



# WAIPU CALEDONIAN SOCIETY INC.

Established 1871  
Sir nam Beann's nam Gleann's nam Gaisgeach  
Nemo Me Impune Lacessit

P O BOX 34, WAIPU, NORTHLAND, NEW ZEALAND

PATRON: BRIAN MCLEAN

CHIEF: TED HART

SECRETARY: KELLY SANDFORD

## Minutes of the Waipu Caledonian Society AGM

Held in the Celtic Barn Foyer on  
Sunday, 13 July 2025, 11.00am

### Present:

Annie Everson-Dawn, Ted Hart, Heather Jacobson, Kelly Sandford, John Lang, Gordon McKay, Des McLean (Life Member), Don Ewen (Life Member), Brian McLean (Life Member), Bain McGregor, John Draper, Gordon Walker, Ken Couper, Lynette Taylor, Simon Dawn, Gordon Brown, Peter Ferguson (Trustee), Alison Ferguson, Steven McLean, Frances McLean, Noel Robinson, Stephen Robinson,

### 1. Welcome

John Lang Welcomed everyone to the 2025 Waipu Caledonian Society Meeting.

### 2. Apologies:

Mark Forshaw, Violet Forshaw, Lorna Murray, Guy (Life Member), Don Fraser (Life Member), Laurel Rodgers, Doug Gibbs, Heather Jacobson, Gaylene Mason-Hollier, Paul Wickham, Rick Stolwerk, Sherri McKay, Briar Hobson.

Move: J. Lang

Second: G. McKay

### 3. Obituaries: Brian McLean asked everyone to stand for a moments silence to mark our respect to those that have passed since our last AGM.

Jean Baxter (Life Member), Fraser Sim (Life Member), Joan Lang, Jim Hack.

### 4. Minutes from previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023:

Sent out to all members prior to the meeting.

Taken as a true and correct record.

Moved: J. Lang

Second: A. Everson-Dawn

### 5. Matters Arising:

None

### 6. Correspondence:

None

### 7. Chief's Report: Ted Hart (see attached)

Moved: T. Hart

Seconded: D. Ewen

### 8. Financial Report – John Draper (See attached)

John Draper presented his report.

No changes to the Draft Annual Report sent to all members

John Draper asked that we move the Annual Report, the independent reviewers report and his report to be uploaded to the charities database.

No Questions were asked.

Moved: J. Draper  
Second: D. Ewen

**9. Caledonian Trust Report – Annie Everson-Dawn (see attached)**

Moved A. Everson-Dawn  
Second: G. Walker

**10. Chairman's Report – John Lang (see attached)**

Moved: J. Lang  
Second: G. McKay

**11. Election of Committee and Officers**

Due to the few nominations voting did not take place and all nominations were accepted. The committee and officers are as follows.

Patron	Brian McLean	Move: J. Lang Second: G. Walker
Chief	Ted Hart	Move: K. Sandford Second: G. McKay
Treasurer	Vacant due to John Draper retiring	
Secretary/Membership	Kelly would like to step down as she is also co-ordinating the games	

**Committee Members**

Lorna Murray	Nominated by K. Sandford, Seconded: K. Couper
John Lang	Nominated by K. Sandford, Seconded: Annie Everson-Dawn
Gordon McKay	Nominated by K. Sandford, Seconded: D. Ewen
Bain McGregor	Nominated by K. Sandford, Seconded: K. Couper
Gordon Walker	Nominated by K. Sandford, Seconded: G. McKay

All Attending Members Agreed with the Nomination

A Chairman will be elected at the next committee meeting

**General Business**

**a. Entry Price**

**MOTION:** that the prices are as followed, Highland Games Entry \$20 – Stays the same, The Helen McGregor Memorial \$10 – Stays the same, Evening Ceilidh - \$20 – Increase to \$25.

**Moved:** G. Walker

**Seconded:** B. McGregor

**All in Favour- Carried**

**b. Membership**

**MOTION:**

**Membership will decrease to \$10.00/person. Membership will include voting rights, parking on the park on games day, Access to the members tent located at the heavyweight's arena.**

**Membership no longer includes Entry to all three Events. Highland Games Helen McGregor, Entry into the Highland Games, The Evening Ceilidh these will have to be paid for.**

**Moved:** G. McKay

**Seconded:** D. McLean

**All in favour - Carried**

**c. Life Member**

**MOTION: That Bain McGregor become a Life Member of the Waipu Caledonian Society**

**Move: T. Hart**

**Seconded G. Brown**

**All in favour – Carried.**

**d. The Assynt Quaich:**

**MOTION: The 2025 (153rd) Assynt Quaich recipient be awarded to John Draper**

**Moved: J. Lang**

**Seconded G. McKay**

**All in favour – Carried**

**e. Next Highland Games Date.**

**MOTION:**

**The date of the 154<sup>th</sup> Highland Games are to be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2026**

**Move: G. McKay**

**Second: G. Walker**

**All in favour – Carried.**

**f. Trust.**

A trustee was required to resign from the Waipu Caledonian Trust, Gordon Walker stepped down. The Waipu Caledonian committee agreed that Gordon Walker be re-appointed as Trustee.

