

Agenda Item	<b>5(b)</b>
Report No	<b>RES/53b/17</b>

## HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**Committee:** Corporate Resources Committee

**Date:** November 17<sup>th</sup> 2017

**Report Title:** **The Lochaber Royal National Mòd 2017**

**Report By:** Area Care & Learning Manager West Area ( Lead for Gaelic)  
Gaelic Development Officer

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-
- inform Members on the Royal National Mòd Loch Abar which took place between 13th- 21st October 2017.
  - to seek approval to begin to plan for future Royal National Mòds which will take place in the Highland Council area after 2020.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. to note the positive impact of the Royal National Mòd in the Lochaber area.
  - ii. approve early work on securing the Royal National Mòd to the Highland Council area beyond 2020.

### 3. An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG)

- 3.1 An Comunn Gàidhealach (ACG) is the organisation responsible for running the Royal National Mòd. ACG establishes the Local Organising Committee (LOC) in the area where the Mòd takes place.

### 4 Mòd Loch Abar

- 4.1 On October 13<sup>th</sup> Mòd Loch Abar commenced with a torchlight street parade led by the Deputy First Minister which departed from Cameron Square in Fort William High Street

to the Nevis Centre, where the Official Opening Ceremony took place

- 4.2 Elected Members were present at the Torchlight Parade and the Opening Ceremony. The Chairperson of Corporate Resources Committee welcomed the Mòd to Lochaber on behalf of the Highland Council, The Deputy First Minister gave the keynote address. The Mòd was officially opened by Kate Forbes MSP.
- 4.3 There were in excess of 3,000 entries for all the Mòd competitions. This is the highest number of competitors entering competitions recorded since ACG began compiling data on the number of entries in 2000.
- 4.4 The Mòd Loch Abar Local Organising Committee, who operated on a voluntary basis, supported by ACG, reached their fund raising target and organised key events successfully.
- 4.5 The Highland Council had an active role in supporting and advising ACG and the LOC. This included staff in the Lochaber Area Offices and the Gaelic Team.
- 4.6 Local Elected Members attended the daily press conferences and were available to award various prizes and awards. The Vice Convenor and the Chairperson of Resources were present at signature events and attended press conferences and presented awards to winners of key competitions.
- 4.7 The Highland Council in conjunction with Wipro – the Highland Council’s ICT provider, supported the Under 13 Folk Group Competition, where the young people performed two songs of their own choice with accompaniment of musical instruments including electronic (if desired). Eight Folk Groups from across Scotland took part. The winning group were Deàrrsadh from Dingwall and the Na h-Abraich (Lochaber) in second place, with the third prize awarded to a Group from Trotternish in Skye. Deàrrsadh received £500 from Wipro which was presented to the Group by Cllr Allan Henderson. The Gaelic Team will liaise with Wipro in relation to support for youth competitions at future Mòds.
- 4.8 Most of the Mòd competitions took place in Highland Council schools which included Lochaber High, BSGL and the Caol Joint Campus.
- 4.9 There were a number of successful competitors from the Highland and Islands  
**Appendix 1** includes the winners from the area.
- 4.10 The Gaelic Team lead on the Mòd Academy Initiative, which was supported financially by Bòrd na Gàidhlig. The Gaelic Team worked with ACG and engaged the services of Fèisean nan Gàidheal to run a comprehensive Gaelic tutor/ singing and traditional music programme for pupils in schools across the Lochaber area. ACG also ran a series of Mòd workshops in the schools. ACG have indicated that the increase in young people entering competitions, especially in the Lochaber area, was mainly due to the Mòd Academy programme.
- 4.11 ACG organised a comprehensive Mòd Fringe Programme which included many quality events such as:
  - Football Mòd Cup-took place between Mallaig v Sleat & Strath in Mallaig, Saturday 14th Oct.
  - Bòrd na Gàidhlig/Scottish Government’s Culture Team-Consultation on

Scotland's Cultural Strategy, Alexandra Hotel, Monday 16th Oct.

