that he shared his talents and gifts with us, something we will always remember.

## Parade Calendar

### MAY

Sun 30 Concert Taradale RSA 4.30

### JUNE

Mon 14 Band AGM 7.30 pm.

### AUGUST

TBC Concert St Pauls Church Napier



***Please refer to our website for updates of the calendar as well as photos of recent parades.***

## ***HB's Pipe Band Contest***

The 2021 national pipe band contest was hosted by The Piping & Drumming Academy of Hawke's Bay in collaboration with the HB Caledonian Pipe Band and the Napier Pipe Band.

While initially expressions of interest were received from fifty-four bands, including six from Australia, the final count of entries was 35 bands plus 12 juvenile bands. Numbers were affected by the ongoing pandemic situation which prevented the Australian bands, and others from overseas, from being involved. It also affected some NZ bands which were unable to schedule regular practices or had members unwilling to commit time and resources in the changing circumstances.



The final tally of numbers saw 838 pipers, drummers and drum majors compete with approximately one-third of these being 18 years of age or younger. Bands report an average of 3.5 bed nights in Hawke's Bay. The RNZPBA survey indicates that for every ten band members there were another 6 family and supporters accompanying the band, with one-third of all these being youngsters (18 years of age or younger).

A significant contribution was made to the event by the 50+ volunteers, Rotarians and the Scouts (plus others) who undertook catering for officials and volunteers, marshalling, crowd control, tent supply and

set up, supervision of car parking, driving and hosting officials and, of course, setting up and pack down of the grounds. We are very grateful for the support of all the volunteers.

Napier City Council and Hastings District Councils were major funders of the event enabling the Academy to proceed with planning even when circumstances changed over the two years. Eastern Institute of Technology came on board as principal sponsor for the live streaming of the contest.

We engaged with NZME to produce a newspaper supplement which was delivered to all HB Today subscribers on 11 March. Copies were also available (free) at the park for spectators and bands people. The objective of the supplement was to replace the traditional programme with a more widely available and more informative publication that would attract local interest. It was also ideal publicity for HB's pipe bands and we are grateful to the advertisers who supported this promotion.

A worldwide audience watched all grades and events via the livestream. The Friday Street March was also streamed via YouTube Live in a multi-camera production that rivalled that of BBC Scotland's broadcasts of the World Pipe Band Championships, complete with expert and intelligent commentary using plain language by experienced commentators. Over 40,000 people have viewed the live stream with 48% of these being overseas, a truly international audience.

The street march in Napier's CBD was watched by a large crowd with feedback indicating that the sight and sound of the bands marching, the uniforms worn by the bands, seeing the bands parading in Napier's Art Deco streets and the massed bands at the end were the things that attracted, and were enjoyed by, people.

A Have-A-Go tent was set up at the park with a variety of pipe band related things and this was staffed by knowledgeable people who were able to talk to young people. There were periods during the weekend where the tent was brimming with folks, both young and old, having a good time learning about pipes and drums.

We are pleased to advise that the contest has operated with a small financial surplus (which will be shared between the Academy and the RNZPBA). This result would not have been possible without the very generous support of the local Councils, businesses and trusts.



We are really grateful for everyone's support and hope that you managed to see some or all of the contest and to experience all the wonderful pipe bands.

Julie Baxter, Kerry Marshall, Neville Lumb, David O-Hanlon and Jarrod Cawood.

## The Benefit of Practice

How it looks when you first sit down to play



How it looks after you've practiced



Twin-kle, twin-kle, lit - tle star. how I won - der what you are!

## Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Napier Pipe Band will be held at the Band Hall, Nelson Park on Monday 14th June, commencing 7.30pm.

Your current Committee is

Julie Baxter	President
Keith James	Secretary
Kerry Marshall	Treasurer
Richard Loan	Committee Member
Margaret Lumb	Committee Member
Nick Scannell	Committee Member

The positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer are open for re-election, as is Marg's position as a Committee Member (given her two year term is up). All individuals currently in these positions have made themselves available for re-election.

Please give thought to who you would like to fill these positions for the next 12 - 24 months. Nomination forms will be sent out separately to playing members.

All members (playing and supporters) are warmly invited to attend the meeting which will be followed with supper.

### ***A Wee Reminder for the Scottish in us All***

**By now you will have received an invoice to pay your subs for the next twelve months. If you haven't already, please ensure you do this to ensure your membership is continued.**

**Subs for supporters remain the same as last year, whilst subs for playing members have been slightly increased. For the first time however, we have introduced a discount for prompt payment - please take advantage of this!**

**Remember, you can only vote at the AGM if your subs are up to date. Thanks in advance for your attention to this. We look forward to your continued membership.**

## Richard Loan - A Joyful Journey.

Piping has been part of my life since I was 11 years old. I love it for:

- ◆ The joy of a well-played tune on a fine-tuned instrument...entering the musical zone
- ◆ The comradeship
- ◆ The contesting, both solo and bands
- ◆ The frustration of reeds, both chanter and drones, especially the old cane reeds. They stop, and go out of tune easily. But oh such fun!
- ◆ The challenges of finding the right music for a band or for solo work and the ongoing practice to perfect it. That isn't always enjoyable!



