

Band Blurb

November 2018



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

How fantastic to see so many of you at our last Piping and Drumming event at the Napier RSA. It really does encourage those of us playing and we so enjoy the enthusiasm you display. So Thanks!



We have two Supporters events scheduled in November and we would love to see you at both of them. The first is at the Taradale RSA on 5th November 7pm, then at the Napier RSA on 25th November 4pm.

Please bring along family and friends and if you're feeling lucky, a couple of dollars to support our raffle.

We are working towards having a "Supporters'Choice" section at our concerts. You will be asked to choose and rank from a selection of tunes for the band, groups or individuals to play. These events are just as much yours as they are ours and we are always open to ideas on how we can improve them. Please give your feedback to any one of the band's dedicated Committee members.

Don't know who these people are? Let me introduce them to you:

Kerry Marshall (Pipe Major), Penny Madden (piper), Richard Loan (piper), Alan Lawton (Drum Sergeant), Cameron Anderson (piper), Betty Wilson (secretarytreasurer). Alan and Cameron are new to the Committee and you can read more about Cameron in this newsletter.

As always, thanks to each of you for supporting the Napier Pipe Band. Whether you are a playing member or an associate member, we value your contribution.

See you at the RSA concerts!

Bye for now,
Julie

Our Vision:

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



PIPE MAJOR'S REPORT

Its been a busy couple of months since the last newsletter. Although we haven't done many parades we've done a lot on the education/teaching side of things.

The visit of the **Foundation NZ Youth Pipe Band** was certainly a highlight for us. These young people have to pay their own costs (of travel and accommodation) so it was really pleasing that the Band obtain grants to cover the cost of the Napier concert venue

and the Lindisfarne accommodation.

Our young people have benefitted greatly and their interaction with the Youth Band members will give them a boost in their piping careers.

Youth Band members are to be commended and congratulated for their willingness to sit down and help our band members. Although our members are at

different stages the Youth Band pipers and drummers did a great job of helping and encouraging them. The culture and attitudes that have been fostered in the Youth Band are exemplary and the Band's leadership is to be commended for all they do.

In the second week of the school holidays we did our own in-house workshop. Once again the tutoring by Neil and Cameron was great and provided an enjoyable experience for all. We took the opportunity to visit Jack Budge at Waverly House and then life members Dave and Val Mitchell.

I think we're lucky to have such talented and companionable young people in our band.



Thank you for the response to our appeal for practice chanters. Several people have donated old chanters (and other things like music books) and one person kindly donated funds to buy a chanter. Your generosity and encouragement for our young people is much appreciated – thank you.

Looking ahead we are approaching our busy period, the lead up to Christmas, with our Band members providing entertainment to thousands of people at Christmas parades and other events. This is what all the practise is about and we look forward to catching up with our supporters at any of the events around town.

Kerry.
Pipe Major

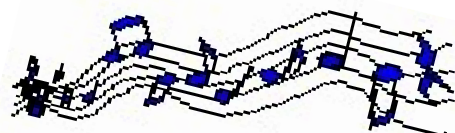
Supporters' Night – Monday 5 November 7pm Taradale RSA

It seems like ages since we were at the Taradale RSA for our Monday Supporters' Night so this one (November 5th) will be a chance for everyone to catch up with us again. The Supporters' Night tradition began more than a decade ago when band members thought they would like to meet and play for our loyal band of supporters. Over the years we've enjoyed music and food with family and friends in the relaxed atmosphere of the Taradale RSA and we look forward to seeing you all again.



