

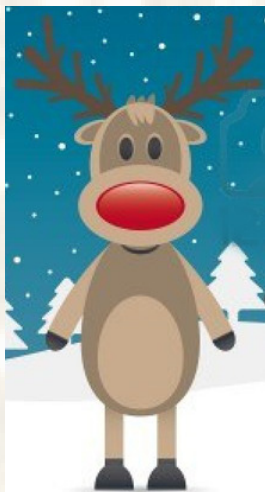


December 2012

Spot the difference!

Can you spot the difference between these Reindeer?

Welcome to the Festive edition of The City of Wellington Pipe Band News. As the end of year approaches we bring you photo's from St Andrews Day, Miramar School and the Santa Parade. A City of Wellington Pipe Band Story... and of course our Christmas 'spot the difference'. On behalf of the City of Wellington Pipe Band we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



St Andrew's Day



The City of Wellington Development Group assisted by the Band drummers

This year, as has become custom on the last Sunday of November, the Association of Scottish Societies organised an event in celebration of St Andrew's Day. The event was held at Frank Kitt's Park on the 25th of November and was well supported by both the public and local entertainers. From the Clan March which commenced proceedings through to the final rendition of Scotland the Brave by a combined massed band, the day was a great success. This year, in addition to the usual events we were fortunate to be able to support the Piper's Club and host the City of Wellington Cup. Gary Watt, former Pipe Major of the City of Wellington was the judge and Andrew Edwards came away the victor. Gary spoke very highly of the quality of competition and the improvement that he had witnessed since last year so that is very positive. Another highlight was the performance from the City of Wellington Development Group and in particular the solo piece played by Martin McPhee one of the youngest members. The event is run annually and we are always looking at ways of improving it. We encourage any feedback from those who came along or ideas generally. We would love to have some of the former Band members coming along to such events and supporting the Band, so if there is anything we can do to facilitate this please let us know.

A City of Wellington Pipe Band Story

Hi there my name is Andrew Donnelly and I have been involved with the City of Wellington Pipe Band for almost three years now. I came to check it out one night and came along the next as part of the learner group. I had played the pipes when I was younger for a few years but lost interest. Just like many other kiwi lads rugby was more important to me at that time.

The first time I saw the band perform was at the Island Bay Parade in 2010, it was after this that I really developed the desire to get amongst it. I'm from Nelson and moved to Wellington in early 2008. I didn't even know of the City of Wellington Pipe Band until I got involved, though I found out later that my Mum and Dad had actually met them in Shotts, Scotland about 30 years ago.

What was to be my first performance with the band didn't happen as I was running a bit late, but it was great to go along and watch the band do their thing. My first parade – along with Bill Rattenbury, Martin McFee and Jenny Bingham – won't be forgotten in a hurry. After a great Rugby World Cup victory by the All Blacks the band was asked to play in the Wellington victory parade.

Palmerston North was our first time with the band at competition; Bill and Lawrence were also there from what would become the Development Band. We took part in the Street March playing Shoals of Herring, The Green Hills of Tyrol and When the Battle's Over. As it was non-competitive it was a useful introduction.

Centre Contest was my first foray into competitive piping. I competed in the Street March. We played Frank MacKinnon and Frank Thompson. I was happy with the way I played though improvement was needed and getting used to the marching is another story for another time. With the competitive aspect now in play just trying to comprehend all that was going on was a challenge.

A couple of weeks before Nationals we had the Island Bay Parade, for me this was a good gauge of how far I had come. Two years earlier I had seen the band perform and now I was playing in the parade, you could almost say it was a dream realised.

I was quite excited to be going to Tauranga, who doesn't look forward to a road trip? In fact I was so excited that I didn't sleep and thought it would be a good idea to leave quite early in the morning. I had made quite good time and decided a quick nap would be a good idea. Unfortunately this turned into a six hour sleep. Which was not so good, I was a bit late but I finally got there.

I was there to compete in the Street March so there wasn't much action for me on the first day. It was the first time I had been to a Pipe Band Nationals so it was a great opportunity for me to take it all in; from our band preparations through to watching the competition. This has given me good insight into what to expect next year.

By the time it came to the Street March I was already quite satisfied by the experience but also itching to get out there and play. In fact I didn't really care about anything else but stepping up to the line and getting the job done. It was definitely a major improvement from the Centre Contest and I felt a lot more comfortable in what I was doing. Looking back at all the preparation and practice it took to get to this point it was really quite satisfying to make it to the finish line.

I took plenty away with me to think about and am very thankful that I had the opportunity to be part of the City of Wellington Pipe Band. Thanks Bruce for giving us the opportunity. Also special thanks to Peter Menzies, Marcus Boshier and Davey Welsh for being there from the learning stages up until now. I look forward to many more years of service with the City of Wellington Pipe Band.

Andrew Donnelly



The Band performs at Miramar North Primary School

The Band, over the course of the last couple of years, has been trying to connect with some of the younger members of the public. We see them as being crucial to the progress and survival of the Band. In early November we had the opportunity to play at the Miramar North School Gala. It was organised through Pipe Major Bruce Blacklock whose daughter attends the school. It was a typical bleak Wellington Day but the Band pulled through and it made for a nice little outing. As always there were many curious children and content elders.



The Band performs at the Santa Parade 2012

CONTACT DETAILS REQUIRED

We are " **DESPERATELY SEEKING** " the contact details of all of the past members of the City of Wellington Pipe Band. The committee is in the process of putting together a complete list of past members and their current contact and address details. As not all past members will be on email we would appreciate it if past members make contact with us via postal mail, telephone or email.
Mail - PO.Box 2870, Wellington
Telephone - Ian Telfar 04 9764252 - John Nicholson 04 3838485 - Bruce Blacklock 04 4731199
email - secretary@cowpb.org.nz

Upcoming Events

18 December: Last practice for the year
26 January: Turakina Highland Games, Turakina
9 February: Centre Contest, Napier
2,3 March: National Pipe Band Champs, Timaru

Band Contact Details

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