

ILT Foundation Grant \$35,000 18 December 2008

PIPING AND DRUMMING IN INVERCARGILL BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE

The Southland Piping and Drumming Trust has employed a world-class drumming tutor to further invigorate the Scottish tradition in the south.

And it is all thanks to another cash injection of \$35,000 from the ILT Foundation. Southland Piping and Drumming Trust chairman Allister Macgregor said Scott Birrell of Scotland had been employed to develop a 10-year drumming programme which would hopefully create a wave of young drumming talent that would serve the community long term.

“The aim is for the tutor to eventually teach the tutors.

“Scott is from one of Scotland’s top four bands and we release him each year to go back and compete in the world championships.”

This time last year Invercargill’s piping and drumming scene was in dire need of some help.

“Part of Invercargill’s history and culture was in serious danger of being lost altogether. It was in a situation of extreme adversity and needed a solid plan with good funding support,” Mr Macgregor said.

“The ILT Foundation was rigorous, but fair, in its selection criteria of qualifying for the funding but once we had passed the tests they were quick to jump on board as they could see how dire the situation was and I think they appreciated the long term planning. As well as funding they have given us valuable advice on succession planning for key personnel of our Trust.”

Since the ILT Foundation came to the rescue last year, the trust has gone from strength to strength. So much so the City of Invercargill Highland Pipe Band won all categories in grade three at the recent New Zealand pipe band championships in Christchurch.

So when the trust had a vision for a drumming tutor the ILT Foundation could see the potential.

“Fortuitously, because of the early support of the ILT Foundation, we have been able to attract one of the best and that has had an immediate effect on the local scene.”

ILT Foundation chairman Alan Dennis said providing financial assistance to the Southland Piping and Drumming Trust was ensuring a piece of Southland’s history was kept intact.

“Piping and drumming have been an integral part of life in Invercargill since the first European settlers arrived.

“They provide a reminder of our past culture and endless hours of entertainment.

“We could see how enthused and passionate the trust members were to reinvigorate this flailing art and could see their plans were not just about today but where their craft needed to go in the future in order to sustain its existence.

“We applaud the hard work and dedication of the trust and all involved in the rejuvenation of the art.”

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