

The Caledonian

NEWSLETTER FOR THE WAIPU CALEDONIAN SOCIETY INC.
MAY 2009 NEWSLETTER

**HIGHLAND HEAVYWEIGHT
THE ORIGINAL
Extreme Sport**



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It is that time of year again – to quote a much used saying – for the AGM of our society. This is an opportunity for you to get involved to help keep the unique character of Highland Games alive on the opposite side of the world to the home of Highland Heavyweight events, Highland Dancing, Piping and Drumming – also the tradition of Athletics that have been part of our Games since 1871 and even for two years before that in 1869 and 1870.

The AGM will be on Monday, June 22, 7.30pm in the Caledonian Rooms in the Park.

ASSYNT QUAICH



We are proud to have Lewis Turrell MBE as the next recipient of the Assynt Quaich and he will be presented with it at the 2010 Games. Lewis had been a very keen supporter of the Waipu Games over many years and many of his students have gone on to compete in piping at the highest levels.



PAT HELLIER @ THE DEUCHARS WORLD HIGHLAND GAMES HEAVY EVENTS CHAMPIONSHIP

The Gathering 2009 in Edinburgh, Scotland will be hosting the 2009 Deuchars World Highland Games Heavy Events Championship. The top 10-12 leading "Heavies" will compete in 8 core disciplines, including tossing the caber – and one of them will be Pat Hellier our New Zealand Champion. Pat has been a great ambassador for New Zealand, the Waipu Caledonian Society and as well as the Highland Games Movement in New Zealand, he is also a well respected Police Officer in Auckland. We wish him all the best in July and if you are going to the Gathering, you will be able to cheer Pat on.

Legally registered on 25th May 1973 the World Highland Games Heavy Events Championships has become the most important date in the calendar for leading international 'heavies'. Great athletes from home and abroad have competed in the World Championships. Many Olympic Games competitors and Commonwealth medalists and champions from nearly every continent have entered the lists, Australia, Canada, America, Africa, Europe, New Zealand stars have thrilled people over the years. With a number of events it is a gruelling competition which draws the crowd's attention, holding a very important position in the Highland Games programme. Athletic sports and competitions, historically, were the main feature at any Highland Games and many today still consider Highland athletics are what the games are all about.

EVENTS DURING TARTAN WEEK

TARTAN WEEK begins on June 27 in Waipu with the Waipu Pipe Band parading down The Centre at 11.00am, in the afternoon the Waipu Genealogy Group, with the help of the Whangarei Genealogy Group, will be holding a Genealogy/Family History Afternoon to be held in the Waipu Caledonian Society's Rooms in the Caledonian Park. This will run from 1pm to around 4pm. So if you would like to know more on researching your family history, then come and have a look.

WAIPU GAMES HISTORY PROJECT

During the genealogy afternoon, there will be an opportunity for you to bring old photos of the Waipu Games and documents or articles that would be ideal for the Waipu Games History Project – the telling of the story of the Games. You will not have to worry about those precious photos being away from your possession as we will be able to scan them for you while you wait. If you are not able to be there, but you would like to contribute, please contact Noel Robinson in Auckland, 92781834 or email Noel.Robinson@manukau.govt.nz or Wayne Laurence in Whangarei, 4372881 or email wayne@bydand.co.nz. Your contributions will be much appreciated and will help to tell the story of Waipu and the Games.

KIRKIN O' THE TARTAN JUNE 28

This tradition has grown to be an important even throughout the world and especially in NZ and of course Waipu. July 1st is Tartan Day for New Zealand and Australia, while North America celebrates it on April 6th. The two dates reflect the lifting of the proscription or ban on wearing any tartan what so ever and the April date signifies the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320 by Robert the Bruce and the nobles of Scotland to secure independence from England during the Braveheart period. The Waipu Presbyterian Church would love as many as the Church will hold to come at 10am, so wear your kilts, tartan skirts, scarves – and for the Clans to carry their banners, lead by Pipe Major Fraser Sim into the Church for a festive time.

A History of Tartan - 26 June - 24 July - As part of the festivities of Tartan Week in Waipu and Winter@Waipu, the Waipu Museum is hosting an exhibition which will be telling the story of this incredible time in our ancestor's lives. Tartan Week ends with the Museum's The Clachan A Choin Ball on July 4th.

GAELIC COLLEGE AWARD

We are delighted with the news from Samuel MacPhee, the Director of the Gaelic College in Nova Scotia, that the award presented at the last Games to William Roe will be an annual award to the Waipu Games. Pipe Major Bain McGregor and a number of top pipers in attendance at the Games decided the award should be for the most promising piper under 18 on the day at our annual Games – male or female. The award is for two weeks at the Gaelic College studying piping as a gift.

William was presented with the award by Mark Eyking, the Federal Member of the Canadian Parliament for the area of Nova Scotia where the bulk of the Scottish pioneer settlers of Waipu came from on their migration. Many thanks to the Gaelic College for their generous support.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBBIE BURNS DINNER JUNE 27

CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH



From the painting by Nasmyth, National Portrait Gallery.

Robert Burns

For the first time; the Waipu Caledonian Society and the Clan MacLean Association are co-hosting an annual dinner at the Waipu RSA on the evening of the 27th at 7pm.

We have decided it would be fitting to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of Robbie as is all of Scotland and Scots all around the world will be doing the same this year. We will have a lovely meal catered for and the price is \$35 – so if you would like to support this, please feel free to pre book your tickets by contacting Katrine McLean on 0-9-4239145 or email kayzee@xtra.co.nz or Delia Walker on 432 1514 or email cally65@xtra.co.nz – also you will be able to prepay by paying by direct debit - 12-3099-0694105-00 Waipu Caledonian Society – ref. dinner. You may post to PO Box 34 Waipu 0545 – or give it to Delia when you see her on duty in the Waipu Library. You can also contact Noel and Wayne. Whichever way – we look forward to seeing you for a great evening. Won't you join us!

Slainte - aye,
Wayne Laurence FSA Scot
Secretary

On behalf of the Chairman,
Chief and Committee
The Waipu Caledonian Society Inc.



Winter@Waipu
A great calendar of events

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