

RNZPBA National Contest 2021

Update #3 – November 2020

This newsletter provides an update on planning for the 2021 National contest. The path has been challenging with the Covid-19 pandemic presenting many challenges but planning is well advanced to provide NZ pipe bands with a good contest.

The RNZPBA Contest Group Leader, Mark Wilson, and the National Contest Supervisor, Rod Miller, recently visited Hawke's Bay to meet with the local organisers and view the venues. The RNZPBA President, Iain Blakeley, was also in attendance. We were pleased to be able to give them a briefing on the following aspects of contest planning:

Finances

The overall budget position for the contest is good but the committee will be cutting back where possible (no-frills) because of challenges with sponsorships. Funding has already been secured to underwrite some of the major costs but work is still ongoing to obtain grants for specific expenses.

Promotion

The agreement with the RNZPBA is that the programme will be an insert in the local HB Today newspaper with distribution expected to be 40,000 subscribers. Associated with this will be media releases and other promotion. We expect this to be cost-neutral with advertising.

Mitre10 Park

The venue has the various facilities required to stage a contest and being located adjacent to the major arterial route between Napier and Hastings provides a central location easily accessed from either city.

Street March

The street march will be held in Napier's CBD starting at Clive Square, right wheeling into Tennyson St and left wheeling into Hastings St. The street closures will go up at 3pm on the Friday giving us a 3 hour window to do the event. Napier City Council is generously arranging street closures and traffic management.

Risk Management:

The Covid-19 pandemic obviously presents particular issues for the RNZPBA and the organising group so Mark Wilson has prepared a plan for circulation to bands which sets out the contest conditions for various scenarios – this is posted on the contest website.

Scheduling - a broad outline

Scheduling is the responsibility of the Contest Group Leader who will take into account the number of bands, the organisation of judging panels, and the travel time between locations. In broad outline the schedule is as follows:

- Friday am (expected to finish about 2.30pm): Grades 4B and 4A music events
- Friday pm: Street March in Napier with the order being G3, G2, G4B, G4A and G1 followed by the G4 massed march
- Saturday (starting at 9am): Juvenile, G3, G2 and G1 followed by displays (if any), mace flourishing, massed bands and presentations.

Website - <https://nzpbchamps.nz/>

We would refer bands to the website that has relevant information for bands with further updates as progress is made.

Go/No Go points

The next point at which a decision about the future of the contest can be considered is late November when the committee has a better idea about grant funding and the Association has an indication of entries. We will also be better informed about the ongoing impacts of the pandemic in terms of changing alert levels.

Next newsletter

Our next newsletter, which will go out in December to bands who have entered, will include information about the facilities available at the grounds including 'tent city', hospitality and merchandising. There will also be Risk Assessment and Management information required by management of the Mitre 10 Sports Park.

We look forward to seeing everyone in March

Contest Management Team Contacts

Kerry Marshall (Chair) 021 107 6428

Andrea Wilton (Secretary/Treasurer)

Julie Baxter (President Napier Pipe Band) 0272 958 373

Jarrold Cawood (Pipe Major HB Caledonian Pipe Band) 0275 999 085

David O'Hanlon (Drum Sergeant HB Caledonian Pipe Band) 027 691 8849

Neville Lumb (Grounds) 02102994162