

Message from the President

Hello Everyone

Welcome to 2025 and I hope you have all enjoyed a great start to the New Year. The Band resumed practice on Monday 20th January and everyone was straight into concert mode for the up and coming Art Deco concert. More about this later in the newsletter.

Your Committee has had its first meeting of the year, at which time a new secretary was appointed. On behalf of us all, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Amanda Laird. Amanda is a learner piper and has recently returned from an extensive travel experience with her family.

Once Amanda finds her feet, I am sure she will be delighted to share her adventures with you.

There are several projects underway, one being forming a working group to celebrate 140 years of the Hawke's Bay Caledonian Society. If you are interested in helping with this, please do let me or Kerry know. It would be good to acknowledge this milestone in some way.

Several performances are planned at the local RSA's and as always, we enjoy playing for you. We will keep you advised of dates and times through our newsletter and of course our website, during the year.

In the meantime, please do come along to the Art Deco Concert – ***From Scotland With Love*** – and enjoy our very first performance of the year.

Julie

Art Deco 2025

Saturday 15 February will be the big day for us. The street parades and then our concert in the afternoon (starting at 2.30pm). Tickets are at a discounted price of \$15 for supporters (\$20 otherwise) and \$5 for children. Transport yourself to Scotland and be entertained by the haunting sounds of the pipes and drums in the beautiful historic church of St Paul's, Napier. Tunes will include favourites such as *Amazing Grace*, *Green Hills of Tyrol*, *Flower of Scotland* and of course the haunting *Highland Cathedral*. You may also be surprised and delighted with the band's more modern music which often originates from the Celtic root of Ireland and "*From Scotland With Love*."

We will have a **shuttle bus** running from Nelson Park to Tennyson Street for those that need transport into Napier on Saturday 15th. The van will be running between 9am and 11am and then again between 1pm and 2pm. Priority needs to go to playing members as they have to be in town to tune up but supporters are welcome to make use of the shuttle as well.

Our Vision

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

What does 2025 bring for your Pipe Band?

We've tuned up and played Auld Lang Syne, several times on NYE actually, so now is the moment to reflect and reset our pipe banding intentions for the coming year.

Looking Back - celebrate our Wins (and learn from our Losses)

As a band we recorded 65 events on our calendar including 19 community parades as well as playing at 12 events on Anzac Day. We did 5 concerts – the big one being the Highland Heroes concert with the Napier Tech Band. All of this is why we love piping and drumming. There have been moments we'd rather forget – starting on the wrong tune, missed notes, reeds that wouldn't cooperate, or performances that didn't go as planned. Hopefully, we will have learned something and can use those moments as stepping stones to improvement.

Looking ahead - what's in store for 2025?

Well, there will be the usual big events – starting with Art Deco in February then on to Anzac Day, the Blossom Parade, and then Christmas parades and another NYE. It all comes around so fast and interspersed with the big parades will be more concerts, the solo gigs at weddings and funerals and special events, band parades at retirement villages, maybe some more Tea 'n Tunes and social events. We're sure to have some new music to learn, perhaps reviving some of the tunes we've played in the past but put aside. Some of our members will be focusing on perfecting a specific piece of music or dedicating more time to their playing (such as tuning their drones or perfecting their technique) or maybe competing in solo competition.

Staying connected.

Pipe banding is more than just music; it's community. We will share our music with friends and family, get out and about in the community (hopefully we might inspire others to get involved in our piping and drumming) and we will certainly share our enjoyment of what we do with our loyal supporters whenever we can. Here's to another fun year of music, progress, and unforgettable moments!

With thanks for the ideas from Andrew Douglas, Co-founder of Dojo University – you can read Andrew's full article (and many others) on our website

<https://www.napierpipeband.nz/members/resources/>

Pipe Band Contest

Once again you will have an opportunity to see some great bands when they are in HB for the Wellington-HB Centre contest in a few weeks time. The contest is being staged at Lindisfarne College on Saturday 22 Feb with the music events starting at 11am. The street march at 2.30pm will be followed by the massed bands and prize giving. We know you all enjoyed the last contest in the Bay in 2021 when we hosted the National contest and although a centre contest is much smaller there will still be some great pipe band music and marching to enjoy.

Thanks

Our thanks to the Taradale RSA for their ongoing support of the Band.



I only play my bagpipes three days a week – yesterday, today and tomorrow!

150th Celebrations



The recognition of organised settlements in HB were celebrated in October and November last year. On Labour weekend the Band travelled to Otane for their parade event. The Band has a long association with CHB – when the Waipawa pipe band wound up in 2001 the Drones & Sticks PB was gifted their assets and undertook to support parades in CHB for five years. The five years has passed but we continue to attend events in Waipukurau, Waipawa and Otane when we are invited.

Napier's celebrations included the special ceremony on Thursday 28 November. At 7am the Band led the official party onto the Sound Shell and then at the end we played some music to entertain the crowd. On Sat 30 November we were at the Whanau Fest at Anderson Park where we had a presence with our gazebo and tried to attract interest in learning piping and drumming. Even though the weather wasn't very pleasant the Band's performance during the morning was well received by the audience.



January's Calendar

A few notable dates in Scottish History (in addition to Robert Burns' birthday on the 25th!)

- **7 January 1451:** The University of Glasgow was founded - the second oldest in Scotland after St Andrews (1413).
- **19 January 1736:** The birth in Greenock of engineer and inventor James Watt (not to be confused with our own Watt brothers), whose improvements to the steam engine were fundamental in bringing about the industrial revolution.
- **26 January 1861:** The One O'Clock Gun is fired at Edinburgh Castle for the first time.

