

# Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

Vol 46 No 5 October 2012

"I hear the pilbroch sounding, sounding, Deep o'er the mountain and glen; While light springing footsteps are trampling the heath.

'Tis the march of the Cameron Men'

Glenfinnan 2012 - celebrating the raising of the standard on 19 August 1745

Photo: Bill Cameron



## A message from our President



#### To all Clan members.

Well, the year progresses on. Reports for the October council meeting should be in the secretary's file by now, as with any general business matters for attention. Denis has gone to watch the All Blacks play in Dunedin so I wish him well for the score.

On my return from a breakfast meeting in Auckland on Friday 7 September I spent a couple of hours with Vivienne at

Matamata, during which time we viewed the Auckland dinner on the video camera as well as the talk by Tristan relating to his ventures. The birthday of Harold Cameron was also among the topics viewed.

Tristan is showing interest in continuing his piping career. If any person can help in the Matamata area it would be appreciated. Bay of Plenty has promoted Elliot Fenton as a branch piper. We wish to thank the branch for this honour.

My other days have been spent reading the July-September issue of "The Rocky Mountain Piper". The most interesting article is "Why are Symbols Important" - it explains the colours and the 50 stars and thirteen stripes of the American flag. The article also covers many symbols as used by the various clans. The Cameron Clan has the five arrows in the badge which represent the main branches in the clan. The oak and the crowberry are both plant

badges used by the Clan Cameron. Because the mighty oak is sturdy, tall and strong, it symbolises the strength of unity within the clan.

The thistle is often considered a symbol for Scotland, as it is tied in part to the ingenuity of the Scots for ridding the land of Vikings.

To close this note we hope to see a good muster at Turangi for the Council meeting.

Fraser

### Coming Events

Sunday 14 October 2012 Turakina Kirkin' o' the Tartan 2pm St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Turakina.

Afternoon tea to follow. A plate of Scottish fare would be appreciated

Enquiries to Roz Grant, tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 14 October 2012. Canterbury Kirkin' o' the Tartan 2pm St Andrews at Rangi Ruru, Merivale Lane Afternoon tea to follow

Enquiries to Rae Magson 03 308 8927

Saturday 27 October 2012. Executive Council Meeting. 10 am for 10.30 meeting start. RSA Turangi

Saturday 24 November 2012. Auckland Highland Games
Three King's Reserve. Commencing 10.30am. Free entry and a
wonderful day for all the family. Visit the Cameron tent for a
friendly welcome and to learn about our clan.
Enquiries to Don Cameron 09 520 0716

## "Cameron"

The magazine of the Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc)

published on or near the 1st day of every even month of the year.

Deadlines for articles are on the 15th of the month before publication. Items of urgency or importance may be accepted up to 10 days later.

Articles about Camerons, branch activities with photographs, and advice of coming events are especially welcome.

Deadline for the December issue:

15 November 2012

Please send to:

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Clan Cameron New Zealand website

http://www.camclan.orconhosting.net.nz

(This has links to other Clan Cameron sites)

## Welcome to the following Member who has recently joined us:

**Bay of Plenty Branch** 

Jacques Cameron

Cambridge



## More Coming Events

Saturday 10 November 2012. Hororata Highland Games Hororata Domain. Canterbury Fun for all the family

Saturday 24 November 2012. Canterbury Branch AGM and Lunch Robbies Restaurant, Ashburton Enquiries to Rae Magson 03 308 8927

## Friday 30 November 2012. Auckland Branch St Andrew's Day Barbecue

Parnell Cricket Club, Shore Road, Remuera 5.30 pm. Please bring a plate (sweet or salad). Meats supplied. Contact Bryan or Jenny Haggitt 09 524 5254 if you are coming, letting them know numbers and what you are bringing. A small donation would be appreciated.

