

## WELLINGTON HAWKES BAY



R. N. Z. P. B. A.

The first meeting of the Wellington Hawkes Bay Pipe Band Centre for 2007 was held on 21 April at the Manawatu Scottish Centre, Princess Street, Palmerston North, and commenced at 11.00a.m.

The President welcomed the large gathering. Those present included Mrs M. Marshall representing City of Wanganui P.B., Mr T. Clark-Stewart representing Palmerston North & Districts P.B., and Wairarapa Fern & Thistle P.B., Mr T. Wilce representing Rangitikei Scots P.B. and City of Wellington P.B., Mr P. Blacklock representing City of Wellington P.B., our Patron Mr R. Todd, Mr & Mrs G. Weir representing Red Hackle P.B., Mr B Morris and Mr J. Campbell representing the Taranaki Centre, Mr M. Galloway – Education Officer, Mr K. Marshall representing Drones and Sticks P.B, Mr D. Pierce representing Manawatu Scottish Society, Mr R. Hitchcock representing Paraparaumu & Districts P.B., Mrs S. Hancock and Mr D. Corkill representing Feilding & Districts P.B., Mrs S. Harry representing Scots College P.B., Corps of Drum Majors, and Pipes and Drums of Horowhenua P.B., Mr B. Irvine – Publicity Officer, Ms E. Berry- Treasurer, Mr R. Walker and Mr K Tobin representing City of Hastings P.B.

Mr Jock McKenzie, (Mr G.W. McKenzie), (former Bass Drummer of Manawatu Scottish Society Pipe Band), was remembered.

**Apologies** were received from Mr.J. Berry, Mr. B. Treadwell, Mr.J. Frater, Mr Wallace, Mrs.M. Lister, Mrs.C. Loveridge, Mr J. Shepherd, Mr F. Clark, Mr. A. Campbell.

**The Minutes** of the previous meeting were accepted (T. Wilce, D. Corkill).

Matters arising were to be discussed under Education.

**Correspondence:** Included were RNZPBA Report, Plan and circular, CNI Minutes, Visiting Tutor Programme application.

It was noted that a number of Centre Bands need to update the membership database.

**Finance:** The Balance Sheet should read 2007. The Treasurer was thanked for her clear statement. A set of four “Walkie Talkies’ and a printer were purchased for the Centre Contest and will be available for the Centre’s use.

Centre Contest expenses were noted. The Centre is grateful to the Upper Hutt Council for its support of this event.

Motion that Payments be ratified, and Finances accepted (E. Berry, M. Marshall).

### **Reports followed.**

**Education** – no activities had been undertaken since last meeting. Further discussion would take place in General Business.

**Youth Band** – Mrs S. Harry has booked Scots College for September 29/30, as a venue for a training session for junior Drum Majors. Cost will be \$200 for Friday and Saturday nights. Two night’s accommodation, three meals a day and Workshop fee is included in this price. Suggestion that Youth Band join this group, and, along with over 18’s, be included in this weekend.

### **Centre Contest – Upper Hutt 2007**

Mr G. Weir tabled his report which is copied here. (G. Weir, B. Irvine)

Comments included some concern about the Street March operating on a road without marshals. (The appointed Council personnel did not show up.) Safety is paramount, but this organisation has no right to stop people. It was noted that the process of submitting a traffic management plan for such an event costs about \$2,500.00. A suggestion that sandwich board type signs be obtained advertising the event which would alert the public to what was happening.

Discussion around the Performance Event resulted in clarification and suggestions.

The Performance Event is **not compulsory**. Rather it is an opportunity to develop performers/performance under a full judging compliment. The event is supported but contributed to the tiring length of the day.

There may be an opportunity to refine this event by way of having it operate on a third board to begin after the lunch break and proceed simultaneously with remaining afternoon Championship competition. However, it was hoped that a Band would have at least an hour between the Championship and performance events. It also provides an opportunity to bring in 'trainee' judges.

The carnival is an ideal venue with a constant stream of public interest. The day in its current format was too long. It would be wise not to alter time scheduling at the last minute as bands were 'caught out' by some late alterations to the schedule.

