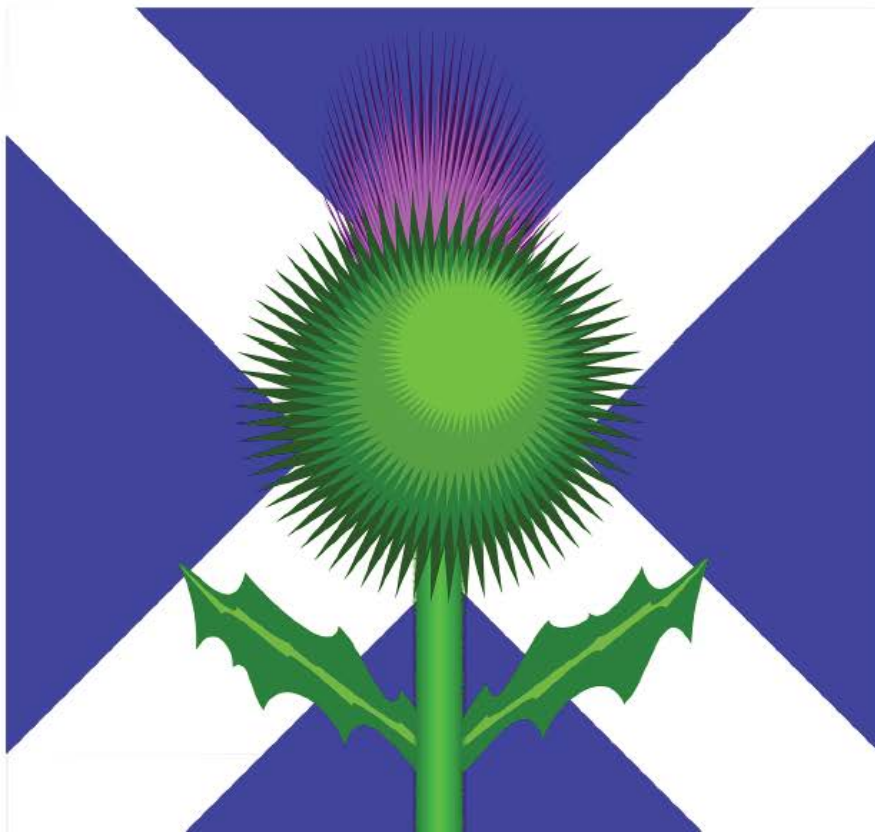


Scotch Potch

2020



A word from the Otago Centre President Shiobhan Smith.

To Otago Centre's Piping and Dancing Community,

Thank you for your patience as we work hard to bring you another ScotchPotch. This is technically the 2019 edition but due to circumstances, including a pandemic, its completion has been delayed a few times. If nothing else, this edition is a lesson in perseverance!

Back in December 2019 I completed my "word from the president" editorial. We are a hard working but small committee and much of that editorial is dedicated to thanking them for once again pulling a fantastic competition year together. However, much has happened since then and I wish to update you all.