All are welcome at this pre Christmas get together. Enquiries to Don Cameron 09 520 0716

#### Saturday 8 December 1012. Jenny Mair Square Day

The Square. Palmerston North. Watch for the haggis sandwiches and sausages. This is Clan Cameron Manawatu's 25th year of participation Enquiries to John Cameron 06 358 0417

Tuesday 1 January 2013. Waipu Highland Games

## History Corner by Fiona Cameron

#### What's in a name?

Trace your finger down many Cameron family trees and the same names appear again and again. Boys named Donald, John, Alexander, Duncan, Angus and Ewen and girls named Margaret, Mary, Janet, Sarah, Catherine and Anne seem to predominate. While our ancestors may not have had the modern day predilection for unique or unusual names, why was the pool of first names so restricted? A lot of this can be put down to early Scottish naming traditions and can be both a blessing and a curse for the family historian.

These traditions were not set in stone nor enforced by any religious or legal custom. Instead, it seems more of a way of honouring ancestry and lineage by carrying family names down the generations.

The tradition was used extensively (but not exclusively) in Scotland in the 1800s and carried over when families left Scotland and emigrated to countries like New Zealand. The case may be that the traditions lasted slightly longer in emigrant families as a way of remembering family left 'back home'

#### **Daughters**

- 1. Firstborn daughter named after her maternal grandmother (her mother's mother) Variation named after her paternal grandmother.
- 2. Second born daughter named after her paternal grandmother (her father's mother) Variation named after her maternal grandmother
- 3. Third born daughter named after her mother
- 4. Fourth born daughter named after her mother's oldest sister Variation - named after her maternal great grandmother 5. Fifth born daughter - named after her father's oldest sister Variation - named after her paternal great grandmother

#### Sons

1. Firstborn son - named after his paternal grandfather Variation - named after his maternal grandfather

## 48th Annual Gathering and AGM

Auckland 19—21 April 2013

To facilitate planning and bookings, the following are early details of the 2013 Gathering:

The Gathering and AGM will be held in the Quality Hotel Barrycourt 10-20 Gladstone Road, Parnell.

This is within walking distance of Newmarket shopping, Parnell Village, Cathedral, War Memorial Museum and the Rose Garden.

The AGM, lunch and banquet will be held in the hotel on the Saturday. A 'Meet and Greet' barbecue will be enjoyed at the Parnell Cricket Club, together with the EC Meeting, on the Friday evening. On Sunday a 10am church service is programmed at the Naval Base Chapel, Devonport, followed by morning tea / lunch at the Navy Museum.

Please arrange your own accommodation with the hotel, quoting Clan Cameron Gathering. Prices vary but there is a discounted advance purchase rate and a Gold Card discount on checkout.

#### Quality Hotel Barrycourt.

Freephone: 0800 50 44 66 Web: www.barrycourt.co.nz E-mail: reservations@barrycourt.co.nz Further details and registration form in later newsletters

- 2. Second born son named after his maternal grandfather Variation named after his paternal grandfather
- 3. Third born son named after his father
- 4. Fourth born son named after his father's oldest brother Variation named after his paternal great grandfather
- 5. Fifth born son named after his mother's oldest brother Variation named after his maternal great grandfather

The tradition of naming the first son after his paternal grandfather could mean that the eldest male child of each branch of the family carried the same name. With so many Donald or John Camerons born around the same period in the same area – sometimes to parents with the same or similar names – it can be difficult to separate one from the other!

On the other hand, the tradition can be used to our advantage. My g-uncle Donald Angus Cameron and his wife Margaret did follow the naming tradition with their eldest children, naming the son Ewen after Donald's father and their eldest daughter Catherine Sarah after both her paternal and maternal grandmothers. This gives a clue when looking for these grandparents.

Middle names, where they were used, can be more complicated. Middle names were not commonly given and various traditions exist around them. You could give your child their mother's maiden name as a middle name, or name them after another influential family member or even the parish priest or minister who christened the child. Donald Angus Cameron honoured his uncle Alexander, who financed the family's emigration to New Zealand, by naming his eldest son Ewen Alexander.

On a sad postscript, you may even see the same name repeated within a family. My great-great-uncle Alexander Cameron and his first wife Margaret named two children Mary. He repeated this during his second marriage, having two sons named Duncan. This was a very common practice when a child died at an early age. The name being 're -used' for a later child both in keeping with existing naming traditions and in remembrance of the child who passed away.

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## From the Branches....

#### Auckland by Don Cameron

The days when the Clan Cameron Auckland branch's annual dinner attracted close on 100 folk are hard to recapture -- but the diners are becoming more and more generous.

