



Music and Piping Scholarship Recipients, 2018-2021

All recipients have been awarded a \$500 scholarship to go towards further developing their skills, and helping to keep their Scottish Heritage alive

We congratulate them all as they continue to represent us proudly



Jamie Callahan, left, and Qwenton McKenzie at the ceremony to present Jamie with his trophy, Hokonui Moonshine Museum, Gore, February 2022



Jamie Callahan receives his trophy from **Ian MacKenzie, Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh**

Jamie Callahan, 2021 Co recipient Clan MacKenzie Society of NZ Piping Scholarship.

It has been a challenging band season with no competitions and everything getting cancelled. Our Grade One band in Invercargill will kick off into regular practices again after Queens Birthday and I am looking forward to getting stuck in with Pipin' Hot and 125th Celebrations the weekend of the 14th/15th October.

For ANZAC I played at the Tokanui service including a march to the cenotaph and the lament following the ode.

The flip side to having no band is that I have been able to double down on solos, and really enjoying my lessons with *Ali (the benefit of time allows a more relaxed approach without the same pressure that usually entails, although make no mistake I am still working really hard to be a better player through these lessons and daily practice at home).

In particular, my Piobaireachd has been a focus. In lieu of the Hastings Highland Games at Easter the CNP Society of NZ ran a virtual online competition to help competitors prepare for upcoming in person competitions later in the year. I'm at the Silver Level and this involves learning three piobaireachds (from the CNP list of eight tunes) and then playing one for the competition. Although I didn't place in the online competitions this time around I was very appreciative of the comments and feedback from the world champion soloist Roddy MacLeod (in particular his mention of a lovely sounding bagpipe given he has one of the best instruments on the planet).

Up coming I have some major solos including Dunedin Queen's Birthday Competition and the deferred Hastings Solos where the CNP will award medals for the piobaireachd events, I'll be competing in all the B-Grade events and hoping to keep progressing.

Thank you, Jamie Callahan

***Alistair MacKenzie, Pipe Major, City of Invercargill Highland Pipe Band**



Henri McKenzie Blakeley receives his Piping Scholarship Trophy from

Ron McKenzie, Auckland Area Representative

Henri J McKenzie Blakeley, 2021 Co recipient Clan MacKenzie Society of NZ Piping Scholarship

Dear Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh, Mr Ian MacKenzie, and wider Society Members,

I have been asked to write a brief update on my progression in Piping, six months on from receiving the 2021 pipers scholarship, which is to be presented at the 2022 AGM.

A lot has happened since; I've moved cities to Wellington, and begun tertiary studies here. This fluctuant time has all but enriched my passion for learning and growing as a piper. I have joined an intermediary group of pipers down here with the City of Wellington Pipe Band, and I am progressively moving on from beginner exercise tunes to more dynamic and difficult tunes.

With the funds awarded to me alongside the scholarship, I am currently in the midst of arranging to purchase my first full set of pipes by the end of June, mid this year. It is hoped by my tutor and me, that come then I will be able to start learning exercises and practising with the full set by the time I purchase them. My tutor has told me that the next 3 months will be pivotal in my journey as a piper.

I would definitely not have been able to get to this stage if I did not have the support from the Clan Society.

Le Dùrachdan, Henri J McKenzie Blakeley



Anton Lilley receives his Music Scholarship Trophy from **Ian MacKenzie**, Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh, AGM and Gathering, Christchurch 2021

Anton Lilley 2020 Clan MacKenzie Society of NZ Music Scholarship recipient

Please see below my report for the AGM.

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions most major piping events including Nationals were cancelled in the past year. However, I have been able to continue with lessons, due to restrictions at school I could only learn on an electric chanter.

I am hoping in November that our school pipe band will be able to do our South Island tour, which starts in Queenstown and finishes in Christchurch. I am also looking forward to competing at the Hororata Highland Games if they go ahead.

Thank You
Anton Lilley



Jasmine Hanrahan

Jasmine Hanrahan 2019 Clan MacKenzie Society of NZ Music Scholarship recipient

Hi Society Members

Unfortunately I couldn't be here today to update you on my progress with my bagpipes in person but thank you for the support.

Band season for me has just started back up after a long six month break due to red settings with covid. The six months however have been a blessing in disguise for me as I have been able to focus on my solo skills and improve my piping as a whole. I have been moved into the C grade for solo piping and I am thoroughly enjoying learning the more difficult tunes for this grade. I am yet to compete at this level and sadly now can not be at the Dunedin Queens Birthday solo competition.

Band for me has also progressed as I am now the Pipe Major of the Juvenile pipe band. I am loving learning how to lead the band and taking on a more senior role for the Canterbury Caledonian pipe band. I am now also learning the Grade 3 tunes in hopes that I can play with Grade 3 at the Hororata Highland games later this year. All in all very excited for nationals at home in Christchurch next year. Thank you for the support that the society has given me. Enjoy the rest of your AGM.

Jasmine Hanrahan



Qwenton McKenzie, piping for the Haggis Ceremony for Clan MacLeod, Mosgiel May 2022

Qwenton McKenzie 2018 Clan MacKenzie Society of NZ Music Scholarship recipient

Here is a wee bit of a progress report of the last while to do with my piping.

Last year's nationals were a pretty big success for me. I had just started playing for Invercargill and it was a big step up from my usual level of playing. I played for City of Invercargill Highland Pipe Band 4A and we won overall. I also played for the Invercargill juvenile band and came out of the 2021 nationals with 2 national titles. This year I got promoted to the Invercargill grade 1 band but unfortunately there were no nationals this year due to the Corona Virus. Nonetheless we will begin practising soon for next year's nationals in Christchurch.

I am also a part of the National Youth Pipe Band of New Zealand and practices for that will also start soon, in the hopes that we can have a tour around the country, and hopefully other places such as the US or Canada. The last year has been a bit slow with not many competitions or performances but it seems like in the next few months we will be moving back to a somewhat normal season.

Qwenton McKenzie