**MOTION:**

**Gordon Walker be reappointed as a Trustee.**

**Move: T. Hart**

**Seconded: B. McLean**

**All in favour – Carried.**

**General Business**

Ken Couper stood up and reported wearing two hats the first as a private member of Waipu town who grew up with the games was involved with his children as pipers and dancers and the second as our local councillor. Ken acknowledged the Waipu Caledonian Society and the Waipu town and how it is viewed within the council chamber. Ken said it was an absolute privilege to represent Waipu when the town is viewed so positively within council because of how the town is run and the way that we - Waipu look after our own assets and take care of things.

Ken on behalf of council said, "well done to the committee for recognising changes were needed for to the date of the games well done to the relationship between the committee and the trust, that speaks volumes to the leadership".

From a community perspective "well done to all of you for keeping our little identity unique and therefore making us a special place".

Bain McGregor stood up said that its was an absolute honour to be made life member it was not expected but thanked everyone very much. Bain spook about how wonderful the barn is to host piping events. The

Helen McGregor in the foyer its perfect to the size of the event the pipes sound great and the competitors love playing here. The Barn for having concerts, the building is a true asset.

Des McLean asked for clarification on the barn floor and why do we need to replace it as some members don't know what is wrong with it. Annie stood up and explained what was wrong with the floor. The floor needs to be resurfaced it doesn't need to be replaced. The varnish is chipping away from just wear and tear and constant use. However there could also be issues with how the floor has been cleaned it has been cleaned with a Karcher machine that applies water to the floor puts water in the floor and then gets sucked back so we will only mop from now on and also the other reason of the breakdown is the sunrays on the floor and wet feet just wear and tear. \$33,000 to resurface but the trust is applying for funding to get it done.

John Draper stood up- He said he was honoured to receive the Assynt Quaich it was very unexpected he said it has been a privilege and a pleasure to be the treasurer of the Caledonian Society.

John Thanked the Croquet club for the afternoon tea.

Ted Hart Presented John Draper with a Thank you gift for all his hard work as treasurer over the many years.

Ted Presented Bain with his Life Members card.

Meeting Closed

11.38am

## Chief's Report – 2025 AGM

It has been a privilege to be Chief for the last two years. It was a bit daunting making speeches for the first time and not much better the second time. However, I am getting used to it now.

Last year, we had two Highland Games, one on 1 January and then another on 31 December.

We were very unfortunate with the weather for the games on 31 December.

(perhaps we were being punished for changing the date)

Due to the weather, the committee had to make some late changes to the park layout. The bouncy castles had to move into the Celtic Barn because the wind was so strong, they would have been unsafe outdoors. All other vendors around the children's activities had to be moved nearer the Barn.

In the end, it was all quite successful, and we expect to use the same set up this year.

Also, due to the weather, the crowd size was well down on normal. This was unfortunate; however, the Games themselves were a great success.

- We had more volunteers for set up and break down than we have had for some years.
- There were many more vendors due to the event not being on a public holiday.
- Participation in the Highland events was up for the same reason
- We had a great field of Heavyweights and Novices in the field events
- The Tug of war was a great success, and the children's races were well run by a great team
- The SOB dancing moved into the Coronation Hall and successfully completed their program
- The Ceilidh was a roaring success with the biggest crowd we have had, possibly ever.

As a footnote: It was also noticeable that we did not have people hung over from their New Years eve celebrations.

I would like to thank the committee for the support they have given me and especially thank Don Ewen for his sage advice and great historical knowledge which he shares willingly.

## Chairmans Report

AGM – July 2025

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the committee for their dedicated efforts throughout the past year.

Well, we tried our best with the Games change of date but of course no matter how much planning and effort you put in, you can't control the weather. We will try again, and when the time is right, we will succeed.

Since the last AGM we have installed nova flow drainage pipe between where you sit and the croquet club. This has made a huge difference to the point where we get campervans parking there when we could not do it before.

