



**June 2013**

## **THE CITY OF WELLINGTON PIPE BAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2013

the following Officer's were elected:

- Patron – Murray McCaw
- President – Ian Telfar
- Vice President – Education – Marcus Boshier
- Vice President – Finance – John Nicolson
- Manager – Mark Pescini
- Treasurer – John Nicolson
- Equipment Custodian – Bruce Blacklock
- Band Secretary – Robin McPhee
- Pipe Major – Bruce Blacklock
- Drum Major – Peter Menzies
- Pipe Sergeant – John Gray
- Pipe Corporal – Marcus Boshier
- Drum Sergeant – Anthony Morris
- Drum Corporal – Steve Luckin

### **Delegate Positions filled:**

- Wellington Association of Scots Societies – Ian Telfar/Marcus Boshier
- RNZPBA Wellington/Hawkes Bay Centre – Peter Blacklock/Steve Luckin/Mark Pescini

The City of Wellington Pipe Band Hall Committee

Delegates:

- Ian Telfar
- John Nicolson

## **SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US**

# ANNOUNCING THIS SATURDAY

## 15<sup>th</sup> June 2013

The City of Wellington Pipe Band

### SCOTTISH CELIDH

7.30pm – Midnight

City of Wellington Pipe Band Hall

Top of Hanson St, Newtown

**\$20.00 per person**

**Supper provided**

**BYO: Drinks (limited bar available)**

Celtic musical entertainment

Pipe Band items

Haggis ceremony

Highland dancing demonstrations

Tradition Ceilidh dances

,,,,,,and much more!

**A great opportunity to bring out your kilts and have some fun!!!!**

***Inquiries and ticket sales:***  
***theelphicks@xtra.co.nz***



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## GAELIC BALL

Wellington Gaelic Club 2013 Ball

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Commencing 7.30pm

The Brierley Theatre, Wellington College, Mt Victoria

Tickets: \$35.00 per head (includes supper)

Ticket Sales (04) 389 4807

Live music by: HIGHLAND COUNTRY

**CADE MEILE FEALTE**

(all Welcome)

*Wear a bit of tartan, bring your dancing shoes and join us in lively dance, good music and good company.*



## FROM ME TO YOU



Well, it is hard to believe that it is already June and since the last newsletter circulated the Band has competed at Turakina, the Centre Contest, held in Napier and of particular note, the National Champs, in Timaru.

Following the Nationals the Band had a debrief and the consensus seemed to be that this was the best year we have had in a while.

Certainly from a Piping point of view Nationals this year was the best performance the Band has produced in a number of years.

There are a few people that can take thanks for this.

We were very fortunate to have former Pipe Major Ian Fergusson join us at Nationals to assist with Sound and Management. His contribution really was invaluable. John and Heather Nicolson also, were a delight to have on tour again and ensured things ran smoothly and tummies were full.

Coming off a successful 2012/13 season there seems to be a renewed confidence and enthusiasm in the ranks so we look forward to building on that.

Practices

for the season ahead have now recommenced and so begins the journey towards Tauranga 2014!!! - **MARCUS**

## TIMARU ACCOMMODATION



Some skulduggery by another band, who pinched our original accommodation, and procrastination on our part turned into good luck when it came to our accommodation in Timaru.

We ended up in the newest and probably flashest motel in Timaru, which had been open only six months.

Next to the motel block there was a separate house which had been converted into a multi-bedroom motel unit.

It had a full size kitchen and living areas that were great for the band to congregate and eat. We had some great meals prepared by

John and Heather Nicholson with a few band members helping on the barbeque. - **ANTHONY**

Band Contact details: email – [secretary@cowpb.org.nz](mailto:secretary@cowpb.org.nz)

PO Box 2870, Wellington 6140

Band Web Site: <http://www.cowph.org.nz/>

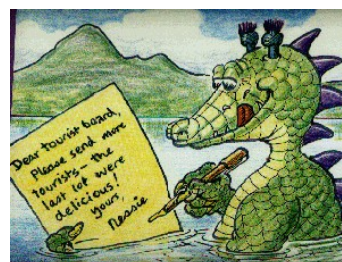


Food Warehouse



Pelorus Trust  
Four Winds Foundation  
Harvey World Travel  
Wellington City Council  
WELTEC  
Fire Risk Management  
Irwell Rest Home

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## FIRST YEAR, FIRST CONTEST, FIRST NATIONALS!! (phew!)