- Bòrd na Gàidhlig-'Mòd Bookbug Sessions', Fort William Library, Tuesday 17th Oct
- William Matheson event, Wednesday 18th Oct, 'Dìleab Uilleim' - explored the Gaelic song legacy of Rev William Matheson with introductions to the songs by Jo MacDonald and performances from Robert Robertson, Rachel Walker, Ross B. Wilson, Alasdair MacIlleBhàin, Eilidh Cormack, Linda Macleod, Ailean Domhnullach and Christine Primrose
- Visit Scotland, iCentre, Monday 16 October, Mòd Cèilidh- including Cameron Maclsaac, who competed in the Mòd. Music from local performers, including Gaelic Mòd gold medal singers Ruairidh Cormack, Eilidh Cormack and Emma Macleod. Marianne Fraser and A' Hooligan, who describe themselves as "a mad-trad ceilidh band from the west coast, producing and performing their unique style". Gary Innes, Ewen Henderson and Craig Irving, of Mànran also performed.
- The Massed Choirs took place on Oct 21 with in excess of 600 people culminating in the Parade area to bid a farewell to Mòd Loch Abar and transfer the Mòd flag to the LOC of Mòd 2018 which is taking place in Dunoon.

- 4.12 The Mòd creates an economic impact in the area where the event takes place. ACG annually commissions an economic impact study report on the Mòd. The Value8 Economic Impact Study will be completed by the end of January 2018. It is envisaged that ACG will present the final Value8 Economic Impact Study report to the GSIG at a future meeting.
- 4.13 As the number of competitors attending the Mòd in Lochaber is the highest since ACG started to compile this data, ACG is confident that the outturn in relation to bed-nights and spend in the area will have increased since the Mòd was last held in the Lochaber area. The findings from two previous Mòd economic impact studies revealed that the Inverness Mòd in 2014 generated £3.4million in the local economy, and the Oban Mòd generated £2.7million in the area.

## **Appendix 2 and Appendix 3**

### **5. Mòd Inbhir Nis 2020 and future Royal National Mòds post 2020**

- 5.1 As part of the Highland Council Service Delivery Agreement with An Comunn Gàidhealach. The agreement states that the Mòd is based in the Highland Council area once in every three years.
- 5.2 The current Service Delivery Agreement will expire in 2020 and the Chairperson will begin dialogue with ACG on this matter with a view to securing agreement for future events.

### **6. Implications**

- 6.1 Resource – There were resource implications which were planned within the budgetary process
- 6.2 Legal – Presently there are no implications
- 6.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – The Mòd has a positive impact on the locality.
- 6.4

Climate Change/Carbon Clever – A large amount of preparatory work in relation to the management and organising of a Mòd is undertaken through the use of technologies and social media

6.5 Risk – If Mòds do not return to the Highland Council area, this will have a negative impact on Gaelic development and this would not be in alignment with the draft Gaelic Language Plan

6.6 Gaelic – The Mòd has a positive impact on Gaelic development.

Designation:

Date: November 8th 2017

Author: Morag Anna MacLeod Mitchell

## Royal National Mod 2017

Junior competition winners from schools/groups in Highland Council area, collated from The Royal National Mòd Lochaber 2017 results page

[http://enter.ancomunn.co.uk/competitions/winners/event\\_id:6::](http://enter.ancomunn.co.uk/competitions/winners/event_id:6::)

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar C6 – Drama Under 13; **James MacRaid** – Solo Singing Ages 7-8 Learners

Clann Thròndairnis: Action Song Under 13 & Waulking Under 19; **Lexy NicLeòid** – Storytelling Ages 11-12 Fluent; **Beth Chaimbeul** – Presenting a Psalm Under 13

Dèarrsadh, Bun-Sgoil & Àrd-Sgoil Inbhir Pheofharain – Folk Groups Under 13

Rionnagan Rois: Choral - Unison Under 13 Learners; Choral - Unison Under 13 Fluent; Choral - Puirt-a-beul Under 13 Fluent; **Oisín Liam Crawford** – Solo Singing Boys Ages 9-10 Learners; **Mhairi MacKenzie & Andrea MacDonald** – Duet Under 13 Fluent; **Isabella Sommerville** – Traditional Singing Girls Under 11 years. Fluent

