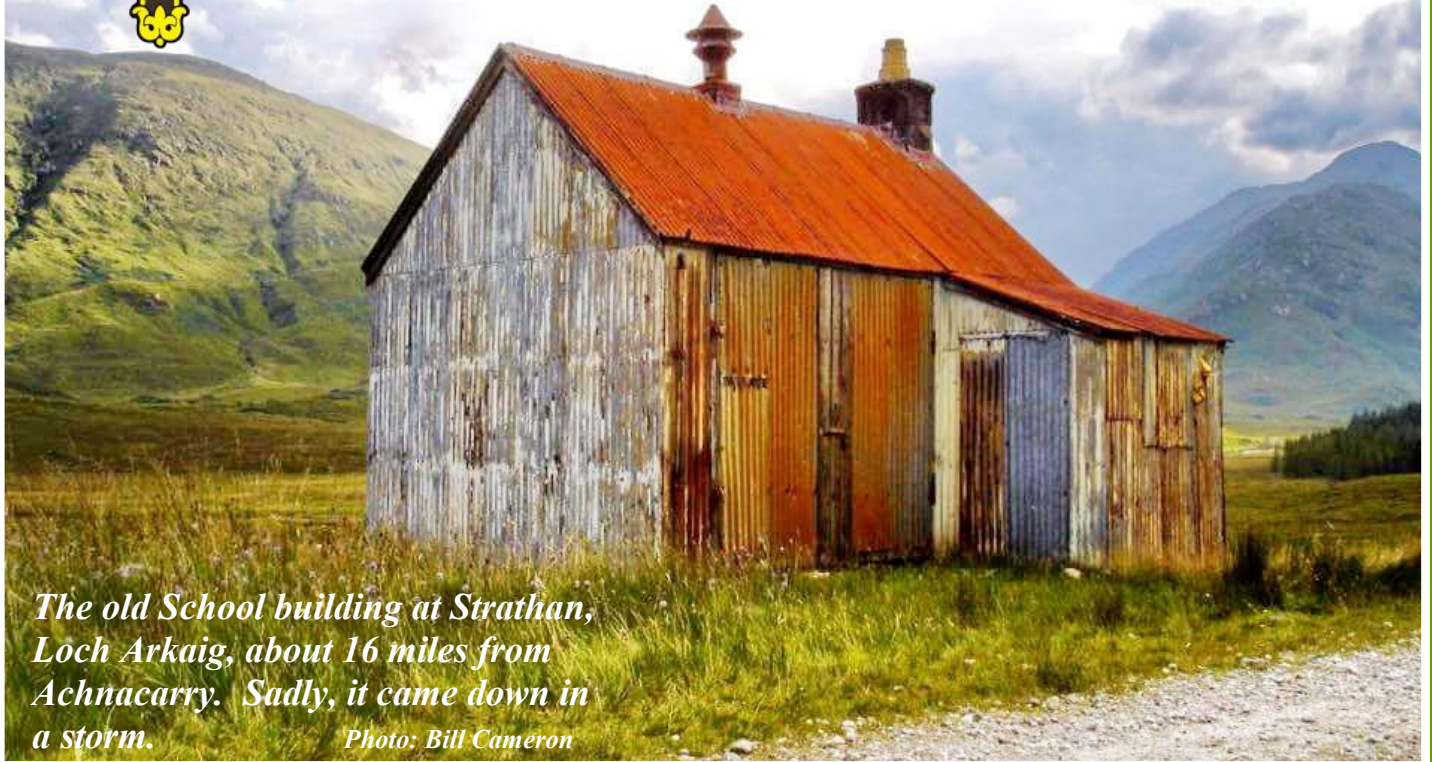




Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



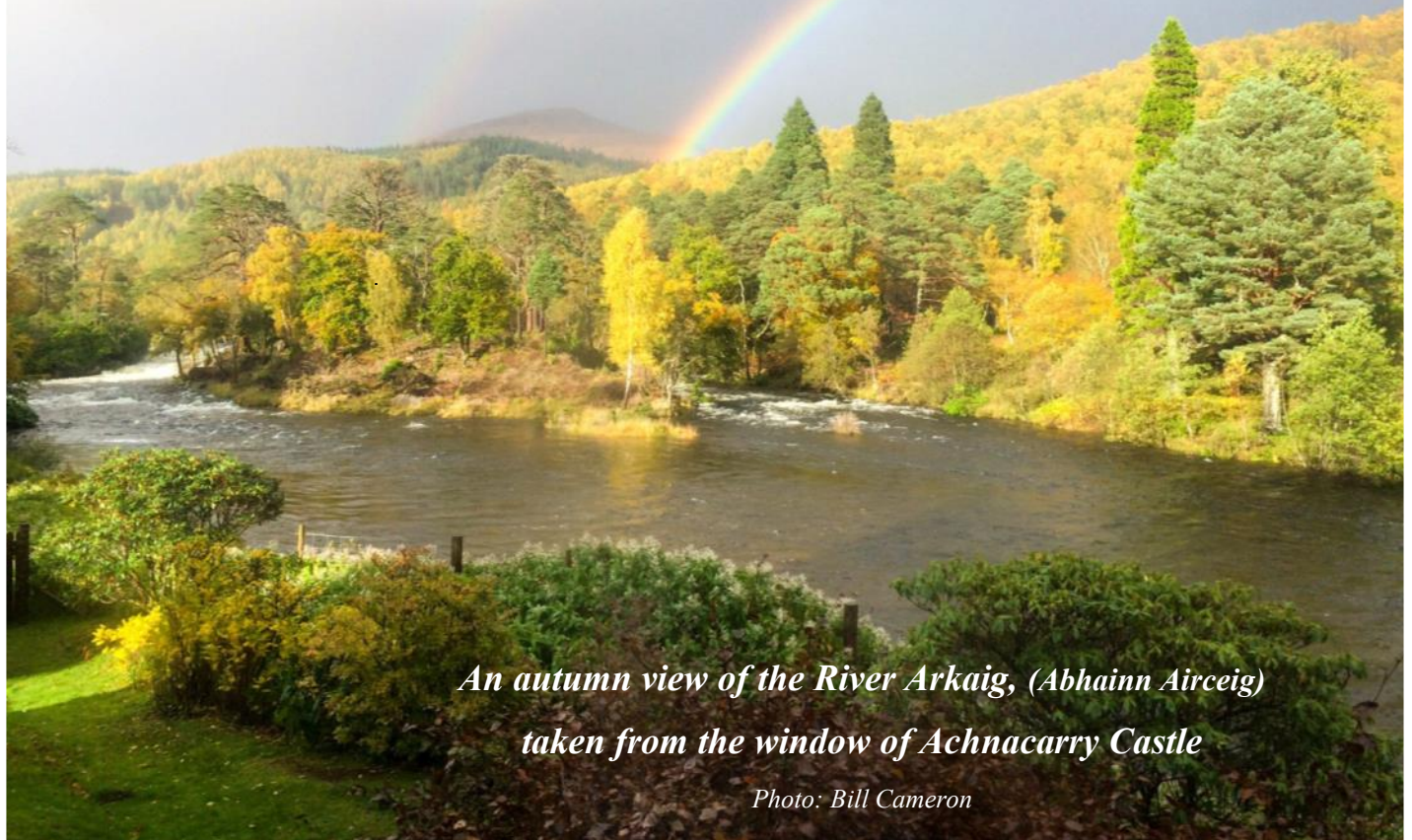
The old School building at Strathan, Loch Arkaig, about 16 miles from Achnacarry. Sadly, it came down in a storm.

