



# Whangarei Pipe Band Society

(Incorporated)

## NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1

AUTUMN 2009

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Charles Payne

Our Society has been through difficult and challenging times. With the anticipated economic downturn, it is very apparent there will be testing times ahead for all of us. It is pleasing to know the leadership of our Executive, our Committee, and those responsible for the Management of our Band, has never faltered. The success of our objectives of Administration, Facilities, and Coaches, is as relevant today, as it was when our Society was formed in 1936, as these three initiatives will guarantee to continue to bring active young people into our Society and Band, which is our future.

Colin and June, WELCOME. We hope you enjoy your time with us, but far more important, we NEED you to stay HERE to introduce and maintain our Drum Tutoring program. You have our absolute support, and we will make every effort to lobby and facilitate a two year Work Permit for you, and entry into this country if you choose to stay permanently.

I urge every member of our Society and Band to assist with entertainment and hospitality, to help make Colin and June's time in Northland so pleasant and memorable, they both just HAVE to return.

### FROM OUR PIPE MAJOR

Bain McGregor

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all those who competed and gained placings at the Waipu Highland Games on 01 January 2009.

A very big thank you to all the Pipe Band members who were part of the Celtic Festival on the 3rd of January 2009. I appreciated all the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that went into the practices prior to the event. Even though it was extremely late when we played, the result was still an outstanding performance.

Also, the mini concert at Reva's prior to the festival was well received, and was clearly great PR for the Band. Once again, thank you.

We are extremely fortunate at present, to have Colin Scott and his partner June Young from Glasgow, Scotland, with us until 02 March 2009.

For those who have already met and experienced Colin's magnetic tutorage and fantastic playing skills, I am sure you would agree, that any time spent with Colin is an opportunity not to be missed.

Colin's Drumming credentials are legend. He played with the Renfrew Pipe Band under the leading tap of Joe Noble (Grade 1). Understand, this Band was on the same par as Muirheads

Pipe Band, under Leading Tap Robert Turner, who at that time were No.1 in the World.

Colin has since continued to play in several other Bands, he teaches drumming in the College of Piping and Drumming in Glasgow, Scotland, and his drumming style is of a similar vogue, and manner, to the great Alex Duthard.

I can't emphasize enough this golden opportunity for all drummers, so please make every possible effort to participate in each practice while Colin is with us.

The practices are Wednesday nights from 6.30 p.m. till late at the Whangarei Band Hall, and on Sunday nights from 6.30 p.m. at the Waipu Pipe Band.

Please feel free in participate in both Band practices, irrespective of which Band you belong to. Again you are very welcome to attend both.

We have a BBQ farewell for Colin & June on Sunday 1st March 2009, at home (656 Cove Rd, Waipu) starting at about 1 p.m. in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome, BYO meat and drinks, and if you can, a salad would also be great.

Forthcoming events. Just before I go, please diary the Annual Forum North Concert on 13 & 14 June 2009. The music is already out. Please let's crank in and learn these tunes.

### OUR DRUM MAJOR

Barrie Tinsley

#### WAITANGI DAY CELEBRATIONS

For the first time in over twenty four years, the Band was invited by the Waitangi National Trust to participate in the Waitangi Day celebrations at the National Marae. Bain carried out his Pipe Majors duty, by performing a solo recital for the Church Service and Flag Raising ceremony at Dawn.

The rest of the Band travelled by Bus, and performed a thirty minute recital in front of the Flagpole on the Treaty Grounds.

We later performed some of our popular concert repertoire on the covered stage beside the Waka House at the rear Trust offices, to a very large and appreciative audience - (estimated 2000 plus).

It was great to have the assistance of former members Nicola Pivac and Karina Wright contributing to the pipe corps, before Karina flew out to a sojourn at Royal Perth Hospital for a period of 12 months to broaden her nursing experience.

We were all home in Whangarei by 3.30 p.m., with a very nice cash contribution yet to come for our efforts. It really was a most impressive performance by all members, both on the march and in playing performance.