

### Message from the President

Hello members

It's good to be back home after six weeks away on our usual South Island jaunt. Beautiful scenery, big country, lots of tenting and even more hunting. We came home much fitter! Here is a photo of an old coal shuttle which was on a walk around the Mt Somers area.



The highlight for me was being given by an aunt, my Nana's wedding dress which is almost 90 years old. Very special.

The Band has been busy in our absence - you will read about its activities in the pages to follow, including the upcoming AGM. Our Rules now invite one Associate member to be part of the Committee, so if you are a Supporter and have an interest in contributing to the running of the band, please complete a nomination form (found on the band's website) and return this to our Secretary, Amanda.

I look forward to seeing you on Monday 9th June, 7.30pm.

*Julie*

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

Band practice update:

With parades and concerts a little quieter over the past few months, we've been turning our focus inward — diving deep into our massive tune list and tackling some of the trickier pieces in our repertoire. Each week, we're blown away by the incredible turnout and enthusiasm of our members, who bring their passion for piping and drumming to every practice. The hall is buzzing with energy, laughter, and the steady beat of progress as we sharpen our skills and learn together. It's been a joy to see everyone pushing themselves, all while having a bit of fun along the way!

ANZAC Day Reflections:

This year, we once again came together to honour and support the ANZAC services and parades. Our members proudly attended dawn services at Lone Pine, Napier Sound Shell and Waimarama, then played at the Taradale, Napier and Waipawa parades, and three retirement villages finally finishing the day at the Taradale RSA, playing some of our most cherished tunes and slow airs. It is a true privilege to be part of such an important day — a day where the haunting sound of the pipes touches hearts and stirs emotions like no other. Standing alongside our communities, we feel immense pride and humility, knowing the music we share helps to honour the memory of those who served and sacrificed.

### Thanks

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



### Our Vision

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

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## A Scottish quiz (answers elsewhere in the newsletter)

1. What is Scotland's national animal?
2. Scotland is home to the oldest tree in Europe? What sort of tree and how old is it?
3. What clothing item did Scotsman Charles Macintosh invent?
4. What item from Scotland has been banned from import to the USA since the 1970's?
5. The first colour photograph (produced in Scotland) was a photo of what?

## Polo Shirt Anyone?

The band has adopted a casual polo shirt, adorned with the new logo. The option to purchase is extended to all supporters for a cost of \$45. The shirts come in a variety of sizes with both a women's and men's cut, available in light grey or black. The fabric is 95% cotton 5% elastane knit. To order please let any band member know. Its great to see those of you who have already purchased a polo shirt wearing them when we are together.



## For the Lovers of All Things Scottish!

If you enjoy a bit of Scottish shopping, be sure to check out the link below. There's a wonderful shop in Whangārei that's packed with everything Scottish you could possibly imagine—from kilts and bagpipes to shortbread and tartan treasures. Well worth a look! <https://www.scotsinspirit.com/>

## Recent Parades

The Band is very active in the HB community with a number of regular parade commitments. The EIT graduations are always a special event for us to take part in as the pipes and pipe band have been part of every EIT HB graduation ceremony since they started in the mid-1990's. From memory, two of our members (Cameron and Robert) have been involved both as graduates and in the band. This year the ceremonies were in Napier with fine weather making for a very enjoyable parade.

Our members also supported the Hastings multicultural event in February at Cornwall Park and the Sikh community's parade in Hastings in April.



## Easter Highland Games 2025



The custom of competing at the Highland Games in Hastings at Easter goes back many years and many of our members will have fond memories of the events at Windsor Park. Lindisfarne College is now the venue for the competitions which are focussed on piping and dancing. This year four of our pipers took part in the Novice and C & D grade piping sections. Chelsea won the Novice Slow Air with Stephen gaining second place. Results in other events weren't as good but its all part of the learning process for everyone. Well done Campbell, Andy, Stephen and Chelsea!

## Band concerts

Plans are being made for our Piping & Drumming Live concerts during the year so you might like to mark these first two dates on your calendars: June 22 at Clubs Napier (previously the Napier RSA) will be a concert while the July 20 event at the Taradale RSA will be another Tea 'n Tunes which proved so popular last year.