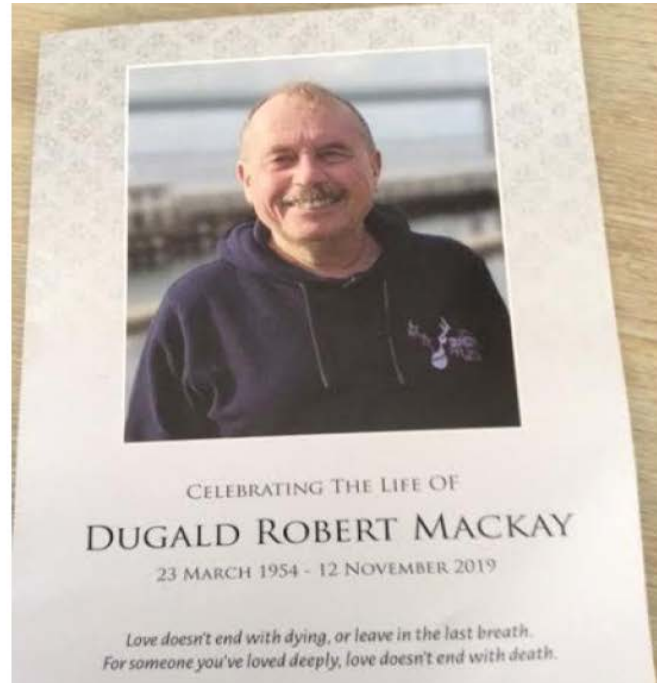
Due to Covid 19, and the unprecedented lockdown that resulted from it appearing in New Zealand, Otago Centre made the hard decision to cancel the 2020 Queens Birthday competitions. Many factors were taken into consideration when making this decision, but the most central issue was doing what was right for the health and safety of our piping and dancing community. This has meant that the New Zealand Open Solo Piping Championships have moved to the Canterbury West Coast Centre's Silver Chanter event on labour weekend. We wish them all the best for a successful weekend. Similarly, Wellington and Taranaki Centre's joint holding of the New Zealand Highland Dancing Championships in July was also cancelled and moved to Marlborough Nelson Centre to be held early October. Otago Centre is therefore not alone in having to make such hard decisions.

As we come out of lockdown the Centre is focusing on preparing for the 2021 Queens Birthday competitions, as well as holding smaller competitions. Entries are now open for a highland dancing championship competition in August where we will hold the South Island Championships originally earmarked for Queens Birthday. This should be an excellent run up to the New Zealand Championships for local competitors. Our piping secretary is currently liaising with local piping tutors to also see if there is interest in a solo piping competition before the Silver Chanter event.

Although it is disappointing to not hold Queens Birthday competitions for 2020 it has given the committee more time to seek grants and sponsorships. The cost of running these competitions has climbed dramatically in the past few years with venue costs being especially draining. There is a real possibility that competitions of the scale of Queens Birthday may not be affordable in a few years so if you or someone you know would like to help secure business sponsorship or equivalent please get in touch.

Finally, Otago Centre Piping and Dancing wish everyone well during these tough times. We appreciate your continued support and hope to see you at our competitions soon.

Dugald McKay



A Tribute to Dugald Robert MacKay

By Raymond Goodfellow

I had the privilege of knowing Dugald from when he attended Kings High School. I began tutoring him for private lessons for his piping and he came to my home for about four years, with his Dad.

When Dugald started work, and later went on his overseas experience we lost touch. I didn't realise at the time that Dugald had given piping up, but when he returned from overseas, the MacKay blood got him motivated to start up the bagpipes again. Dugald got back in touch when he was competing and asked for help and criticism which he received plenty!

Over the years Dugald made himself available to different organisations and he was an official piper to many. He would help anybody out who requested a Piper for a function or anything at all, he was that kind of guy.

He would be sorely missed from City of Dunedin Pipe Band, for his playing, organising and helping out.

His work for the DCC through Marilyn Anderson on band matters was simply amazing.

Dugald would also pipe at the airport for different events coming to town, and he would phone me at times to say they were short of pipers, and he would come and pick me up within an hour and we would head out.

Larnach Castle was also another venue Dugald attended to pipe for cruise ship parties, weddings at the Castle or anything else they requested.

He had been a big part of Piping Hot Haggis for many years, and was also the life of the party at any social functions.

Our phone is quieter now since the passing of Dugald. His parting words were always "I'll give you a bell". He will be forever remembered.

Dugald you be hugely missed by all who knew you.

God Bless

Don Smith

We were saddened also to read of the recent passing of Don Smith. Don was passionate about piping and he had a long association with John McGlashan College over many years.

Don was also a member of the Otago Centre Executive for a number of years and was a strong voice for the piping, particularly the Juniors..

Don is survived by his son Matthew and our thoughts are with him and for the many pipers he taught who will have fond memories of him.

Success for Local Dancers

In July 1919 the New Zealand Championships were held in Blenheim. Two of our local highland dancers were placed in the top ten in their respective age groups.

Luna Koyama was placed fourth overall in the Under 16 age group and Olivia Buchannan-Letts was also placed fourth overall in the Under 18



Congratulations to you both and your teachers
Jacqui Seque and Lynette Mitchell.

