

WELLINGTON HAWKES BAY PIPE BAND CENTRE



R. N. Z. P. B. A

Presidents Report 2007

I am delighted to present my third annual report on Centre activities for the year 2007. As is quite usual for our Centre, the year has been a busy one.

Roll of Honour

Sadly since our last AGM we have lost some dear friends and some very hard working members of the Centre. We have remembered Graham Hibbert, Margaret Skachill, Jock McKenzie, Tom Edwards, and Colin Craig. The contributions made by these people in Drill, Drumming, and in Piping are typical of the efforts that have seen our centre Bands become so successful over the years.

It was also with great sadness that we farewelled Elaine Berry last week in Marton. Elaine was involved in Centre matters for many years, as a band delegate initially then as our Treasurer. I have found Elaine's diligence and efficiency a great support in all my activities with Centre both as a workshop organiser and latterly as President. We have been extremely fortunate to have had our finances in the control of Elaine and we will miss her input greatly.

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

This year there has been a slowing of activities with the Centre Youth Band. We attempted to hold one camp at Otaki which was scheduled to include two tutors from Shotts and Dykehead in Scotland. Enrolments were insufficient to allow the camp to go ahead. The next camp/workshop is proposed for September 28th to 30th at Scots College and enrolments are progressing slowly.

Centre Contest

A fine morning greeted us for the 2007 Centre Contest, held at Trentham Memorial Park, Upper Hutt. Once again we had the generous support of the Upper Hutt Festival Trust underwriting this event. Managing the road closures for the Street March proved to be a bit tricky without the assistance of the ATC, however in the main we had 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 my Contest committee for their dedication to making this Contest successful. I also take this opportunity to thank Jon White, Area Commander for New Zealand Police, for his assistance presenting the trophies.

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Teleconferences

Our Centre has taken an active role in teleconferences with the other Centres and with the national body during the year. This continues to be a very useful vehicle for sharing views.

National Contest

Centre bands featured strongly at the national contest in Dunedin. Congratulations to the New Zealand Police on winning the Grade One title. All bands from the Centre put in creditable performances in their various grades.

International Activity

Two of our Centre bands have travelled to international competitions this year. The Centre congratulates the Scots College Pipe Band on their fine efforts in Scotland. Quite a major project for a school band to undertake, I am certain the boys will show the results of their travels in the coming season. Manawatu Scottish had a very successful campaign managing a 1st place at North Berwick, 1st at Bridge of Allan and an overall 9th at 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. Meetings featured some very useful discussion on Education, Trust Deeds for Education Funding, a revamp of our Contesting rules, and a preliminary look at our Constitution.

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