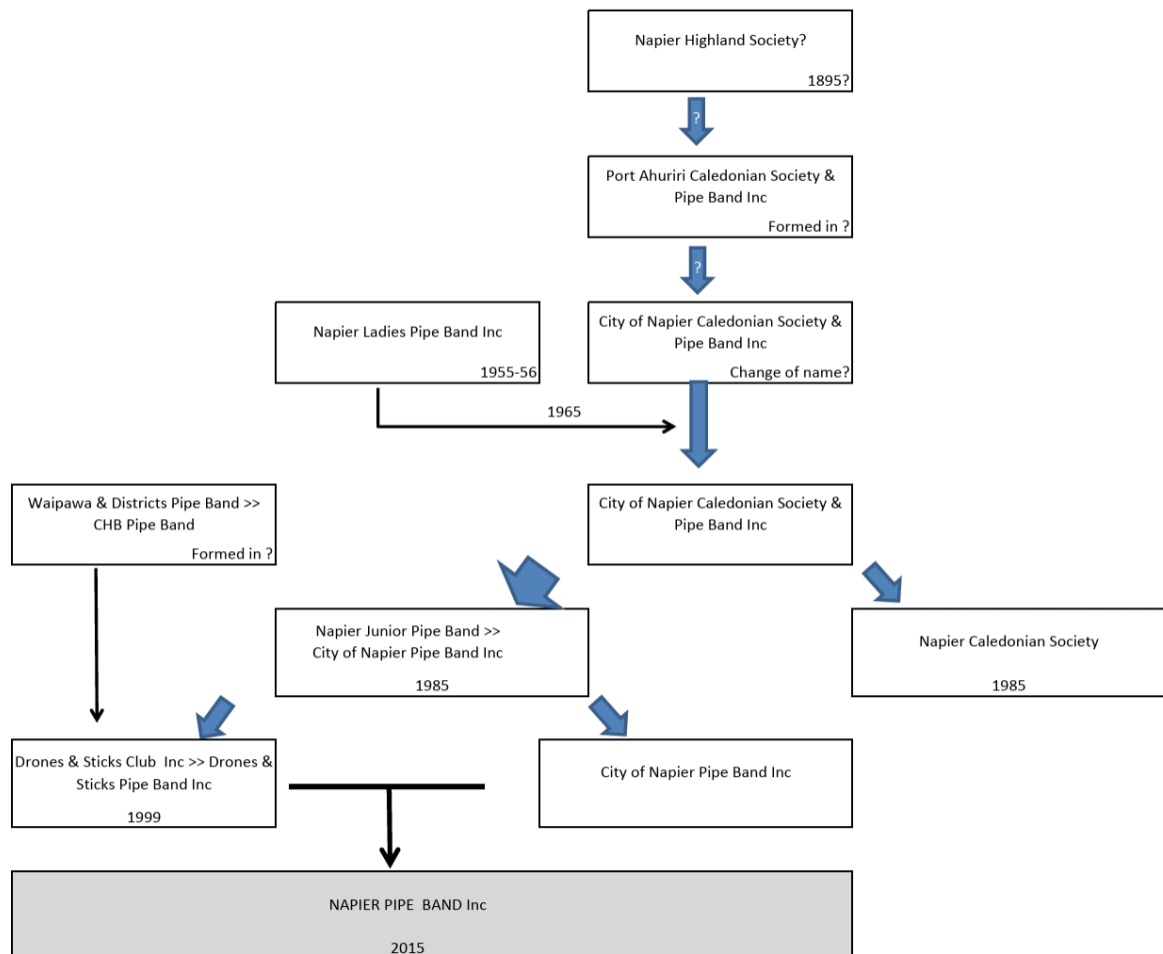
## AGM 2025

The Band's AGM will be held at the Band Rooms, Nelson Park on Monday 9 June. The agenda and other information will be emailed to you all closer to the time.

## Ever wondered when and how the Napier Pipe Band was formed?

Here's a handy timeline diagram to make it easy to see our history at a glance—from our founding days to where we are now. Take a look and see how far we've come!

### The History of Pipe Bands In Napier



## A Buzz of Activity at the Band Hall!

There have been some busy bees hard at work at the band hall lately—sanding, painting, fixing, and doing everything they can to keep her looking her best. A huge thank you to everyone involved. Your time, effort, and dedication do not go unnoticed, we deeply appreciate it.

## Parades to remember

Here's the next in our series of memorable parades.

### Penny Marshall

There have been many memorable parades in my time in pipe bands but this one was outstanding because of the sheer size of the complete shambles that occurred. It was during the massed bands at the end of a National Contest in Palmerston North. Instructions were that the bands would march along the park in front of the grandstand then wheel at the end and march back again. As you will have already guessed, a massed band doing a wheel was unlikely to succeed in practice no matter how good a plan it seemed in theory. As we tried to wheel we became so squashed together that I had to take my pipes off my shoulder and hold them against myself as we all tried to shuffle out of the resultant mess. It was really quite hilarious and eventually we managed to march back and halt in front of the stand. I would love to have seen what that wheel looked like from the grandstand though.

## Ken's Memorable Parade

Virtually every parade I participate in with the Napier Pipe Band is memorable and enjoyable. A recent parade that has a lovely memory for me is when we played at a concert at the Taradale RSA last year. I was asked to play solo so I said I'd play 'Hineh Ma Tov' which is Hebrew for 'Here it is Good.' I made a mistake and played 'Soon May the Wellerman Come.'

It must have been very enjoyable for the band members, as they all laughed because I'd made a mistake playing the wrong tune. As they say 'if you haven't made a mistake you haven't done anything.' Yes, I did something that was wrong, but it has given me an enjoyable memory. Hopefully I won't play another wrong tune again!



**Julie says she doesn't have a favourite parade.** "Of course there are some I enjoy more than others. However one parade in particular stands out for me for reasons other than the music, or the audience. This was the Art Deco parade in February 2018. It was the first time I had ever worn a full band uniform and despite the day being over 30 degrees, I was so proud to be marching in full regalia.