Bun-Sgoil Àth Tharracail: **Donnie Macaskill** – Conversation Ages 5-8 Learners

Bun Sgoil Chille-Mhoire: **Eoghann Caimbeul** – Traditional Singing Boys Under 13 Fluent; Poetry Recitation Ages 9 Fluent

Bun-Sgoil Cnoc na Creige: **Hannah Robertson** – Poetry Recitation Age 7 Fluent

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis: **Isabella Sommerville** – Reading Under 13 Fluent; Clàrsach Intermediate 1 (Grade 2-3)

Bun-Sgoil Gheàrrloch: **Anndra Uisdean Cuimeanach** – Conversation Ages 11-12 Fluent; Bible Reading Ages 9-12

Còisir Òg Loch Àlainn: **Verity Lawrence** – Solo Singing Girls Ages 9-10 Learners; **Rachel Bolton** – Poetry Recitation Ages 13-15 Learners

Acadamaidh Rìoghail Bhaile Dhuthaich: **Duncan Macleod** – Traditional Singing Boys Ages 16-18 Fluent

Acadamaidh Rìoghail Inbhir Nis: **Finlay MacLennan** – Traditional Singing Boys Ages 13-15 Fluent

Àrd-Sgoil Gheàrrloch: **Eòin Coinneach Cuimeanach** – Poetry Recitation Ages 13-15 Fluent; Reading Ages 13-15 Fluent; Bible Reading Ages 13-15

Àrd-Sgoil Loch Abar: **Cameron MacIsaac** – Accordion, Under 13; **Claire Frances NicNill** – Traditional Singing Girls Ages 16-18 Fluent; Fiddle Ages 13-18

Àrd-Sgoil Phort-Rìgh: **Erin Nic'Illosa** – Clàrsach Intermediate 2 (Grade 3-4)

An Caol: **Hector Finlayson** – Chanter Under 13 – Gaelic Air

Inbhir Nis: **Grace Kelman** – Chanter Under 13 – March

Sgoil Chiùil Loch Abar – Fiddle Groups Under 19

**Adult competition winners from Highland Council area, collated from The Royal National Mòd Lochaber 2017 results page [http://enter.ancomunn.co.uk/competitions/winners/event\\_id:6::](http://enter.ancomunn.co.uk/competitions/winners/event_id:6::)**

### **Individual**

**Rachel Walker**, Drochaid an Aonachain – Òran Mòr Ladies Fluent; Gold Medal (Ladies)

**John Joe MacNeil**, Barraigh (Ceannard Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar) – Mary Lamont Gold Medal Traditional (Men)

