

Piping & Dancing Association of New Zealand Marlborough/Nelson Centre

NEW ZEALAND YOUNG PIPER OF THE YEAR

	PDANZ
Centre	Marlborough/Nelson
Competition	2026 NZ Young Piper of the Year
Approved	
Date Issued	30-Aug-26

2026

SAT OCTOBER 3RD

SOLO PIPING SCHEDULE



Nelson Centre of Musical Arts - 48 Nile Street, Nelson 7010
Commencing 8:30am

ENTRIES CLOSE 13th SEPTEMBER 2026

(Entry fee must be paid at the time of entry)

ENTER ONLINE piping-dancing.org.nz/competition-events/competition-schedules/

EMAIL ENQUIRIES nzyoungpiper@gmail.com

(Conducted under the rules of the Piping and Dancing Assn of NZ inc.)

Find us on  



THE NZ YOUNG PIPER OF THE YEAR 2026

Under 21 Piobaireachd, March, Strathspey & Reel

\$1000 CASH PRIZE

Awarded to the competitor with the most points gained in events 15 & 16

Held in the Auditorium, Nelson Centre of Musical Arts at 7pm

William Boyle Foundation Award

NZ Young Piper of the year competition is a qualifying event for the William Boyle Foundation Award (Refer Rules & Conditions, No. 14)

NOVICE, D, C, & B GRADE EVENTS

Saturday 3rd October 2026 | Commencing 8:30 am
Nelson Centre of Musical Arts

Adjudicators

Greg Wilson	Christchurch
Tracey Williams	Wellington
Liam Kernaghan	Auckland
Louis Newman	Auckland

Entries Close 13th September 2026

Entry fees must be paid at the time of entry

Email Enquiries nzyoungpiper@gmail.com

Online Entry Form please go to

<https://forms.gle/Red5oV1eyBpNeiGx8>

Late entries will incur a 50% fee.

Grade	Event	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Entry
Chanter	1 Practice Chanter - Any 2 Parted March	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5	\$10
Novice	2 Novice March	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5	\$10
D	3 Piobaireachd - Ground & Var 1	\$30	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$10
	4 2/4 March	\$25	\$15	\$10	\$5	\$10
	5 Strathspey & Reel	\$25	\$15	\$10	\$5	\$10
	6 Slow Air & Jig	\$25	\$15	\$10	\$5	\$10
C	7 Piobaireachd	\$50	\$30	\$20	\$15	\$12
	8 2/4 March	\$40	\$25	\$15	\$10	\$12
	9 Strathspey & Reel	\$40	\$25	\$15	\$10	\$12
	10 Hornpipe & Jig	\$40	\$25	\$15	\$10	\$12
B	11 Piobaireachd	\$100	\$60	\$40	\$30	\$15
	12 2/4 March	\$75	\$45	\$25	\$15	\$15
	13 Strathspey & Reel	\$75	\$45	\$25	\$15	\$15
	14 Hornpipe & Jig	\$75	\$45	\$25	\$15	\$15
Under 21	15 Under 21 Piobaireachd	\$150	\$90	\$65	\$45	\$18
	16 Under 21 March Strathspey & Reel	\$150	\$80	\$50	\$30	\$18
	17 Under 21 Hornpipe & Jig (NZ Championship)	\$120	\$60	\$40	\$20	\$12
OPEN	18 Ungraded - Freestyle Medley	FREE ENTRY 2027 + KILT PIN				FREE

RULES AND CONDITIONS

TUNE SUBMISSION

Light Music:

- Competitors in events 1, 2, 4 & 5 are to submit ONE tune of minimum 2 parts each of their own choice.
- Competitors in event 6 are to submit 1 Slow Air or Slow March (minimum of 1 part) and a Jig (minimum of 2 parts), both of their own choice.
- Competitors in events 8, 9 & 10 are to submit ONE tune of minimum 4 parts each of their own choice.
- Competitors in events 12, 13, 14, 16 & 17 are to submit TWO tunes of each time signature with a minimum of 4 parts each of their own choice.
- Competitors in event 18 – freestyle medley, are to submit any number of tunes of their own choice with a maximum playing time of 5mins with no tuning allowed.

