

Pipe Major's Report

Practices & Musical Progress

- Regular Monday night practices have focused on refining the *Caller Herrin* and *Hundred Pipers* brackets. Use of metronomes has been strongly encouraged to improve timing and cohesion.
- Other tunes receiving regular attention include *The Sands of Kuwait*, *Wings* and various jig sets (*Banjo Breakdown*, *Paddy's Leather Breeches*).
- The band has also worked on *Highland Laddie* bracket, and slow airs such as *Morag of Dunvegan*, *Going Home*, and *The Dark Isles* to name a few
- Musical growth, especially among newer and younger members (drumming & piping), has been consistently acknowledged and encouraged.

Recent Performances

- New Years Eve (31Dec) A heartfelt thank you to all members who generously give their time to help bring music, energy, and joy to the community on such a special night
- Art Deco Weekend. (15 Feb) Great audience turn out. Members play extraordinarily well. A well-received performance with a strong tune list,
- Taradale RSA Concert (16 March): A well-received performance with a strong tune list, including small group features and full band numbers. Positive feedback was received.
- Multicultural Day Parade (1 March) and EIT Graduation Ceremonies (11 April): Successfully executed community engagements.
- ANZAC Day Parade (25 April): Strong turnout and performance; slow airs played during wreath-laying ceremonies were noted as especially moving.
- Clan Cameron Reunion: A positive musical performance by 4 pipers on 12 May at the HB Club was well received by the clan members.

Band Spirit & Community

- Practices have often concluded with tea and treats, strengthening camaraderie. Special thanks to Julie and others for organising refreshments.
- The *Aaron Blooper Award* continues to provide humour and community spirit, with memorable nominees and winners throughout the season.

Uniform & Equipment

- New socks/hoses issued to members
- Tone protectors have been distributed to help with reed care and overall sound quality.

Upcoming Focus

- Preparation is now shifting toward Concert 3, in advance of the next Napier RSA concert in June
- A performance at the Tweedie Bull Sale (3 June) is planned. This includes travel logistics, photo opportunities, and a donation to the band.

Looking Ahead

- A new 4-concert rotation has been proposed to streamline programming and keep performances varied and engaging throughout the year.
- Members are encouraged to maintain familiarity with the full repertoire, especially combined band tunes, and to continue individual practice.

A huge thank you to all our playing members for your continued efforts year-round committing to Monday night practices, turning up to events in all weather, and bringing your energy, talent, and passion to everything we do. Your dedication is what keeps the band thriving and sounding great!

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our families, supporters & friends who show up, cheer us on, and help behind the scenes. Your encouragement and contributions make a world of difference.

A comment from the outgoing Pipe Major:

With the changing of the guard, the band has entered a new phase. This can be difficult for both the new Pipe Major and also the members. Aaron has taken over this role superbly and in a professional manner. He is an excellent leader who encourages all with his own high standard. He is ably supported by Andy.

I have no doubt that the band remains in good hands and that the future is very positive.