

# Band Blurb

November 2020



## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello Members

It is great, to once again, be back to semi-normality! Practices at the hall have resumed following another short stint of Pipes on Line (aka Zoom).

Following the success of the concert held at the St Pauls Church in August the Band is staging another concert, hosted by our friends at the Taradale RSA. We of course extend an invitation to you all to once again join us and enjoy the music we play.

NAPIER PIPE BAND BRINGS YOU...

**'A TOUCH OF TARTAN' CONCERT**

**NAPIER PIPE BAND**

**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> NOV**

TARADALE RSA  
FROM 6.30PM

### *A Touch of Tartan Concert*

The Napier Pipe Band is staging its final concert for the year at the **Taradale RSA on Sunday 22 November**. Starting at 6.30pm the programme will feature many of the old favourites as well as some new music prepared during the recent lockdowns. Our new young members will also be taking part. Gold coin donation would be appreciated.

Neville Lumb has made a tremendous effort at securing venues - and importantly audiences - for the Band to entertain. This has been particularly important given the long weeks throughout the year without any community involvement. Thanks go to you Nev for your never ending willingness to help the band in a variety of ways.

Have you done your Christmas shopping yet? This will be the final newsletter of the year so it seems appropriate to extend sincere wishes to you and your families for a safe and happy festive season. As always, I sincerely appreciate your on-going support and very much look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

Kind wishes,  
*Julie*

## **Member Comings and Goings.**

**No new member applications have been received recently but we sadly record the passing of Val Bayliss and Robin Sudfelt.**

**An East Indian fellow has moved in next door.**

**He has travelled the world, has swum with sharks, has wrestled bears and climbed the highest mountain.**

**It came as no surprise to learn his name was Bindair Dundat!**

A guy walked into a crowded bar, waving his un-holstered pistol and yelled,

"This is a 45 calibre Colt 1911 with a seven-round magazine plus one in the chamber and

**I want to know who's been sleeping with my wife."**

A voice from the back of the room called out - "you need more ammo"



## **Our Vision:**

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

## Robin Sudfeldt – Tenor Drummer/Drum Major

Robin started his career in pipe bands in 1950 at the tender age of 8 years when he joined the Hawke's Bay Scottish Pipe Band and started having drumming lessons with Gordon McArthur. After shifting away with his parents he later played with the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Hawke's Bay Regiment, the City of Rotorua PB, the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Hauraki Regiment, the City of Upper Hutt Pipe Band (where he was drum major for 8 years), the City Of Wellington No 2 and the Pipe and Drums of Wellington City. As he moved around the country he was also a member of the City of Hastings, the Waipawa and Districts and The Band of the 7th Battalion Royal NZ Infantry Regt.

Then in 1991 he was on the move once again this time back to the Bay. Here he joined up with the City of Napier No 2 as Drum Major progressing through to become DM of the No 1 band. It was not long after



that Robin was to follow his friends to the newly formed Drones & Sticks PB for a few years before once again moving, this time to Auckland, where he played with the Signals and other bands.

Robin once told his friend Graeme Blank that the highlight of his career was being a tenor drummer in the NZ Representative Military Band to Australia to play at the 1990 ANZAC Celebration in Sydney. The Band was made up of around 60 members, which included only 4

pipers!!! His second highlight was leading the City of Napier No 2 in Christchurch when we won the street march.

A highlight that a number of ex Napier members may remember was an incident involving Robin on a band trip leading us through a drill practice at the local park wearing what he thought was a pair of tartan shorts, but were actually boxers, much to the horror of his wife when he arrived back at the motel.

Robin was a great supporter of bands and spent a number of years not only as a player but also on the committees of the Upper Hutt, City of Napier and Drones & Sticks bands. He came all the way from Auckland to lead the Drones & Sticks PB in their first Art Deco Parade in 2007, an example of the dedication he had to the band.

What we all remember is his great enjoyment of pipe bands, his friendly nature and his sense of humour. He was really dedicated spending many hours of his time to help, especially when it came to fund raising, generous with his time and resources – for example allowing us to use his truck and chainsaws when we did the firewood fundraising – and one of the hardest working people we have known. At the last concert at St Paul's, Robin showed how competent he was in the kitchen, bringing his own knife and expertly cutting up all the cakes and slices. He had a lot of time for the youngsters in the band, making sure when we were away on trips that they were safe and looked after.

He was an all-round capable person with many skills gained through his varied working life.

Robin will be missed by us all.

