



MARYBOROUGH HIGHLAND SOCIETY

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2022 MARYBOROUGH HIGHLAND GATHERING TO BE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

The Board of the Maryborough Highland Society has reluctantly made the hard decision to cancel the 2022 Maryborough Highland Gathering which was scheduled to be held on Saturday 1st January 2022 at Princes Park, Maryborough.

Facing the uncertainty of what restrictions will continue to be in place in January, the prospect of having limited or no crowds at the upcoming Gathering, travel restrictions, and bands and competitors not being able to train, the Maryborough Highland Society was facing costs of up to \$80,000 to host this year's event, more than double what the Society budgets to host this community carnival.

President of the Maryborough Highland Society Andrew Rae stated in relation to this decision:

"The decision to cancel the Maryborough Highland Gathering for 2022 was one that that the Board were very reluctant to make, but one that had to be made now in order to give athletes, bands and entertainment suppliers sufficient notice of our intention."

"This decision was made in consultation with bands and athletes who had informed the Society that under the current restrictions that they had not been able to practice nor train and with the prospect of limited crowd numbers, the Society had no choice but to cancel one of Maryborough's biggest events of the year"

This will be the second time in a row that the Maryborough Highland Society has had to cancel the Maryborough Highland Gathering due to Covid, with the only other time the gathering has been cancelled since 1857 due to World War II when no Highland Gathering was held between 1942 and 1945.

General Manager of the Maryborough Highland Society Malcolm Blandthorn added;

"We have held off as long as we can on this decision however the Victorian Road Map to reopening announced 2 weeks ago meant that the likeliness of large crowd numbers to attend any event by this date seemed very unlikely. The number of athletes, bands and volunteers would have met any restricted number set, meaning that the public would have to be shut out"



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In the end we could not justify hosting an event for the Maryborough Community, where the community wasn't invited"

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