Piobaireachd:

- Competitors in event 3 are to submit ONE tune of their choice comprising of a Ground & 1st Variation SINGLING only.
- Competitors in event 7 are to submit ONE FULL piobaireachd of their own choice
- Competitors in events 11 & 15 are to submit TWO tunes of their own choice

1. Conducted under the By-laws of the Piping & Dancing Association of NZ Inc.
2. Competitors enter and compete at their own risk
3. All entries must be accompanied by correct entry fees.
4. All competitors must produce evidence of current P&D Registration, either printed or electronic on request or forfeit the right to compete\
5. All competitors for events under specified ages shall state the date of their birth when entering. No competitor shall be eligible to compete in any event unless they are under the specified age on the first day of the competition. In the event of a protest being lodged competitor concerned shall produce a birth certificate to the Society after reasonable notice as per By-Law 18.
6. In accordance with By-law 40: No competitor who has at any time won a first placing in any event which they have competed as an individual shall thereafter be eligible to compete as a novice.
7. Points will be awarded in all classes as per By law 13. In accordance with By-Law 13.1 Where a prize is awarded for most points over a number of events points shall be computed on the basis of five for each first placing, three for each second and one for each third. In the event of a tie for any placing the above points shall be shared in the same manner as applies to prize money. If the total points of two or more competitors shall be equal, the competitor who has gained the highest placing in the Piobaireachd event shall be awarded the most points prize.
Prizes awarded as follows: 3 entries = 1 prize awarded, 5 entries = 2 prizes awarded, 7 entries = 3 prizes awarded, 15 entries = 4 prizes awarded.
All Championship events: minimum of 5 entries are required.
8. All Competitors must be suitably attired in Highland Dress when competing as per By-Law 19.1.
Prize Winners must be in competition dress to receive awards at Prize Giving in accordance with By-Law 19.2
9. All Competitors will play in order as listed in the programme and should have their pipes tuned in readiness unless special circumstances occur.
All competitors must report to Board Steward prior to each event otherwise their right to compete may be forfeited.
10. Competitors will have three (3) minutes for light music and five (5) minutes for Piobaireachd to tune their instrument before commencement of their performance. Except event 18 where there is no tuning allowed.
11. All competitors in B Grade events and above and competitors in Events 15-17 incl. shall tune their own pipes whilst on the competition platform, without any outside assistance for tuning.
12. By entering this competition all competitors agree to have their photo used for publicity purposes and competitors in events 11, 15, 16, 17 & 18 agree to have their performance recorded or live streamed by the Piping & Dancing Association of NZ, Marlborough/Nelson Centre. If a recording is to be used at a later date for publicity purposes, the piper concerned would be asked for explicit permission.
13. William Boyle Foundation Scholarship: Competitors who gain placings in Events 15 & 16 at the Nelson competition will receive points towards the William Boyle Foundation Scholarship as follows: 5 points for first, 3 points for second and 1 point for third. This Scholarship is awarded (to a competitor who has not previously won) at the prize giving ceremony at Labour weekend 2026 and covers a competitor's best points gained from 3 of 5 events held in Waipu, Hastings, Dunedin, Christchurch (compulsory) and Nelson. Scholarship includes a cash prize and return airfares to Scotland subject to approval of proposed tuition by the trustees.

14. Covid Framework requirements for competitions, as published on the PDANZ website, will be followed.
15. Event 18 – Freestyle medley
Competitors are to submit any number of tunes of their own choice with a maximum playing time of 5mins with no tuning allowed. This is an ungraded open event, any player from any grade can enter. This event will be judged on entertainment value alone and players are encouraged to get as creative as they like. A minimum of 1st place will be awarded.

2026 NZ YOUNG PIPER OF THE YEAR TROPHIES

Practice Chanter – most points event 1

> Brand new McCallum practice chanter

Novice – most points event 2

> 1st Place Novice Miniature

D Grade – most points events 3, 4, 5 & 6

> McConnochie Family Trophy

C Grade – most points event 7,8,9 and 10

> The Welch Trophy - Donated by Stan & Hazel Welch

C Grade – most points event 8 2/4 March

> The NZ Young Piper Cup

B Grade – most points event 11, 12, 13 and 14

> The Celtic Pipe Band Trophy

Under 21 / NZ Young Piper of the Year – most points event 15 and 16

> The NZ Young Piper of the Year Trophy

\$1000 CASH PRIZE

Awarded to the competitor with the most points gained in events 15 & 16