It was a little tricky to get the plaid on correctly, but Ken was there to assist."

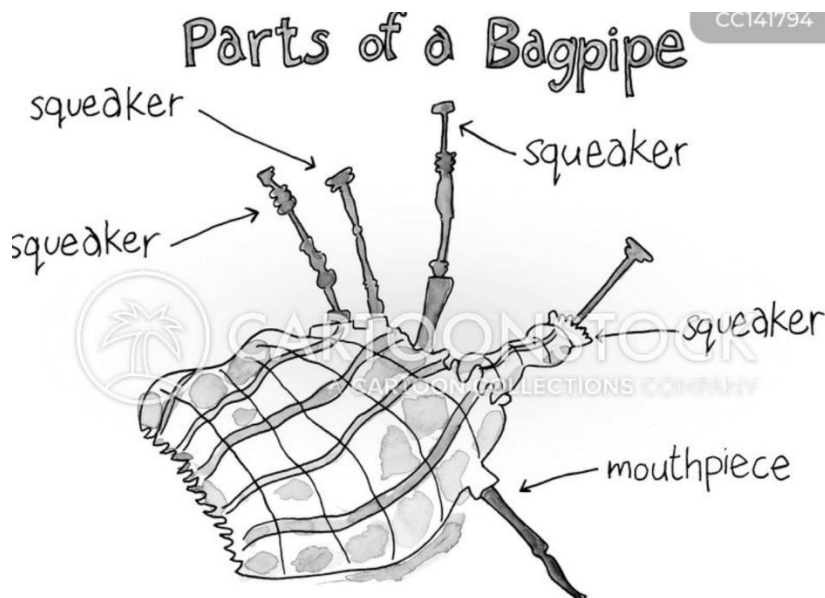
## Tap and Pay

Great News – We Now Accept Tap and Pay! We're excited to announce that the Napier Pipe Band can now accept Tap and Pay payments! Perfect for those moments when you don't have any cash on hand. Quick, easy, and convenient—just tap and go!



## Interesting Scottish May dates in history

- May 7, 1542:** The Earl of Hertford, acting on behalf of King Henry VIII of England, invaded Scotland in an attempt to force a marriage between Mary, Queen of Scots, and Henry's son Edward.
- May 1, 1707:** The Union between England and Scotland was proclaimed, resulting in the formation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain.
- May 1, 1938:** King George VI officially opened the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow, showcasing the British Empire's achievements.
- May 13, 1568:** The Battle of Langside took place, resulting in the defeat of Mary, Queen of Scots, and her forced exile.



## Quiz Answers

1. April 9 is Unicorn Day (in Scotland and elsewhere)? Fun fact: **the Unicorn** is Scotland's national animal & appears on their Royal Coat of Arms. You see Unicorns everywhere in Scotland, on old monuments, carvings, paintings etc.
2. Scotland is home to the oldest tree in Europe and it is one of the old living organisms in the world. It is a **twisted yew** that has been around for over **3,000 years**.
3. **The raincoat** was invented in Scotland by a man named Charles Macintosh, hence the name the “mac”. We’re not saying it rains a lot, but having a good mac does help.
4. Since the 1970s all imports of **haggis** to the US have been completely banned.
5. The first colour photograph was produced in 1861 by Scottish physicist James Clerk Maxwell. The photograph was an image of a **tartan ribbon**, and was created by photographing the ribbon three times through red, blue, and yellow filters, then recombining the images into one colour composite.

## Hello everyone, I'm Amanda – the new Secretary of the Napier Pipe Band!



I'm currently learning to play the bagpipes—it's in the blood! My grandfather played for most of his life, and my father and uncle are both members of the North Otago Highland Pipe Band, playing drums and pipes. We're very proud of our Scottish heritage, and I'm excited to be part of a band that celebrates it.

My family and I have just returned from a 20-month sailing adventure aboard our yacht, *Castele*. This was our third—and final—voyage abroad. We sailed from New Zealand to Fiji on a 10-night passage, then made our way to Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and “over the top” of Papua New Guinea. From there, we journeyed through Indonesia, crossed the Arafura Sea, and entered Australia at Thursday Island before heading down to Cairns. We first began offshore sailing in 2019 when our son Jaxon was just two years old—and still in nappies! Looking back now, I often wonder how we managed it, but somehow, we did. That first voyage took us around the Pacific Islands, including Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, and New Caledonia.



Some of the easiest sailing we experienced was over the top of Papua New Guinea, thanks to our big spinnaker sail, which made light-air sailing a breeze. We travelled in convoy with five other yachts for safety and made unforgettable stops in the Ninigo and Green Islands. There, we met some of the most beautiful, joyful people—living simply off the land with very little material ‘stuff’.

I'm thrilled to be home and even more thrilled to be involved with the Napier Pipe Band. I look forward to meeting and working with you all!

## Subscriptions

Many thanks to everyone who has paid their subscriptions. If you haven't paid yet there will be a reminder coming soon.

## Dates to remember:

June 9 – Band AGM

June 22 – Piping & Drumming Live at Clubs Napier (previously the Napier RSA)

July 20 – Tea 'n Tunes at the Taradale RSA.