Photo: Bill Cameron

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A Happy Christmas to You All



*An autumn view of the River Arkaig, (Abhainn Airceig)
taken from the window of Achnacarry Castle*

Photo: Bill Cameron

“Cameron”

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Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc)

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Clan Cameron New Zealand website
Decision pending on new site
Use Clan Cameron facebook page in the interim

<https://m.facebook.com/ClanCameronNZ>

A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

Over the last 2 months in Canterbury we have had a Kirkin O'the Tartan in Christchurch and the Hororata Highland Games event which attracted over 10,000 people. The Chief for the day was Alex Bruce who is an independent whisky distillery owner and is a descendent of Robert the Bruce. The games events were fairly varied and included the usual strong man events with caber tossing and so on, as well as solo piping and drumming competitions, highland dancing and pipe band contests. It also included the kilted mile in which David Cameron (recently ex Auckland Branch and a first lighter) competed. He commented to me that the compulsory eating of the pie and drinking of beer part way through the race nearly finished him off!

On Games day for me this meant an early start at 5am with a cooking of a Leekies haggis sent up from Dunedin the day before. I have found it a little safer to wrap the haggis in tin foil and bake it for 2 hours at about 180 degrees Celcius. My previous attempts at boiling have resulted in one case of a split bag due to slightly over boiling. As I am closer to Hororata than other branch members I went down at 7.45am to secure our preferred clan tent site at which we give away free haggis and generally provide information on the clan to the public. The rest of the day was spent helping the clan tent and competing in the set and medley events for our Caledonian Pipe band.

I would like to thank all of those members who not only helped out at this tent on the day but to those who do so throughout New Zealand at such events. In some cases this can occupy several days, and it is great to have those on the tents who know of our history and can provide it when asked. It can be quite rewarding. For Rae Magson and Pat Tarbotton on this particular day they found a close cousin who is a well known race horse trainer in Ashburton and a descendent of a Kenneth Cameron from Ashburton.

On the personal front my son Hamish made a visit to Achnacarry last month and spent a very pleasant hour with Lochiel. Hamish next visited Paris and was lucky to have left before the bombing. My daughter Rowan delivered Julie and I a second grandchild called Evan Jeff Walton (Evan is my second name, and Jeff is the first name of the other grandfather). Rowan arrived at the hospital at 6am and had delivered Evan by 8.04am (she has never been known to do anything slowly!!). Both Rowan and Evan are well.

I hope you all have a great time over Christmas and for those that might be eating haggis - you might not know that in the U.S., it's been almost impossible to enjoy authentic haggis ever since the USDA ruled in 1971 that the lungs of livestock—a key ingredient in traditional haggis—"shall not be saved for use as human food." Access to Scottish lambs was further narrowed after the U.S. placed a ban on all livestock imports from the U.K. in response to outbreaks of mad cow disease. To get their hands on real Scottish haggis for their Burns night tables, then, U.S.-based fans of the dish have been known to resort to smuggling it or its illegal ingredients in from Canada, the U.K., and other more lenient locations. Come January 2017, after a meeting with representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and British agencies, however, the food that the famously poetic Burns called a "[great] chieftain o' the pudding-race" might cease to be contraband in the States within the next 24 months.

Best wishes and a Happy Christmas

Nick

2016 Pipe Band Nationals

Feilding. Friday 11 March 2016 9:00am
and Saturday 12 March 2016 9:00am

<http://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2016/national-pipe-band-championships/feilding>

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Jan.

Printed By

Canterbury:
Tyronne Martin

Christchurch

Auckland
Bruce and Lynn Cameron Auckland

One Hundred Thousand
Welcomes

History Corner *by Fiona Cameron*

A Cameron All Black

Many of us will have spent sleepless nights and/or mornings lately immersed in the 2015 Rugby World Cup. While there are no Camerons in the current All Black squad, we have had ample opportunity in the past to cheer for our Cameron cousins on the paddock.

The first Cameron to play for the All Blacks was Don Cameron from Taranaki. He was born 15 July in Waitara to a Stratford family which made a notable contribution through many generations to Taranaki rugby. Though small and lightly built Cameron had exceptional pace and was a prolific try scorer.

He was only 19 when he entered the Taranaki side in 1906 and had made 54 appearances for the union when his playing days were curtailed by the outbreak of World War I in 1914. That he was a player of rare quality was obvious in his maiden representative season when in Taranaki's 47-3 win in 1906 he scored four of the side's 11 tries.

He made three appearances for the All Blacks, the three tests against the touring Anglo Welsh, in 1908. He scored a try on debut in the 32-5 win in Dunedin but failed to justify his goal kicking reputation missing with his only two conversion attempts in the 29-3 third test win in Auckland.

In his 59 first class matches Cameron scored 31 tries and kicked 18 conversions, one penalty, two dropped goals and two goals

from marks for a tally of 146 points. He played in five unsuccessful Ranfurly Shield challenges for Taranaki against Auckland, in 1906, 1908, 1909, 1910 and 1912, scoring tries in each of the 1906 and 1909 matches.

Don Cameron died in 1947 in New Plymouth and is buried at Te Henui Cemetery.