Discussion about the "Time Window" concept concluded that it had achieved the desired effect of maintaining the timetable as Bands had been at Point A on time.

A Venue for the 2008 Centre Contest will be finalised at the June Meeting. Wanganui may undertake a Centre contest. It was noted that a tattoo is being planned in Rotorua for the same weekend as the Upper Hutt carnival would take place next year. Bands were reminded that at least \$1,000.00 sponsorship is necessary to run the day. Dates should be published in the Pipe Band magazine.

### **National Contest Dunedin 2007**

Congratulations are conveyed to all Centre Bands who competed. It was noted that there was a strong representation from this Centre. Congratulations to NZ Police on winning the Championship.

Feedback included – concerns about the programme, in particular the length of time between some events.

- Insufficient ringside seating
- Lack of food and drink facilities was hard on both bands and spectators
- It was a lovely setting
- Questionable whether a Drill Judge is necessary in a concert event....
- Should 'stacked' Australian Bands be eligible to compete in G4?
- Perhaps regrading should apply not only to NZ Bands in NZ competition
- Suggested that the influence of overseas G4 Bands on the NZ competition be a topic on the Agenda for Conference

### **Roll Call of Centre Bands**

**City of Hastings:** (K. Tobin) – Band attended both contests. Music programme under way for 2008. Reasonably quiet time. Interesting fundraising concept of a Scottish-themed Dinner was shared with much interest.[Sponsored tables, some sponsored wine, table mats, napkins, decorations put together. Menu, printed in Gaelic and English, of authentic Scottish fare, 3 course meal, entertainment during the evening] Mr Walker happy to discuss this concept.

**Feilding & Districts:** (D. Corkill) – Attended the Centre Contest. Just starting back. Numbers growing.

**Scots College:** (S. Harry) – Tour of Scotland in July - plan to compete at 3 big contests. Lots of practice. Big Ceilidh at Scots College - May 19, Concert with City of Wellington and Battlefield Band at St Pat's (town) – 8 June, and Concert with Manawatu at Scots College - 24 June, coming up. New Jackets.

**Pipes & Drums of Horowhenua:** (S. Harry) – New P/M motivating band for the New Year. Two teams will attend Anzac parades. Looking for drummers.

**Paraparaumu & Districts:** (R. Hitchcock) – Band has attended contests and enjoyed them. In good health. At this time of the year effort goes into evaluating Judges' comments and addressing issues raised. Recruitment of youngsters ongoing. Looking for drummers. Concert being planned for later in the year. Anzac parades to be attended.

**Manawatu Scottish Society:** (D. Pierce) – Jock’s passing knocked the Band. Development Band is performing steadily. A concert round is on the agenda for the No 1 team, and a recording is being mooted.

**Drones and Sticks:** (K. Marshall) – interested in education and youth issues. 11 side drummers and 2 pipers learning. Six concerts planned for later part of the year. Public appearances considered important to capture interest of youth – “will go out to open a paper bag!”

**NZ Police:** (M. Galloway) - Taking a break for a few months. No Scottish tour until next year.

**Taranaki Centre:** (B. Morris) – At Anzac the band does 6-7 parades during the day. Band hoping to get to Nationals in Papakura. Members amalgamate for local parades as required.

**Red Hackle:** (G. Weir) – Band is busy, and will participate in Anzac parade. Hall is being worked on. Preparations are under way for the next contesting season.

**City of Wellington:** (P. Blacklock) – Davie Welsh is currently Musical Director. No 2 Band being reinstated to provide feeder. Hosting Battlefield Band 8 June St Pats College Hall Concert.

**Rangitikei Scots:** (T. Wilce) – Band attended local contests. Farming impacts on Band. The fundraising at Merchison Garden Day made nearly \$3,000.00. Anzac Day parades will be attended in Hunterville and Taumarunui! Youngsters coming on. Band investing in new kilts.

**Wairarapa Fern & Thistle:** (T. Clark-Stewart) – Hoping to return to competition this year.

**City of Wanganui:** (M. Marshall) – busy with parades including Waimarie, UCOL, Anzac. Upper Hutt contest fired the band up. P.M. J. Martin good at building confidence. Still problems looking for learners. Concern that Hall insurance costs \$3,000 annually and so eats into fundraising.

