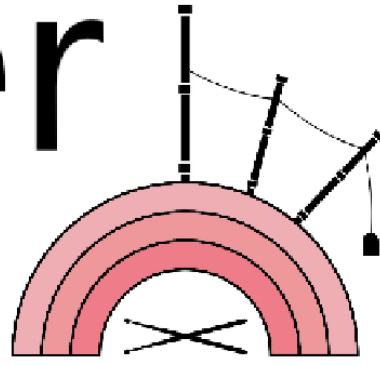


# Napier

Pipe Band



## Induction Booklet



# **Welcome to the Napier Pipe Band!**

We hope you are as excited as we are to be part of this wonderful organisation.

This induction pack is designed to equip you with as much information as possible so that your transition into the Band is a positive one, at the same time introducing you to many aspects of the activities of the Band.

You will also get further information specific to the instrument you play ie. bagpipes or drums, from your tutor or other mentor.

It may seem a little daunting at first, which is why you have been allocated a buddy to clarify any questions you may have and generally be your 'go to' person during your first few months.

## **The Band**

The Napier Pipe Band has its origins in the years before Napier's 1931 earthquake and has a rich history of community activity and competition success. The Band is a very successful and special organisation that supports the Hawke's Bay community through musical and parading skills and fostering piping and drumming in Hawke's Bay.

Being a parading band, actively supporting the local community, it has developed a varied playing repertoire including a concert format which is very popular with supporters and the public.

There is also opportunity for individuals to compete if they wish.

## **Vision & Mission**

Members strive to align themselves to the Vision and Mission of the Napier Pipe Band.

### **Vision (what we want to be)**

The Vision of the Napier Pipe Band is:

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

### **Mission (how we will get there)**

We will achieve success by:

- Supporting and valuing each member
- Promoting Scottish culture and music in the Hawke's Bay region
- Performing and parading with pride
- Recruiting, teaching and encouraging youth in the art of piping and drumming
- Promoting the values of commitment, excellence, respect and integrity
- Providing members with an enjoyable pipe band experience

## **The Role You Play**

As you will have just read, one of the ways the Napier Pipe Band will attain its mission is by “Supporting and valuing each member”. You can achieve this in a number of ways, the most important being to respect all other members and not bring the Napier Pipe Band into disrepute.

## **Members Guiding Principles**

The Napier Pipe Band expects all members to:

- demonstrate commitment to the Mission and Vision;
- comply with all reasonable instructions;
- show respect and professionalism;
- take ownership of their own behaviour including appropriate standards of language;
- be present at practices, rehearsals and events;
- be on time;
- have the necessary equipment with them;
- have completed any requested practice;
- be responsible for learning and practising band tunes, the techniques and embellishments required for proficiency, as well as good maintenance of their instrument;
- adhere to Band protocol when in uniform;
- maintain expected standards of performance;
- be active in their self-development;
- show reasonable care of the Band’s property, using these for only authorised purposes;
- comply with all Band policies.

## **Parents: you are**

- welcome to attend all practices and other events,
- invited to provide feedback at any time about a child’s experience of the band, and
- encouraged to talk to management about any problems a child may be having.

## **Rules**

The Band is governed by Rules (a constitution) which have been adopted by members. These Rules are extensive and can be found on the Band's website (look under the Members tab).

## **The Band Makeup**

The Band is made up of drummers and pipers (the Playing Members), with more specific roles held by some. Included in this pack is a current list of all playing members, including their contact details and, where applicable, the role they hold within the Band. Note that, to respect the privacy of band members, this list of contact details can only be used for band business.

Each year the members elect a Committee to give direction and help run the Band. Also elected are people who hold more specific positions. A brief description of the responsibilities for these positions are:

### **President**

The President is responsible for the well-being and public image of the Band, including the welfare of band members.

You will see your President at band practices and performances; this person will also be involved in planning and organising band trips and events.

The President generally also holds the position of Chairman at Committee meetings.

### **Band Manager**

The Band Manager is responsible for the organisation of band trips, practices, concerts and parades, as well as the primary contact for any complaints which may arise, ensuring any disciplinary matters are dealt with effectively.

## **Secretary & Treasurer** (these may be separate or combined roles)

The chief administrator of the Band, the Secretary, beavers away behind the scenes compiling correspondence, newsletters and taking minutes at meetings. The Treasurer looks after the Band's finances - band subs are paid to the Treasurer. As well as attending Committee meetings, the Secretary & Treasurer will often be seen at practice and parades, actively supporting all the players.

## **Pipe Major (Musical Director)**

Responsible for the musical performance of the Band, the Pipe Major establishes the Band's repertoire and leads all practices and performances. The Pipe Major may also be actively involved in the NZ Pipe Band Association. Your Pipe Major will ensure all pipers have access to tuition to meet their individual needs. To meet band circumstances, a Musical Director may be appointed to carry out these functions.