Information from www.allblacks.com - *Lindsay Knight for the New Zealand Rugby Museum.*



Coming Events:

(See facebook page for details and other events)

Saturday 12 December 2015

Square Day Palmerston North

Clan Cameron Manawatu will be there with their sausage sizzle and extremely popular haggis sandwiches. And, as always, assistance from members would be appreciated.

Thursday 10th December 2015

Hawke's Bay Christmas Get Together

6pm at The Clansman Motor Lodge, 907 Railway Road.

Please provide a plate of finger food.

Enquiries to Helen Shaw.

Friday 1 January 2016

145th Waipu Highland Games

Events start with a formal march from the street at 9am. Visit the Cameron tent and give us your support.

Clan Donald is host clan this year.

Info: www.waipugames.co.nz

Saturday 13 February 2016

Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo

Paeroa domain from 9.30am. Join us for the Clan march to the town centre at 11am. The Cameron tent will be there.

Info: www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

Saturday 9th April 2016 51st AGM and Gathering

Venue: The Hub Hawera. Entry off Waihi Road or Camberwell Road.

There are a number of motels in Hawera with four on Waihi Road close to the venue.

We hope many will attend and enjoy their time in Hawera.

Registration Form is enclosed with this magazine

Programme for the 51st National Gathering and AGM

April 9th 2016 at The Hub, Hawera.

8.30am Executive meeting and executive breakfast.

10.am Morning tea

10.30am AGM

12.30 -1.30 pm Lunch

Free afternoon for taking in sights or resting

5pm Happy hour. Cash bar.

6pm Haggis ceremony and beginning of entertainment followed by dinner and further entertainment.

Raffle to be drawn

From the Branches....

Auckland by Norman Cameron

On September the 19th I attended the Executive Meeting held at the Wellington Airport, chaired by the Clan President, Nick Cameron. There was a spirited discussion on where to hold the mid year Executive Meetings and it was decided to revert back to Turangi subject to approval at the Hawera AGM.

On Saturday the 12th of September the Auckland Combined Clans held their annual dinner at the Rutherford room at Alexandra Park Raceway. Elaine Ebbett organised a Cameron table, unfortunately I was unable to attend, but thank you Elaine for arranging a table.

The following Clans belong to the Scottish Clans Association of Auckland: - Cameron, Campbell, Davidson, Donald, Ferguson, Matheson & Stewart and for the last ten years Murdock McDonald of Clan Donald has been President, plus chief organiser. At the Scottish Clans Association AGM on the 6th of October Murdock resigned as President and remained on the Committee as Treasurer and Trevor Stewart of the Stewart Clan was elected President. It was decided at the meeting that individual clans run various activities such as the annual dinner and Kirkin o'the Tartan. I suggested that Clan Cameron combined our dinner with the anniversary of Robbie Burn's death as a "Burns Night", I am waiting to hear back from the Committee. At the following meeting Murdock was presented with a gift of Scottish memorabilia.

I have just heard that Mary Lampen - Smith died on Thursday the 5th of November. Mary was the wife of Harry Lampen-Smith who organised our last Clan AGM at Palmerston North. Clan Cameron Auckland send our condolences to Harry and his family.

I attended the Auckland Highland Games on Saturday November the 21st which were held at Three Kings Reserve. Unfortunately the Games were held in very damp conditions with the dancing being shifted inside. The rain held off for the parade of the Clans and Clan Cameron was well represented which was pleasing. Unfortunately we had to pull down the tent in heavy rain and I feel sorry for Neil having to dry out the tent. I must thank Neil and Ruth Cameron, Jenny and Bryan Haggitt and Duncan McQueen for all their support in trying conditions.

Bay of Plenty by Denis Cameron

The Bay of Plenty Branch were delighted to hold our Annual Luncheon at the Tauranga RSA, when 44 members and friends were in attendance. It was a great pleasure to be able to greet our Clan Cameron members from Opotiki, Whakatane, Cambridge, Te Puke, Matamata, Rotorua, Te Aroha, and of course Tauranga.

First of all, may we apologise to the members who were kept waiting in the foyer for a time. We did not realise that the RSA doors do not open until midday on Sunday.

We were delighted in being able to welcome some of the local clan members from the Clan Ross, the Clan MacPhee and the Clan MacNeil with apologies coming from Clan MacKenzie. Some of our Cameron members also have affiliations to other Clans.

May we thank our members Shirley and John Baillie from Te Aroha, who always make sure that we are well entertained with the harp and the violin. It is always a pleasure to listen to their large variety of old Scottish tunes being played, so that our group can join in with their singing.

We would like to thank Ray Crafts, our Bard, for being our M.C and for playing the bagpipes for the Piping in of the Haggis and of course for the Address to the Haggis. The room also looked resplendent with the tartan runners on the tables and our Bay of Plenty Banner proudly displayed.

Our sincere thanks to Harry Cummings for his very well celebrated haggis recipe that tasted so good. We had several people asking us, as to who had made the haggis and we were very happy to say that the haggis was now being made in Papamoa.

The Tauranga RSA put on a delightful luncheon and we would like to thank their staff for very friendly way in which they made sure that we were well looked after.

Once again we were entertained by the Tina Peet School of Dancing. The dancers performed both Scottish and Irish dances and to their usual very high standard. It is certainly a pleasure to see the girls progress under the direction of Tina who has been entertaining Clan Cameron since she was a young dancer herself.

It was great to have our Patron: Mr Harold Cameron to say a few words of wisdom as we wound up the day.

It is now only for me to wish all our Clan members and friends a very wonderful festive season and sincerely hope that you all have a wonderful New Year. Please make sure that you watch the other drivers over the festive season and do take care of yourselves.

"Leis gach dhurach and Slainte mhath"
[With every good wish and good health]

Canterbury by Rae Magson

Saturday 7 November, as well as being my husband's 81st birthday was the Hororata Highland Games. What a wonderful day it was. Clan Cameron Canterbury was in Clan Alley, with lots of other Clans, although we thought we had the best spot. President Nick Cameron was busy with his Pipe Band for some of the time but we were busy with our stall as well. We gave away haggis (people either love it or loathe it), and shortbread, but we made a profit as we had a raffle for bottles of whisky. Very popular! The day was warm and the crowds of people each year get bigger and bigger. On our stall we had lots of Cameron information and books and people were interested in those, often saying such things as "my grandmother was a Cameron". We gave away lots of membership forms and hope something will come of those. However one young man showed us the Clan Cameron badge that he had tattooed on his arm, as well he joined up the Clan then and there! During a discussion with an interesting woman she told me her ancestors were buried in the Ashburton Cemetery. I replied so were mine, and we found we were talking about the same people – Kenneth and Mary Ann Cameron (nee Banks). We were second cousins! Kenneth and Mary Ann had a large family. Anyway, I think this cousin is coming to our Annual General Meeting, so in the meantime I will be looking up more information for us to share.

