

Band Blurb

September 2018



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to everyone involved in the recent Mists of Time Winter Concert. Judging by audience feedback, it was a huge success and a very good fund raising opportunity for the Band.



I was delighted to see the number of badges being worn by our Supporters - a great way to identify this very special group of people. Speaking of Supporters, we welcomed four new members at the last Committee meeting. We are always so pleased and humbled by the interest and support shown to our Band - it truly is inspiring and appreciated.

We continue to seek the donation of books for the upcoming Book Fair. Please pass any you are happy to give to any band member who will ensure it gets into the safe hands of Robert Arrell.

This newsletter will include a profile of one of our newest Committee members. Welcome Alan Lawton, our Drum Sergeant, to the team, together with Cameron Anderson who you will hear from in a couple of months. See you all at the next RSA event on Sunday, 23rd September.

Very kind regards,
Julie



Our Vision:

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



PIPE MAJOR'S REPORT

The past week has been a bit of a relaxation after many weeks preparing for our Winter Concert. The group of musicians who worked hard to put together musical items are to be congratulated for their achievement of interesting and memorable music.

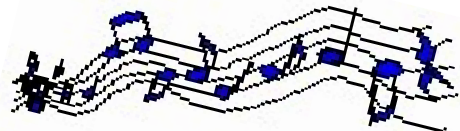
We are privileged to have the skills and opportunity to share our music and whether its at a rest home, a child care centre or in front of an audience in the RSA, the gift we share is priceless.

To get to that level we need to practice, learning new tunes and making sure we can play tunefully. Thanks to good tutors and dedicated band members we also have a lot of fun in the process.

Events coming up include the Hastings Blossom Parade which will again put us on the street in front of a big audience. The sights and sounds of this parade always stir the emotions and make it memorable, year after year.

We've been pleased with the *Piping and Drumming Live* events at the Napier RSA, which are an opportunity for us to try new music and for members to perform in front of an appreciative audience. The socialising over drinks and food is enjoyable as well. Thanks to all our members, family and friends who come along to these mini concerts. Us oldies have been organising things for a long time, so the September 23 event is being arranged by our youngsters - come prepared for something different.

Kerry.



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NZ's Youth Pipe Band

Several years ago we were privileged to host the youngsters in Napier and they are returning in October. One aspect of the NZ Youth Pipe Band programme is to give school aged children the opportunity to come into a professional setting to see and hear the band free of charge.

The band has formed a close relationship with entertainer Suzanne Prentice, OBE who will be joining the band for these performances.

Suzanne Prentice and the Foundation New Zealand Youth Pipe Band are delighted to present a night of musical excellence. Suzanne's songs of sophistication and ballads with the warmth and depth of a truly great merlot combined with the Foundation New Zealand Youth Pipe Band's sweet tone and dynamic rhythms will excite every soul.

This is a show for all ages and will incorporate many styles from ballads, pop and country to toe tapping jigs and reels. School aged children are encouraged to attend free of charge and will have the opportunity to have a go at playing a tune on the pipes or drums. Prepare yourself to be entertained from start to finish.

The band will be performing at the Municipal Theatre in Napier on Monday 1st October at 7pm and in Hastings at Lindisfarne College on Tuesday 2nd October at 7pm.

The cost for adults is \$25 - tickets can be purchased via Ticketek for the Napier show and from Lindisfarne College for the Hastings show.



We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.

Aristotle.

There are two theories about arguing with women. Neither works.

Behind every successful man stands a surprised mother-in-law.

The guy who fell into the upholstery machine is now fully recovered.

The man who rows the boat generally doesn't have time to rock it.

There is absolutely no substitute for a genuine lack of preparation.

Humour is the shock absorbers of life.



BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS (and more Books)

Robert Arrell has kindly offered to share the proceeds of the Napier Boys High School's Annual 2019 Book Sale with the Napier Pipe Band. This is one of the fund raisers for our Band.

We currently have in store some 4,000 books and are keen to add to the pile, so if you have any books that you would like to donate, please give them to a band member who will bring them to the band rooms. Alternatively give Don Stuart a ring 8435452 and we can arrange to collect them.

The Book Sale will be a major event over Art Deco weekend in 2019. It will be held at Napier Boys High School and we ask everyone to support us with this fundraising venture.



Piping & Drumming Live Napier RSA 4pm Sunday 23 September

If you enjoyed our concert, come along to our Piping & Drumming Live event at the Napier RSA on Sunday 23 September for more of our traditional and new music. Bar meals are available from 5.30pm.

There's no charge but we will have a raffle.

Wanted – Practice Chanter



Have you got a practice chanter lying around unused that you could donate to the band please? We are hoping to have an influx of learners as a result of the Youth PB concert and would like to be able to start them all off with free lessons and a loan chanter.

Please drop any chanters off to a band member. Thanks.

Kerry

Our grateful thanks for the support received from Howard and Gannon towards the 'Mists of Time' concert.

HOWARD & GANNON

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The Band has also received a grant of \$2000 from the Infinity Foundation – this grant is to pay for the cost of the Municipal Theatre for the NZ Foundation Youth Pipe Band when they visit Hawkes Bay in October. Grateful thanks to these two organisations for assisting the Youth Pipe Band.



North & South Trust

The Band has been fortunate to have received a grant of \$6,825 from the North and South Trust. This will assist with costs for performance venues and accommodation for the NZ Foundation Youth Pipe Band when they visit Hawkes Bay in October.

They will be staying at Lindisfarne College in Hastings and will perform one of their concerts in the school auditorium.