## **Drum Major**

The Drum Major is the leader of the marching band during rehearsals and in performance, under direction of the Pipe Major.

## **Custodian**

The Custodian is responsible for the supply and care of the Band's uniforms and equipment.

## **Drum Sergeant**

The Drum Sergeant is responsible for the musical performance of the drum corps of the Band. This can be with assistance of a drum tutor who works on developing the skills and repertoire of tenor, side and bass drummers. Your Drum Sergeant may write the drum scores for the music played by the Band, which is selected in conjunction with the Pipe Major.

## **Committee**

All Committee members (of which there are up to nine), act on behalf of the members, ensuring that the Band achieves expected outcomes. Effectively the committee is responsible for the ongoing management and

well-being of the Band. Elected Committee members stand for a two year term.

## **Patron**

Each year Band members can also appoint a Patron. Whilst not an active member, the Patron remains involved in the Band, albeit without voting rights. This person continues to promote the Band at community events.

## **Supporters (the Associate Members)**

The Band is fortunate to have a number of supporters and this group of people are kept informed about band activities via the Band newsletter. There are also supporters' events held at the Taradale RSA every few months – these involve the Band presenting its music in a more formal setting than the usual Monday night practices – this is one way we can thank the community for their support. Other events are held from time to time specifically for the supporters.

## **Band Activities**

### **AGM**

In June each year an Annual General Meeting is held – anyone is welcome to attend, although you should note that only Playing Members are eligible to vote.

### **Awards**

Annual recognition awards may be given out to individual playing members in both piping and drumming along with overall “most valued member”. This usually happens at the AGM.

### **Band Rooms**

The Band Rooms are at Napier's Nelson Park 31 Jull Street, Napier. Each Committee member holds a key to the premises. Cleaning of the building and tidying of the grounds is the responsibility of all. A cleaning roster can be found on the notice board advising who is on the monthly clean, together with the tasks to be done. This job takes approximately an hour and is complemented by an annual working bee.



## **Fundraising**

Although the Band often receives a monetary payment for playing, fundraising is carried out for more 'big ticket' items such as uniform or instrument upgrades, band room costs (like insurance or maintenance) or performances requiring travel. These have included two Australian trips in the past. As an annual fundraising event, the Band performs in Taradale and Napier each New Year's Eve, resulting in around \$1,000 being put in the bank. In addition, application is periodically made for grants to cover such things as uniforms and instruments.

## **Health & Safety**

All Band members have a responsibility to ensure the health and safety of themselves and others. A Health & Safety Committee is also made up of Committee members.

Enclosed for your information is the current Health & Safety policy, together with the annual action plan.

***Very importantly, please wear ear plugs, particularly when playing inside, as long term damage to your ears will occur without this protection.***

## **Marching**

From time to time the Band is required to march at parades and band practice will cover marching skills. The Drum Major will give signals with his mace including the more frequently used ones being:

- Mace held up diagonally – stop playing
- Mace held upright – halt ie stop marching
- Mace rotated – form a circle
- Mace held outward in a horizontal position – execute a wheel

Please seek clarification on any commands or aspects relating to marching – remember all marching is done in a public domain.

## **Practices**

Practice is held at the band rooms each Monday for all band members. Generally, practice will start at 7pm but from time to time new members and youngsters may commence at 6.30pm. The format of practice differs for drummers and pipers but during each practice the whole band usually comes together and plays.

## **Additional Practices and Workshops**

Saturday or Sunday practices may also be arranged as part of tuition or in preparation for a major event. Those learning or improving their skills are able to attend one-on-one tutoring. In addition to the weekly practice, workshops are arranged, usually during the school holidays. These are more intensive and focus on technique and improvement, with generally a new tune or two to learn! There may be a small fee to attend these which the Pipe Major will arrange and advise. From time to time, a venue other than the band rooms will be used, such as a local church or hall.

## **Subscriptions**

A subscription, which is set by the Committee each year, is required to be paid to be a member of the Napier Pipe Band. You will receive a receipt on payment of your subscription. This will give you a very favourable 20% discount on the retail price of any purchase at Thomson's Suits, Heretaunga Street West, Hastings, a discount that is well worth the drive to Hastings!

## **Website & Facebook**

The Napier Pipe Band has a website which is very informative for the public and members alike. Visit [www.napierpipeband.nz](http://www.napierpipeband.nz) to check out photographs, events, and general information. Members have their own section which will enable them to view and listen to tunes and there are some very handy hints to assist with playing and practicing your instrument. Most importantly, the website will keep you up to date on future events so you know what's coming up. Facebook posts are used to spread the Band's message more widely.