Altogether a successful Highland Games, and all those bagpipes and kilts really stir the blood!

The Clan Cameron Canterbury Annual General Meeting is on Sunday 29 November at 11am in Ashburton, at the home of Pat and Rex Tarbotton. Afterwards we intend to go out for lunch at Robbies.

Hawke's Bay by Trish Topham

At the Hawke's Bay Easter Highland Games our branch had it's usual stand. Neil Cameron's display boards proved very interesting and we answered questions on Cameron history and enquiries from people attending the games.

In April, five of our branch Members attended the Clan A.G.M. at Palmerston North. All thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality extended and camaraderie of the other members who attended.

Helen, Trish and Mike travelled to Wanganui for the "Blenheim 175th Anniversary Commemorative Dinner" held in August. It was a very good evening and we enjoyed having the

opportunity to meet folk from other Clans and forge new friendships. Mike represented our branch and Gisborne at the National Executive Meeting at Wellington in September.

Helen is organising a pre-Christmas get together at the Clansman Motor Lodge, 907 Railway Road on Thursday 10th December at 6 p.m. Please provide a plate of finger food.

We wish all members of Clan Cameron and their families, a Happy and Merry Christmas, a prosperous, safe, and healthy New Year, and look forward to meeting you all again at the 51st A.G.M. in Hawera in April.

Iar (Taranaki/Wanganui area) by Shona Wallace

As you can see our plans are well under way for the national AGM. We are working on securing a keynote speaker. A mystery one at the moment (to all except us that is). We can promise you a very good raffle with some great prizes. We do hope that members will endeavour to come to Taranaki and enjoy our beautiful province.

The programme for the AGM is on page 3.

Our branch is meeting on the 28th November at Badger's Cafe for a luncheon meeting.

Manawatu by Jessie Annabell

It has been a quiet few months for the Manawatu branch. We have had two recent deaths: Mac Cameron (John's father) and Mary Lampen-Smith, wife of our Treasurer, Harry.

Several branch members attended the Wanganui dinner to commemorate the departure of the Blenheim in 1840.

Branch member Jo Cameron deserves particular thanks for the way she has been maintaining our branch Facebook page.

Dates to remember

Square Day this year is on Saturday 12 December. We would very much appreciate Square Day help from any members who have an hour or two to spare, particularly setting up in the morning. Expect to see us at the Turakina Highland Games on Saturday 30th January 2016.

Our branch AGM is on Sunday 21 February again at the beautiful and sheltered Mount Lees.

We also plan to have a clan tent at New Zealand Pipe Band championships at Manfeild, Feilding, in early March 2016.

Turakina - Kirkin o' the Tartan by Roz Grant

St Andrews Turakina Kirkin O' The Tartan Service held on Sunday the 11th of October again was very well attended with people coming from Wanganui, Hunterville, Levin, Palmerston N. and in between. The haggis was very much enjoyed as we had help making it this year - Hugh & Kendall McPhail coming all the way up from Wellington to learn how to make one. After the Blenheim dinner Kendall was keen to learn more about it, she looked it up on the internet so I left them to spice it and I have never had so many people comment on how nice it was even though it had a bite to it.

John Ross, president of Clan Chisholm, addressed the haggis for us. Always nice to have a new face to do that. This again proves to be a very special service with new people attending each time we have it and enjoying it.



Ewen Grant with piper Ted Wilce at Turakina

Photo: TERRY STILLMAN/
COMMUNITY IMAGES

Obituaries

written by Jessie Annabell

John Alexander McDonell Cameron (Mac) 1921-2015



Mac Cameron, son of Colin and Ida, wife of the late Maggie, father of John, Maxine and Dianne, and brother of Jean Harnett and Coline Anderson, passed away in Palmerston North on November 2nd. A member of the Manawatu branch in the 1950s and 1960s, he often acted as barman at clan functions. His funeral included many Scottish touches. Bruce Cameron and Jimmy Whittle piped, and Burn's "An Honest Man" could not have been a better tribute to a family-centred and honest individual. Daughter Maxine said he would

have thought it fitting that his funeral was on Guy Fawkes Day, so that he went out with a bang. Film clips of him were shown in the 1950s— as a very young World War Two serviceman and as the winner of a farm ballot in the Shannon area.

Those attending were given a little tot of Glenfiddich to remember him by.

Mary Lampen-Smith (1938- 2015)



Mary, beloved wife of Harry Lampen-Smith, passed away in Palmerston North on November 5th. Six of her seven children, Elizabeth, David, Kevin, Rosalie, Catherine and Alex were able to be with her. Brien, who lives in Helsinki, had visited Palmerston North just recently. Two of her brothers were present. The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit was full to overflowing on November 9th and three bishops participated in the ceremony, a sign of the high regard in which both Mary &

Harry are held by the church and the Palmerston North parish.

Mary was born in Ranfurly. She was Harry's wife for 58 years. They shared a faith and commitment to the community. In his tribute, her son David described her as "strong-willed, spirited and always ready to help" and gave ample illustration of her life of service to family and church and many community groups.

Despite her Irish background, Mary was, in the words of the Clan Cameron history, "always a strong, behind-the-scenes supporter of Clan Cameron" and knew how to make a good haggis. They hosted many branch meetings and functions at their large home in Albert St, just across from the Bowling Club, also the scene of many clan functions.

Mary, we appreciate your straightforwardness, your common sense, your staunchness and your underlying kindness and thoughtfulness. We miss you.

Christmas Greetings from Lochiel

As 2015 draws to a close, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and hope that 2016 brings you peace, happiness and prosperity.