**Carolyn Groat**, An Gearasdan – Solo Singing Ladies Fluent

**Eileen Duncan**, Tunga – Solo singing (Ladies)

**Hannah MacRae**, An Gearasdan – Solo Singing Learners

**Saffron Hanvidge**, Inbhir Nis – Puirt-a-beul

**Steven MacIomhair**, Am Blàr Dubh – Solo Singing Men Fluent

**Mrs Cairistiona Stone**, Castletown – Writing - Article; Writing - Non-fiction prose

**Maolios Caimbeul** – Writer's Award - Children

**Alan McLeod**, Brùra – Solo Instrumental

**Charles Macdonald**, Inbhir Nis – Senior Piping – Ceòl Mòr

### **Choirs/Groups**

**Còisir Ghàidhlig Inbhir Pheofharain** – Area Choirs – Lovat & Tullibardine Trophy

**Còisir Ghàidhlig Loch Abar** – Area Choirs – Margaret Duncan Memorial Trophy

**Bùrach** – Rural Choirs – Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Trophy

**Buidheann Cèilidh Còisir Ghàidhlig Loch Abar** – Cèilidh Group

Date	Time	Venue	Event	Event Information	Tickets
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1845	Fort William Town Centre	Torchlight Procession	Lochaber welcomes the Royal National Mòd with a torchlight procession led by Lochaber Pipe Band through Fort William High Street	Free
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1930	Nevis Centre	Opening Ceremony	The Opening ceremony with music from Na h-Òganaich & Robert Robertson & Ross Wilson.	Free but ticketed
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1030- 1600	Nevis Suite, Alexandra Hotel	Wikipedia & The National Library of Scotland: A day on Lochaber	Come to find out about the Scottish Gaelic Wikipedia and how to edit it. After training, contribute towards better coverage of Lochaber using the National Library's digital collections. Open to all levels of Gaelic. Light lunch provided. Bring a laptop. Sign-up at: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/UiciLochAbar">https://tinyurl.com/UiciLochAbar</a> or email susan.ross@nls.uk	Free
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1130	Fort William Shinty Club	Shinty Lecture	Colmcille, Shinty and The Mòd Cup. Hugh Dan MacIannan, Sports Writer in Residence at the National Library of Scotland, takes a look back, and forward, at the connections between shinty, Colm Cille and the Royal National Mod. This talk will be held in Gaelic and English.	Free
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1100- 1230	Leaving from Old Inverloch y Castle carpark	Gaelic Foraging Walk: Scotland's Natural Larder	Scotland's Natural Larder invite you to join foraging tutor Alasdair Taylor to learn about the edible plants, fungi and berries which can be found all around us. Event conducted in Gaelic.	Free but pre-booking essential. <a href="http://www.foragingwalk1.eventbrite.co.uk">www.foragingwalk1.eventbrite.co.uk</a>
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1330- 1500	Leaving from Old Inverloch y Castle carpark	Gaelic Foraging Walk: Scotland's Natural Larder	Scotland's Natural Larder invite you to join foraging tutor Alasdair Taylor to learn about the edible plants, fungi and berries which can be found all around us. Event conducted bilingually.	Free but pre-booking essential. <a href="http://www.foragingwalk2.eventbrite.co.uk">www.foragingwalk2.eventbrite.co.uk</a>

Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	From 0930	An Aird	Iomain Colmcille X	The Shinty/Hurling International series for Scottish Gaelic and Irish speakers, marking ten years of the most successful sporting event in Gaelic in Scotland. A feast of Shinty and Hurling action including Hurling Youth Training and Demonstrations and the Shinty V Hurling Final itself between Scotland and Ireland taking place at 3pm. For more information, visit: <a href="http://www.colmcille.net">www.colmcille.net</a>	Free
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1930	Nevis Centre	The Fiddler's Rally	A spectacular evening of music with guests including Gold Medallist Eilidh Davies and Alasdair Whyte. Compered by Hugh Dan MacLennan and Gary Innes.	£14/£7 (members)
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1500	Duncansburgh Church	Gaelic Service	An Ecumenical service led by Father James MacNeil, Oban.	Free
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1930	Duncansburgh Church	Celtic Praise	A joyous Sunday musical celebration of praise with music and song from the Church Gospel Band, Angus Grant, Fergus Munro, Jimmy Cameron and many more.	Free
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1300	Library, Lochaber High School	Reading for pleasure in Gaelic: Workshop for parents	How to help your kid love reading in Gaelic: what Gaelic chapter books can do for your child, for their Gaelic, and for you. This interactive workshop session, drawing upon up-to-date research, will look at Gaelic-speaking children's reading experiences, and share strategies that work to help them develop a 'reading for pleasure' habit in Gaelic. All parents and carers of school-age children welcome.	Free
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1900	Caol Community Centre	Children's Cèilidh	Fun for the children with music, games and plenty of dancing.	Free
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1930	Lime Tree	Hunting Songs in the Hebrides	In 1947, folklorist Margaret Fay Shaw Campbell of Canna, published an article in the National Geographic Magazine with the intriguing title <i>Hunting Folksongs in the Hebrides</i> . In it, she described her work in the Outer Hebrides in the 1930's and 40's, collecting Gaelic	£8/£4 (members)



