

THE RNZPBA MENTOR PROGRAMME

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ROYAL
NEW ZEALAND
PIPE BANDS'
ASSOCIATION

Take your band to the next level

Every band needs help from time to time. Maybe your individual corps are playing well but the ensemble isn't gelling. Maybe your committee is stretched thin and admin keeps crowding out music.

Maybe you're a young band hungry to climb a grade, or an established one looking to sharpen an edge.

Wherever you are, the RNZPBA Mentor Programme pairs your band with an experienced mentor who helps you find that next step—and take it.

This isn't a quick clinic or a one-off workshop. It's a 12-month partnership built around your band's goals, with a mentor working alongside your officers and players to turn ambition into measurable progress.

Why bands sign up

- **Honest, expert eyes** - your mentor works with your officers to assess where you really stand—strengths, gaps, and opportunities—and helps you build a clear plan to improve.
- **Help across the whole band** - Piping, drumming, mid section, ensemble, music selection, performance craft, teaching, leadership, administration—you choose what to focus on.
- **A plan you'll actually follow** - together you agree on a small set of priorities and improvement objectives, then work them through over the year.
- **Support that fits real band life** - your mentor stays in touch by phone, email and recordings between visits, with at least three in-person sessions across the year.

Who is it for?

Any band, any grade. There's no entry bar beyond a genuine commitment to getting better—everyone needs help at some stage, and the best bands are usually the ones most willing to ask for it.

How it works

1. You apply using the form below. We'll copy your application to your Centre Secretary so your region can support and track it.
2. We match you with a mentor. The Education Group Leader assesses each application on merit and potential to benefit, then selects a suitable mentor. (You're welcome to suggest names; final selection rests with the RNZPBA, and an offer depends on a suitable mentor being available.)
3. You set the goals together. Your mentor and officers complete an initial assessment and agree the priorities that will drive the year.
4. You put in the work. Selected bands commit to strong turnout at agreed sessions—which may include some weekends—and to using recordings and electronic media to track progress.

What it costs you

Nothing. The RNZPBA pays the mentor's fee and covers up to \$500 of their travel to your band. If you'd like additional visits beyond that, your band covers the extra travel—but the expertise itself is fully funded.

Ready to take the next step?

Applications are open to bands committed to self-improvement. To apply, complete the form below or contact the Education Group Leader for a no-obligation chat about whether the programme is right for your band.

<https://www.rnzpba.com/education-pathways/mentoring-programme/mentor-application-form/>

What to have ready for your application

Things to have ready for your application form:

- A full description, including goals, timelines, target audience, and outcomes expected to be achieved for the Centre and/or Centre bands.
- Names of those who will be involved in running and/or delivering the Project(s) and details their relevant skills and experience.
- (If required due to activity) A health and safety plan and plan to ensure minors are safe.
- A detailed budget, accepting that some specified costs could not be covered.

Ready to submit?

Visit the website and fill the form out!

<https://www.rnzpba.com/education-innovation-submission-form/>

Terms and conditions for the fund

1. Applications for funding must be made in writing by a Centre of the RNZPBA or by a band (preferably endorsed by their Centre as having widespread benefit). Each application must cover the following:
 - A full description of your Project(s), including goals, timelines, target audience, and outcomes expected to be achieved for your Centre and/or Centre bands.
 - Names of those who will be involved in running and/or delivering the Project(s) and details their relevant skills and experience.
 - A budget for your Project identifying the specific costs you would like funded. You should include details of those costs you need to have funded to get the Project(s) of the ground and additional costs you would like to have funded if there is additional funding available.
 - Your health and safety plan.
 - If your Project(s) involves minors or vulnerable persons, your plan to ensure they are safe.
2. Applications are to be emailed to the RNZPBA Executive Officer at info@rnzpba.com and must be received by 5pm on Friday 16 October 2026.
3. All applications received by the close of date will be considered and either approved or declined no later than Friday 23 October 2026. All applicants will be emailed with the outcome of their application, and if successful, how much funding they have been allocated.
4. It is unlikely we will be able to fully fund every Project applied for, so you should plan for additional sources of revenue in your budgeting. Preference will be given to new initiatives and those projects involving more than one band. Bands are encouraged to collaborate to maximise the impact of the funding.
5. To be eligible your Project(s) must be for one or more of the following:
 - Education initiatives in any aspect of pipe band related performance or administration;
 - Development programmes aimed at youth;
 - Recruitment initiatives;
 - Pipe band performances, involving more than one band, that will lift the public profile of pipe banding and aid recruitment.
6. The following expenses may be covered:
 - Fees for tutors and/or performers;
 - Domestic travel and accommodation for tutors and/or performers;
 - Piping and drumming related equipment for learners (e.g., practice chanters/sticks/pads/curriculum material – but not bagpipes or drums.);
 - Venue hire;
 - Promotion and advertising costs.
7. The following costs will not be covered under any circumstances:
 - Any payment to an overseas supplier;
 - International travel;
 - Goods and Services Tax (GST);
 - Prize money;
 - Food and/or drink;
 - Costs paid after 10 February 2027. This means your Project(s) will need to have been completed by this date.
8. You must account in full to the RNZPBA for all payments made within 10 days from completion of your Project(s). If you do not, all monies advanced to you will be repayable in full. In accounting to the RNZPBA for your Project(s)' costs you must provide the following:
 - Invoices and/or receipts for every expense of the Project(s) being funded;
 - Bank statements showing the payment made for each expense, the name of the account holder and the bank account details;
 - A brief report with photographs showing of activities within your Project(s), including a description of the outcomes achieved, numbers in attendance and any feedback from attendees you have.