It has been a year of great activity at Achnacarry - we have five Hydro schemes nearing completion. Three of them are along the North side of Loch Arkaig, one is above the Caig Falls and the fifth is in the river Arkaig using Archimedes screws. We are minimal investors in three of them and take a rent from all of them which means that the viability of the Estate will be transformed. This is very exciting and bodes well for the future and as my son was the main 'driver' for this, I am very grateful to him. We have also installed a biomass boiler at the house using wood chips which we will shortly produce ourselves, meaning minimal cost of heating and a constantly warm house ! Also, we are felling large blocks of commercial timber which we will replant in an environmentally friendly way with much natural regeneration. All this is being supervised by our new Estate manager, Astie Cameron, who is also the clan piper and who spent time in New Zealand on the First Light programme – many of you will remember him. It is a great benefit to have him on board as he is both local and very knowledgeable about Estate matters.

My family is very well and Cecil and I have six grandchildren who keep us young and busy. Catherine (Trotter) and Donald both live in the Borders of Scotland and



Lucy (Maundrell) and Emily live in London. We see them a lot and they are a constant joy to us.

I am hugely grateful to those of you who keep the spirit of the Clan alive in New Zealand and I recognise that it is hard work requiring both dedication and time. We are not a big Clan but we have certainly 'punched above our weight' throughout history and it is wonderful that the Chief has clansfolk who are interested enough in their roots to keep the flame burning bright.

With very best wishes

Lochiel

Achnacarry is a scene of much activity. Many lorries, low loaders, cement mixers and white vans going up and down the road; in addition, wood is being taken out as the forestry is felled. Hydro power has arrived at Achnacarry! 3 hydro schemes are being installed on the north side of Loch Arkaig, a major scheme above the Caig Falls, and an Archimedes screw in the River Arkaig.

It is calculated that altogether these installations will generate about 6.5 megawatts, which will power up to 5,000 households - rather more than the Braes population. All this electricity is being sent from Achnacarry to the Grid and this means that the existing overhead power line is inadequate; hence more work in replacing the power line with something up to the job of carrying all the 6.5 megawatt's out.

In fact, whilst the replacement is being erected Gairloch and Achnacarry are being powered by huge generators at the roadside. The work is also responsible for the hold-ups that may occur as part of the felling operation at Gairloch, and the closure of the Loch Arkaig side road for a month whilst the cable is undergrounded up the glen.



Works above Caig Falls from a distance

Achnacarry, Power House of the Braes?



Caig Falls.



Generator at Achnacarry

With thanks to 'The Braes of Lochaber' - Ed

By Editor. We send condolences to Astie, mentioned by Lochiel above, on the death of his mother Isobel.

Astie Cameron was the first First Lighter, coming to NZ in 2000. An environmental scientist and experienced piper, Astie worked with a water treatment company whilst in New Zealand.

Astie managed to collect a range of old and new pipe tunes on his travels for a clan pipe tunes book. Climbing some of the New Zealand's highest peaks en route, he even managed to play a pipe tune or two on the summits.

Astie is now the Estate Manager at Achnacarry.

007 - A Cameron connection

by Bill Cameron

After watching the latest action packed James Bond film *Spectre* last week. My thoughts turned to a small gold object that had been lying at the back of a drawer at home for many years with strong connections to 007.



In the early nineteen sixties, special agent 007, aka Sean Connery, director Cubby Broccoli and a large film crew arrived in rural Argyllshire to film the final scenes for *From Russia with Love*.

My late father, Alexander Cameron, was helping some friends run a small hotel in rural Argyllshire at this time where many of the crew were staying during filming. After long days out on

location, the actors and crew would return to the hotel in the evening for food and drinks.

Over a number of evenings, my father talked with the film's director, Cubby Broccoli, as he paid for drinks at



the bar. It was during this time that he would take out an unusual gold money clip from his pocket with a discreet pencil with which he made occasional notes. My father had apparently complimented Cubby on this unique money clip during his stay at the hotel.

With the final boat chase filmed on nearby Loch Craignish, the actors and crew finished filming in 1962 and *From Russia with Love* was released in 1963.

A number of months after *From Russia with Love* was released in cinemas across the world, a small box arrived by the post from overseas. Inside it was a note from Cubby Broccoli and a gold money clip, the same as he had used at the hotel.

On one side of the clip are my fathers initials A.C, and on the other side an



inscription that reads 'With regards, Cubby'. A discreet retractable pencil with its original graphite is also housed within the barrel of the clip.

Watching the final credits roll in the latest Bond film, *Spectre*, I noticed that Cubby's daughter, Barbara Broccoli, was the films producer. It brought a smile to my mind as I remembered the small gold money clip that her father had given my father many years before.

Sea Eagle at Achnacarry with thanks to 'The Braes of Lochaber'

The white-tailed or sea eagle, the largest of the UK's birds of prey, has had a chequered history. In the 19th century, over 100 eyries were known in Britain, with birds breeding throughout the country. However, following prolonged persecution during that century, the sea eagle became extinct in the UK, with the last bird being shot in Shetland in 1916. For many years, the once familiar whitetailed eagle was seen no more on our shores.

Then, in 1975, there began a programme of re-introduction of the great birds back to Scotland. The young birds released were sourced from Norway and the first successful breeding was on Mull. From there, a self sustaining population has formed on the west coast of Scotland. In 2013, 79 pairs were numbered. They continue to spread their range with some pairs now on the Highland and Argyll mainland.

From one of these pairs was hatched Brahma, a young sea eagle with an incredible tale to tell. Brahma's parents had nested by Loch Arkaig on the Achnacarry Estate and it was here that the six week old chick was found in distress one day in June

by Lewis Pate, a conservation officer. Mr Pate immediately took the chick first by boat to Fort William, then to Inverness for help.

From there the distressed young bird was taken to the Scottish SPCA's National Wildlife Rescue Centre in Alloa. Here, Brahma, as he was now named, underwent a successful operation to remove fishing hooks that he was found to have swallowed while feeding on a fish. His rescuer Lewis Pate said: "The fishing line was wrapped so tightly round the sea eagle's body that I almost didn't spot it at first. Thankfully, I was able to remove the external line but because he had also ingested hooks, I had to remove him from his nest to get help. He would undoubtedly have died a very slow and horrible death otherwise."

Colin Seddon, manager of the Centre said: "Our vet Romain Pizzi did a heroic job and managed to remove the hooks using an endoscope." Mr Seddon urged fishing enthusiasts to clear up after themselves following this incident. "We would urge all anglers to consider the welfare of wildlife and clear away any lines and tackle after use



as this could save an animal's life."