At the start of March I went to my first national pipe band competition with the City of Wellington Pipe Band. I started learning just over a year before the competition and joined the band for the first time for the Wellington Christmas parade in December last year. As I was still learning the competition music I wasn't ready to play at any of the other competitions in the lead up to nationals, which meant that it was my first ever competition.

I flew into Christchurch on the Thursday and headed over to Timaru in one of the band vans that afternoon. We spent a lot of Friday practising and then had some time to unwind at the local bar in the evening.

The first day of competition I was feeling quite confident and only a little bit nervous. I was only playing the set (MSR) that day so just had one thing to focus on. We practiced a bit in the morning before heading to the grounds and then when we got there we had some time to watch the Grade 4 bands so I got to see how it all worked. Then it was time to get ready for our turn. One final practice just before we marched on and I managed to get through it with no mistakes, so I was feeling confident but also a bit nervous.

And then it was our turn and as we started to play I began to panic and forgot everything that I was supposed to be doing! I eventually managed to pick some parts up again and by the end I had relaxed slightly and it was going more smoothly. But I couldn't believe I had gotten through the final practice run perfectly and then messed up so much for the real thing! I think I was just a bit overwhelmed since it was my first competition and there were so many people watching.

Once it was over it felt good to have made it through my first day of competition and since I wasn't playing in the medley I was able to just relax and enjoy the rest of the day. We watched the band play the medley – I thought they all did a great job but the highlight was the flourishing according to the judges!

Sunday morning was spent packing up before we made our way to the starting area for the street march. I felt quite confident again and luckily this time I managed to keep my cool throughout the march. I felt much better about my performance and even managed to enjoy it – and we found out later that we came fourth overall in the flourishing, which was really encouraging.

Most of the band had to head off soon after the march ended but I was able to stay on to watch the Grade 2 and Grade 1 competitions and the mace flourishing. It was worthwhile sticking around to watch them and now I know what it will take to get City of Wellington to the top!

I had a great time over the competition weekend and enjoyed getting to know the rest of the band. Everyone's really great and there's a really strong sense of team and family in the band. Now it's time to get to work learning the music for next year so that we can win the grade! Thanks to the band for making my first nationals such a fun experience and to Megan and Steve for all the coaching! - **JESS**





28th May 2013

## Presidents Report to the AGM May 2013

Since the 2012 Annual General Meeting the committee that was appointed in May 2012 have been working to bring long term stability and greater visibility to this community group.

I would like to formally acknowledge the fantastic effort during the last 12 months by the committee members who have been working in the background ensuring that the financial status of this band are achieved and that it is back to a sustainable and stable environment that will lead to better and greater times ahead. I would also like to take the time to thank those new members that came onto the committee during the year.

When I agreed to accept the Presidents role for the next 12 months I advised then that it will be a major objective to be able to ensure financial stability and also to get the band back to a point that it is very much an organization that is here to stay. To this end you will see from the financial report for the last 12 months that we are now in a position of being fully up to date with payment of all our debtors and that we have a small current account balance. The past 12 months has continued to be a user pays situation for some of the costs and this will continue for the foreseeable future in order to keep on a healthy financial track.