As I Recall



I think it was about 1958/59 when I first heard a Pipe Band. That was in the Waiouru Military Camp where a parade was being held. On hearing the band playing, I remember running through some tall pine trees with some other Military kids, across a small creek, via a swing bridge, to the edge of the trees where we all sat down on the mounds of dirt and pine needles to watch the parade. I remember seeing some men wearing dresses and others dressed as soldiers, marching. The men with dresses had some thin pipes sticking in the air and a bag under their arm and a pipe going into their mouth. Behind them was a big round drum, then a row of about 4 men playing a smaller drum, making a rat, tat, tat, sound. With the high pitched noise from the Pipes and the deep beat of the base and the rat, tat, tat, it all seemed to fit together. This was my first introduction to a Pipe Band. I was so excited about it that, on returning home, I told mum what I had seen and said one day I want to make that rat, tat, tat sound. When dad returned home from work in the Military Camp, I told him what I had seen and he said maybe when there was another parade, he might be able to get me a closer look. Well!, I was a kid in heaven as I went to the next four parades, climbed over some of the equipment and best of all, I got handed a pair of sticks and told to hit the drum and make a rat, tat, tat noise, which I did. Soon after we left snowy Waiouru and moved to snowy Norsewood. It was a few years later, probably 1966 or 67, that I heard that familiar noise again, at a Mardi Gras at Dannevirke. I tracked the noise down and watched the band playing, it was then I decided to give it go. I spoke to one of the guys playing the drums and he gave me the times for practice. It was in few days time so I managed to talk my father into taking me to the practice. So, I started learning the snare drum with the Dannevirke Pipe Band. After about 2yrs I gave up, as other things took my attention.

It was about 1997/98 that I returned to drumming with the City of Hastings Pipe Band with the then D/Sgt Geoff Bainbridge. Travelling to Hastings for work from Napier was a daily chore, but then having to drive back for band practice became a nuisance to me. I was at that time considering changing to the City of Napier Pipe Band. I showed up a couple of times to a practice night and that's when I heard of the Drones and Sticks based out at the EIT, which suited me even better because it was closer to home. So I joined the D & S under tutelage of Pierce Jenkinson.

In 2002, the City of Napier was hosting the NZ Championships. They were to play in the competition, but had no snare drummers, so four of us from the D & S played for the CONPB in the back rank. Not sure where we were placed in the competition, but it was very enjoyable.

Shortly after this I left the Hawkes Bay and moved to the Central North Island, where I played snare for the King Country Pipes and Drums. Often

this band was split in two for parades, so I changed to playing base, tenor or snare, depending on what was needed at the time. If I remember correctly, I saw some familiar face from the D & S at a competition being held in Taupo.

2014 saw me move to South Australia, and there I joined the City of Elizabeth Pipe Band. The Drum Sgt, Jeff Timmings, was an ex Australian Military Pipe band drum Sgt. He moved the snare sticks so fast it looked like his hands weren't even moving. Living in Gawler, a heritage town (pop, 56,000), meant there was a 20 minutes drive to practice down the motorway. Practice was twice a week on Monday and Wednesday nights 7.00pm to 9.00pm. This was my first introduction to playing right handed rolls. The D/Sgt was very strict on the Drummers all playing exactly the same at the same time. I really enjoyed my time with the COEPB, but 2016 saw a return to Napier.

I re-joined the Pipe Band. For me it was a new name and a new place for practice, I had been away for a few years, but there were familiar faces still with the band. I had been in contact with Geoff while I was in Australia, I mentioned to him that we were coming back and he sent me details of band practice and some scores to practice before coming back. When I turned up for my first practice with the band I was taken by surprise, as Geoff never mentioned that there were already thirteen (13) snare drummers in the drum corps, but the mid section was a little on the light side. As I could play both Base and Tenor, I moved over to fill a gap in the mid section.

Even though I moved over to the mid section, I still needed to continue with the snare drumming, so I continued with practice at home, re-learning some of the scores along with some new ones.

I was asked if I could assist with the Napier Boys High School drummers, they have performed very well competing at Square day and Turakina last. With these two competitions coming up soon, there is now a focus for the next square day and Turakina competition.

However last Tuesday 21st Aug while attending the school practice, I was taken by surprise with sudden influx of year 10 boys wanting to play the drums. 1 x base drummers, 3 Tenor Drummers and 6 Snare drummers. The next few practices will see if we have some drummers.

On reflection, looking back to my very first experience of seeing a Pipe Band play, right up to the present day, I can think of nothing better than hearing those pipes and drums, coming together and creating a sound that I think, for a lot of people, stirs the blood a little and becomes a draw card for others. Not to mention the good friendly people you get to meet.

Alan Lawton



Coming Events



September

Sat 15 Hastings Blossom Parade
Tue 18 Music Group practice.
Sun 23 *Piping and Drumming Live* at Napier RSA - 4.00 pm.

October

Mon 1/Tue 2 Foundation Youth Pipe Band Concerts Napier & Hastings
Sat 13 Napier Caledonian Society Ingleside.

November

Sat 10 Napier Caledonian Society Ingleside.
Sun 25 St. Andrews Day Church Parade.
Sun 25 *Piping and Drumming Live* at Napier RSA - 4.00 pm.

December

Sat 1 Heretaunga Thistle Club Sound Shell 12 noon.
Sat 1 Riversdale Village 4.30 pm.
Sun 2 Napier Christmas Parade
Sat 8 CHB Christmas Parade
Sat 8 Napier Caledonian Society Ingleside
Sun 9 Taradale Club Family event
Mon 10 Band Final Night.
Sat 15 Hastings and District Scots Society Ingleside.
Mon 31 New Years Eve.

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.