



Durban Regiment Pipe Band News Archive

2019 News

Band News

16 December 2019 - Members of Durban Regiment Pipe Band descended on the Bedford's home for a fantastic end of year party to celebrate the end of another year. Thank you to the Bedfords, and well done to all of our bandsmen and women for another memorable year. Thank you also to the family members and the huge numbers of members of the public who have supported us through the year. We wish you all a blessed festive period, and look forward to seeing you all again in 2020.

15 December 2019 - Please note that the Kloof SPCA have sadly cancelled the Carols of Candle Light that DRPB was scheduled to appear at on 15 December 2019. The grounds were been deemed to be unsafe due to their water logged condition following the extended period of heavy rainfall. The event was intended to be a fundraiser for the Kloof SPCA. If you are able, then please still visit the SPCA or contact them during the festive season to support their shops and various other fundraising initiatives. Every little bit is needed to get them through this busy period, and the impending new years rush of lost pets.

11 November 2019 - Ken and Billy played for the wreath laying ceremony at the annual Remembrance Sunday Parade, held at the Cenotaph in the Durban City Centre. The even was well attended by troops from the army, navy and air force, as well as the KZN Army Band. A large number of representatives placed wreaths to mark the anniversary of the armistice at the end of World War I. The day has since become a day to remember all those who have fallen whilst serving their country.

13 October 2019 - Participants of the FNB 10 km Fun Run encountered Durban Regiment Pipe Band cheering them on at the 2 km mark. The organisers had once again gone out of their way to treat the over 10 000 entrants to a fantastic event. Well done to everyone that took part, and to the band members who did their best to play for almost an hour until the last runner past through. Special mention needs to be made of side drummer Hilton Howard, who played in band kit for the first time, and has been added to the members list of Durban Regiment Pipe Band. Well done Hilton.

Notice for 11 Nov 19: Please note that the annual Armistice Day Parade in the Durban City Centre has been cancelled. The MOTH organisers were unable to guarantee the minimum number of 200 MOTHS on parade, which is a condition on which the municipality agrees to close the roads. If you are wanting to attend a service or lay a wreath, then please check with the individual MOTH shell holes for the smaller regional services that will take place over the coming weeks. The 11th of November marks the anniversary of the armistice at the end of the Great War. It has become a day which is internationally observed to remember those that fell during the Great War, and all wars since.

8 September 2019 - Durban Regiment Pipe Band took part in the Annual KZN Piping and Drumming Society Fundraiser, "Music from Scotland". The concert was held in the impressive surrounds of the Durban Light Infantry hall, and was well attended by an appreciative crowd. DRPB opened the show, and was followed buy NMR, PMB Callies, DBN Callies pipe bands, as well as celtic dancers. Thank you to everyone that supported this worthy cause. All funds are used to promote piping and drumming in KZN.

9 August 2019 - Happy Woman's Day! Durban Regiment Pipe Band was part of the fun and excitement at the "Conquering Through Prayer Ministries International (CTPMI) street parade, held in Moses Kotane Rd in Durban. The parade started at 09:30, and was included colourful banners commemorating Woman's Day, a motor cycle club with pink balloons, fire dancers, Zulu Dancers, Salvation Army Band, and of course Durban Regiment Pipe Band. The parade progressed past curious onlookers down Moses Kotane Rd, and ended in cheering crowds outside the CTPMI Auditorium. For more information about CTPMI, check out www.ctpmi.co.za, or find CTPMI on Facebook.

18 Aug 2019 - Approval has been granted for the renaming of 52 South African Reserve Force Units. Durban Regiment will be officially renamed the “King Shaka Regiment”, and issued with new Regimental Colours and insignia. Due to the number of regiments being renamed, the process will reportedly be phased in over the next three years. The names of many other regiments that currently have pipe bands will also be consigned to history in the process, such as Cape Town Highlanders (to become Gonnema Regiment), South African Irish Regiment (to become Andrew Mlangeni Regiment), Transvaal Scottish Regiment (to become Solomon Mahlangu Regiment), Witwatersrand Rifles (to become Bambatha Rifles), Natal Mounted Rifles (to become Queen Nandi Mounted Rifles), and Cape Field Artillery (to become Nelson Mandela Regiment). Other local military pipe band names that have disappeared in recent years, include Natal Carabineers Pipe Band and 1st Medical Battalion pipe band, who's members previously left the defence force to continue as Pietermaritzburg and Durban Caledonian Society Pipe Bands, respectively.

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28 July 2019 - Durban Regiment Pipe Band joined the festivities at the annual “Concours d'Elegance Motor Show”, held on the sweeping green lawns of the Durban Country Club. The organisers went all out to make the event an event to remember. Many of the spectators donned the latest fashions, and were treated to a huge range of impressive cars on show, ranging from very old to very new. The organisers were aiming for classy and elegant, and achieved their aims in spectacular fashion. There was a vast variety of exceptional quality food and beverage stands available, VIP tea room, a live East Coast Radio host, and helicopter rides over Durban. DRPB paraded through the grounds during the day, and played a few concert tunes on the stage before the prize giving at the end of the day. The Concours d'Elegance Motor Show makes its visitors feel like VIP's, and is a breath of fresh air to look out for next year. Keep up to date on www.concoursdurban.co.za, and find them on Facebook.