# Music Activities

## Practice Tips

Tutors and Band leaders will talk a lot about the need to practise. It is an expectation that, as a Napier Pipe Band member, everyone will develop and maintain a good practise regime as this is the best insurance for members to maximise their potential and to not let the side down when on parade or contesting.

**A Practice Habit:** Practise every day, no matter how short. It is significantly more beneficial to do a small bit every day than try and do a big practise every now and then.

Pipers and drummers are encouraged to establish a practise habit that includes exercises, use of a metronome or recording and putting more emphasis on places in tunes that need work. Warm up with a tune or two that you are very familiar with, then play the tunes that you are working on, concentrating on attaining a good sound through blowing (if you are a piper) and technique. It is really helpful to record yourself, then play back and critique. Identify weak areas, practise these. Work hard and smart.

**After a Lesson:** It is very important that you practise at home as soon as you can after every lesson. The longer you leave it, the less you will retain from the lesson. Most people lose 50% of what they have learnt after only 24 hours. Be slick and review quickly.

**Quality:** Becoming an excellent player comes from quality practise. It is important to practise QUALITY as opposed to quantity. Ten minutes quality practise is better than hours of just playing. Use a notebook to write the things you have to work on in your practise between lessons/band rehearsals.

**Confidence:** Remember – practise and repetition lead to greater consistency which leads to greater confidence which leads to the ability to relax, a positive upward spiral. The opposite of course applies with the lack of practise – a downward spiral.

## **Performances**

Throughout the year, the Band plays at a variety of venues, including:

- Blossom Parade
- Christmas Parades
- Retirement Villages
- Art Deco
- Concerts
- Highland Games
- Rugby Games
- Opening of new businesses
- Anzac Day Parades
- EIT graduation

The busiest time of the year is undoubtedly the lead up to Christmas, where the culmination of the year's hard work really comes to the fore. Some years over 60 parades have been undertaken!

## **Our Music**

There are many different types of tunes played by the Band and in competitions – marches, strathspeys and reels, jigs and hornpipes and slow airs. Each have different timing and emphasis on notes. You will be provided with the music for tunes played by the Band. You may also want to maintain a folder for your own individual music.

# Uniforms

As members of the Napier Pipe Band, we parade and perform at many public and private events. When on parade, the Band uniform is to be worn so it's important we wear our Band uniform correctly and present ourselves as smart as we possibly can. There are many tiny little parts that aren't difficult but can make a huge difference to the Band presentation and professionalism.

Full details of how to wear the band uniform are on the Member's page of the band website [www.napierpipeband.nz/members](http://www.napierpipeband.nz/members)

A uniform will be issued to you when you are ready to parade with the band. A refundable \$50 bond is to be paid when the uniform is issued. This will entitle you to the uniform items which, with the exception of the socks and shirts, must be returned in good condition on your resignation as a band member.

Please note that other adornments such as brooches, dirks etc. which do not form part of the Band uniform are not to be worn whilst representing the Napier Pipe Band.

Remember you are representing your Band and need to wear the uniform with both pride and respect.

The Custodian is responsible for the uniforms and would be happy to answer any questions you may have in relation to the uniforms.

The Band wears the 'McLean' tartan kilts, predominantly red in colour.

## **Enjoy!**

Although there seem to be many rules and standards within the Napier Pipe Band, we want you to know that having fun, supporting each other in personal musical goals and aspirations and being part of a group of people that share the same passion in music is what we are about. We sincerely trust you will enjoy being a member of the Napier Pipe Band and that your membership will be a long and positive one.

Please feel free to ask any questions, share any views and give feedback. Remember part of the Vision is to be "...responsive to members' aspirations..." but we can only achieve this if we know what your aspirations are!

## Contents

Welcome to the Napier Pipe Band!.....	1
The Band .....	1
Vision & Mission .....	2
Vision (what we want to be) .....	2
Mission (how we will get there) .....	2
The Role You Play.....	3
Members Guiding Principles.....	3
Parents: you are .....	3
Rules.....	4
The Band Makeup .....	4
President.....	4
Band Manager.....	4
Secretary & Treasurer (these may be separate or combined roles) ..	5
Pipe Major (Musical Director).....	5
Drum Major .....	5
Custodian .....	5
Drum Sergeant.....	5
Committee.....	5
Patron.....	6
Supporters (the Associate Members) .....	6
Band Activities .....	6
AGM.....	6
Awards .....	6
Band Rooms .....	6
Fundraising .....	7
Health & Safety .....	7
Marching .....	7
Practices .....	8
Additional Practices and Workshops .....	8
Subscriptions.....	8

Website & Facebook .....	8
Music Activities .....	9
Practice Tips .....	9
Performances .....	10
Our Music .....	10
Uniforms .....	11
Enjoy! .....	12