Piping and Drumming Live – Sunday Nov 25 4pm

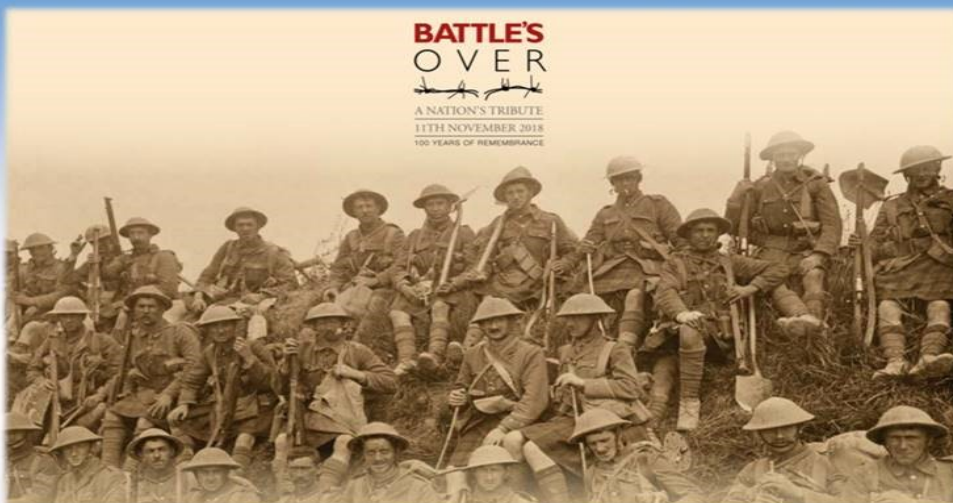
These small concert events held at the Napier RSA have been most enjoyable and from the feedback we've received you've enjoyed them too. The September event was well attended as many people brought friends and family which we hope you will do again. Our last **Piping and Drumming Live** for the year is at the end of November and we've got some new tunes for you. Don't forget that all our band members (playing and associate) are welcome 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.





Around the world, more than 800 pipers have registered to take part in *Sleep in Peace, now the Battle's Over* on Sunday, November 11, 2018. Taking part in this event pipers will play Pipe Major Robb's classic tune *When the Battle's O'er* at their chosen location. This will generally occur in the morning local time of the country/region creating a rolling sound of this historic tune as it travels across the globe and the various time zones. Our Band will be taking part in an Armistice Day commemoration at Clive at 11am and will play *When the Battle's O'er* as part of this ceremony.

Armistice Day 11 November 1918 - 2018. 100-year anniversary



Pipe bands, mini-bands, massed bands, solo pipers are encouraged to engage with their communities and join the international commemoration of the centenary of the end of World War 1; by playing "The Battle is O'er", on Sunday 11th November 2018. With thanks from the Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands' Association Management Board.

Supporters' Night Raffle

A big thanks to Heather for the great job she does selling the raffle tickets.



Hello everybody. For the people who do not know me, my name is Cameron Anderson, one of the playing members of the Napier Pipe band.

I have family from Scotland on my mother's side and from that, I inherited my great-grandfather's practice chanter. He was a pipe major for many bands in Scotland over his lifetime. I am the only child that has started learning the bagpipes or drums since his generation, so I get a lot of support from my family.

I started learning to play the bagpipes when I was 13, during my first year of High school. I played for the Napier Boys' High School Pipe Band from the start of 2010 to the end of 2014 and in late 2010 I also started attending band practices with the Drones and Sticks pipe band (now the Napier Pipe band).

After leaving High school, I enrolled at EIT (Eastern Institute of Technology) where I graduated with a bachelors degree in IT. I have continued studying at EIT and am currently completing my Post graduate diploma in IT. Recently, I have started tutoring people that have an interest in playing the bagpipes and it has been an interesting, new experience for me.

Positive Thoughts.

Every day may not be good .. but there's something good in every day.
Don't let the best you have done so far be the standard for the rest of your life.

Humour is mankind's greatest blessing. **Mark Twain.**

Do your work with your whole heart and you will succeed - there is so little competition. **Elbert Hubbard.**

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. **Aesop.**

A history of the Scottish Highland Games



This is a style of Scottishness expressed in tartan, bagpipes and brute strength with tens of thousands drawn to Highland Games around the world each year.

Such events are as likely to be held in Detroit and Sao Paulo as they are in Dundee and St Andrew's as people search out a little connection to heritage and home.

Highland Games have proved to be one of Scotland's biggest cultural exports with the events rooted some 1,000 years ago at the foot of a hill in Deeside.

Here we look at how they all began - and why they travelled so far.