The larger attendances in the recent past have contributed close to \$300 each year for the First Light fund which joins New Zealand and Lochaber together in the Cameron cause.

The latest dinner in August attracted 60-odd very generous people, lifting the tally to \$327. There were 16 prizes on offer ---books, spirits, gift-baskets, and a bottle of the Lochiel wine produced from the Cameron vineyards at Mangawhai in North Auckland.

Fraser Cameron, president of Clan Cameron New Zealand his wife Elaine and their grandson Tristan headed the guest list, plus John Cameron from Manawatu. The local guests were led by Murdock McDonald, president of the Auckland Clans association - and there was close to a takeover when a large number of Davidsons, led by their Chief, Jock, shared two tables.

A novelty was the use of young people for the haggis ceremony. William Tremlett, drum-major of the St Kentigern College pipe band, delivered the ode to the haggis with great gusto. He was supported by three members of the McQueen family -- Sarah, Matthews and Andrew. Sarah was fresh from a recent dancing success and gave bracket of dances with the aid of her brother Andrew, now a very accomplished piper.

There was, however, a sad loss a few days before the dinner when Ian Cameron, a member of the Auckland executive, died suddenly. Ian was one of the newer committee members and after leading an active life -- and a possible replacement for Neil Cameron as driver of the clan trailer -- was promising to be a very valuable member.

Several Auckland committee members attended Ian's funeral service, the clan sent Ian's wife Barbara a sympathetic letter, and the first act at the dinner was a silent standing tribute to Ian.

#### Wanganui / Taranaki by Neville Wallace

Ten members of Taranaki- Wanganui Clan Cameron met for a luncheon dinner at the Liffiton Castle in Wanganui on Sunday the 16 of September. It was a venue that we had decided on some 36 hrs before hand as the proposed Café' wasn't opening on a Sunday .So a big thank you to Val and John Grant for organising the Castle with its very sumptuous meal!

A very interesting discussion ensued about the future of Clan Cameron and the inability to attract younger members. Members took up my earlier comments about our Clan going public at our June meeting (we opened the meeting to the public and attracted an extra 20 people) where I had suggested that if we want to keep our Scottish heritage alive we should be prepared to accept members from other Septs and Clans. Members were of the opinion that we start the conversation now. Another suggestion was that we should have closer contact with some of our neighbours to look at means of closer contact. The venue that we were at today could cater for up to a 100 people and it is right on the main road through Wanganui. Unfortunately the Clan Cameron Manawatu had something else on. I am positive that had our luncheon not clashed with the Manawatu event we would have had a number of supporters from Clan Cameron Manawatu.

There was agreement from our clan that this topic be discussed further at the forthcoming meeting at Turangi .As Shona and I will be unable to attend the Turangi meeting we will be represented by John and Val Grant.

Next meeting will be a Christmas Fest at the Hawera Club on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December where we will be extending an invitation to the public to join us.



At the Wanganui/Taranaki luncheon. Facing from left: Shona Wallace, Nancy Minnell, Jan Jennings, Don Cameron

#### **Canterbury** by Rae Magson

Over the last couple of months little has happened for Clan Cameron Canterbury, however we are coming up to busy time. On our schedule we have -

Kirkin of the Tartan is 14 October 2012, 1-4pm in Christchurch.

The Hororata Highland Games are Saturday 10 November 2012.

The Annual General Meeting is 4 November 2012. This will take the form of the meeting after lunch in Ashburton.

We intend to have a tent at the Hororata Highland Games, possibly giving away haggis as we did at the Scottish Highland Festival in Christchurch last February. This was very successful.

#### Drumming Cup

The Auckland Branch has donated the cup below for presentation to the C Grade Drumming winner at the Waipu Highland Games.



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## Clarsach – the Scottish Harp

by Denis Cameron

Clarsach means small harp in Gaelic: it is also known as the Celtic harp. While also played in Ireland, the clarsach is the traditional harp of the Scottish Highlands. The clarsach is a small harp which traditionally was strung with wire [most often brass] but that is not always the case today. It has a triangular design like most harps; the wire is attached to a soundbox which is usually carved from a willow log, it has a curved pillar and a neck. It is played by the fingernails and produces a sharp ringing sound similar to a piano.

