



Pipe Band.co.za News Archive

Band News 2020 - 2021

24 to 26 Jan 2020 - Durban Regiment Pipe Band was part of the Burns Evening show at the Rumbelow Theatre at Tina's Hotel in Kloof. The band put on a display for guests before the show, and Ken the "piped in the haggis" as part of the start of the opening of the show. All went according to plan until the last show, when a rain shower scuppered efforts to play for the guests outside. However, not even rain could get in the way, as the band squashed into the theatre to complete the performance.

1 February 2020 - Members of Durban Regiment Pipe Band played at a surprise 70th Birthday Party for Pipe Major Ken Mustard. It was a hot summers evening, but that did not stop Ken from putting on a uniform and joining in. Ken has been the bands pipe major since 1980, and shows no signs of slowing down. Happy Birthday Ken, and thank you to Kens wife Muriel for a fantastic party!

5 February 2020 - The band said goodbye to Frank Botha at his last band practice with Durban Regiment Pipe Band on Tuesday evening. Frank is leaving with his family to begin a new chapter of his life in New Zealand. Frank's first parade as a piper with the band was the Armistice Day Parade on 11 Nov 2015, and Frank has subsequently played in a huge range of concerts, competitions and parades with the band over the years. In addition to being a valuable member of the pipe corps, Frank has been a never ending source of amusement for the band, waging a tireless "one man war" against the drum corps... for no apparent reason. We aren't sure what the drum corps are going to do now with all the hours of time they usually devote to countering Frank, but we are sure that Frank will be sorely missed by everyone in the band. Good luck in New Zealand Frank, and thank you for your contribution.

22 March 2020 - King Shaka Regiment Pipe Band has ceased all band practices and participation in most public events in response to the Covid 19 lock down restrictions. All competition and concerts for 2020 and 2021 were cancelled, and the band only took part in a few engagements. Band practices only resumed on 15 March 2022.

8 November 2020 - Two pipers from King Shaka Regiment Pipe Band played for the annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony at the cenotaph in Durban. The public was barred from the event due to the Covid Restrictions, but representatives placed wreathes on the Cenotaph to commemorate all those who have given their lives in the service of their country in battle.

12 September 2021 - It is with great sadness that we confirm the passing of our leading drummer, Corrie Stevens, shortly before his 87th birthday on 12 September 2021. Corrie was a father figure to pipe band drumming in South Africa, and the learners he inspired and taught now carry on his legacy in pipe bands across South Africa and around the world. He was involved in pipe bands for over 70 years, starting with the Germiston Caledonian Society Pipe Band, and then went on to be the leading drummer for Durban Caledonian Society Pipe Band, Natal Mounted Rifles, 1 Medical Battalion, and Pietermaritzburg Caledonian Pipe Bands. He assumed the role of leading tip of Durban Regiment Pipe Band in 2016. Corrie never let age slow him down, and anyone who was privileged enough to spend time with him would be immersed for hours with fascinating accounts of his latest projects, holidays to places most people dont get to see,

learners he taught, his family, famous band members that he knew, and events that he had taken part in. Anyone taught by Corrie would get used to seeing the original hand written "Duthart" scores, and priceless recordings and knowledge acquired over a lifetime. Corrie manufactured a huge array of pipe band related equipment in his spare time, such as drums, sticks, pads, bags, bass sticks, tenor sticks and harnesses. There was no project that was too complicated or not worth trying for Corrie. Corrie was the life and soul of any gathering, and a genuine friend and father figure to everyone in the band. He leaves behind a very big hole, and will be sorely missed. A tribute has been put together on our gallery page for download.

28 September 2021 - Ken, Mike and Billy played at the memorial service for Corrie Stevens at the Kloof Country Club. Alan drove down from Benoni to attend. It was a very sad day for the band,, and we are grateful of the time that we were able to spend with Corrie and his tremendous contribution to the band.