## 2021 National Pipe Band Contest

Later in November entries for the contest will close and we'll know how many bands are coming to Hawke's Bay in March for the contest. While we've had expressions of interest from 40 NZ bands the uncertainties about pandemic levels have made it hard for bands to plan. We've also heard from 6 Australian bands interested in coming over but their involvement will depend on travel restrictions.

One of the things we could use help with is sponsorship – if you know of any businesses who could help us financially we'd love to hear from them. The event will be live-streamed so there is the opportunity to gain international exposure through the broadcasting of the event on the internet and there will be a local promotional campaign as well.

We are expecting a large number of juvenile bands to be here which is a good sign for the future of pipe bands in NZ.

**I called an old school friend and asked what was he doing. He replied that he was working on "Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminium & steel in a constrained environment". I was impressed ... On further inquiring I learnt that he was washing dishes with hot water ----- under his wife's supervision!**

## MacDougall Bagpipes

A number of band members play bagpipes made by members of the MacDougal family. Who were the MacDougalls and why are their pipes sought after?

The MacDougall bagpipe making history goes back to the 16th Century and perhaps even further. They were not only hereditary pipers but also skilled at turning wood and making their own bagpipes. It should be understood that the MacDougall bagpipe businesses passed from one generation to the next with probable overlap. The third generation Duncan is believed to have taken over the business in 1857.

Duncan was the most famous of the MacDougall family of makers. His bagpipes are perhaps the most sought-after and most coveted of any bagpipe worldwide. Duncan's bagpipes are revered for having a broad and rich spectrum of sound with a seamless blend of bass and tenors.

MacDougall bagpipes changed dramatically over the years. It seems that none of the MacDougall makers remained faithful to any one pattern or style. Projecting mounts might have a cut-in or they may not. They might have a rounded bead or they might have a cut-bead, similar to Edinburgh makers like Glen,

Hutcheon, and others. You might find wide cord holders on all three drones, or you might find them on the bass drone only. You might find ferrules and rings with beads and scribe lines or you might find them without.

The key to a good bagpipe is the bores in the drones and the bores on MacDougall pipes changed greatly over the years so while some were outstanding not all were. For all bagpipes proof of the quality of the pipes comes with playing.



## And the Great Work Continues

Kerry Marshall certainly hasn't slowed down since retiring as Pipe Major last year. His influence is still heavily felt in the band with his on-going contribution to the Committee, upkeep of the website, the 2021 contest, concerts, practices, tutoring ..... it never ends.

Recently Kerry took a Saturday morning two hour workshop on how to better understand music, note values, timing etc. Thank you so much Kerry. Those who attended found this to be of enormous value and it goes without saying we will now all be playing together and on the beat. ☺

Who knew that you have to divide the 6 by 3 to get 2 beats per bar (called a measure in all other music) in a 6/8th!!!



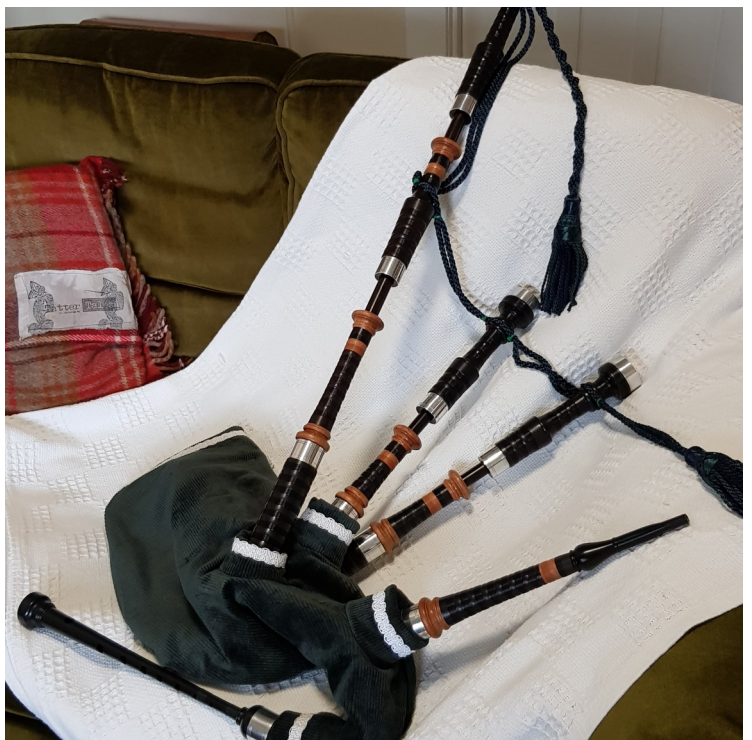
## Piper Profile

*We recently welcomed Florrie Kerr to our Band. Of Scottish descent, Florrie played with the Boghall & Bathgate Band and has brought her piping expertise to New Zealand (as well as her friendly nature). Florrie has picked up her pipes after a long period and has been diligently learning all the Band tunes.*

