

Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands Association Inc.

MANAGEMENT BOARD REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2008

**Iain Blakeley
Jim Shepherd
Penny Wilson**

February 2009

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**Financial Summary and Balance Sheet for the
year ending 31 December 2008**

1 Management Board Review

Greetings to all Member Bands,

The Management Board has pleasure in presenting its report on the Association's activities in 2008.

We wish to start out by thanking the huge number of volunteers around the country who donate their time to the pipe band movement. They are the teachers, secretaries, band officers, contest organisers, fundraisers, uniform or trophy custodians, website managers and many others who keep our movement going.

The Management Group leaders of the Association similarly commit many hours of their time to ensuring important functions of the Association are performed. On behalf of all member bands we would like to express our gratitude to Jill Vincent, Murray Venables, Robyn Forbes, Chris Stevens and George McEwan for all they have done in 2008.

On the whole we think it's been a pretty successful year. Without a significant grant such as that received from Pub Charity in the previous year we were back to relying on more traditional funding sources. While this affected how expansive we could be it certainly did not prevent some very worthwhile projects being undertaken. We think bands can be assured their Association finished the year stronger and having made a valuable contribution to furthering the interests of New Zealand bands.

Key milestones in 2008 include –

- *The 2008 Summer School attended by 200 people and, of course, the 2009 Summer School that took place in January this year.*
- *Continuation of the visiting tutor programme.*
- *30 students awarded National Certificates in Piping or Drumming.*
- *Curriculum revision.*
- *Completion of the Band Administrator's year planner.*
- *The Papakura Contest.*
- *Further development of the online membership database and contest entry facility.*
- *Music judges' workshop.*
- *Issuing of guidelines for the appointment of non-music judges.*
- *The Champion of Champions Competition*
- *Obtaining a Pub Charity grant of \$75,000 for youth band development and community activities (for use in 2009).*
- *A 10% increase in the size of our magazine.*
- *Four fantastic magazine editions.*
- *An increase in band membership numbers.*
- *The Annual Conference*
- *Improvements to the grading system.*

In education our flagship event, the Summer School, was another outstanding success. We are indebted to Robyn for her superb organisation and to Jack Lee and Reid Maxwell for their outstanding leadership which is backed up by the cream of our local piping and drumming talent making up our local tutors. We saw again centres and bands finding funds to subsidise some of those attending and of course the Association subsidised the School by \$13,000.

The Papakura Contest was pretty successful. There were some unsatisfactory areas such as the trophy presentations and the security problems but all in all feedback about the contest was mostly positive. Thanks to the hard work of the contest organisers a surplus of \$1,684 was returned to the Association. After taking this into account the cost to the Association was \$8,748 against a budgeted cost of \$24,100. The contest events themselves went off without a hitch under the watchful eye of Jill Vincent our National Contest Supervisor.

During the year Philip Mair was appointed convenor of the Music Judges Selection Committee following the retirement of Allan Cameron. A new committee was formed. Sitting members Brian Switalla and Greg Wilson continued unopposed as Piping representatives, Alastair Pratt continued as Ensemble representative and an election for the Drumming representative resulted in Wayne Hobbs being re-elected.

The Management Board ran the Promotion Group until November when we were very pleased to be able to appoint George McEwan to lead this group. Thanks to the tremendous help of Ian McAteer (former Promotion Group leader) we were able to secure a further grant from Pub Charity for \$75,000. This is being allocated for Centre youth band development and community activities in 2009.

Once again Chris Stevens and Penny Wilson produced four high quality magazines during the year. Subscriptions and advertising for our magazine are increasing and these are the best evidence that it is highly regarded by our readership. Chris has ensured that under his editorship the magazine has grown in content and in the quality of presentation.

Murray Venables, the Association's Administration and Finance Group leader, together with John Harrison, the Executive Officer, kept watch over our finances and administration. Sadly John announced during the year that he will retire at the end of 2009 and finding a replacement for him presents a tremendous challenge for us. However we believe we will be able to announce some good news on this front some time during early 2009.

The Financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2008 accompany this report and are self explanatory. The projected deficit was \$36,094. Thanks to tight control of costs, the assistance of external grants, the contest result and slightly higher interest rates than budgeted, the actual deficit for the year was \$9,680 but this is after using \$12,289 of reserves to fund youth band activities that had been earmarked for support by the prior year's Pub Charity grant.

Clearly we would have preferred not to have a deficit at all. However, against the backdrop of a very high surplus in the previous year and the timing difference between when the Pub Charity grant was received and when it was finally expended we believe this is an acceptable result for 2008.

While we are pleased to be able to report on a generally positive year for New Zealand pipe bands it is disappointing that the participation of bands and individual members in Association activities is not higher. Again the Conference was worthwhile but not very well attended. About 25% of all bands voted for the contest judges (which is about half of those who actually compete) and 27 bands voted in the remit round to change the Contest rules. The Board will continue to ensure the Association is meeting the expectations of all member bands. However the extent to which we succeed at this is largely dependent on bands being proactive in causing the changes they want and making their views known. Contest rules change by bands proposing remits. Organisational changes occur by people getting involved in the Association's activities and giving up their time to help bring about change whether at Centre or national level.

The Board meets regularly by teleconferences – an efficient and cost effective system – and each November gathers, along with the Group leaders, to review the past year and start planning for the next year.

Each year the position of President and one Board member comes up for election and, before the start of the year, Iain Blakeley was re-elected President unopposed and Jim Shepherd was elected to the Board unopposed. Penny Wilson retained her position.

Iain Blakeley

Jim Shepherd

Penny Wilson

Reports and Financial Statements of Management Groups

2 Promotion Group

Leader

George McEwan (appointed in November 2008)

Members

Co-opted for specific projects.

Goal

To promote membership of pipe bands and their contribution to New Zealand and its local communities.

To assist bands to establish a substantial funding base through sponsorship and marketing programmes to achieve the above.

2.1 Base-case Activity

2.1.1 Assistance for Centre Promotions Group members

Due to the vacant leadership role for much of the year the Management Board assumed responsibility for key promotional functions. These unfortunately did not extend to developing closer relationships with Centre Promotions Officers to help raise their profile in their communities.

The preparation of a flyer/leaflet promoting pipe bands for members to use and personalise to their own requirements is included in the 2009 Management Plan.

2.1.2 Finalisation of a National Database of Tutors

Not completed.

2.1.3 Promotion of the 2008 Papakura & 2009 Christchurch National Contests

This was handled by the Management Board until Mr McEwan came on board.

Pub Charity

The Management Board successfully negotiated a further sponsorship with Pub Charity in 2008.

The last of the previous grant was distributed to Centres in the early part of the year and as part of the ongoing commitment to Pub Charity to ensure their grant was accounted for the Board continued to maintain contact with key Pub Charity personnel and, with assistance from the Communication and Publication Group and Mr Ian McAteer, ensured regular reports of activities were sent to Pub Charity. It is widely accepted that the Pub Charity funded programmes benefited the Association's activities substantially, especially at Centre level and at Summer School.

3 Education Group

Education Group.

Leader:

Robyn Forbes (Christchurch)

Members

Centre appointed Education Officers

Goal

To provide education in all aspects of pipe band work to people at every level of experience and ability.

3.1 Base-case Activity

3.1.1 Administration and Development

2009 National Summer School

Preparations were near completion at the time of compiling this report. It was intended to accommodate the tutors off-site in 2009 to allow them some “space” away from the School, involving an increase in accommodation costs with additional tutors being engaged (twenty-two in total).

The Comunn na Piobaireachd Society has generously funded a tutor in Piobaireachd.

3.1.2 Communications

The Group continued its contributions for “In Tune” in each quarterly issue of the New Zealand Pipeband magazine.