Poppy's Poem

Congratulations to Poppy Hayward who recently won a poetry competition.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

VARK. An acronym.

A name, a label, for four different learners.

Visual learners. They are lucky.

A single glance then bam! Cemented in their minds forever.

Audial. Be scared of conversing with them.

They'll remember it longer than you ever could.

R. Reading and writing. Loved by teachers worldwide. Give them notes and there you'll find a perfect student.

Lastly, Kinetic. The words: watched, heard, read, it all goes over their heads. Give them something to do with their hands however, and they'll love you forever.

School? Where does school fit into it?

School. A place dedicated to learning.

It excels in teaching VAR learners K? What about the K? No, no K. They always forget about the K.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



Queens Birthday 2020 – New Zealand Piping Championships

On 30th & 31st May 2020 Otago Centre were scheduled to host the 2020 NZ Piping Solo Championships at John McGlashan College in Dunedin. A prestigious event bringing our finest pipers from all corners of New Zealand to compete.

As you are all well aware, Otago Centre had no option but to cancel these due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. There had been a tremendous amount of planning by a very small committee which leaves an empty feeling when a decision is really out of your hands but the Executive of Otago Centre would like to sincerely acknowledge particularly Julie and Victoria for the many hours you put in our behalf.

It has been fortunate that Canterbury has been able to pick up the hosting rights for this year's championships and these will be now at Labour Weekend in Christchurch. Otago Centre wishes all pipers and the Canterbury association our best wishes.



News from Jane Guthrie in London

I am still flying the London flag, I have now been here nearly four years, it is crazy how fast time has gone. But I PROMISE I will return to Dunedin eventually, and when I do, I plan on resuming my Treasurer role even if I have to share it! Maybe I'll even run for Mayor, as I'm getting quite into this campaigning business...

Currently I'm working for a law firm doing white collar criminal prosecutions (prior to that I was at the Serious Fraud Office prosecuting on the Rolls Royce bribery and corruption case). It was an unexpected career turn and very different from the work I was doing in Dunedin. Although actually I'm hardly in London, as my main client is the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. I am helping them out on a few public office corruption cases for the next year or so. It's not a bad gig over here in the Tropics, although with the type of work I am doing coupled with how white my skin is and how blonde my hair is, my safety is a bit of an issue for them, so it's a restrictive life, but at least I am staring at the sea every day. Absolutely eye opening when you realise how functional New Zealand is by comparison...

I am coming home in March for a wedding, and to celebrate my younger sister Georgie's identical twin daughters' 1st birthdays! Safe to say our lives are rather different at the moment...I haven't met them yet, but I love them already from the photos. So I might see some of you then, if a meeting happens to coincide then I will be sure to pop in and say hello.

Anyway, I hope everything is well with you all whatever it is you are doing (I am keeping up with some of you on Facebook), including keeping the piping and dancing community going strong!

Below is a photo of the twins Imogen and Zoe, and their proud grandparents (I am relieved one of us has given them some South Island-based grandchildren to keep them entertained) - I'll be making highland dancers out of them in no time...

Jane





Congratulations

Congratulations to Michelle Mills on the safe arrival of Jacob (left) and Nicole McKay Vercoe on the safe arrival of Charlotte (right). Future dancers and pipers, or drummers.



Edinburgh Quaich

The Edinburgh Quaich was awarded to the Otago Centre Piping & Dancing by the Otago Scottish Heritage Council at the annual Dunedin Burns Club Dinner held on the 25th January. The Quaich is awarded annually to the club, clan or society who has done the most to promote our Scottish Heritage during the previous year.

Below is an extract from the submission for the Quaich.

..... "Otago Centre Piping & Dancing Association of New Zealand was established in 1908, and has gone on to become one of the strongest centres in New Zealand.

The Centre has a proud history now passed its 110th Anniversary, but continues to flourish and support pipers and dancers through the organisation and management of competitions within the Otago region.

Our President Shiobhan Smith with support and guidance from the committee members, has kept our small committee engaged and active to foster our culture of dancing and piping.