*Here's a wee story from Florrie which I am sure you will find of interest.*

During lock down, we usually started our Monday night zoom practices with a piper or two telling us interesting stories about their pipes. I am impressed at how much history & family heritage surrounds our piper's treasured instruments. I didn't have any pipes then, having just started back on the chanter after a gap of over 30 years - so this is my turn! My first ever set were Tweedies (similar to Sinclairs), bought new in the early 70's. My brother & I got a set each at the same time when we were learning with Polkemmet. I sold mine in the 80's for £200 (about \$400) a few years after I stopped playing for Boghall & Bathgate & left Scotland. Big mistake selling them! I wonder where they are now. My brother still plays his. So I needed another set that would be easy to travel to & from Scotland - so no vintage ivory for me - and I wanted something different. My brother took on the design task with two former Boghall & Bathgate pipers - Kenny Pettigrew has been making pipes since 1986 & Mark Bennett makes bags & traditional cane reeds: check out their Facebook pages & [www.bennettpipebags.com](http://www.bennettpipebags.com). (My sheepskin for the bag came from NZ which Mark said is the best he can get!) The African blackwood is aged for a year & mine are combed with seamless Cherry wood inserts/projecting mounts & aluminium ferrules & ring caps. Kenny never makes any two bespoke sets the same.

I am not selling these ones!



Florrie

## Supporting Manawatu

On 1st November, Nick and Florrie generously travelled all the way down to Manfeild, Feilding, to support the local Palmerston North Pipe Band in playing at half time during a Manawatu rugby match. (You may have seen them on SKY if you watched the Turbos' match against Southland).

Together with a brass band, they played Scotland the Brave, although we hear on good authority that the sound was somewhat drowned out by the cars on the racetrack.....

Oh well, you can't win them all. Thanks very much Nick and Florrie.

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## A Special Moment

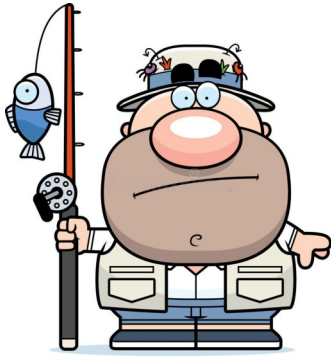
Hampton Court recently hosted us to entertain residents with a small concert. Geoff Bainbridge was able to join us on the side drum after a long period of recovery since suffering ill health.

The tunes played were simple, yet the enjoyment had by all (including the players) was evident. Geoff shared his thoughts (abridged) with us following the occasion:

"Thank you ... thank you. Thanks for giving having me on board last Thursday at Hampton Court. It was a pleasure being amongst you guys again. If you see this old drummer wandering around the streets of Taradale looking lost ... throw a drum on him and see what he can do. Thank you again ... it was so good."



We were also pleased to see Ray Downing who watched the performance from behind the fence (he told us he wouldn't be let out if he came any closer)! He is responsible for this photo - thanks Ray for your ongoing support.



## The Irish Fisherman

The rain was pouring down outside O'Connor's Irish Pub.

There standing in front of a big puddle outside the pub was an old Irishman, drenched, holding a stick, with a piece of string dangling in the water.

A passer-by stopped and asked him, "What are you doing?"  
"Fishing", replied the old man.

Feeling sorry for the old man, the gent says, "Come in out of the rain and have a drink with me."

In the warm ambiance of the pub, as they sip their whiskies, the gentleman, being a bit of a superior smart ass, cannot resist asking, "So how many have you caught today?"

"You're the 8th", replied the old man.

## On the Mend

Our cherished drummer Wayne has recently undergone major heart surgery. Having had three valves repaired, plus a double by-pass, Wayne is now on the road to recovery and itching to get back to practice on his side drum.

Wayne, we all miss you and send our warmest wishes to you for a speedy recovery. We look forward to having you back to play music with us and add your special influence to practices.

And a message from Wayne to the Pipe Band -

*"Keep in Tune!"*



**I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.**

## Shout Out!

A big Shout Out goes to Toni Jones who has been helping out with marketing material, both for the Band and also for the Academy who is hosting the 2021 Nationals.

