

PressRelease

the 140 Annual Turakina Highland Games, 29th January 05

Along Turakina's main street flags of the Cross of St Andrew and the Lion Rampant flew, welcoming people from far and wide to the 140th annual Turakina Highland Games. Large fields of competitors made for a full and exciting day.

A special highlight of the Games was the presentation of life membership of the Society to the Rt Hon. Sir Ian McKay of Wellington, a life long supporter of the Turakina Caledonian Society and also solo piping throughout New Zealand.

There were 73 solo pipers who gave 151 solo performances in 18 events. Record entries in the solo drumming had 28 drummers give 29 performances in three events. In the Piping and Dancing Assoc. highland dancing there were 55 dancers who gave 436 dances across 43 events. While in the Scottish Official Board Highland dancing there were 45 dancers who in competed in 23 classes.

In the solo piping Dr Brendan Eade from Morrinsville won the Wellington Centre A Grade Piobaireachd, while Martin Frewen from Auckland won the North Island Open 2/4 March, and remaining A Grade events and overall A grade solo piping. In the Wellington Centre Championships Levin's Callum McLean won the B Grade Jig and Hornpipe, while Natalie Blackmore from Wellington won the Under 21 2/4 March. Other graded champions were Sian Lancaster from Tokoroa in the B grade, Cameron Hall from Palmerston North in the C Grade and Daniel Cruden from Palmerston won the D Grade. The Novice Piping was won by Liam Lancaster from Tokoroa while Jessica Olds from New Plymouth won the Chanter Class. Solo Drumming events saw Aaron Carter from Canada winning the Open Medley Drumming, Emma Collins from Raumati Beach won the B Grade Medley with Luke Baird from Feilding the Novice Drumming winner.

Highland Dancing saw Jayden Withington win the North Island Open Irish Reel and the North Island under 18 Highland Reel. Lisa Dumelow from Upper Hutt won North Island Highland Reel under 16 and the Wellington Centre Reel O'Tulloch under 16. Other Wellington Centre Championships saw Samuel Tait from New Plymouth won the Open Highland Reel, Shyanne Mullin from Hawera won the under 14 Sailors Hornpipe, Cheri Cadman from Normanby won the under 12 Highland Fling while Ashlee Mulcahy from Paraparaumu Beach won the under 8 Irish Jig. In the Society Championship, Mikayla Cadman of Normanby won the under 6 most points and the under 8 most points. Cheri Cadman the under 10 most points. Leona Atkenson of Havelock North won the under 12 most points. Kristie Wackildene of Palmerston North the under 14 most points, Jayden Withington from Hastings

winning the under 16 most points. In the most points Open Dancing classes were won by Samuel Tait of New Plymouth.

In the field events, Jasmine Brown of Longburn won the senior Primary Girls events while, Dylan Waugh the Senior Boys. In the junior Primary events, Zane Hartwell of Levin won the boys with Tangihaere Gardner of Ratana winning the girls. In the Novice Men's Championship saw Peter Hartwell from Levin win with Rebekah Sammons of Wanganui the women's championship. Danny Wilton of Masterton won the Open Men's Championship with Marian Hartwell of Levin winning the Women's Open Field events. There were a total of 72 competitors across the various field events.

The Ben Nevis Hill Sprint saw Zane Hartwell off Levin win the Primary under 9's with Joshua Little of Taupo winning the under 13 race and Peter Hartwell of Levin winning the open hill sprint. In the Turakina Road Race the handicap race saw Wanganui runners Margaret McBeth first and Ken Thomas second with Francis Wilson of Marton third. Aaron White of Wanganui completed the fastest time in 1 hour, 42 minutes and 57 seconds. In the walking race, Evan Davies of Palmerston North won, with Pat Carter of Wanganui second and Lisa Meadows of Taihape third.

The pipe band performances were very well received with the Taranaki competing band winning both the Grade 4 events from Marton & Districts and the Rangitikei Scots Pipeband 3rd. The Grade 3 events saw Feilding Districts winning the Medley while City of Hastings won the Set with Manawatu Scottish No2 3rd. The Pipes and Drums of Horowhenua was the only Grade 2 band, while Manawatu Scottish Number 1 won both Grade 1 events from the City of Wellington. The youth band competition saw a tie between Scots College of Wellington and Feilding & Districts with the Rangitikei Scots Youth Pipeband 3rd.

After a spirited Ode to the Haggis from Colin Caddick, the crowd was entertained by stunning concert performances from the Manawatu Scottish Society Pipeband. Brian Swatilla from Christchurch gave a fine solo piping recital. Then Marton's Fiddlesticks treated everyone to great fiddle based Celtic, bluegrass and at times African music and song to conclude a wonderful 140th Turakina Highland Games.