National Tutor Data Base – very few names were received when requested. To provide necessary tutors the assistance of the College of Piping and Drumming is sought.

3.1.3 Advice and Guidance

Given when requested.

3.1.4 Education Group Membership

Group Leader and Group Members appointed by Centres. Most Centres are now covered, and it is intended to communicate with these people from time to time during the year to keep up to date with what they have planned for their area.

3.2 Programme Activity

3.2.1. National Summer School 2008

The National Summer School at Christchurch Boys’ High School was held in January. There were 212 enrolments with 200 attending due to some late withdrawals although some places were filled by people who enrolled late. Four tutors from Canada/Scotland and Australia. Jack, Reid, Alexis Ferguson and Andy Roach, led a team of twenty New Zealand tutors (in total 13 piping, 7 side drummers and 4 tenor/bass).

3.2.2 Visiting Tutor Programme

Liaison with the College of Piping and Drumming has continued to enable the Visiting Tutor Programme to be offered to bands. Applications approved in 2007 were eventually carried out but no further applications were sought pending completion of those in hand.

3.2.3 Website Tutorials

Further tutorials are planned for 2009.

3.2.4. National Seminar for Band Secretaries and Drum Majors

This was replaced by the Group Leaders, Board member Penny Wilson and Executive Officer holding a meeting to draft a Band Administrators' Year Planner for events that require attention and replies from bands/Centres. The Communication & Publication Group Leader then collated the final copy which was sent to every band. It is on the web-site and available to other management people within bands.

3.2.5 Future Seminars

No further seminars took place in 2008.

RNZPBA COLLEGE OF PIPING AND DRUMMING

Leadership: Lester Flockton (Convenor/Registrar), Greg Wilson (Principal, Piping), Cameron Wilson (Principal, Drumming), Brian Switalla (Associate Principal, Piping), Ross Levy (Associate Principal, Drumming), Scott Mitchell (Associate Principal, Drumming)

Operational Position (adopted by RNZPBA 2005)

1. That the College remain under the auspices of the RNZPBA.
2. That the College be quite distinct from the Education Group in function and membership while still working in partnership as parts of the same Association.
3. That the leadership of the College comprise College directors being the present offices of principals/associate principals (selected by an electoral college of "members" - as at present), and a convenor/administrator (selected by the directors).
4. That the central function of the College be the development, regular review and dissemination of quality curricula supported by a highly credible system of delivery, induction and attestation. Additionally, it has a support role of providing advice to the Association and its Education Group on matters such as personnel and programme design.
5. That the College of Piping and Drumming annually negotiate directly with the Management Board on an annual outcomes costed budget to assist it with fulfilling its function.

College Activity 2008

College activity during this past year has involved the conducting of examinations and awarding of certificates, a working group reviewing drumming curricula, and initial discussions on the review of piping curricula.

The following pipers and drummer were awarded certificates:

Bagpipes - Preliminary

Anthony Baillie, Auckland
Henrik Idoff Hornhaver, Denmark
Frea Anderson, Dunedin
Nathan Adie, Dunedin
Jack Gilchrist, Dunedin
Connor Duncan, Dunedin
Cameron Cook, Christchurch
Elizabeth Clarkson, Cave
Maia Nixon, Fairlie
Lucy Gibson, Fairlie
Jonathan Garratt, Christchurch
Jillian Lang, Christchurch
Geoffrey Horsburgh, Christchurch
Amanda Kirk, Tauranga
Conor Hendry, Tauranga

Bagpipes - Elementary

Seumas Beedie, Tauranga
Andrej Maroz, Auckland
James McArthur, Auckland
Allan Blom, Auckland
Cameron Smith, Auckland
John Rhodes, Auckland
Alex Macdonald, Dunedin
Scott Marshall, Dunedin
Henrik Idoff Hornhaver, Denmark