We have had several successful fund raising events during the past 12 months, and we need to continue to actively pursue as many as possible of these types of events. We plan to continue to be involved with as many events, especially those that we are paid for, as we are always in need of funds to develop and grow the band. This method of raising funds is by far the greatest contributor to our long-term financial security. This also provides the band with potential opportunities to attract new members as well as new people that want to learn to play the various instruments. A special thanks to John Nicholson for his many hours of work and support on both the financial matters as well as the several other jobs that he has taken on during the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to say my personal thanks to all of the senior officers of the band for their many hours of work and support that has been put into this organization during the past 12 months. Now is a good time to acknowledge the huge amount of time and effort that Bruce Blacklock has contributed to this organization as not only has he recently become pipe major he has been a member of the band for a significant number of years. I am sure that we will be able to count on your help and support for Bruce during the next 12 months.

Those members that have turned up for the working bees that were held on the hall are also on the thank you list. I would also like to mention our thanks to Keith McCallum, our hard working secretary, as he is stepping down at the AGM.



The committee's objectives for the band, as outlined at this time last year, from a competing point of view was to enter as a grade three band at all of the usual events during the season. This was achieved and there were some new young players that have come into the band that have now gained additional experience. The attendance at these events also helped to foster support and camaraderie among the band members as well. With regards to teaching of learners or new players, in the last 12 months there has been continuing developments with Davey Welsh continuing with the lead role for tutoring of the learner pipers with support from Marcus Boshier, Robert Perry, Phil Mair, Sandra Harry and also liaising with Marion Horsburgh and other top local pipers. Teaching of learner drummers is also progressing as well and these efforts are being lead by Anthony Morris and Steve Luckin with support by Cambell Orchard and Megan Luckin. Another OPEN DAY is being planned so that there is a chance to attract more learners and band members. Our thanks to all of the tutors for your help and support for the members of the future. I urge the incoming committee to encourage the development of all learners and look forward to being able to report on progress at this time next year. All of the existing band members need to support these efforts to ensure that there is room for bringing the new players from the earliest learners, up and coming musicians and those players that are looking for a level of commitment suitable to their requirements. As well as new players in the band we must continue to find people that are willing to put their time into providing support for the band when it is involved in attending events. This support is so important to helping the band grow and prosper in the future.

The band website ( [www.cowpb.org.nz](http://www.cowpb.org.nz) ) is looked after by Andrew Nicolson, a past member of the band, a significant upgrade has been implemented during the last 12 months so our thanks to him for continuing to keep it maintained. If any members of this band require their own website I am sure that Andrew would be interested to hear from you.

We are continuing to seek a commercial organization that may be interested to form a long-term relationship with this organization. Please give your support to our sponsors when ever you in the market for any of their services. They are shown on the bands website. We are also reviewing how we as an organization can work in more closely with other local organizations. In the next 12 months we will continue to seek out arrangements with community groups as well as companies so that the financial income from such relationships will help to ensure the financial stability and future that will benefit all of the members.

There have been many public appearances during the last 12 months such as Christmas parades, a performance at the Saint Andrews day event, Wellington Gaelic club and recently the ANZAC day services. Thank you to all participants at these events. The more that this organization focuses on being visible to the general public then the greater the potential to ensure it will have the strength and numbers to ensure a long term future.

In the last 12 months we have made some changes to the band uniform with the dark blue socks, blue flashes for the drum corps and some new glengarries. We have also invested in some pipes " Goose " units for use by the learner pipers when they transition from the practice chanter to the bagpipes. We still need to replace some other items due to wear and tear and this will be an ongoing requirement.

The last thank you that I wish to mention is an extremely large thank you, and that is to Sir Ian McKay as he is stepping down from his current position as patron for the band. His significant long-term contribution to this pipe band and the general piping movement within New Zealand is greatly appreciated. Over the years he has held a number of different roles within this band and the piping movement and so I am sure that I speak for the members of this band in making special mention of him and wishing him all of the very best for the future.

Finally I wish the band every success in the coming years and I feel confident that the City of Wellington Pipe Band will go from strength to strength. I will be available for re-election for another year. I move that the Presidents Report be accepted. Do I have a seconder? Ian Telfar.