Thankfully, there is a happy ending to this particular wildlife story as Brahma has recently been safely returned to his Loch Arkaig home. But the sea eagles face continual threats to their welfare, including indiscriminate use of poison, collisions with wind turbines and overhead wires, and environmental pollution leading to reduced breeding success.

Mr Pate said: "It is a privilege to be able to work with these birds in the wild and hopefully, with the ongoing work of the raptor study groups, we can continue to monitor and care for them as the population expands beyond 100 breeding pairs on Scotland."

Achnacarry Estate can be contacted for directions to a viewing hide on the opposite side of Loch Arkaig, where visitors have a chance to see Brahma and the other sea eagles

Two Cameron Soldiers of the First World War

by Mike Topham

John Donald Cameron

Born at Centre Island, Southland 6th January 1874, the son of William and Sarah Ann Cameron.

Although named John Donald – John being the name of his Grandfather, Corrychoillie - he was known to family and friends as Donald. Educated at the Marist Brother's College at Dunedin, he then entered the farming industry.



Donald enlisted with the Fifth New Zealand Contingent for service in the Anglo Boer War, leaving New Zealand on the "Waimate" 31st March 1900. Eleven months later, he was wounded and invalided back to New Zealand.

On recovering, Donald re-enlisted with the Ninth Contingent and returned to

South Africa, serving till the end of the war.

Returning to New Zealand he re-entered the farming industry, working for his brother-in-law Alexander J. Cameron in the Gisborne district, and managed Wai Station at Nuhaka.

In December 1914 he re-enlisted with the Otago Mounted Rifles, leaving New Zealand April 1915 for Suez, Egypt. In August he was moved to the Dardenelles. Wounded a month later, Donald recuperated at Chelsea Hospital, London. On discharge from Hospital he undertook Officer training and was promoted to Second Lieutenant.

On 10th March 1917 at St. John's Church, Chelsea, Donald married Violette Ann Ellwood, the nurse who had tended to him during his convalescence at Chelsea Hospital.

He was despatched to France in May 1917, with the New Zealand Pioneer Battalion.

At Ypres, near Passchendale - on the 7th August 1917, Donald and his unit came under heavy fire whilst out wiring entanglements in an area the New Zealander's had taken from the Germans. That night he was killed along with three other members of the Pioneer Battalion. He was buried at the Underhill Farm Military Cemetery at Ploegsteert, Belgium.

After the War, his widow Violette came to New Zealand on an extended visit to meet Donald's family. During that visit Violette stayed with Donald's sisters May and Collina in the Gisborne area. Donald Cameron was the Great Uncle of Gisborne members Kay Orchiston, Alec and David Cameron.

Hector Cameron

Hector Cameron was born at Rafford, Elginshire, Scotland 18th July 1884.

He served eight years with the Seaforth Highlanders, spending six months at the Northwest frontier of India and was awarded the India General Service medal in 1908.

Around 1910 he emigrated to New Zealand and joined the New Zealand Correction Service.

In August 1914 he enlisted with the New Zealand Army and in October sailed for Egypt with the Auckland Infantry. On 28 February 1917, in England, he was discharged from the New Zealand Army

with the rank of Company Sergeant Major. He then attended an Officer's training course at Oxford, England, then joined the York and Lancaster Regiment, British Army, with the rank of Second Lieutenant and served on the Western Front.

A report in The Auckland Weekly News on the 20th June 1918 reads:-

"Lieutenant Hector Cameron, York and Lancaster Regiment, killed in action on 21st March 1918"

In November 1918 he was found alive, but severely wounded, in a German Prisoner of War Hospital.

On recovering from his injuries he returned to New Zealand and was again employed by the Correction Service. He worked at several prisons and in 1938 he transferred to the Napier Jail where he was employed until his retirement.

Hector Cameron died at Napier on 7th November 1957. His death notice in the Napier newspaper records that he was the recipient of the Military Medal with the army rank of Captain.

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Criomagán (Odds & Ends) by the Editor

The Website and Facebook (Reprinted)

The website will stay out of action for now. If anyone is interested in designing a new one page CC website please contact Tanya or Warren (contact details page 2).

The editor has put all the newsletters he has edited (from June 2005) on dropbox, and these have now been loaded by Tanya onto the Clan Cameron facebook page

The link that will take you to facebook, whether you are a facebook user or not, is shown on the left. A presentation on Facebook and Dropbox will be given at the next AGM in Hawera.

The Kaiwarra Camerons

Marc Ulyatt is a member of the Bay of Plenty Branch and gave a very interesting talk on the *Blenheim* at the Auckland dinner.

Because of interest sparked by the Blenheim celebrations this year, a reprinting of the book *The Kaiwarra Camerons* by Marc Ulyatt is being planned. The price will be less than \$30. Would anyone interested in purchasing a copy please contact Marc at: (07) 548 2474, or marc.ulyatt@ihug.co.nz

Jonah Lomu

The country was saddened by Jonah's premature death. Below is a photo showing him with David and Karen Cameron two years ago.



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The Ben Nevis Race

In 1895 when William Swan, a Fort William barber, set off on the first recorded timed ascent and descent of Britain's tallest mountain he could not have envisaged the modern day Ben Nevis Race which now has a field of 600 runners accepting a challenge which is not for the unfit or faint-hearted.

In the late 19th. and early 20th. centuries a number of races were organised on an ad hoc basis. However it was not until 1951 that the Ben Nevis Race Association was founded with the intention of formalising arrangements for an annual race. Since that first field of 21 runners, the race has grown beyond all recognition and it has been run every year since with the exception of 1980. That year the elements won and, with competitors on the start line, a last minute decision was made to cancel the race for the safety of the runners and officials on the mountain.

Safety of all is paramount for the organisers and the Ben Race should not be treated as a 'fun-run' and therefore entrants have to be experienced hill runners. The BNRA liaises closely with Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team and we are grateful for their and our own volunteer marshals' vital assistance on race day.

The record times for both men and women have stood since 1984 when Kenny Stuart and Pauline Stuart (nee Haworth) respectively recorded 1h 25m 34s and 1h 43m 25s. In 1989 Kenny ran the Houston Marathon in a then world class time of 2h 11m 36s thus creating a benchmark by which mountain running times and the Ben Race record, in particular, can be judged. It is fair to say that hill/fell running champions are worthy of the respect afforded to top Olympic athletes.