Toni, we know you are a busy person, and to fit other jobs into your schedule is absolutely appreciated.



Thank You 😊

Toni is the mum of Ethan, one of our younger pipers.

## Our Talented Youngsters

We are very proud to have as members pipers and drummers who are of the younger generation! Some of these individuals are learning, whilst others have firmly established themselves as competent in the Pipe Band world.

Recently at the Young Piper of the Year competition, Liam Reed and Morgan Awatere-Madden both performed to an outstanding level, with Liam finishing 5th place in the D grade competition and Morgan ending the weekend with a 4th place in the C grade. It is worth noting that this is a NZ overall ranking. Congratulations to you both.

More recently at the Hamilton Gardens Solo Competition Morgan secured a 2nd place in the B grade MSR (medley, strathspey and reel), with youngest brother Conrad taking 1st place in the D grade Strathspey and Reel and 3rd place in the Piobaireachd. Liam earned 2nd place in the C grade Piobaireachd and 3rd place in the 2/4 March as well as the Strathspey and Reel.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, both Morgan and Heath were selected for the NZ Youth Band. Here's what they had to say about that and their short piping careers:

Q: ***What encouraged you to take up piping and at what age did you learn?***

A: Our Nana Penny Madden was the main reason that we took up piping, due to her heavy involvement with Pipe Bands throughout her life. We both started around the age of 8 years old. **Morgan & Heath**

Q: ***You have had a number of people influential in your piping 'career'. Who has been the one person who stands out to you the most? Why?***

A: It would be impossible to give one person who has been the most influential. All three tutors have contributed greatly to my playing. **Heath**

A: Due to my attendance to Summer Schools and other Piping Camps, I have been influenced by an immense amount of great pipers from all around the world who have each given me something to take home and apply to my own playing. **Morgan**

Q: ***What is it that you enjoy about solo piping?***

A: Initially when I first started to compete at a young age I did not particularly enjoy solo piping as I felt out of my comfort zone. Once I started to see results, and also other players in grades above me and the quality of their playing, this encouraged me to push myself. **Morgan**

A: Getting a bit competitive and getting tips on how to improve my playing. **Heath**

Q: ***What is it that you enjoy about contesting?***

A: Travelling to new places and putting pressure on myself to perform well. **Heath**

A: Having my playing critiqued and judged enabled me to focus on how I could become a better player and provided me with more motivation. **Morgan**

Q: ***What has been your favourite event?***

A: Probably Turakina as it's a very good location for competing and many competitors go to play. **Heath**

A: The Young Piper competition in Nelson during October. This was the second time I had attended and it is great to see young pipers from all around the country. **Morgan**

Q: ***Tell us what made you enter to become part of the National Youth Band?***

A: The prospect of meeting new and more advanced pipers and getting tutoring from NZ's best. **Heath**

A: This has always been a dream of mine. I have always looked up to many players in the previous Youth Bands, all great and amazing players. **Morgan**

Q: ***What has been the most challenging aspect of this?***

A: Learning the new music. **Morgan**

A: One of the most challenging things was creating the video for the audition as I'm not used to recording myself playing. **Heath**



Q: ***So far, what have the high points been?***

A: Learning new and fun music and meeting the other pipers in the Youth Band. **Heath**

A: Our first practice together where we stayed for around half a week, learning and experimenting with different types of music. We were able to come together and play 5 brackets. **Morgan**

Q: ***How much extra practice have you needed to do as part of the Youth Band?***

A: I haven't really had to do any extra practice. I've just been practising normally with some more focus on technique and expression. **Heath**

A: I try to do at least an hour each day and a bit more leading up to a competition. **Morgan**

Q: ***What performances are coming up for the Youth Band?***

A: The first performance is at the 2021 Summer School. **Heath**

Q: ***So ..... which of you is the better player?***

A: I am. **Morgan and Heath.** (Just kidding, this question wasn't asked!!)

Needless to say, we are very proud of the attitudes and achievements of all the young people in the Napier Pipe Band and thank you all for your commitment and contribution.

## Parade Calendar



### November

Sun 22 Taradale RSA Concert 6.30pm

Sun 29 Church Parade 9.30 Tamatea

### December

Sun 6 Napier Christmas Parade

Mon 14 Final Practice

Wed 23 Hampton Court 1.30pm

### January

Mon 25 First practice

### February

Sun 14 Hastings Summer in the Park

19-20 Art Deco Weekend

### March

19-20 National PB Contest HB