



Media Release – 9th November 2020

Hororata Highland Games a huge success after challenging year

Canterbury was ready for a festival and the Hororata Highland Games delivered and proved a winner. On Saturday, after a challenging COVID year Hororata successfully celebrated its 10th Hororata Highland Games.

“It was touch and go months ago during level 4 Lockdown.” said Hororata Community Trust Chair, Richard Lang “But the support we got from sponsors, suppliers and our volunteers made the decision easy. The 10th anniversary Hororata Highland Games would go on.”

That decision was rewarded when 8,500 Cantabrians joined together to enjoy a day of Scottish inspired fun. “It was a magnificent, family day. People were enjoying being out and about, having something different to do. Our ‘have a go’ events were busy all day as everyone got into the spirit of the Hororata Highland Games”.

570 competitors danced, piped, drummed, tossed, ran, and tugged in front of the watchful eye of the 2020 Chieftain John de Vries who said “I am just so proud to be part of Clan Hororata and to have been asked to be Chieftain. I believe the reason the Games is such a special, successful event is the sense of community that comes from everyone involved.”

A highlight of the day was the Chieftain’s Welcome Ceremony which saw a magic blend of Kiwi and Scottish culture. “Standing on the stage in front of hundreds of pipers and drummers as they played Flower of Scotland was so powerful, then followed by the local Kapa Haka welcome it was really moving.” said John.

With borders shut and no international competitors this year an all New Zealand field for the Heavy Events produced a hotly contested competition. Ashburton’s Craig Manson won the Men’s Championship with Siositina Hakeai taking out the Women’s trophy. The Band of the Day was the Canterbury Caledonian Grade 3 band. The Average Joe’s took out the Men’s Southfuels Tug O’War for the third year in a row, and Team Fulton Hogan won the mixed. The Hororata Primary School won the Harraways Junior Warriors. The Champion Highland Dancer was Danielle Joy.

“The Games has grown from an idea of how to rebuild our rural community following the 2010 earthquakes, into an iconic event that has a life and a purpose of its own. Clan Hororata started with our immediate community but over the years has extend around New Zealand, in fact around the world with people in Australia and Scotland having involvement, even if it was from a distance this year!

Every year we are overwhelmed with the support for our community and the Games. Thank you to everyone from near and far who make the Hororata Highland Games extraordinary on every level,” said Richard Lang.

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