The Ben Race has been variously described with superlatives – oldest race, toughest race, most iconic race, the supreme test of fitness etc. – and whilst these claims are open to challenge, the Ben Nevis Race Association will always defend its status as a very special event. However this is not necessary as runners testify to this on our behalf as evidenced by their remarks on this page.

The Ben exercises a hold over runners and during the winter month they forget the pain and the strain of the first Saturday in September. Thoughts turn to getting another 'Ben' under their belts, especially for those nearing 21 completed runs

and a coveted Connachie Plaque. Today the race, which is limited to 600 runners for safety reasons, can be oversubscribed within two days of the entry forms going live in late January.



Bill running the Ben Nevis race



Bill Cameron with Kathleen Macpherson, the first lady to run in the Ben race, and Bill's mother

With thanks to the Ben Nevis Race website and Bill Cameron.

The Auckland Marathon....



Clan Cameron members and strong supporters of the clan in Auckland, Duncan, Matthew, Andrew and Jean McQueen. Matthew and Andrew had just completed the full marathon and Duncan the half marathon.

The Kilted Mile....



At the Hororata Highland Games. David Cameron said the kilted mile had a twist and wasn't as easy as it sounds. They also had to eat shortbread, drink Irn Bru, then eat a pie.

Ancient Monument Revealed

By Rita Campbell

The ruins of a mediaeval Highland castle are once again accessible and attractive thanks to the work of local volunteers.

The castle at Torcastle near Banavie, which is designated a scheduled monument, is set on a prominent knoll overlooking the River Lochy. Until recently it had been hidden within an overgrown jungle.

But following approval from Historic Environment Scotland, Lochaber Archaeological Society undertook the necessary work to safeguard and make visible what remains of the mediaeval tower house.

Originally the property of the Clan Chattan, the castle came into the possession of the MacIntoshes in the late 13th century but was later occupied by the Camerons and probably

remained the seat of the chiefs until the 17th Cameron built his residence at Achnacarry in the mid 1600s.

Following receipt of a Monument Management grant provided by Historic Environment Scotland and under the guidance AOC Archaeology, work was undertaken to clear the castle ruins of the vegetation that was impacting on the long term survival of the site and masking the visibility of the monument.

Members of the society spent many days this autumn clearing extensive rhododendron and other small shrubs by the ruins, which are located at the end of a popular footpath at Torcastle. They can now be more easily located and accessed by casual visitors.

Nicola Hall, senior heritage management officer for Historic Environment Scotland, said "I would like to congratulate the Lochaber Archaeology Society for a job well done".

With thanks to The Press and Journal

By Bill Cameron:

Above is something on the recent archaeological work that has taken place up at Torcastle, which as you know was a stronghold of the Clan Cameron for many years. Alongside the remains of Torcastle is Banquou's Walk. Again you'll know of the connections with Banquou as featured in Shakespeare's Scottish play. Below is a short extract from the book by Mary Miers relating to Banquou's Walk

"Banquou's Walk. A secret beech avenue running through a strip of woodland between the canal and river - of unclear origin and date, although it appears to have been a ceremonial approach towards

the old castle. (Banquo is alleged to have stayed at Torr a' Chaisteil in the 1030s, one version of the Cameron's ancestral history being that they descend from his sister, Marion). But this distinctive ride is perhaps more plausibly the fruit of improvements made by the Gentle Lochiel to his house and estate in the 1730s. Its axis is interrupted by policies and structures associated with an early 19th-century house built for the factor - also called Torcastle, latterly a hotel. Burnt down in 1950, its ruins are incorporated into a modern bungalow."

Taken from "Western Seaboard: An Illustrated Architectural Guide", by Mary Miers, 2008. Published by the Rutland Press <http://www.rias.org.uk>

St. Ciaran's, Achnacarry.

With thanks to The Braes of Lochaber (abridged)

In the church, there are memorial plaques to those men of Achnacarry who took part in both world wars. They are unusual, as memorials normally commemorate the dead, whilst these record the names of those who took part. Of the 29 who served in the First World War, 17 died; of the 17 who served twenty years later - one of which was a woman - only one was killed.

Without detailed research, little information is available locally about 22 of the combatants, all of whom worked on the estate at the beginning of the war; the exceptions are Allan Kennedy who was the son of the blacksmith and skipper of the steam yacht, *The Rifle*, and Benjamin and Donald Sutherland from Kingie. The Sutherlands, who were both casualties, were great uncles of Ian Sutherland, Inverroy, and the name of one of them, Benjamin, is inscribed on the war memorial at Banavie. The other four were Lochiel and his three brothers, Ewen, Allan and Archie.

Lochiel - Donald Walter Cameron - had been wounded during the Boer War whilst serving in the Grenadier Guards and, having been appointed to command the 3rd Bn, the Cameron Highlanders, in 1912, was asked by Kitchener in 1914 to raise a new battalion. So successful was his appeal to clansmen and others who could show a 'Highland descent or connection', that the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Battalions were formed, and it is likely that most of those listed served in one of these. They were engaged in every major battle of the war after 1915 and at the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915, suffered heavy casualties. Lochiel was again severely wounded - his brother Allan had been killed in action a year earlier, in September 1914, and another

brother, Archie, died in May 1917.

The memorial to those in the armed forces during the Second World War is inside the porch and lists the names of 16 men and 1 woman, all from the estate.

Family connections run deep on an estate like Achnacarry and several of the names on the Second World War memorial are still familiar to many living locally; some of those who served in the forces or members of their family worked on the estate for many years after hostilities ended.

These names include Lt. Col. Donald Hamish Cameron, Major Charles Cameron, and Capt. Allan Cameron, all sons of Donald Walter Cameron of Lochiel.



St. Ciarans Church, the Achnacarry Estate Church

Photo by Lorraine Cameron

On 27 December 1840 the barque *Blenheim* arrived in Wellington Harbour with over 200 Scottish settlers and landed them at Kaiwharawhara. They founded the “Scotch Village” of “Kaiwarra”; built the roads from Wellington to Petone and Porirua; and brought their traditions and culture to a new land.

Picnic at Kaiwharawhara

To celebrate the 175th anniversary of the arrival there is going to be a picnic on 27 December 2015 at Onslow College, Johnsonville. All are welcome: entry is free. People are invited to bring their picnic, wear their tartan, enjoy Scottish dancing and music, join in traditional children’s games, and view the displays.

