



CLAN DONALD

New Zealand

*"Ni h-cibheas gan Chlaimh Dombhail!"
(It is no joy without Clan Donald)*



MACDONALD, MACDONALD OF SLEAT, MACDONALD OF CLANRANALD, MACDONNELL OF GLENGARRY, THE EARL OF ANTRIM.

Clan Donald NZ

Clan Donald

Auckland

- [Home](#)
- [Clan Septs](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Events](#)
- [News](#)
- [Newsletter](#)
- [Tartan](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Contacts](#)

News Archive

2014

ANNUAL DINNER - AUCKLAND

On Saturday the 30th of August 50 guests sat down to a fantastic dinner. This was held at the Quality Hotel Parnell in Auckland.

The evening started with the guests chatting over pre-dinner drinks followed by the piping in of the official party. The official party consisted of the President of Clan Donald Auckland, Bruce McGechan and his wife Halina, the guest speaker, Clan Historian and Vice President Carl Bradley and his wife Cindy and the North Island Commissioner, Tom McDonald and his wife Lynnette a Vice President of Clan Donald Auckland.



Geoff Parry and the MC Andrew Wilkie chatting with Jon Winder.



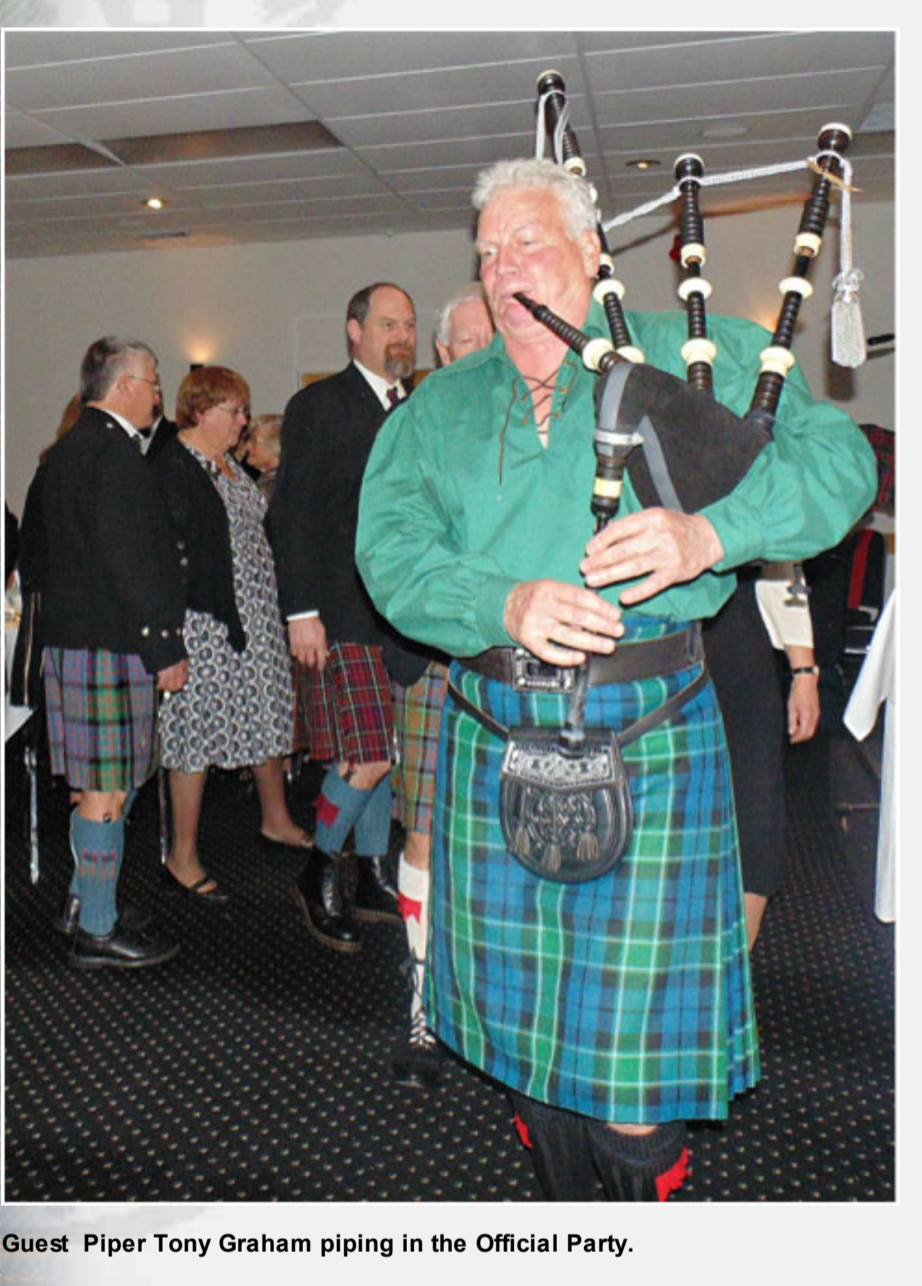
Clan Historian Carl Bradley and Chaplain Diane Winder



North Island Commissioner Tom McDonald with Pat and Doug McIsaac



Trevor Pollard and Clan Donald Auckland President Bruce McGechan



Guest Piper Tony Graham piping in the Official Party.

The two Clan Pipers Anton and Blair Hodson were unable to be present due to very bad colds, and Tony Graham stood in at short notice.

The welcoming speech by the President Bruce McGechan included special reference to the untimely death of Clan Donald Auckland Past President and High Commissioner for New Zealand, Harold McIsaac. Especially his tremendous contribution, to not only Clan Donald Auckland but to Clan Donald in New Zealand, and around the world.

There was also a special welcome to members of the McIsaac family, Mary, Doug and Pat.

The guests were also asked to stand and observe one minutes silence in respect for Harold McIsaac.

The MC for the evening was Andrew Wilkie, Immediate Past President, who kept the guests amused, with his many Scottish quips and jokes.

Following the Selkirk Grace by the Chaplain Diane Winder, the guests enjoyed the first course of Scottish Broth with Baps.

The entertainment started with the Haggis Ceremony. The Haggis Party was, Piper Tony Graham, Guards Carl Bradley and Jon Winder, Haggis Bearer Bruce McGechan, Bard Tom McDonald and Whisky Bearer Andrew Wilkie.

The Balmoral Dancers also entertained with a selection of Scottish Dances. The Balmoral Dancers have performed at all the Clan Donald Annual Dinners since 1998. And as usual they performed brilliantly.



Balmoral Dancer Tessa Hiam performing the Highland Fling.

After dessert and tea and coffee the following toasts were given. Scotland by Bruce McGechan, Clan Donald by Carl Bradley. Absent Friends by Heather Higgins and Visiting Clans by Murdoch McDonald.

The highlight of the evening was the address, given by Clan Historian Carl Bradley, on the Scottish Independence Referendum, which was very appropriate as the vote was only three weeks away.



Carl Bradley giving the address.

Carl gave an illuminating address including historical references and a summing up of the current poll position, in Scotland, for the "Yes" and "No" vote, which showed the "Yes" vote almost level with the "No" vote. At the end he asked for a show of hands from the guests and it showed a definite majority for "Independence".

The evening was finally wound up with Auld Lang Syne.

[Return to News Archive](#)