During the course of the year we have fostered our piping and dancing at community events, such as concerts, performing at rest homes, piping for the Anzac Day service and participated at the St Andrew's Day hosted by the Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City, The Ghillie Callum Dancers performed a variety of Highland & National Dancers on the new enclosed stage, compered by dancing teacher Jacqui Seque.

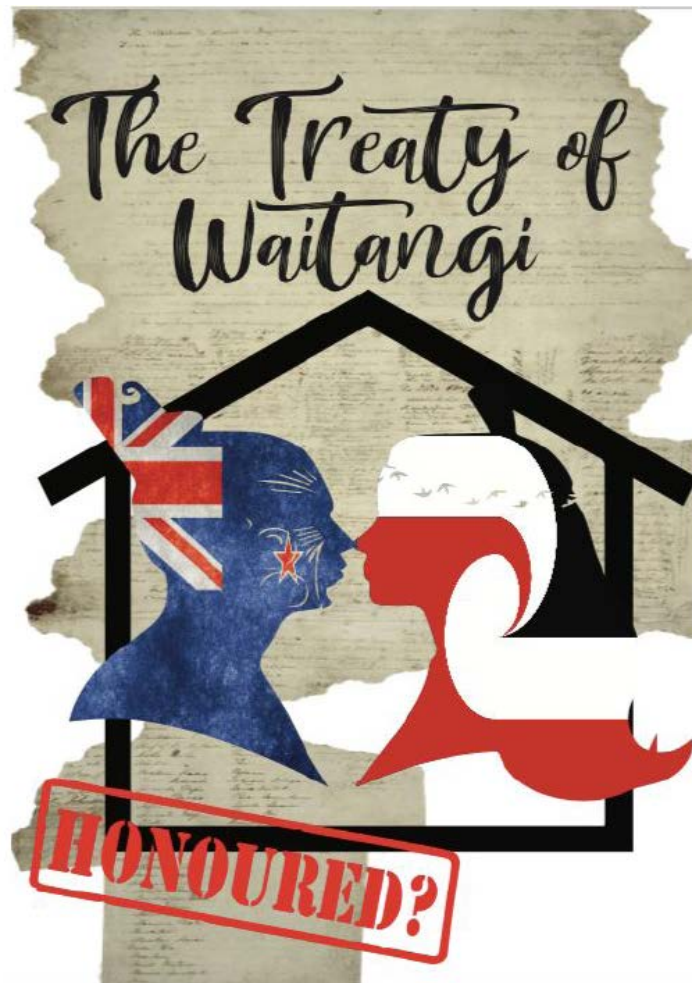
One of our local up and coming pipers Qwenton McKenzie piped in the haggis for the haggis ceremony. Several of our local pipers also performed with the John McGlashan Pipe Band".....



The Edinburgh Quaich Trophy

Congratulations to Luna Koyama for her success in the NZ history poster competition.

In May 2019, The New Zealand History Teachers' Association, organised a competition for students to design posters to promote History in Schools across New Zealand. As part of the Year Ten History class of Columba College, Luna was able to participate in this competition and was awarded \$100 along with five other winners across New Zealand.



Proposed Competition Dates 2020:

All competition dates from mid-March until mid-July have been cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions within New Zealand. Within our own region the following events have been affected.

Green Island Championships 14 March, Ghillie Callum Competitions and Workshop 4 April, 30-31 May Queen's Birthday Otago Centre Piping and Dancing Championships and Piping Workshop, North Otago P & D championships 20 June, New Zealand Dancing championships Palmerston North 9-12 July.

Still scheduled in our calendar are the following:

- 12 September – North Otago
- 21 November Ghillie Callum Teachers and Judges

SELECTED PHOTOS OF SENIOR OTAGO CENTRE REGISTERED DANCERS FROM QUEENS BIRTHDAY COMPETITIONS





HIGHLAND HOIST

Highlanders players Sione Misiloi (left) and Tevita Nabura join Highland Dancer Harper Higginson from Allanton at the Highland Fair held at the Outram School earlier this year – before lockdown.