New Rules

On Monday 5 November the Band held a Special General Meeting at which a new set of rules were discussed and approved. As advised in the notice of the meeting the Band being an Incorporated Society (1046005) and a registered charity (CC30990) had to prepare a new constitution that complies with the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 so that we can retain these registrations. If you're interested in viewing the new rules scan this QR code.



Message from Aaron Watt (the Music leader of the Band)

As we kick off another exciting season, I'd like to reflect on our wonderful activities from late last year that showcased the spirit and talent of our band.

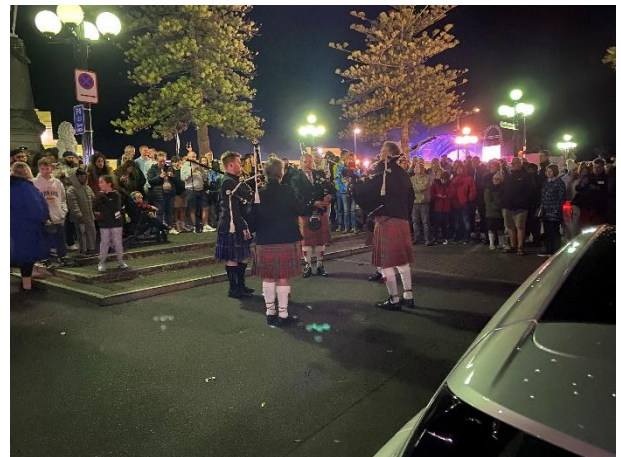
One of the highlights was our participation in the Napier 150th Anniversary Parade. Despite the early start at 7 AM, we had an incredible turnout, with members coming together to create a memorable performance. We kept our music simple yet powerful, featuring "The Green Hills of Tyrol" and "When the Battles O'er" as we proudly led the Napier City Council members and dignitaries to the Sound Shell.

In addition to the anniversary celebrations, we entertained the crowds at the Taradale Christmas Parade, where our small concert drew significant attention. A big thank you to the HB Caledonian band for joining us in the Napier Christmas parade, which fostered a fantastic atmosphere and made the day even more special.

To wrap up the year, we organized a social gathering at the Station Bar and Grill. This event was a fantastic opportunity for us to bond as a team and reflect on a busy year filled with piping, drumming, and parading.

We are also thrilled to welcome a new member to our family! Gavin has stepped into the role of Drum Major and is bringing along valuable drumming knowledge. While he'll need some time to refine his skills after a break from playing, we're excited to support him on this journey.

Our New Year's celebrations were a tremendous success, as members performed at several venues, including Kennedy Park, Taradale Club, Kensington Village, Mission Estate, and RSA Taradale (which treated us to a very nice and much appreciated supper). Pipers also played the traditional Auld Lang Syne at midnight up at the Sound Shell. We even had the pleasure of bringing music to the homes of a couple of retired members! These performances were not only well-received, but also helped generate generous donations to support our band.



After a much-needed four-week break, we officially resumed activities on January 20th, and we're already gearing up for the upcoming Napier Art Deco parades and concerts.

Thanks to all members for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Here's to another year filled with music, camaraderie, and unforgettable performances.



Parades to remember

Here's the next in our series of memorable parades featuring Ernest, Nick and Penny (some old and some more recent)

Penny Madden has played at many events, not just band parades. As we approach the 2025 Art Deco weekend she says she is looking back and remembering playing in the band with four of her grandchildren, Morgan, Heath, Conrad and Michael. "I felt such pride knowing how many generations of my family had picked up a set of bagpipes or drums. It is always such a happy atmosphere for the Annual Art Deco Festival with big crowds appreciating what we do. The delight on faces young and old as we march down the street, everyone clapping, tapping and swinging to the sound of the pipe band. Roll on Festival 2025 with the crowds following from the Parade to the Concert."



Nick Scannell played a few weeks ago for a Burns Supper here in Napier and for Nick, fortunately, what happened was a first and hopefully will never recur. "I had piped in the 'haggis', which turned out to be a lamb sausage (the host couldn't get a real haggis) and delivered the address, all went well. I played a few tunes whilst the assembled guests devoured their sausage and mash. Then came the time to give the ode to the skins. As I marched around the room playing a lament, I became aware that my kilt was slowly but surely moving in a southerly direction. By the time I got to the point where I was going to recite the ode, my kilt was nearly off!" Thankfully for Nick one of the guests came to his rescue and hitched it up whilst he finished playing. He won't forget that one.

Ernest Seadon has played in many events and recalls one that was particularly memorable. "The funniest (still makes me laugh today) was an ANZAC dawn parade with the Gisborne Pipe band (1995). Tuning up really early 5am we had quite a march from town to the cenotaph, where all tuned up and ready to go, we were lined up behind the army band. As the veterans were lined behind us we discussed with the army band the tunes and timing considering the elderly behind us, and the need to give them a 30 second start. Comes the time to start, the army band steps off at 120+ beats per minute while we started off at a slower beat with the oldies behind us. By the time we had gone one block the army band was nowhere to be seen. Then our Drum Major took a wrong turn but the band went the right way - it took him 5 minutes to realise and catch up. When we finally arrived at the cenotaph the army band asked if we had got lost as they had been waiting 15 minutes for us."

Upcoming Parades

Art Deco parade and concert	Feb 15
Wgtn HB Centre Contest Lindisfarne College	Feb 22
EIT Graduations	April 11
Anzac Day	April 25

You are most welcome to come along to any practice on a Monday night at 7pm at the Band Rooms, Jull Street, Napier. Check out the Band's website www.napierpipeband.nz for upcoming parades or scan the QR code.

