

Band Blurbs

November 2017



PRESIDENTS COMMENTS

Welcome to the November Newsletter.



Well, wasn't that one super concert? Standing at one of the doors at the conclusion, I heard nothing but praise from those leaving the venue. They were buzzing. The band members who played did a wonderful job and a big thanks must go to our Musical Director and Pipe Major, Kerry Marshall, for putting together a wonderful concert. Thanks also to other performers - City of Hastings Pipe Band, Napier Boys High School Pipe Band, A-Cappella Fellas and Tracy Rudzevecius who, with the band, debuted a song she wrote called "Taradale Song".

The band is now heading into a real busy time of the year, with Christmas Parades and New Years Eve among other parades they do.

One final get-together for the year is at the Napier Old Boys Marist Club rooms in Park Island on 11 December. This is always a fun relaxing night. More will come out on that closer to the time.

We are still discussing options for the band rooms and, as there is so much involved, we are taking it step by step, but rest assured, things are moving, albeit slowly.

With only six weeks before we wind up practices for the year and the band takes a well-earned break, I would like to thank each and every one of them for the commitment to making this band what it is. Thank you to all the supporters for being at the supporters nights and concerts and giving the band encouragement and being just who you are.

To my band of merry women and men of the committee - a big thank you for your support during the year. You have made the meetings so easy to run and made my position of chairperson so much more enjoyable.

To everyone out there in pipe band land, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Till next year - take care out there.

Richard Manning - President

Our Vision:

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

PIPE MAJOR'S NEWS

I have to start my news with some commendations for the Band's recent performances. I think everyone has to acknowledge the youngsters, including the NBHS group who performed so well at the Spring Concert. Special commendations to Morgan, Cameron and Amber for their performances leading the band with their items. I would also like to thank all those who helped prepare the band, put their hands up for jobs that needed doing, mum's and dads for supporting youngsters and band members for their contributions to a very good event.



We've started into the busy part of the year, so I would urge all playing members to make sure their instruments are in tip-top condition – you've all been told, and shown, the basics of pipe maintenance many times so please put that into effect.

We've offered financial assistance for band members to attend the RNZPBA's Summer School and will be contributing towards the cost for the youngsters to participate in the national contest in Rotorua in March. I'm grateful to the band for supporting our young people in this way. Along with the tuition they receive and the help they get from our senior members, they have many opportunities to progress their piping and drumming.

Regards
Kerry



Social Media

I've given up social media for the New Year and am trying to make friends outside Facebook while applying the same principles. Every day, I walk down the street and tell passersby what I've eaten, how I feel, what I did the night before, and what I will do tomorrow. Then I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and my gardening. I also listen to their conversations and tell them I 'like' it. And it works. I already have three people following me—two police officers and a psychiatrist.



Recent Parades

The diversity of the Band's parades is demonstrated by four that we've done recently:

Hampton Court – playing for the residents, our music was enjoyed by all
HB Rugby Union – parading on McLean Park before a Magpies game was good exposure for the band

Hastings blossom parade – adding to the spectacle of one of HB's bigger events

Port School reunion – entertaining at the opening of the school's 150th celebrations

Heretaunga Thistle Club – providing lunchtime music for the highland dancing competitors and their audience

Tremains Breast Cancer Walk – leading the participants as they start their charity walk and then playing for them at various points around the inner-city route

One of the Band's objectives is to perform and parade with pride and we do this for so many organisations – well done.

Regards
Kerry

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



November

- Mon 6* Supporters' Night Taradale RSA
- Sat 11* Armistice Commemoration Napier
- Sat 11* Napier Caledonian Society Ingleside
- Thu 23* St Andrew's at Atawhai
- Sun 26* St Andrew's Day Parade Tamatea Church
- Sun 26* Napier Christmas Parade
- Thu 30* St Andrew's Day at Hastings Summerset

December

- Sat 2* CHB Christmas Parade and Carols evening
- Sat 9* Napier Caledonian Society Ingleside
- Mon 11* Band Final Night



Some drums for the band during one of the bands practice sessions.

Jim Brown

It's Been A Great Life.

Born 13th September 1953, in a place called Datchet, just across the river Thames from Windsor Castle.

My grandfather served in The Royal Scots in the first world war. I had an uncle who was a tenor drummer with the Highland Light Infantry, also an uncle who was a tenor drummer in the Irish Guards. A lot of my childhood was being taken to military events with my uncle.

I started learning the pipes at the age of around 18 with a band called Southern Youth Highlanders. They were a band very much like Napier Pipe Band - a community band focused on entertainment. I eventually became Pipe Major. A big awakening, it wasn't until I moved to another band that I realised I was taught wrong - it took me a few years to rectify all the errors. So it's important that you have a good tutor from the start. In Kerry you have one of the best.



The London Irish Rifles marching out of The Duke of Yorks Barracks for the last time

My second band was Pipe Major of Holmer Green Royal British Legion Pipe band. I had a tutor giving me lessons in piping and how to set up a band - this was the late John Rogers, Piping Judge, Pipe Major and very good friend. We won our very first pipe band contest, this was in grade 4, playing My Land and Castle Dangerous. The band played at numerous functions, one to note was the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh. In this band I achieved the elementary RSPBA structured piping and theory certificate. I also attended a RSPBA Pipe Majors course; the pipes were a lot different in those days, big thick chanter, cane drone reeds and tuning by ear - no electric gadgets.