***Starting young***

My tuition, along with that of my brothers, Bob and Iain, started at Scots College, Wellington with Alan Guild, the Pipe Major of the City of Wellington Pipe Band. The band had just returned from a successful World tour attending the World Pipe Band Champs in Scotland where they came 8<sup>th</sup>. They were the first NZ band to compete out of the country.

I played in the City of Wellington for 13 years under P/M Frank McKinnon who continued my tuition. This band won the NZ championships 15 times, a record which perhaps may never be equalled. We also went to the World Championships in the UK in 1975, coming 9<sup>th</sup>. The tour included playing in Scotland and Canada. On other trips to Australia we had the thrill of winning the Australasian Championships on two occasions.

On shifting to Napier I joined the City of Napier Pipe Band and became Pipe Major after Charlie Jennings was tragically killed in the Erebus disaster in 1979. The band was promoted to Grade 1 the following year and came 4<sup>th</sup> in that grade 2 years later. For me, a particular joy was our son Michael playing with the band before he joined the NZ Police Band during his university years. I found leading the City of Napier Pipe Band for over 30 years was a huge commitment but also such a privilege.

I transferred to the Drones and Sticks (later renamed Napier PB) in 2013 and have been Musical Director since Kerry's retirement.

Solo piping was always important for me and I feel it complements involvement in bands. I managed several placings in A Grade including a 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Gold Medal Piobaireachd. Competing was an important area for me, but now I do enjoy having my summer's free. I barely knew they existed!

Anne, my wife, played an important role in my piping career. The demands of raising a family and of a busy medical practice meant that without her support it would not have been possible to compete or run a band.

I've discovered there is a sense of fulfilment that comes from commitment. At times in my life practising was not my first priority, but I look back with fond memories and a sense of enjoyment as well as community achievement.

*Richard*

## Didn't They Do Well?

The Highland Games were held again in April, with many of our younger band members competing and doing extremely well. Results were:

Ethan: 2nd Novice 2/4 March  
3rd Novice Slow Air

Conrad: 1st D grade Slow Air  
2nd D grade 2/4 March  
3rd D grade Strathspey/Reel

Liam: 1st D grade 2/4 March  
1st D grade Strathspey/Reel  
2nd D grade Slow March  
3rd D grade Piobairachd  
Winner of overall D grade, recipient of City of Hastings Band Trophy  
4th C grade 6/8 March

Heath: 2nd C grade 2/4 March  
3rd C grade 6/8 March



Great job everyone. Without a doubt the result of effort and dedication.

---



A nice, calm and respectable lady went into the pharmacy, walked up to the pharmacist, looked straight into his eyes, and said, "I would like to buy some cyanide."

The pharmacist asked, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?"

The lady replied, "I need it to poison my husband."

The pharmacist's eyes got big and he explained, "Lord have mercy! I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband, that's against the law! I'll lose my license! They'll throw both of us in jail! All kinds of bad things will happen. Absolutely not! You CANNOT have any cyanide!"

The lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife.

The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied, "*You didn't tell me you had a prescription.*"

## **For Sale**

McCallum Bagpipes - \$2,150 ono



These bag pipes have nickel slides and imitation ivory mounts and ferrules. The drones have Crozier reeds, and a Ross moisture control system is contained within an almost new Canmore Goretex pipe bag (size medium).

These pipes have been regularly played until recently. They come with a spare moisture box and in a Bagpiper carry case.

***Please contact Julie on 027 295 8373 if interested in either of these items.***



Men's Brogues - \$70  
Size 8, in very good condition.



## ***Retirement for Wayne***

Due to on-going health problems, our much loved drummer Wayne announced his retirement from the Band. To celebrate his many years of service, Playing Members shared a supper early in March.

At that time members expressed their thanks to Wayne for (among other things), his positive attitude, his encouragement of young people and his tireless attendance at parades.

We understand that there is one particular female fan who will not be attending future concerts given "that nice man who sings" won't be there any more!

Good on you Wayne. Thank you for your outstanding contribution to the Napier Pipe Band.



## **Member Comings and Goings.**

We welcome a new member:

Andrew Robertson

Resignations accepted with regret:

Jack Cooper, Liam Reid

Sadly deceased:

Dave Mitchell, Jean Paget