

Message from the President

Hello everyone

Another three months since our last newsletter - time is marching on (pardon the pun)!

A very eventful time it has been with the Puketapu Bridge opening, two more workshops, the Blossom Parade with our friends HB Cale, a very successful concert at Clubs Napier, attending the Hohepa Market Day and our very first 'practice' at the Napier Soundshell. Among all this, Monday nights continued as usual, with a few extra practices thrown in too. Just as well we all love Piping and Drumming!

Two highlights for me this last quarter, the first being the chance to entertain the public outside the Soundshell on a lovely Sunday afternoon, the second a 'flash mob' with the learners in Emerson Street. A great experience for everyone.

One of the biggest challenges we face as a band is recruitment of new members, especially learners. If you know anyone who might be interested in learning either the pipes or drums, please do contact anyone of us in the band - we would love to be able to help. Or simply email haveago@napierpipeband.nz with contact information.

Finally, this being our last newsletter before Christmas it is an opportune time to sincerely thank you all for continuing to be part of our success. We couldn't do it without you and I sign off with a heartfelt appreciation for all your support.

Thank You

Julie

Upcoming Parades and Concerts

November

Sun 23 Taradale RSA – Piping & Drumming Live Concert 3pm (please note the change of date!)

December

Saturday 6	Taradale Shopping Centre Xmas event 11am
Sunday 7	Napier Christmas Parade 1pm
Monday 8	final practice for the year
Saturday 13	Wairoa Christmas Parade 2pm
Sunday 14	NPB Connect Napier Sound Shell 2pm
Monday 15	Willowbank Bupa 1pm



New Year's Eve (Wed 31) the band will again be out doing its round of parades to celebrate the end of the year and welcome in the new year.

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.

Our Vision

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

Message from Aaron Watt (the Pipe Major of the Band)

What a fantastic few months it's been for our band! The dedication and hard work from everyone has been outstanding, turning up week after week for Monday practice shows just how committed this team is. Your effort really shines through in every performance.

We had the pleasure of playing at the Blossom Parade alongside our comrades from the HB Caledonian Band. As always, this parade is a massive event, with floats, activities, and thousands of spectators lining the streets. The bands performed brilliantly, and it was wonderful to enjoy a well-deserved beverage, or two, and some social time with our friends from HB Caledonian afterwards.

Earlier, we had two practice events at the Soundshell on Marine Parade. The first was unfortunately rained out, but our second attempt was a real treat. It was fantastic to play for our local community, and the feedback was incredibly positive. The audience was a mix of casual passers-by stopping for a tune, and some diehard fans who never miss a performance, thank you all for your ongoing support!

We also performed at Clubs Napier, where the crowd thoroughly enjoyed our music. The small group items were particularly well-received, and it was wonderful to see our learners performing for the first time. And of course, Penny Arcade was such a hit we had to play it again, much to everyone's delight.

Looking ahead, we have a packed schedule for late November and December, including the RSA Taradale concert, three Christmas parades, another Soundshell concert, and, of course, finishing the year with our annual New Year's Eve fundraiser.

To our loyal supporters: thank you for continuing to come along to our concerts. Your support means the world to us. And to our awesome band members: keep up the great work! Your dedication and passion make our band the success it is, and it's a joy to share the music with you all.

Here's to more great music, fun times, and amazing memories ahead!

Cheers

Aaron



Art Deco 2026

Put the Art Deco weekend in your calendars as we will be staging our usual concert at St Paul's Church on Saturday 21st February.

Thanks

Our thanks to the Taradale RSA and Clubs Napier for their ongoing support of the Band. We really enjoy playing in their venues.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (REMT) is being staged in NZ next February (it coincides with Art Deco weekend) and no doubt many of our supporters will be attending. Here's some information about the REMT that you may know.

- In 1949, as part of The Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama 'Something About a Solider' was performed at the Ross Bandstand in Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens and subsequently a show called 'The King's Men' was produced on the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade for a standing audience of 2,500.
- Following these two productions the General Officer Commanding the Army in Scotland was asked to present a military 'show' to be called the Edinburgh Tattoo. Informally, it was agreed that this would take place annually during the Edinburgh International Festival.
- The first Edinburgh Tattoo (now The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo) took place in 1950. This first production included eight items and attracted an audience of 100,000 over its 20 performances.
- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and HRH Princess Margaret attended the final night of this inaugural production. Legendary English conductor and impresario Sir Thomas Beecham conducted the combined military bands.
- Fireworks were first used at the 1950 production creating the tradition of finale fireworks. Up until 2012, the Tattoo had only included fireworks for the final performance but from 2012 fireworks featured after each performance.
- Pipe Major George Stoddart performed as the first Tattoo Lone Piper, going on to perform as Lone Piper for the next 11 years until 1961.
- The first elevated seating 'stands' were set up in 1950.
- In 2000, the Tattoo went to New Zealand for the first time with its production 'Salute to New Zealand'.
- In 2010 the Tattoo was staged in Sydney at Allianz Stadium with the theme 'Celebrating 60 years Of Valour, Mateship, Glory'.
- In 2016 the Tattoo took the show to Melbourne, Australia and Wellington in New Zealand. The show theme down-under was 'Fanfare for the Future'.
- The tattoo is produced by the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (Charities) Limited a charity registered in Scotland.