27 to 28 July 2019 - the spectacular annual motor show “Concours Durban” will be held at the Durban Country Club. Durban Regiment Pipe Band will put on an appearance on 28 July. Check out www.concoursdurban.co.za for more details.

21 July 2019 - The annual remembrance ceremony for the Battle of Delville Wood has been cancelled due to planning complications. It is possible that the defence force may reschedule for a future date, but there is no confirmation at present.

29 June 2019 - Durban Regiment Pipe Band took part in an evening concert at the Shongweni Farmers Market. The concert is held each year to assist with covering the costs of running the KZN Scottish Gathering. One of our pipers was still not quite recovered for the concert, but soldiered through it without drones to make up the minimum numbers for the pipe corps. Well done Frank! The band was able to deliver the selected sets to an appreciative audience, and the concert succeeded in covering the operating costs of the gathering. The venue provides a wonderful setting for a concert, and is definitely worth a look in next year for anyone who missed it. One of our drummers, Andy Turrell, then went on to greatly impress the crowd with a fantastic guitar solo with the Durban Caledonian Society Pipe Band in a subsequent set. Well done Andy!

29 June 2019 - Following the success of 2018, the annual KZN Scottish Gathering was once again held at the Farmers Market in Shongweni. The venue offers a huge variety of food and craft stalls, in addition to a competition field for the bands, and opportunity to involve the thousands of people who attend the market. Sadly, Durban Regiment Pipe Band was not able to compete due to a high number of bandsmen suffering injuries and illness in the weeks leading up to the event. The portion of the band that was able joined DBN Caledonian, NMR, Pietermaritzburg and Margate Pipe bands in the massed bands after the competitions.

Sarah and Luke then competed in the solo competitions. Congratulations to Sarah, who achieved two second places in the novice section.

8 June 2019 - The KZN pipe bands put on a massed band at this years "Northwood High School Founders Day". The event features a televised fiercely fought rugby match between Kearsney and Northwood High. The massed band appeared at half time to try and raise awareness of pipe bands and drive for new leaner's. The band was well received, and very well timed - as the heavens opened within 10 minutes of the end of the parade! Anyone wishing to make use of the invitation for free lessons to learn the pipes or drums can contact us using the details on our "contact us" page.

29 April 2019 - Pipe Major Jim Campbell was brought out from Scotland as the international judge for this years South Coast Highland Gathering. In addition to a long string of championship titles and successes overseas, Jim is also the secretary off the Scottish Piping and Drumming Qualifications Board. The Pipe Band Association of South Africa and KZN Piping and Drumming Society arranged for Jim to host an evening seminar at the Durban Light Infantry HQ on 29 April 2019. Jim is an excellent speaker / teacher, and the KZN Bandsmen that attended the seminar gained valuable insight from Jim's presentation. Thank you to all who made the evening possible.

27 April 2019 - The South Coast Highland Gathering, the first championship competition of 2019 took place at Hutcheons Park in Amanzimtoti on Saturday. The storm clouds and flood waters subsided to reveal a glorious sunny day, and thousands of spectators flocked to support the Lions Club and Pipe Bands. The gathering was once again attended by a huge array of vendors, artists, public and pipe bands. Durban Regiment Pipe Band was one of ten pipe bands competing in the hotly contested Grade 4 events, including Cornwall Hill Gr4, PMB Callies, Knysna and Districts Gr4, African Skye Gr4, King Edward VII Gr 4, DBN Caledonian Society Gr4, Transvaal Scottish Gr4, St Andrews, and Pretoria Highlanders. The drum corps welcomed Warren Kietzman amongst its ranks, who played in Durban Regiment kit for the first time, and has subsequently been added to the band members page. The drum corps went on with six sides, two tenors and a bass, "slightly" dwarfing the pipe corps which comprised only 4 pipers, with Mike and Colleen away overseas. The band was placed 3rd in the MSR, 5th in the March selection, and 4th overall. Transvaal Scots Gr4, Knysna Gr4, and DBN Callies Gr4, took 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, respectively. The drum corps managed a second place overall, and the mid-section came 4th overall. An interesting start to the competition season. We are proud of our drum corps for managing a 2nd place amid stiff competition.

13 April 2019 - Durban Regiment along with Durban Caledonian and Pietermaritzburg Caledonian Society Pipe band's descended on Flame Lily Park to compete in the first regional pipe band contest for 2019. The competition is held each year as a "warm up" for the competition season. The drum corps lost a drummer early on, after it was discovered that standing behind the wheel of a car that is stuck in the mud can have some "undesirable consequences" if a wheel spins! The drum corps still fielded four side drummers, and the band went on to take second place after Durban Callies Grade 2 band. After a massed band display, the contest was renamed in honour of the late Peter Woodhouse, by the M.O.T.H organisers of the event Ken prepared a write up for Piping News which can be accessed at: <https://bagpipe.news/2019/04/23/the-flame-lily-contest-south-africa-report/> or downloaded as a [PDF from our 2019 News Archive](#). Photos can be seen on our gallery page / archive.

