



# The City of Wellington Pipe Band News

July 2009

This month's Newsletter covers London Tours, Education and Life Membership. On a side note I was looking at my watch the other day and noticed that we are rapidly getting through the year so be sure to check the Calendar on page two for important dates.

Regards  
Chris (I felt some warmth from the Sun the other day) Golder  
Secretary

## Pipe Major's Report

It is wonderful to see the Wellington Hawkes Bay Centre conducting such helpful and successful training days. I had the pleasure of attending one in Palmerston North and also attended the one during July at Scots College. The standard of tutors present was wonderful and the backup team (in the kitchen) was of an equally high standard (thanks to Bob Irvine's wife). Thanks especially to Sheran Hancock for arranging these days and to the tutors who traveled so far to pass on their knowledge.

I recently had a count up of active band members and was pleasantly surprised to find that we now have twelve pipers, including a drum major, five side drummers, two tenors (possibly three) and a bass drummer. This equates to about a 20% increase since the Annual General Meeting. I don't know if it's the recession, but three of the new members just walked into the band room with their instruments after returning home from quite a period overseas. All good finds I might add!

Peter Menzies

Pipe Major



## Education

It has been recognized for some time now that the City of Wellington needs to begin introducing young people to the art of piping and drumming if our organization is to survive.

The Band has had a plan for some time, but now Graeme Welsh has started to implement it in Intermediate Schools. He has started with the South Wellington Intermediate, a school that is only a few blocks from our band hall.

It is proposed to take a couple of pipers, and drummers to the school (in band uniform) and show (interested) children the instruments as well as letting them hear them being played.

We have also had some interest from music teachers in other schools.

Well done Graeme, this is exactly what the Band needs and we need people to put their hands up to take some young people for lessons at a later date.

## 1958 London Tour Photos

The two photos on this front page were from the 1958 City of Wellington Pipe Band tour of England. These were photographed by the London Press.





## Life Membership

At the last Annual General Meeting of the Band, two Life Membership Awards were presented, one to Eric Skachill and the other to Ian Fergusson.

The awards were as follows:

**Eric SKACHILL** began his Pipe Band association with the City of Wellington Pipe Band back in 1951, and this association continued continuously for some 21 years.

Eric rose through the drumming ranks and ultimately took over the role of Lead Drummer in the Band during the late 1960 while Frank Mackinnon was Pipe Major.

This was a period of considerable success with the Band winning many National Titles.

In 1972 Eric took a well earned rest from Band work (due to illness), and did not return to it until 1987 when he dedicated another ten years to the Band. He continued with the Band through to 1997. He then returned again in 2005.

In all Eric has devoted about 35 years of his life to the Band both as a player and a tutor; and it is felt that the **Life Membership Award** is most appropriate.

**Ian FERGUSSON** (or Ferg as he was frequently called), started his association with Pipe Bands in Rotorua with his Dad and brother back in the 60's when he was eight years old. In all they travelled 100 mile round trip to get to band practice and return to home.

Ian left the Rotorua band when he went to Trentham to join the New Zealand Police.

While in Wellington he joined the Police Pipe Band and played with them until 1978 when he moved to Taupo.

In 1982 he moved back to Wellington and joined the City of Wellington Pipe band. This began a 23 year association with the Band until his retirement from the City in 2005.

This ended some 40 years within the Pipe Band movement. During that time, he took part in three Edinburgh Tattoos, 1987, 2000 (in Wellington) and 2002. He also participated in numerous overseas trips with the Band including several World Pipe band Championships.

For several years, Ian was the Pipe Sergeant of the Band and was Pipe Major from 1994 until he left in 2005.

During his time in the City of Wellington he also did a lot for the development of Piping in general and for pipe bands in the Wellington area. He was responsible for the formation of the No.3 (Development Group) in 1993 which re-established the Number 2 Band. This in turn rejuvenated the No 1 band with younger players.

Ian was also tutor for the number 2 band at various points throughout his time with the City, taking them from grade 3 to the top of grade 2 within a few years.

For the commitment Ian has made to the City of Wellington Pipe Band, it is felt that this **Life Membership Award** is most appropriate.

The background picture is of Graeme Welsh a City of Wellington Pipe Band Life Member and current Committee Representative.

## Cruise Ships

During the last Cruise Ship season, the Band were able to meet many of their financial obligations only because of the Cruise Ships.

As we approach the new season, we ask that all pipers give consideration to assisting with this fund raising project. Remember **"Together Everybody Achieves More"** It would be nice to have some drummers attend some of these ship visits as well.

## Sponsorship

Pack 'n Save supermarkets at Petone and Lower Hutt have once again provided the Band with sponsorship for the 2009/10 financial year. We thank them for their generous donation to the Band. Please remember this generosity when you go shopping; that is how we can pay the Company back 'In Kind'. They also have some of the best wine selections you will find in the Wellington Region!

## Calendar Dates

28/07/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
1/08/2009	Scots Ball @ Lower Hutt
4/08/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
11/08/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
18/08/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
25/08/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
1/09/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
8/09/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
15/09/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
22/09/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
29/09/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
6/10/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
13/10/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
20/10/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
24-26/10/2009	70th Anniversary
27/10/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
3/11/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
10/11/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
15/11/2009	Xmas Parade
17/11/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
24/11/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
29/11/2009	St Andrews Day, Frank Kitts
1/12/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
12/12/2009	Square Day, Palmerston North
15/12/2009	Band Practice @ Band Room
4/02/2010	Rugby Sevens Parade
7/03/2010	Newtown Festival

I would like to add a 'Thank You' to all the non-playing members who have returned their uniforms for the new members who need them.

### Band Contact Details

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Gratifying Regards  
Chris Golder  
Secretary

PETONE **PAK'N SAVE** LOWER HUTT  
FOOD WAREHOUSE