

Strongman search

Scottish dancers, bagpipers and strongmen – and women – will share centre stage for two days at the 2011 Hawke's Bay Easter Highland Games at Lindisfarne College.

The Hawke's Bay Piping and Dancing Association of New Zealand will celebrate the 61st games by staging a national drumming championship, and a North Island solo piping championship.

On Saturday the public can enter the men's and women's field events consisting of the shot-put, caber toss, farmer's walk and weight-for-height competition, and then on Sunday is the annual Hawke's Bay Allied Security Strongman competition. Organiser Nathan Williams says this year there will be prizes awarded to winners in the under-105kg, heavyweight, and novice divisions, as well as the winner of the overall strongman title.

"This year we are likely to

have a strong contingent of novice and first-time competitors from Wellington, as well as two travelling down from Auckland. And with the New Zealand Strongest Man competition on the same weekend in Auckland, it's likely to be new competitors filling out the top places – hopefully including a handful of local lads," Nathan says.

Last year's strongman winner was big Hawke's Bay bopper Sam Magele. He took the title for his consistent performances in all the strongman events: the 100kg farmer's walk, overhead press medley, 250kg tyre flip, the 117.5kg Hercules hold, and the 80kg to 120kg stone loading.

There will be \$600 in cash prizes and over \$900 worth of supplement given as prizes.

The event starts from 10am on April 23 to 24, 2011.

Saturday field events open to the public (entries on the day): 11am: men and women's shot-put and weight-for-height; noon:



Atlas: Former Napier man Nick Hansen, who placed second at last year's strongman competition, lifting a 145kg Atlas stone.

men and women's caber toss; 1pm: public farmer's walk.

Allied Security Hawke's Bay Strongest Man entries can be accepted on the day, or prior by emailing Nathan at hbstrongman@windowslive.co.nz or call 0272 114 652. Weigh-in on Sunday at 9am.



Having a go: Hastings dietitian Janine Williams competing in the women's caber toss last year.



Showing the strain: Hastings' Mark Tamanui pulls along an 11-tonne truck, and 100kg in each hand in the farmer's walk.



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