This last item lead to some discussion. Many bands seem to have similar bills. [Apparently the NZ Kennel Club has discovered that the umbrella organisation can get blanket cover for a competitive rate to cover all members. All members wishing to be covered in this way contribute to the fee.] It was suggested that this be an agenda item for Conference.

**Reunion of 1958 City of Wellington** members and families is planned for the second weekend in May in Hunterville. Some 32 people are currently expected to attend.

The meeting broke for refreshments before moving on to General Business.

#### **General Business:**

It was noted that at the recent Centre contest 3 bands tied for the drumming championship and there was no rule to allow a clear winner. It was suggested that a remit to the effect “In the event of a tie in drumming the result of the MSR Drumming points should be the deciding factor.” (M. Galloway/M. Marshall)

Mr Todd was unable to be present for this part of the meeting. The Constitution had been perused in association with the preparation of the Draft Trust Deed document and was noted to have some shortcomings. It was suggested that since the Constitution no longer adequately reflects the way the Centre operates both the Constitution and the Draft Trust Deed documents be circulated and discussed among bands with a view to being considered more fully at the next meeting.

The Secretary is to circulate information on two Centre Judge applicants. The applications will be considered on 16 June.

Sandra Harry would welcome expressions of interest from bands and individuals interested in the training of Drum Majors, and would like to hear of potential learner Drum Majors soon please.

The Pub Charity Fund energised discussion.

“Recruiting and fostering new involvement” was seen as the basic tenet. It was noted that most Centres were using the fund to grow projects already under way.

Feedback from Bands included:

- One tool that seems to be missing is a standardised leaflet/poster/drop-off material. Lack of promotional material. Creation of a useful, generic, up-to-date brochure with room at the bottom for a band to insert their contact details would be useful.

- A standardised education tutoring package including how to teach pupils/OHP, sound materials/CD /teaching resources/ starting at an extremely elementary level would be useful.
- Information about how to excite/motivate/focus pupils during the initial learning process would be valuable.
- Marketing was seen as a key tool.
- Suggestions included taking students already in Bands with personnel visiting schools on recruitment drives, encouraging use of the itinerant music teacher system in schools to fund learning in school (this system sees groups learning in school and so sticking at it together), using the school newsletter as a vehicle for marketing, regular parading, being in front of the public regularly and distributing pamphlets whenever possible.
- It was suggested we pay someone to work out for us how best to capture students, find out what makes the stay, how to encourage and maintain enthusiasm amongst parents and supporters.

Comment on Youth Band:

- Our Youth Band has no opportunities at present for learners over 18 yet there are a number of more mature learners in the Centre
- Difficult to cater for all levels of ability without employing more tutors.
- Pupils enjoy the one-on-one sessions with tutors
- It would be useful for there to be a mechanism for Band leaders to report back to Centre meetings on the outcomes of camp for their members
- Repertoire of Youth Band Centre music being developed – P/Ms should be involved in the planning
- Bands reminded that they have paid \$120 subsidy for Youth Band.
- Youth should be asked what they want from a Band Camp.

The suggestion was made that it might be useful to take the camp to bands – Wanganui, Hawkes Bay, Paraparaumu, Scots College for instance. Further discussion favoured the investigation of the possibility of running 2 or 3 camps perhaps Wanganui, Hawkes Bay and Scots College, Wellington since that is already booked.

The proposal was that the Pub Charity Fund be allocated as follows: \$2,000.00 each to subsidise three Youth Camps with the opportunity for workshops running alongside at venues to be finalised but possibly Wanganui, Hawkes Bay and Scots College, Wellington. The final \$2,000.00 to be spent on the production of a generic marketing brochure.

Best wishes were to be conveyed to Scots College as they prepare for their Scottish trip.  
The meeting ended at 3.10p.m.

The Secretary

**Dates for 2007:**

|                       |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Meeting               | 16 June                |
| Remits Meeting        | 18 August              |
| AGM                   | 15 September           |
| Conference            | 22 September           |
| Meeting               | 10 November            |
| 2008 National Contest | – Papakura – 7-8 March |