

WELLINGTON HAWKES BAY PIPE BAND CENTRE



R. N. Z. P. B. A

Presidents Report 2006

It is my pleasure to present my second annual report on Centre activities for the year 2006. As is quite usual for our Centre, the year has been a busy one.

Once again I would like to thank all members and member bands for your support of the Centre's activities during the year; and especially to mention the tireless work of Briar Hamilton as Secretary, and Elaine Berry as Treasurer. I really appreciate their efforts. Also I wish to thank my Vice Presidents, Bob Irvine and Ken Tobin, for their support and efforts during the year; Malcolm Galloway for his enthusiasm and initiatives in the education area; and finally Gus Weir and his panel of Centre Judges for their efforts at our Contest.

Youth Band I am delighted to record the continuing activities of the Centre Youth Band. Under the guidance of Malcolm Galloway, with assistance from many others including Sheran Hancock, Bob Irvine, Chris Berry, Trina Dewhurst, Allan Cotton, and myself, we have managed to provide a useful vehicle for our young musicians. This year we have held two very successful camps at the El Rancho venue in Waikanae, and a combined Wellington Hawkes Bay and Central North Island camp at Foxton. We have averaged 25 participants at each local camp with 60 attending the combined camp. All levels of capability were catered for at each camp. The participants have been instructed in the basics of music theory, marching and dress, piping, drumming, and even the Highland Fling. The next camp will begin on Friday October 27th at Otaki Bridge Lodge. We have been fortunate to have the assistance of additional tutors Iain Robertson, Glenn Miller, Libby O'Brien, Josh Dean, Ross Wilson, Vern Andrews, Gus Weir, Doug Corkill, and Leslie Symons and also the support of Doug and Iris Corkill, Margarete Marshall, Clem Keneally, Elaine Berry, and Leslie Symons in administering the camps. We will be welcoming two international guests to tutor at our next camp. I am heartened by the attitude of our younger bands-people when I see them in action at camp and I consider the project very worthwhile as an investment for the Centre and it's Bands. Without a doubt, the spectacle provided at the lunchtime performance in Civic Square in Wellington during the combined camp was a major milestone for the year.

Centre Contest A fine morning greeted us for the 2006 Centre Contest, held at Adventure Park, Levin. We had the generous support of the Levin City Council managing the road closures for the Street March and a short walk into the main arena for a first rate day with a mixture of local and out-of-area judges. We were able to provide the regular events and repeat our presentation event for all bands. We had great support from our Centre Contest crew: Briar Hamilton and Margarete Marshall in the recording and results caravan; and Gus Weir and the judging team on the grounds. I thank Karen Carle and her committee for their dedication to making this Contest successful. I also take this opportunity to thank Graham Hibbert for his guidance and persistence in keeping the focus on the contest.

Teleconferences Our Centre has taken an active role in teleconferences with the other Centres and with the national body during the year. This culminated with a very strong representation at the annual conference in Wellington last weekend. The conference was very productive and hosted some lively debate on the remits for this year as well as a few other topics dear to our hearts such as education and teaching

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of tutors. We look forward to some fresh initiatives from the national education group in the coming year. The R.N.Z.P.B.A. has secured a major grant to promote banding activities that we will benefit from in the very near future. On the local scene we have been planning some instruction for our more advanced players to keep their interest alive and to teach the skills required to tutor. There is a strong possibility of the Centre being involved in the organising of a North Island residential workshop to be held between October 2006 & March 2007.

National Contest Centre bands featured strongly at the national contest in Hamilton. Congratulations to the Manawatu Scottish on winning the Grade One title for 6th time with all bands from the Centre putting in creditable performances in their various grades.

International Activity One of our Centre bands have travelled to international competitions this year. The Centre congratulates the N.Z. Police pipe band on their fine efforts in Scotland with a 2nd place at North Berwick and great performances at Bridge of Allan and the Worlds Championships. It was nice to see members of other bands assisting the team to achieve the goal of being the very best they could on the world stage.

Centre Meetings The Centre met five times during the year, including an extra meeting to discuss the remits prior to the annual conference

In conclusion I feel we have had a most productive year. Once again we have shown ourselves as a go-ahead Centre and I hope we are providing a useful local platform for bands. I will be encouraging participation from a few more bands in the coming year.

Mark Weir
President