Two photos from the 2010 REMT rehearsals in Sydney – can you spot the NPB member playing with the City of Blacktown pipe band?



Band Room Upgrade

We have received another grant from Pub Charities Ltd, this time to install an air conditioning unit in our drummers' room, the second largest space in the band rooms.

This area is mainly used by small groups and our drummers but is poorly ventilated, resulting in extremes of temperature in summer and in winter. With the installation of an air conditioning unit, band members using this space will be able to adjust speed and temperature of the system to manage conditions in the room when practicing and teaching.



Pub Charity Limited, which has an extensive history of funding local community organisations, has supported us in the past so we will again be supporting their local venues: Sideline Bar, The Bay View, The Duke of Gloucester and The Station.



Meet Bonnie — Our Newest Band Member!

And no, we're not talking about the person in the photo — that's Amanda, our secretary — but rather our brand new donation box.

Bonnie was lovingly crafted by Amanda's father, Lindsay Graham, who plays the drum for the North Otago Pipe Band. Every part of Bonnie was handmade from bits and pieces that once belonged to Lindsay's mother, who used to create beautiful Scottish dolls.

A huge thank you to Lindsay for this thoughtful and creative contribution. Welcome to the band, Bonnie — may you be very fruitful for us all!

Moteo-Puketapu Bridge opening

It was an early, chilly start for the band that day, and the poor bagpipes certainly didn't appreciate the cold weather! Still, we were privileged to play at the official opening of the new Moteo-Puketapu Bridge.

We even made it onto One News that night!

Seventy-seven years ago, the newly formed HB Scottish Pipe Band played at the opening of the Fernhill Bridge — how fantastic to see the tradition continue.





2025 Blossom Parade

What a wonderful day it was for this year's Blossom Parade, as we joined forces once again with our friends from the Hastings Caledonian Pipe Band.

This year was extra special, as we invited our learners to take part in the parade — and what a treat that was for everyone! The learners brought great energy and enthusiasm, making it a memorable experience for both the band and the crowd.

Here's what Amanda, one of our bagpipe learners, had to say about the day:

"I was so pleased we learners had a session to practise marching before the parade — it definitely helped! It felt great to be able to march in time with the band.

It was so much fun marching alongside everyone and seeing all the smiling faces in the crowd. We got the luxury of feeling like we were part of the band without the nerves of having to remember the tunes, play the pipes, and march in time all at once!"

It was a fantastic day of music, colour, and community spirit.



Memorable Parades – Don Stuart

Don recalls the trip to Bundanoon in 2008 as one of the highlights of his time in the band.

"A great experience and a wonderful trip, I am sure enjoyed by all. My personal highlight was being afforded the honour of Drum Major for the Day and leading a great team of musicians onto centre field to face a crowd of some 15,000 people, a moment I will never forget."



Is Laughter Good For You?

What's a whisky's favourite band? The Rolling Stoned.

Why do whisky lovers make great friends? They always lift your spirits!

Why did the whisky go to therapy? It was tired of being bottled up.

What's on the Scottish Calendar for November?

In 1872 the first-ever international football match took place at Hamilton Crescent, Glasgow, between Scotland and England.

St Andrew's Day, Scotland's national day, November 30. There are many free events on the nearest weekend in Edinburgh. In May 2005, Samantha Mungall, Iain Scherr and Alexandra Gill - three first year students at Clyde Valley High - presented a petition before the Public Petitions Committee to make this a national holiday. Their petition was discussed and was accepted, and this helped get the bill through the Scottish Parliament in 2006 but as a substitute for an existing local holiday, rather than an additional one.

The Piper's Missing Grace Note

Old Jock was a piper of towering pride,
He marched like a general, puffed up with stride.
His drones were in tune, his chanter was tight,
But grace notes? Well... he just never played right.

He'd skip them like pebbles, dismiss them as fluff,
"Too fiddly!" he'd grumble, "I play bold and rough!"
One day at the games, in the piping contest,
He stepped to the line in his very best vest.

The crowd held its breath — the big moment was near,
Jock raised up his pipes and attacked with good cheer.
But that tune, oh dear, came out broken and flat,
With no grace to grace it — just splat after splat.

Instead of a flourish, there came a loud squawk,
The dancers all froze in a synchronized walk.
A dog did a backflip, a baby turned blue,
The judge dropped his clipboard and muttered, "Oh, phew..."

The haggis stand trembled, the kilts lost their swing,
A lady was struck by a flying black pudding.
And through all the chaos, ol' Jock didn't note
That he'd singlehandedly murdered a note.

At last he let go with a final wee wheeze,
And finished his tune to a chorus of "Please!"
The silence that followed was heavy and grim —
Even the echoes refused to applaud him.

Now pipers still whisper, when contests are near,
"Play every grace note, or face wrath and fear."
For music, they say, lives in details so small —
And without that wee flick... it's no music at all.