I later joined my first grade 3 band, R.A.F. Assn Pipe Band, with Graham Waller as Pipe Major. Other notable members of the band were Roddy Macdonald, now Pipe Major of Queensland Police, Les Cowell, known to most people as Bagpipe maker David Naill. The pipe you see me play today was the first ivory and silver set made by Les's son Martin. We funded the band by prize money from winning contests. We were pretty successful winning

grade3. We also played up a grade to grade 2, in which we had a few wins.

After the band folded, I went to play with British Airways Pipe Band, grade 3. With Pipe Majors Jim McCombie and later, the late Tony Macdonald (cousin of Angus), an amazing piper in solos and band, a great pipe major and lovely man. The band did all sorts of functions and being an airline band in many countries throughout the world. In this band I achieved the Intermediate RSPBA structured learning certificate

After moving to Berkshire, I spent 18 months playing with Oxford Caledonian Pipe Band Grade 3, where our achievement was coming 2nd playing a march strathspey and reel in the British Championships.

I played for D Coy London Irish Rifles T.A. for nearly 9 years. We originally came under the wing of Royal Irish Regiment and Latter Irish Guards. We played mainly at public duties and regimental functions. Some of the public duties included playing in Horseguards parade, the Cenotaph, War office and the Lord Mayors Parade. We regularly played at passing-out parades and regimental dinners at Sandhurst Military Academy, where I had the honour of playing Highland Cathedral for King Abdullah of Jordan.

Moving to New Zealand, I played for Auckland Police pipe band for nearly eight years. I can recommend it for a new person in a new country, as I have seen a great part of New Zealand just travelling with the band. Apart from playing at many police parades, we also played at many functions, including the All Blacks world cup winners parade, Farmers Christmas parades and finally achieved an ambition of playing at the Edinburgh Tattoo, once in Edinburgh and the other in Wellington.

On the solo front I've played at many Masonic functions, especially around Burns night. Robert Burns was a freemason. I'm still Pipe Major for Lodge Glittering Star 322ic 29th Regiment of Foot and, although I don't get to too many meetings now, I still attend when I can. I was also ordained into Knights Templar for my charity work, as over the years I have raised lots of money for various causes.

Playing for KT, I have played in Windsor Castle and visited Romania twice. The first time was in Bram, near Vlad the Impaler's castle, where I came very close in an encounter with a bear - closer than I would have liked. The second was in Bucharest, inside President Ceausescu palace, which is now their parliament building. To this day I am probably still the only piper ever to have played in there. I still hold the title of Pipe Major.

In conclusion, I owed my 22 years working at Heathrow Airport to playing the pipes, as they wanted a piper working there. I've seen and done lots of things I would never have thought possible. I've met many Royals, dignitaries and celebrities, including most of the British Royal family. I've played in lots of different countries, including in the jungle of Papua New Guinea. My dad once said if you can play an instrument, you can always eat.

Has playing the pipes given me a good life? Nahh, it's given me a great life.

The biggest lie I tell myself is... " I don't need to write that down; I'll remember it."

England has no kidney bank but it does have a Liverpool.



Spring Concert

On Sunday 15 October, the band staged a special concert at the Salvation Army Citadel in Tait Drive. After many weeks of practice, things came together in a programme of traditional and more modern music.

When the band did the rehearsal on the preceding Thursday, there was some concern that the acoustics in the venue were not really suited to pipe band music but, on the day, when the place was filled with all those warm bodies, any fears were dispelled.

The initial set of tunes that the band has played for some time concluded with a rendition of *Swing of the Kilt*. Featuring Amber on the drum and four of the youngsters playing an introduction this toe-tapping number highlighted the versatility of the band.

The A Cappella Fellas provided an interlude that was really enjoyable.

Then came the youngsters, starting with the Napier Boys High School who were then joined by the All Stars to play their competition tunes, *PM J K Cairns*, *My Land* and *Colin's Cattle*. One member of the audience commented that he was "very taken particularly with the young performers and how they managed to do what was expected of them for their item."

It was great to have the City of Hastings PB's Social Group then perform. They played an interesting selection of tunes including one called "Concerning Hobbits", an acclaimed piece by composer Howard Shore for The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring soundtrack.

Then came the highlight of the show about which one person said "I especially enjoyed the second half of the concert with the music selection and Tracy Rudzevecuis's song honouring Taradale's soldiers." Based around the Taradale Town Clock in memory of fallen local soldiers that went to war and never returned, Tracy says she's giving them "a voice" from beyond the grave.

In this part of the concert, the band was joined by Roy Love on guitar, along with resident musicians Wayne Valler and Stuart Fraser (also on guitar) and Cameron Budge on drums. These people had put a lot of time and effort into preparing for the concert for which the band is very grateful, as they brought something special to the music.

After a rendition of Hallelujah arranged by Wayne, the band then played several numbers before the highlight of the concert, "On the Road to Passchendaele". The combination of vocals, pipes and other instruments was, for people in the audience,

“really superb !! stirring and yet very moving too”.

Feedback from the audience has been very positive, with many asking when the next concert will happen.

A concert like this just doesn't happen. Many people need to be thanked but in particular the youngsters, the MC, Anne Loan, Betty, Julie and Alan (for promotion and ticketing) and the band members for the practice beforehand and the great performance on the day.

As one person commented “I wanted to write to congratulate you on the success of the concert on Sunday. It was well delivered and the announcer and the youngsters did especially well and really added that something above.”

Well done, everyone.



Facts are stubborn but statistics are more pliable. *Mark Twain*

Bottle... a container used for bringing up babies and bringing down adults.