16 Mar 2019 - The Dunsmore Challenge team piping competition was held at Pietermaritzburg Caledonian Society Pipe Band parade ground. Five teams of three pipers entered the challenge, including a DRPB team comprising Ken Mustard, Frank Botha and Sarah Colville. Team members competed in solo 2/4, 3/4 and medley competitions, and the positions were ranked to determine overall placement. DRPB team was placed third overall, losing to DBN Callies A, and beating PMB Callies and DBN Callies B. The event was hosted by the Pietermaritzburg Caledonian Society Pipe Band, who have recently acquired the parade ground and adjacent old scout hall (now their band room) from the municipality.

14 Mar 2019 - DRPB joined a massed band at DLI HQ to entertain guests attending a function to mark the retirement of Colonel Pat Acutt. Pat is retiring after more than 40 years of dedicated reserve force service. Guests were entertained with piping, a fly past from an Orynx Helicopter, and a horse display of mounted metro police and reserve force members. A piobareachd was played by Thomas Fuller.

14 Mar 2019 - The 14th March also tinged with sadness, with the last ever performance of the 1st Medical Battalion Pipe Band. "1 Med" has been a regular feature in all pipe band related events since 1990, and has grown to achieve high levels of musical excellence and recognition. The band experienced difficulties raising operating funds under the military banner, and the band members therefore to resign to start a civilian band. It is understood that the band will reform as the "Durban Caledonian Society Pipe Band". The name has a long and illustrious history, and will no doubt once again grow to become a household name in the piping community.

Feb 2019 - Durban Regiment Pipe Band appeared briefly in the quarterly publication "Reserve Force Volunteer" in connection with commemoration events held in Durban during late 2018 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Great War, as well as the sinking of the SS Mendi. [Visit our 2019 News Archive to download.](#)

25 - 28 Jan 2019 - DRPB featured in the Burns Night show production at the Rumbelow Theatre. The show was a celebration of the life, poems and songs of Robert Burns, and included singing by Mim Erasmus and reading by Frank Graham. DRPB entertained the guests prior to the show, and also "piped in the haggis"! The event featured in the Pietermaritzburg Sun Newspaper.

PIETERMARITZBURG SUN CLIPPING : See Overleaf

Arts & Entertainment



Burns Night and all things Scottish

A celebration of the life, music and work of the poet Robert Burns and all things Scottish will be running for three shows, at 8pm on both Friday, January 25 and Saturday, January 26, and Sunday, January 27 at 2pm, at the Rhumbelow Theatre, Tina's Hotel, 14 Bryldene

Rd, Kloof. A Burns supper is a celebration the 18th century poet's life. Burns was the author of many Scots poems and the suppers are normally held on or near his birthday on January 25, occasionally known as Robert Burns Day but more commonly known as Burns Night. Scottish songs, stories and

great fun are the order of the day for this celebration of the Bard of Scotland. Mim Erasmus, our very own minstrel, and Frank Graham, raconteur and storyteller de luxe, need no introduction, and we are guaranteed a night of fabulous music and rib-tugging hilarity. Mim will sing Burns' songs like

Ye banks and braes and My love is like a red, red rose, as well as others you can sing along to. Frank will regale you with stories, poems and tall tales to complete the evening's entertainment. Pipers, piping-hot haggis and a few good whiskies will guarantee an evening to remember.

Tickets are R150, R130 for Pensioners and FHSSC Members. Bookings can be done at Computicket or contact Roland on 082 499 8636. Contact Tina's restaurant for meals on 031 764 7843 (evening and Sunday roast buffet is R120 per head)

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YEAR OF THE PIG WANDERPUMP RULES AT THE BANK

THIS week we look at: Birds & Pigs

BUMPER DOUBLE ISSUE

20 Jan 2019 It is with sadness that we report the untimely passing of Vernon McLuckie. Vernon joined the Pietermaritzburg Caledonian Society Pipe Band in the 1970's, and served as a tenor drummer, bass drummer and drum major over years. He was recognised with a tribute at PMB Callies recent centenary concert, where he was serving as drum major for the last time. A memorial service was held at Flame Lilly Park, attended by a wide spectrum of friends, family, military representatives, parks board associates, and a massed band of over 50 pipers and drummers. The massed band played a march called "Vernon McLuckie", that was composed in his honour.

Jan 2019 - 2018 was another successful year for our drums corps, who ended the year as the Champion Grade 4 Drums Corps in South African. The arrival of Andy and Greg in the side corps swelled the numbers

to the point where all of the bands five side drums were in use. A new Premier HTS 800 snare drum was therefore procured in January to provide a spare drum for competitions, and to allow flexibility to accommodate new drummers.