



# Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands' Assn. (Inc.)

P.O. Box 13211

CHRISTCHURCH 8141

Phone: (+64) 21 781 555

E-mail: [info@nzpipebands.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpipebands.org.nz)

Sunday, 5 April 2020

## COVID-19 Update No. 2

### Anzac Day Services

You will be aware by now that the RSA has cancelled Anzac Day services throughout New Zealand for 2020. <sup>1</sup>

Pipe bands have traditionally played a vital role helping New Zealand commemorate Anzac Day. The decision to cancel this year's services is unquestionably the right thing to do, but it will leave a hole for many who treasure the annual opportunity to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The current lockdown has seen incredible ingenuity and creativity from musicians around the world, and within the pipe band community as much as anywhere. Pipers and drummers are finding a wide range of ways to recognise essential services workers, entertain their neighbourhoods, teach and party "virtually" with one other.

Our pipe band friends in Australia are encouraging pipers to play Amazing Grace at 11am on 25 April (anywhere that complies with the lockdown rules). <sup>2</sup> We think this is an excellent idea and encourage pipe band members in New Zealand to follow suit or find some other way to contribute to their communities on this important day. Feel free to share your ideas and plans on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/rnzpba>

### World Pipe Band Championships and other cancellations

This wonderful annual feature will not take place this year, along with many other significant pipe band related events, including Piping Live and the 2020 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. <sup>3</sup> These will have been tough decisions for the organisers, but undoubtedly are the right ones given the highly unusual challenges facing the world.

Now more than ever we are discovering how social media and digital tools can connect us.

Our 2020 Plan, presented at this year's AGM in Invercargill, highlights the development of a Digital Hub as a key strategic goal for this year. We are accelerating work on this and are looking at other ways we can help our members stay connected, keep learning, and contribute to our communities. We hope to announce some measures very soon. In the meantime, we welcome your suggestions and ideas. We need to operate very differently now, and we are all learning together. Please email us to [info@nzpipebands.org.nz](mailto:info@nzpipebands.org.nz) or post on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/rnzpba>

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/412128/coronavirus-rsa-cancels-anzac-day-services-across-new-zealand>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.pipebandsaustralia.com.au/post/create-our-anzac-tribute-2020>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.rspba.org/>

### **Band/Centre Annual General Meetings**

Some bands and Centres may be required to hold Annual General Meetings during the period of the lockdown. This will depend on your Constitutions.

On 3 April the Government announced it intended to pass legislation that would relax the requirements for incorporated societies, charitable trusts, companies and other entities to hold annual general meetings. The changes will mean if an entity is unable to hold its AGM because of the Covid-19 lockdown or social distancing requirements, it will be able to postpone the meeting to a time when it is reasonably able to hold it.

Also, the new legislation will allow entities to use electronic mechanisms to hold their meetings even if their Constitutions do not allow them to. This will give bands and Centres flexibility to run a meeting, including an Annual General Meeting, via skype or zoom or a similar tool even if their current rules don't allow them to.

If you need to know more about the changes you can find some information on the Registrar of Companies' website<sup>4</sup>. The proposals also contain important measures to help entities that have solvency issues because of Covid-19. We recommend you contact your usual legal advisor if you have any questions about how any of these changes apply to you.

### **General**

This is a tough time for everyone and now more than ever it is vital we stay connected and support each other any way we can. The pipe band community is strong and close in New Zealand. We encourage you to reach out to your pipe band friends and continue to share the things that unite us, in particular our music.

For inspiration you could start with the wonderful performances at this year's National Pipe Band Championships in Invercargill. It's worth reflecting on how fortunate we were to be able to hold this year's National Contest, just days before bans were placed on mass gatherings. No doubt in the future we'll treasure those two days and highlights of 2020. Here are the recordings. Enjoy!

Day one G4A, G4B, G3 and Juvenile (in that order)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QultSqKBurM&t=8310s>

Day two: Street March G4B, G4A, G2, G1 and G3 (in that order)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0cqW7xmlC>

Day two: G2, G1, Displays, Mace flourishing and prize giving (in that order)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOxdf6yAhoQ&t=1615s>

We urge all member bands and Centres to consider the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic on their band's activities and individual members. Please follow the advice of the Ministry of Health, which is updated regularly on their website: [Ministry of Health COVID-19 advice for general public](#).

Call Healthline on [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453) if you have any symptoms or have any personal health concerns about COVID-19.

Iain Blakeley, Rosie Hobbs, Allister Macgregor  
Management Board  
RNZPBA

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.companiesoffice.govt.nz/about-us/what-we-do/insolvency-relief-for-businesses-impacted-by-covid-19/>