In Clan society, being a harpist was an honoured profession and



New Salem Village re-enactor playing Celtic harp

Clan chiefs employed harpists or bands to write songs for them. With decline in the Clan system, the clarsach declined in popularity. However, there has been a resurgence of its popularity since the 1970s; now there are more clarsach players then ever before.

Some of the better known players of the clarsach today are Jo Morrison, Cynthia Cathcart, Phamie Gow and Billy Jackson of the Scottish folk band Ossain.

There is a clarsach society called Comunn na Clarsaich. They promote the playing of the clarsach through local British branches and have organised the yearly Edinburgh International Harp Festival since 1980. The Festival features, among other things, courses in the playing of the harp, concerts and workshops.

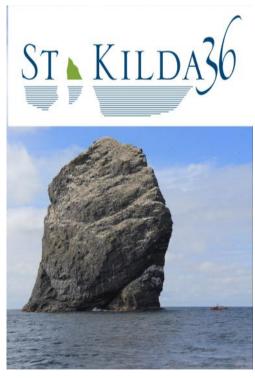
Keeping the playing of traditional instruments of Scotland alive is a great way to keep the history of the country vital and interesting today. Knowing the type of music our ancestors listened to is comforting in a way; it connects us more easily to their lives.

Our thanks to Susan Keeping-Denis



The basic structural elements and terminology of a concert harp

Thanks to Wikipedia for the images—Ed



On the 29th of August 1930, the last 36 islanders on St. Kilda were evacuated to live on mainland Scotland. Over the past eighty-two years, St. Kilda has continued to captivate writers, scientists, historians and

photographers from around the world to this remote outpost of the British Isles.

St. Kilda 36 is a collection of thirty six colour prints showing contemporary images of the St. Kildan archipelago. The exhibition shows the islands unique wildlife, architecture, military presence and the ever changing landscape as captured by Lochaber man, Bill Cameron.

Lochaber has strong connections with former St. Kildan community, most notably as many of the last thirty six islanders were relocated to live in Morvern. One of the last St. Kildans, Lachie MacDonald, moved from Morvern to live and work in Glen Nevis, Lochaber.

Bill has visited the islands on a number of occasions and has been lucky enough to discuss various aspects of the islands past with Lachie MacDonald's widow, Nancy MacDonald (nee Cameron) who lives in Fort William.

Bill's photographs are displayed with accompanying text, offering viewers further insights behind his images of St Kilda, as well as raising thought provoking questions about these much written about islands.

St. Kilda 36 is open at the West Highland Museum from 22nd of September and will run till the end of October.



Two of Bill's pictures from the St Kilda 36 Exhibition are shown here. The picture on the left shows one of the gannet topped sea stacs of St. Kilda

Below shows Bill with Nancy MacDonald.



Photo: Iain Ferguson Lochaber News

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## James Cameron Lees by Jenny Haggitt

The excellent article on the Cameron Knights of the Thistle by Bill Cameron (August 2012 issue) brought to mind an illustrious member on Bryan Haggitt's family tree, his first cousin twice removed.

The Very Reverend Sir James Cameron Lees, DD was a Church of Scotland minister and author at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>. He was born in London on 24 July 1834 and educated at London University. He was the incumbent at Carnach, Abbey of Paisley and St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. He was Dean of the Thistle and Dean of the Chapel Royal from 1887 to 1910. An Honorary Chaplain to the Queen from 1881 to 1901 (and then Honorary Chaplain to King Edward VII and King George V), he died on 26 June 1913.

James Cameron Lees was the eldest of four sons of the Reverend John Lees and his wife Mary Isabella Cameron, daughter of Captain Allan Cameron of Lochmaddy in North Uist. John Lees was the minister of the church at Carinish in the island of North Uist, eight miles from Lochmaddy.