Bagpipes - Intermediate

Ma, Man Lap, Hong Kong

Snare Drumming – Intermediate

Sarah Dewhurst, Tauranga

Tenor Bass – Preliminary

Gina Murray, Waipu
Bridget Morunga, Waipu
Margaret Pennington, Whangarei

In congratulating these candidates, their tutors and those who encouraged them to undertake College qualifications, readers of this report should note the locations represented, and the locations that are absent. We also commend those pipers in Denmark and Hong Kong who undertook tuition and examinations on-line with the great and expert support of Pipe Major Bill Robertson. We again recommend and ask that the RNZPBA Education Group play an active role in establishing targets for College certificate entries in each Centre, encouraging interest, and supporting candidate preparation. The process for making entries is very simple (see RNZPBA website).

**COLLEGE OF PIPING AND DRUMMING
CERTIFICATE REGISTER TO 2008**

BAGPIPE

Advanced Certificate

70

(since 1986)

Intermediate Certificate	112	(since 1986)
Elementary Certificate	455	(since 1986)
Preliminary Certificate	134	(since 2001)

Total Piping Certificates Awarded **771**

SNARE DRUM (No records available prior to 2001)

Advanced Certificate	1	(since 2002)
Intermediate Certificate	7	(since 2002)
Elementary Certificate	26	(since 2002)
Preliminary Certificate	50	(since 2001)

Total Snare Drumming Certificates Awarded: **84**

TENOR/BASS DRUM (No records available prior to 2001)

Advanced	0	
Intermediate	2	(since 2003)
Elementary	8	(since 2001)
Preliminary	27	(since 2001)

Total Tenor/Bass Certificates Awarded: **37**

TOTAL COLLEGE OF PIPING AND DRUMMING CERTIFICATES AWARDED:

892

Lester Flockton
 College Convenor/Registrar
31 January 2009

4 Communication and Publication Group

Leader

Chris Stevens (Christchurch)

Member

Penny Wilson (Christchurch)

Goal

To communicate and publish both within and beyond the pipe band community.

4.1 Base-case Activity

4.1.1 NZ Pipeband magazine

The 2008 year has been steady as the activities do not vary hugely in terms of day to day running.

The release of the four annual magazines was on time, although there was considerable pressure on two occasions due to very late arrival of content. The page count for each issue (excluding cover) was:

February – 44

May – 44

August – 44

November - 40

Production and distribution costs remained reasonably static, although the cost of mailing has increased through the necessity to have a Statement of Accuracy issued for the database in order to retain the substantial postal rate discount offered by NZ Post. Failure to reach the required level of accuracy will result in an increase in charged rates.

The Group acknowledges the support and assistance of Precision Design Print & Web. Their contribution to the production of the magazine is huge, and the management and staff go beyond the commercial benefit of managing the production process.

Advertising levels have been consistent, although turnover of higher value adverts has been greater this year than previously. Grateful acknowledgement is given to the advertisers who have supported the magazine through the year, with particular mention of those who maintain annual contracts.

A special mention must also be made of the contributors of content to the magazine. There are a number of long standing correspondents, and a recent influx of newer ones. The effort put in by these people is astounding, and it makes the magazine a very much more collaborative read. Very special thanks to Penny Wilson for her high degree of proofing accuracy, along with her support in article preparation and procurement.

4.1.2 RNZPBA Website

The website is a dynamic document, constantly being updated with information relative to the activities of the Association at any particular time. Management Group Leaders have contributed well to the content, and visitor statistics remain strong.

Costs have remained virtually the same.

There are still issues with some bands not bothering to update their on-line database. A consequence of this is that as their membership changes, the cost of distributing the magazine goes up, as the number of returns increases. Constant reminders are necessary to band secretaries and will continue to be.

5 Contest Group

Leader	Jillian Vincent (Christchurch)
Members	As required for specific projects
Goal	To establish and administer the rules under which the New Zealand Pipe Band Championships will be conducted.