HISTORY

It is said they were originally a form of war game in which the strongest and bravest soldiers would triumph.

Highland Games remain a potent expression of a form of Scottishness - both at home and abroad - with the celebration of pipes, drums, dancing and brute strength carried around the world in a fond tribute to the motherland.

The first historical reference to Highland Games-type events in Scotland was made during the reign of King Malcolm III (1057-1093) when he summoned men to race up Craig Choinnich near Braemar in order to find a royal messenger.

The games are said to have become a way of choosing the most ablest men for the clan chieftain's household but it wasn't just brute strength that was determined. Musicians and dancers were also sought to add prestige to the clan.

The Ceres Games in Fife are considered the oldest, continuous Highland Games in Scotland and began in 1314.

They continue to thrive more than 700 years after the King of Scots, Robert the Bruce, granted a charter for the village to hold a market and fair to acknowledge the farmers, labourers, craftsmen and "the small folk" who fought at the Battle of Bannockburn.

The growing tradition of Highland Games was stalled following Culloden, when the 1746 Proscription Acts were passed to dismantle Highland life, culture and society.

The Braemar Gathering, arguably the most famous games in the world given their royal connections, had its roots in King Malcolm's race but its modern incarnation began in 1815 when a mutual assistance society of wrights - or builders - was formed in the town.

The workers were to hold a procession every year and in 1832, foot races were held for the first time - and have been run every year since. The games were

attended by Queen Victoria in 1838 with royal support continuing since then. It could be said that Queen Victoria's endorsement of the games has been the biggest single factor in the growth of such events and their export around the world.

BIGGEST EVENTS IN SCOTLAND



There are around 100 Highland Games in Scotland every year.

The Cowal Highland Gathering has long claimed to be the biggest games in the world. At its peak it drew 30,000 spectators but numbers are more likely to be in the region of 20,000 over the three-day event. The games hosts the World Highland Dancing Championships with competitors from US, Canada, Australia commonly taking part.

The Braemar Gathering attracts around 10,000 spectators a day with the Queen a loyal attendee. Similar numbers are drawn to the Lonach Highland Gathering in Strathdon, Aberdeenshire, with the highlight undoubtedly the march of the Lonach Highlanders. Around 200 men of all generations, drawn from the glen and armed with Lochaber axes and pikes, join the march from Belabeg to Lonach Hall in a 175 year tradition.

HOW GAMES SPREAD AROUND THE WORLD

As Scots moved around the world, so did a version of the traditions and culture that bonded them.

Caledonian Societies were rapidly formed in the 19th and early 20th Centuries to reflect emigration of Scots with Waipu, New Zealand, believed to be the first.

The Waipu Caledonian Society was formed in 1871 to help settle new Scottish arrivals, many who had left Scotland amid The Clearance and who originally settled in Nova Scotia before moving to New Zealand.

Such societies were widely formed in North America to help draw together new arrivals and act as a reunion point. The first Highland Games in the US took place in 1836 when the Highland Society of New York held its first "sportive meeting".

Three years later, the Caledonian Club of San Francisco held its first Highland Games with claims that it is now the longest running in the country.

The largest event is now said to be the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina, which has an attendance of 30,000.

Today, you can attend a Highland Games across Europe - particularly Germany and The Netherlands - Indonesia, Japan, South Africa and Brazil.

Coming Events



November

- Mon 5 Supporters' Night Taradale RSA
- Sat 10 Napier Caledonian Society Ingleside.
- Sun 11 Armistice Day services Napier, Taradale & Clive.
- Sun 25 St. Andrews Day church parade.
- Sun 25 Piping & Drumming Live at Napier RSA 4pm.

December

- Sat 1 Heretaunga Thistle Club - Clive School 12 noon.
- Sat 1 Riversdale Village 4.30pm.
- Sun 2 Napier Christmas Parade.
- Sat 8 CHB Christmas Parade.
- Sun 9 Taradale Club Family event.
- Mon 10 Band final night.
- Sat 15 Hastings & Districts Scots Society Ingleside.
- Mon 31 New Years Eve.