On the Saint Mary's roadside of the park, we had to have some trees adjusted to ground level as they were heading for the neighbours, which is not a position we wanted to be in.

Personally, I think Ivan McCabe is doing an outstanding job on park maintenance and presentation. It's always pleasing to see when you drive in here.

Cricket seems to go off well and results in more use days for the park which is great to see.

Due to the council purchasing the land beyond the bowling club this puts a lot of parking well within walking distance and off the road - all pluses.

I'm pleased to see that Uncle Alec McLean has been recognised in the Barn foyer. He was one of life's gentlemen. An understated man who would have brushed off the recognition, but he worked hard for us during his lifetime and has been generous to the community in his will, so it's appropriate that he gets recognised.

I am mindful of one of Dad's sayings which was the mind will only absorb what the backside will endure. Thank you for your time.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**  
**WAIPU CALEDONIAN CHARITABLE TRUST AGM**  
**13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2025**

As Chair of the Waipu Caledonian Charitable Trust, I would like to delivery my report for the 2025 AGM.

Firstly, I would like to welcome Gavin Carroll, the oncoming Treasurer. Most of you will already know Gavin, who is well known in Waipu and also the Treasurer for the Waipu Lions. We look forward to working with Gavin and feel confident he will be top notch.

Thanks, and acknowledgement to Tim Dower who has done a great job as our past Treasurer. Tim proved himself to be reliable and trustworthy and valuable to the Trust.

Also, a big thank you to Amy Osborne, our Secretary. Amy does a superb job applying for various grants from Funders who provide money for Barn projects – the next project being the resurfacing of the auditorium floor. Amy is also acknowledged for her valuable advice and knowledge on a lot of matters.

Thanks also to Laurel Rodgers, the Barn Manager, who does a consistently great job of managing and overseeing the operation of the Barn, reliably and efficiently.

Achievements over the last year include the bolts being tightened on all the beams in the Barn. This was professionally carried out by Guyco and the job was completed over two days. The resurfacing of the auditorium floor is soon to be done after applying for funding with more money to come. This is an expensive undertaking. The Lease Deed between the Trust and the Society is being studied, with both contributing to a final Lease. At present it's at the early stages and a meeting will be held shortly to discuss it.

Activities in the Barn are consistent with community participation such as the Markets, the Blood Donor Group and sports groups who use the Barn on a weekly basis.

We have acknowledged the continuing support of the Alex McLean Trust by putting together a tribute to Alex which hangs in the lobby of the Barn to remember and appreciate his legacy.

Thank you everyone for your continuous support throughout the year as without it we could not achieve the progress that has been made.

Annie Everson-Dawn  
Chairperson

# The Waipu Caledonian Society Incorporated

## Treasurer's Notes for 2025 AGM

All the following amounts mentioned are GST exclusive.

I am pleased to present the reviewed 2025 Annual Report, there were no changes to the draft annual report emailed out to members prior to this AGM

We held the 152<sup>nd</sup> Waipu Highland Games on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, a change from tradition, which started out wet with fine spells between squalls as the day went on. While the day was well supported by others, gate takings were down due to the weather resulting in a small loss of less than \$100 for the day. Games Day donations, event entry fees and vendor site fees were all up on 2024 with other income streams being similar. Games Day expenses were largely in line with 2024 except for equipment hire, where we trialled a premium sound system with good results, and general expenses that included \$4.2k for competitor travel and \$3k for ticketing fees.

Regarding other income, general donations, membership and park donations were all up on 2024 but interest income was down. This and the small Games Day loss resulted in total revenue being down 16% on 2024 to \$64k.

Even though other expenses decreased by 19% compared to 2024, we still ended up with a net deficit of \$18k, 29% less than 2024.

Of particular note are:

**Park donations:** from the NZ Motor Caravanners Association members continues to be a good income source with a 39% increase on 2024 to \$22.4k.

**Building R&M:** much less this year and most of it was \$3.6k on Barn lighting

**Grounds R&M:** a bigger spend in 2025 as it included \$30k on new drainage works.

**Asset purchases:** light aluminium piping stage shutters for \$10k, helped along by a generous \$5,000.00 donation from Chritine and Wayne Birss; and new lighter fibreglass 'Toss the Sheaf' poles

In conclusion, while the Society had some big spends in 2025 and a reduced gate take, the continued support from the WDC through their Community Fund parks maintenance grant and the caravanners, and prudent financial management, the Society remains in a good financial position going forward.