5.1 Base-case Activity

5.1.1 Administration of 2008 Papakura Contest and preliminary work for the 2009 Christchurch Contest.

The introduction of three circles for Sets and Medleys was well received by most bands. The flow between circles was excellent.

The splitting of Grade 4 also worked well. There was a buzz of excitement amongst Pipe Majors when they met to receive the draw for the Championship and Plate Events.

The lack of proximity to the Recorders was a problem. Efforts should be made to avoid this situation for future Contests.

The Massed Bands was an improvement, but the Presentation of Trophies left much to be desired. A lot of work is being done at the moment to make sure this does not happen again.

The venue for the Christchurch Contest has been inspected. There is ample room for tuning and, with several entrances to the main arena, access to the circles will be good.

It has been decided not to use the large digital race clocks in future. Hiring three clocks has become problematic for Contest Committees. Smaller, analog clocks with second hands will be used.

The Kitto Trophy will in future be judged in Grades 1, 2 and 3 Medley events. Grade 4 Championship bands will have their own competition and the Grade 4 Plate bands will have their own competition. All Grades will be judged in the Street March.

With the Contest now being over two days it is time to reassess the running of the Drum Majors' Championship. At Christchurch in 2009 the three finalists marching a straight course together will be trialled. The music will be provided by a Duty Band.

All objectives were met well within budget.

5.2 Programme Activity

5.2.1 The Music Judges Workshop took on a different format. It was very much a practical, "hands-on" session. Participants were divided into Piping, Drumming and Ensemble. They were given the respective judging sheets for each discipline and asked to "judge" two DVD recordings of an MSR and Medley. Three minutes was the time

allowed to complete their sheets before the next performance. A senior judge was then appointed in each group to discuss, collate and report on the outcome.

The Workshop was led by internationally renowned music judges and educators, Jack Lee and Reid Maxwell.

5.2.2 The Meeting of the Non-Music Judges Committee did not take place. The leader of the Group circulated some guidelines to the Committee for their approval. These guidelines were sent out to Centres. Applicants would be accepted or rejected onto a National Panel based on their credentials.

5.2.3 The results of the Champion of Champions for 2008 were:

Grade One	Auckland & Districts
Grade Two	City of Dunedin
Grade Three	Canterbury Caledonian Royal Stewarts
Grade Four	Southern City

Congratulations to all of those bands.

All the Group's objectives were met well within budget.

6 Administration and Finance Group

Leader

Murray Venables (Dunedin)

Member

Executive Officer (Christchurch)

Goal

To ensure a cost-effective financial and administrative base for the Association.

6.1 Base-case Activity

6.1.1 Financial management of the Association

The Group has continued to produce monthly financial reports, supported by clear commentary and comparisons with the previous five years', which have enabled the Board to closely monitor the finances of the Association. The Group is pleased to record that all aspects of its management are well within budget for the year.

Lower interest rates have incrementally crept in during the latter part of the year and these will impact on the Associations' investment income in 2009.

6.1.2 Financial management of Management Groups

The Management Board received quarterly reports against budget for each of the Management Groups.

It was pleasing to note that a surplus ahead of budgets was expected and realised.

6.1.3 Computer Database

Maintained in co-operation with the Communication and Publication Group.

7.1.6 Annual Report and Accounts

Circulated herewith, subject to audit.

7.1.7 Australian Contest

The President was able to accept the long-standing invitation from the Australian Pipe Bands' Association to attend its National Contest in November. The generosity of the Australian Pipe Bands Association NSW Branch meant that only airfare costs were required to be funded. There was a large contingent of New Zealanders participating in the contest as judges and as players in competing bands. One New Zealand band actually competed which was Temuka.

7.1.8 Sundry Travel

Association representatives are from time to time required to attend significant band anniversaries or similar functions. In 2008 John Harrison and Chris Stevens attended a function held at Government House in Wellington for organisations which have the Governor General as their patron. This was written about in the magazine.