				folksongs and recording a disappearing way of Hebridean life through pictures and film. Mod Gold medallist and now Canna House archivist for the National Trust for Scotland, Fiona J Mackenzie, gives her audience a unique opportunity to see a fascinating glimpse of the lives of our great grandparents and our grandparents as they were at the beginning of the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.	
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1300	Library, Lochaber High School	Oor Wullie-In Gaelic!	Oor Wullie is coming out in Gaelic at last! Whatever age you are, come and join Cuilean Craicte at the launch of Uilleam Againne in Lochaber High School library.	Free
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1600	Lime Tree	Lochaber Place Names	Which place in Lochaber has the most famous name in the world? How did Fort William get its name and what else could it have been called? Where was the original 'loch' of Lochaber? This talk will look at some well-known and less well-known Gaelic names of hills, rivers, farms and other features in and around Fort William, and their role in Gaelic culture. In association with Ainmean-àite na h-Alba.	Free
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1900	Caol Community Centre	Children's Cèilidh	Fun for the children with music, games and plenty of dancing.	Free
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2000	Lochaber High School, Assembly Hall	Nàdar	The music and songs of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland have always been inspired by landscapes, seascapes and the circle of life. Nàdur, put together by Rachel Walker, celebrates the link between the Gaelic language and nature, through music and song, performed by some of Scotland's leading musicians: Arthur Cormack, Ingrid Henderson, Archie McAllister and Seonaidh MacIntyre, with special guests, Lochaber	£14/£7 (members)

				District Gaelic Choir.	
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1030- 1600	Nevis Suite, Alexandra Hotel	Wikipedia & The National Library of Scotland: A day of Gaelic Songs & The History of the Mòd	<p>Come to find out about the Scottish Gaelic Wikipedia and how to edit it. After training, contribute towards better coverage of Gaelic song and Mod history using the National Library's An Comunn Gàidhealach digital pages. With a guest talk by the broadcaster and writer Jo MacDonald who was on the BBC's Bliadhna nan Òran panel.</p> <p>Open to all levels of Gaelic. Light lunch provided. Bring a laptop.</p> <p>Sign-up at: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/Uici-OrainGhaidhlig">http://tinyurl.com/Uici-OrainGhaidhlig</a> or email susan.ross@nls.uk</p>	Free
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1600	Lime Tree	From Lochaber to The National Library of Scotland	Dr Hugh Dan MacLennan reflects on his background as a Caol dude and his journey to the National Library of Scotland, via shinty, Universities and broadcasting.	Free
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2230	Masonic Hall	Convener's Cèilidh	A traditional ceilidh featuring an array of talented singers and musicians.	£14/£7 (members)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1000	Ben Nevis Hotel	A' Mire ri Mòir	Music and chat with Morag MacDonald as her show is broadcast live from the Mòd.	Free
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2230 (doors at 2130)	Nevis Centre	Mòd Closing Dance	A spectacular night of music to bring Mòd 2017 to a close. Supergroups Trail West and Tidelines will have you dancing until the small hours. Tickets on sale at Nevis Centre Reception, call 01397 700707. Over 18's only.	£18

Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	1030	Fort William Town Centre	Massed Choirs	Choirs march from the West End Car Park, through Fort William High Street to the Parade, culminating in an incredible massed choir performance. The Mòd banner will be handed over to the Dunoon organising committee as they take over the reins for next year's event.	Free

Pub	Date/Days	Time	Band
Cobbs	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Afternoon & Evening	Iain Joseph MacDonald
	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Afternoon & Evening	Iain Joseph MacDonald
	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Afternoon & Evening	Iain Joseph MacDonald
Crofter Bar	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Afternoon	Calum McPhail
	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Evening	Ho Ro
	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> , Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> & Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Afternoon	Black Velvet Cèilidh Band
	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Evening	Full Floor Cèilidh Band
	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Evening	Heron Valley
	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Evening	The Gary Innes Band
Sonny's Sports Bar	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Afternoon & Evening	Full Floor Cèilidh Band
	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Afternoon	Kevin Cameron & Friends
	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Evening	Trail West
	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Afternoon	Trail West
	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Evening	Kevin Cameron & Friends
Volunteer Arms	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Afternoon & Evening	Fergie MacDonald
	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Afternoon & Evening	Fergie MacDonald
	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Afternoon & Evening	Fergie MacDonald
	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Evening	U-Bend Cèilidh Band
Ben Nevis Bar	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Live Music TBC
	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Live Music TBC
	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Live Music TBC
Alexandra Hotel	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Evening	Gunna Sound
	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Evening	Gunna Sound
	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Evening	Gunna Sound
Garrison West	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Evening	Angus Binnie & Co.
	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Evening	Riska Ceilidh Band
	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Evening	Live Music TBC