\* 'Captain Cameron was the factor, who managed all the affairs of the island for the proprietor, Lord MacDonald of the Isles. In those days to be the factor for a non-resident proprietor in the Hebrides was to occupy a position of great influence. Lord MacDonald lived in Skye and Captain Allan Cameron wielded all his power in North Uist and Benbecula. There was then a population of 4900 in North Uist and the clear proceeds of the kelp industry alone amounted to £14,000 annually. When it is remembered that with the exception of a few of the larger tenants of the people of the island held their land without leases, being tenants at the will of the landlord, it will be realized what power for good or ill lay in the hands of the factor. It was a power which Captain Cameron did not abuse. He showed a kindly interest in the lonely minister of Carinish, and John Lees often trudged over the moorland to Lochmaddy. And from Lochmaddy John Lees brought to London as his wife Mary Isabella, second daughter of Captain Allan Cameron.

'His wife belonged to that class from which sprang the best and noblest of the Highland race: that class from which Flora Macdonald sprang. Brought up in the hills where her father ruled she was surrounded by all that makes life beautiful. In those days the homes of such men as Captain Allan Cameron were centres of refinement and culture. The Highland bards were not yet silenced, nor the fiddles burnt nor the bagpipes yet destroyed.

'The days that stood out the brightest in the memory were not those passed in London but the holidays that the boys spent most frequently at Calgary in Mull. Their grandfather, Captain Allan Cameron had left Lochmaddy and settled in the Island of Mull. (Because the duty had been removed from the importation of Spanish barilla the kelp industry in the Hebrides was ruined and Lord MacDonald was forced to sell North Uist and Benbecula. Captain Cameron removed to Mull, where he bought the property of Calgary Castle.) Those boyhood days in Mull were days of unclouded happiness. There they fished and bathed to their hearts' content.'\*

Dr Cameron Lees himself says: "when was a boy's heart proof against unlimited gingerbread and gooseberry jam? Oh, how good the pears were. Why can't I get such jolly pears now? And the milking of the ewes at Sunnipool, where Campbell the poet was tutor, and the tea parties at Trenhinish, and the mushroom gathering at Inevey and the trips to the Trenhinish Islands. There is little wonder that I shall love Calgary all of my life". It was a beautiful

patriarchal life which the boys learned to love in those vanished days, There were longer expeditions also in those Calgary days. In the "Stormy Petrel", a stout boat belonging to the uncles at Calgary, they explored the wonders of Iona, Staffa and Tiree.

Extracts from Dr Cameron Lees own accounts of his visit to New Zealand in the year 1887:

#### 'At Marangai, Wanganui.

The settler with whom I stayed, a relative of my own, (his uncle, John Cameron) was an old "identity" as those are called who have been in the colony almost from the beginning. He had many a story of the early time, fording the rivers over which I travelled so comfortably by rail. He had gone through many perils in the time of the native war. One of the outhouses of his station was a

strongly built "blockhouse" to which he could retreat if attacked by the Aborigines. Hale and hearty still, he was passing the eventide of life in peace. He lived in a large house built of wood, both a spacious and comfortable mansion. His land lay all around under the management of his stalwart sons. I passed some days in this happy family with great enjoyment.

'Thousands of pheasants were in the woods around, and their call at evening was heard in every direction. They have sprung from those imported from Britain There are a great variety of ducks in New Zealand and in the creek or river below the house I flushed a brace of noble birds. On a calm peaceful afternoon I accompanied John Cameron to the highest part of his run. The view

was grand; great forests stretched away on every side to the distant horizon, which was shut in by the noble mountains of Tongariro and Ruapehu, their summits one mass of glistening snow. There were glades of fresh green grass covered with sheep, cattle and horses, and grass like that in New Zealand I have never seen anywhere. I could not help telling him that I envied his peaceful retreat.'

\*\*From: The Life of James Cameron Lees, Minister of St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh; Dean of the Order of the Thistle; Chaplain to Their Majesties Queen Victoria, King Edward and King George: By Norman Maclean, Author. Publisher Maclehose, Jackson and Co., 1922



The Cameron Blockhouse at Marangai, Wanganui

The Haggitt family will write more on the history of Marangi in future issues of this magazine.

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## From Robert Nairn

Firstly I hope this wee letter finds you all well and in good spirit. I was the "First Lighter" in 2008 and spent a very memorable and enjoyable two months in New Zealand. I have been asked to write a short update on what I have been up to since my return to Scotland.

