



December 2008

HO HO HO, its that time of year again when we put balls on trees, sip eggnog and sit on strange men's knees. It's no wonder they call it the silly season!

This months newsletter is full of Yuletide events and Magical fun for the month of December and the new year to come.

*Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to Everyone.*

*Chris Golder
Secretary*

President's Report

IT IS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY

It is with this thought in mind that we all look forward to celebrating the soon to be upon us Christmas period.

This will of course be followed by the summer season which is a busy period on a pipe bands calendar.

On behalf of all of the members of the committee I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for your efforts during the last 12 months.

As a band we have some challenges as well as opportunities coming in the next 12 months so lets make the best of them.

Here is a thought to keep in mind for the future "Bandsmen and woman lets move forward shoulder to shoulder" .

Regards

Ian

Gaelic Club Children's Christmas Party

The Gaelic Club has asked for a piper for their Children's Christmas party on the 13th December around about 12:00 to 2:00. It would only require about 10-15 minutes of a persons time and there will probably be enough food to help sustain the piper! Anyone interested should contact Ian Telfar at telfars@paradise.net.nz.



The Cruise Ships

The cruise ships are going well and we are getting through them at a good rate. But there have been quite a few people wanting to change their dates around and notifying different people with the changes, which has led to a bit of a mess with the scheduling. Could everyone who wants to make a change contact Ian MacKenzie and let him know so that he can keep track of the changes in the schedule. Ian can be contacted via his email address ian.mackenzie@minterellison.co.nz.

Changes in the Committee

Chris Berry and Catrina Berry formally notified the Committee that they were stepping down as Committee members at the meeting held on the 20th November. Both Chris and Catrina have been a valued presence on the Committee and they will be missed.

At the same meeting two new members were voted in. Bruce Blacklock is now the new Band Manager and John Patterson is the Members Representative.

Band Hall Mural

The Band Hall is currently having a 'makeover' done to it with a Mural being painted on the outside front wall by Catherine Nicolson and volunteers. The Mural is going to depict full sized Pipers and Drummers in a Scottish landscape.



Bundanoon

It was put forward to the committee that we should participate in a big event in the coming year. One suggestion was the Bundanoon event in Australia. The event is non competitive (except for the \$200 bar tab event) but has around 300 pipers and drummers attend with a crowd of about 20,000 people. It would be an event for the band to look forward to and practice towards. The cost would be around \$1500 per person for airfares and accommodation. Anyone interested should let their committee representative know so that we can find out if there are enough people to get the ball rolling and start organising the trip. Details about the Bundanoon event can be found at: <http://www.highlandsnsw.com.au/brigadoon/>

The Band

Following Davie Welsh's resignation as Pipe Major, some members of the No 1 band have requested six months leave to play for other grade I bands; others have resigned from the City band completely.

Requests for remaining No 1 members to consolidate with the No 2 band until a new Pipe Major could be found resulted in a communication from all but one of the No 1 band members stating that they would not play with a social band.

It is hoped that not only will we entice a new Pipe Major in the near future, there may well be other experienced members join him/her.

In effect, at present, there is now only one band: and it will be referred to in the meantime as the City of Wellington Pipe Band. It will contest as a grade III band. There have been some wonderful offers of assistance to help the band move forward from where it is at present.

In order to provide incentives for the band members, the Executive have set their sights on attending the following outings:

- St Andrews Day, Wellington
- Turakina Contest
- Centre Contest, Masterton
- The Bundanoon Highland Gathering * in Australia, 2009
- The Edinburgh Military Tattoo * in Sydney Australia, February 2010

*Estimated cost = \$1,500.00/person

Edinburgh Tattoo

The Committee has also sent a registration of interest in attending the Edinburgh Tattoo in Australia in February 2010. Two bands from NZ will be invited to play for the nine day event.

Teaching Pipers and Drummers

For some time now, there has been a strategy in place for the teaching of new pipers and drummers. The problem has been who will teach who; and where.

There has recently been a significant breakthrough, where teachers will now be able to make themselves available to contribute to the Pipe Band Movement as a whole and not just to specific bands. The City of Wellington Pipe Band will provide the venue for this teaching project free of charge.

City of Wellington Seniors Band

It has been proposed that ex members of the Band might want to get together and have a tune socially, or later maybe in public.

For anyone who might wish to do this, please contact: Reg Todd on the email regtodd@paradise.co.nz

Well, that's all for this month, don't forget to stay good or you won't be getting any presents! Any news or pictures for the January edition of the Mighty City of Wellington Pipe Band Newsletter should be sent to me before Christmas.

*Chris Golder
Secretary*