

# The Pipe Bands Foundation of New Zealand

Pipe Bands-Folk of New Zealand - we want to help **YOU!**

Did you know that New Zealand has an organisation dedicated to giving financial support to foster pipe bands and their music throughout New Zealand?

Well, the Pipe Bands Foundation of New Zealand is that very organisation, and they want to help you!

We sent Rachel Parkinson to report on the activities of the Foundation - an organisation that from strong beginnings, seems to have drifted from the gaze of pipe band members over recent years. She discovered that in fact, the Foundation should be very much in our focus.

**T**he New Zealand Pipe Band Foundation was formed in 1981 from an idea of the late Bob Scott and several other prominent members of the New Zealand Pipe Band world. Families of long serving band members were donating trophies to commemorate and perpetuate their names and the contribution they made. However the trophy cabinet was becoming overcrowded and so the suggestion was made that the funds be re-directed to a Foundation which would, by various means, record for all time the names of those worthy of such recognition. And in the process, the pipe band fraternity of New Zealand benefits.

## What does the Foundation do?

The main object of the Foundation is "to give financial support to the RNZPBA, its members and kindred or associated organisations, for the promotion and fostering of pipe bands and their music throughout New Zealand". A most commendable goal I'm sure you'd all agree!

Currently, the Foundation uses its funds to support two very worthy areas of pipe band activity - assistance to run educative workshops (piping, drumming and marching) and to encourage and assist contest organisers to bring judges from other districts.

The Foundation has also recently instigated a number of scholarships that are awarded to participants in the RNZPBA Summer School to enable attendance the following year. In 2007 and 2008, a full scholarship which included workshop fees and accommodation was awarded to one participant per year, but as of 2009, two scholarships covering just the workshop fees have been presented. The prizes are awarded to learners of different instruments each year, in rotation. This year, it was a tenor/bass player and a piper. In 2010, they'll go to a side drum player and a tenor/bass, so drummers: work hard at Summer School '10 and your efforts may be well rewarded!



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For information on the activities of the RNZPBA, Visit . . .  
[www.nzpipebands.org.nz](http://www.nzpipebands.org.nz)

To have your "say" or catch the latest news on-line, visit . . .  
[www.pbforum.co.nz](http://www.pbforum.co.nz) and  
[www.pbnews.co.nz](http://www.pbnews.co.nz)

(Note - pbforum and pbnews are not RNZPBA projects, and the views expressed on the forum are not necessarily those of the Association, nor it's Board nor Group Managers)

A very successful initiative of the Foundation is the provision of financial assistance to contest organisers to bring in visiting judges. With the costs of running contests ever-escalating, the expense of bringing in out of town judges can be prohibitive. By providing assistance with travel costs, the Foundation can enable the expertise and experience of top judges to be enjoyed by all competing bands, no matter the level or location.

Because the needs of the pipe band community change with the times, the Foundation is always open to new opportunities to meet its aims and objectives and welcomes feedback.

## Who makes up the Foundation Board?

The Foundation Board is made up of six members. Three are appointed by the RNZPBA and three are elected annually from nominations received from Foundation members. Currently the appointed members are Jim Shepherd (Chairman), Penny Wilson and Graham L Fairley. Those elected at the AGM are Lyndsay Rackley, Alex Thomson, Len D Payne (Treasurer). Margarete Marshall is currently the Secretary.

The Foundation holds its AGM to coincide with the RNZPBA conference in September.

## Where does the Foundation get its funding?

The Foundation's funding is derived almost exclusively from membership donations. Funds are invested, with the returns used to support Foundation activities.

## I'm running a contest and would like to bring in a guest judge from outside my Centre. How do I apply?

Requests for funding need to be made to the Foundation secretary at least three weeks prior to the contest along with an estimate of travel costs. Your request may be circulated to the Directors for comment and you'll be advised of the outcome by the Secretary. The Foundation requests that in return, contest organisers promote the assistance received in a suitable manner, for example through a mention in the programme and by promoting the visiting judge as the Pipe Band's Foundation judge.

## How do I help the Foundation help the pipe band community further?

Because the Foundation relies on donations to function, your support is required, should you wish to see the important work of the Foundation continue and grow.

A donation of \$250 entitles the donor to membership for life, with full privileges. A donation of \$100 entitles the donor to Associate Membership, but does not confer voting rights. Of course donations of any kind, including commemorative contributions are always gratefully received.

If you would like further information about the Foundation, details on making donations or funding applications, visit the Foundation's page on the RNZPBA website: [http://www.nzpipebands.org.nz/pipeband\\_foundation.html](http://www.nzpipebands.org.nz/pipeband_foundation.html) or contact Margarete.

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