When I was in New Zealand I had just completed my first year at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow, which is now known as the Royal Conservertoire of Scotland. I continued studying there until I graduated with a BA honours degree in Scottish Music in June 2011. It took 4 years and I got the degree in the end, but as of yet I have not put the degree itself to much use, because since graduating I have been undertaking various small scale forestry contracts which doesn't have an awful lot to do with Scottish music although the whole experience of being at the RSAMD was very worthwhile.

The work that I do generally involves small scale chainsaw felling mainly for the Forestry Commission on sites that they manage for public recreation or environmental purposes. I normally employ one other man or at times 2 or 3 depending on the work. I find the work very enjoyable and rewarding especially on a nice day as long as there are no midges! We do most of our work in the Lochaber area with occasional jobs further North.

Apart from the forestry work during the week I have been quite busy with the music side of things. My band made our first public broadcast on the BBC's Scottish Dance Music programme "Take the Floor" in February 2011 which was recorded in the



Robert after the Trad Awards ceremony



Robert plays at an Auckland dinner

BBC's Pacific Quay studio in Glasgow. Then in September that year I released my first CD "Robert Nairn and Friends". The recording features a mixture of traditional Gaelic Highland tunes with some sets for dancing to and a couple of my own compositions "The Inevitable Journey", "From Kentra to Dungallon" and "Maree's Waltz". If anvone was interested in the CD

it can be found at www.robertnairn.com.

Then in the November of 2011 my band was nominated in the "Dance Band of the Year" category of the Trad Awards. The Trad Awards is an awards ceremony for traditional music in Scotland ran by BBC Alba which is the Gaelic television channel and was held in the Perth Royal Concert Hall last year. Much to my surprise the band won our category, so it ended up being a good night out.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank once again everyone who I stayed with, ran me about in the car and made me feel very welcome and at home when I was in New Zealand. Furthermore I would like to especially mention the organisers of the "First Light Exchange" at home and in New Zealand for managing an extremely worthwhile project and wish it all the success in the future. I have many happy memories that will last me a life time

All the best Robert

## The Cruise Ship 'Hebridean Princess'

#### 'Work-horse to Royal yacht'

Built in Scotland as the "Columba" for Caledonian MacBrayne in 1964, this ship plied the water of the Highlands and Islands for 25 years. Converted to full time luxury cruising in 1989 and renamed "Hebridean Princess", the ship operates in the same waters, with occasional voyages further afield. At one time both the Captain and Chief Engineer had the surname Cameron

When running as "Columba" on the Coll and Tiree (home of my maternal grandfather) service, she was infamous for her crammed, smelly lounges, indifferent food and Spartan cabins but, as "Hebridean Princess she was transformed into a ship of luxury. From the ability to carry 55 berthed and 815 deck passengers, she now carries only 49 in great comfort.

The ship became well known in 2006,

by the Editor



when she was chartered by her Majesty the Queen for an eightieth birthday cruise around the Western Isles, thus becoming a Royal Yacht for that period.

The ship was again chartered by Her Majesty in the summer of 2010 for another cruise with members of her family, reminiscent of annual holidays of earlier years, when a short voyage to the Western



Isles was taken in the Royal Yacht Britannia, prior to the Queen taking up residence at Balmoral.

The image below was taken from a moving bus in 2010 by Bill Cameron while crossing the Skye bridge.

You will notice the Royal Standard flying. The picture on left is a more recent one taken by Bill of the ship anchored in Loch Linnhe.



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## Aonaibh ri Cheile The Back Page





John Cameron and Duncan McQueen at the Auckland dinner



Don Cameron and Alan Drake of the Wanganui / Taranaki Branch on a recent visit to Achnacarry





Tristan Sanders talks about his First Light experiences and Malcolm Campbell plays the Kitchen Pipes at the Auckland dinner. Photos: Editor





Above: Clive and Joan Robinson enjoy the Wanganui/ Taranaki luncheon in Hawera

Left: Auck President Don Cameron hands the Cameron Cup to Glen Rodgers. This will be presented at the Waipu Highland Games to the C Grade drumming winner





At the Auckland Annual Dinner. Above left and bottom right: Diners join together in Auld Lang Syne at the end of a pleasant evening Below left: Linda Garland with her grandson Cade, who helped draw the raffle. Above right: Don and Valmar Cameron enjoying the ambience at the dinner





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