There will also be an opportunity to sign a petition calling for a memorial to the Scottish settlers to be installed at Kaiwharawhara as part of the Wellington to Hutt Valley Walking and Cycling Link.

The related website is at www.blenheim175.wordpress.com and the Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/Blenheim175>. Eventfinda at <http://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2015/blenheim-175th-anniversary-kaiwharawhara-picnic/wellington>

For further information contact:

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Arrival in Wellington - from Jessie Campbell's Diary

On board the barque *Blenheim*. Sunday 27th December 1840

A beautiful mild morning, just as Capt. Gray expected. The wind went down and changed in our favour about 2 this morning. The Capt. is in rather a dilemma about finding out the harbour; there is no proper chart of it published, he is not sure which of the bays it may be. Very stupid of the company not to have some signal to show the proper entrance. Went up on deck after breakfast, we were off the bay though most likely to be the proper entrance. To make sure the Capt. lowered a boat with six hands they were to make a signal if they found it to be the right place; besides this we had five cannon fired with the hope of bringing a pilot to our assistance.

Before the boat had gone any distance from the ship Some Island and Wards Island were discovered from the masthead which made the Capt. so sure he had at last found out the proper place that he made sail into the bay. You may fancy the state of excitement we were all in, the children calling out everything they saw or imagined they saw; Louisa even saying she heard the New Zealanders speaking. At length a ship was seen at anchor which was the first sign we had of being near Wellington

The town consists of a number of small houses some wooden and some thatched, both on the sea beach and a few on an elevated plain behind. We were much disappointed at the wild appearance the country presented. The bay is so very extensive it would contain the British navy and more and surrounded on every side by hills wooded to the top. The climate would be delightful but for the high winds that prevail. I am told a very short way inland the weather is much milder that you would scarcely feel a breath of air when blowing a hard gale in the harbour. We counted 12 ships of all sizes at anchor before the town.

The moment one anchor was out a number of boats came off the shore to us. Some of the gentlemen were very superior in appearance and manner to what I expected to see. We were much disappointed to find that the Surveying Department had been slow in its operations. There was no chance of getting our sections for some time, even those who came in the *Royal Merchant* have not been

The Blenheim pioneers made an important contribution to the establishment of Wellington after 1840. Most critically, they were the workforce that built roads to the Hutt Valley and to Porirua that we now regard as the City’s lifelines.

For most of the 1840s, the emigrants lived with the Ngati Tama people who then occupied a kainga at Kaiwharawhara. Some, such as John Mackenzie who spent his teenage years at Kaiwharawhara, became so fluent in Te Reo that he was later engaged as a government interpreter.

Culturally, they brought with them much that we now take for granted as part of the fusion of Scottish Highland and Kiwi culture. The first set of bagpipes was carried on the Blenheim: still in working order and held in private hands. In 1848, the Blenheim “Scotch” as they were called staged the very first Highland Games to be held on these shores, replanting a tradition of Scottish associationalism that endures to this day.

The pioneers made significant economic, cultural, social, and civic contributions to the fledgling settlement at Port Nicholson, and to the lower North Island where many eventually settled land. Perhaps the feature that is least recognised today is that Kaiwharawhara was the site of the first settlement of Scots in New Zealand, 8 years before Dunedin and 14 before Waipu.

A total of 203 emigrants landed in Wellington, 20 cabin passengers and 183 steerage passengers, after a voyage of 124 days. Most of the passengers came from the Highlands and Islands of Northern Argyll and Western Inverness, but with a large group from Paisley, near Glasgow, who joined the party at the last moment when numbers of Highlanders pulled out.

provided with theirs. Our land will be 80 miles from Wellington at Wanganui. To make up for this we are told, by all who have seen it, that that part of the country is more level and much easier cleared. Indeed the fine harbour at Port Nicholson is all it has to recommend it. Up the River Hutt about 8 miles from Wellington there is very fine land but heavily timbered and of course there is always a demand for everything - it will pay the expense well. Some of the natives came on board dressed in European clothes. As I have brought the ship to an anchor I will close my journal.

Our proceedings from the 27th I will give you in a letter which I will dispatch by the first ship which sails and I hope that you will receive long before this comes to hand, as I intend sending my journal home by Capt. Gray when he returns by Manilla and China. I hope it will afford you some amusement as I have been very particular in putting down everything as I knew nothing would be too trifling to interest you. I have enclosed for your amusement an invitation card I got for a Ball. Now that the voyage is over I must say I thought very little of it, and were it not for the severe trial we met with I think that I would have enjoyed it. To be sure we were most fortunate in weather, ship and Commander; to give you an idea how attentive Capt. Gray is from the Tuesday we entered Cook’s Straits till we anchored in Port Nicholson on Sunday he never went to bed; he is rather blunt in his manner, I always liked him and found him most attentive and kind, were it nothing more than the love he had for the dear little lamb who is no more I would always feel a deep interest in his welfare. Sometimes he and Mrs. Macdonald were rather sharp to each other, she always brought it on herself, I have heard her say very rude things to him; I never saw a woman with less common sense or less command of her temper. I will give you an instance of her rudeness. We have very fine English Ham for dinner so there would not be enough to go over all the cabin passengers at breakfast; next morning there were only a few slices put down for the ladies. Donald, who is very fond of good things spied the ham and then asked for some: Capt. Gray said there was none for him, his wife called out “O yes Donald, there was some ham but I suppose Capt. Gray wishes to keep it for himself”. From my sitting next to Capt. Gray I had an opportunity of seeing that he would be the last man to do anything of the kind.

And now my dear Mother and Sister I will bid you goodbye and may God bless you.

Jessie





Aonaibh ri Cheile The Back Page



Parading the Haggis at Tauranga. David Cameron, Rex Cameron, Karen Carmichael, Paul Anderson and Blair Gardiner. Photo: Denis Cameron



Photos: Nick Cameron

The Cameron tent in a prime position at the Hororata Games. Left: New member Tyronne Martin. (Note the Cameron tattoo)



Above: Nick and Julie Camerons' daughter Rowan and grandson Evan.



Shane East, Nick Cameron and young piper Reuben McDonnell at the Hawke's Bay Highland Games. Photo: Helen Shaw



Left: Rebecca Cameron, wife of the Rev. Bryan Haggitt with daughter Katie.

Photos: Nick Cameron and Bryan Haggitt



New Auckland members Bruce and Lynn Cameron with children Miller and Elizabeth. Photo: Ed.



The skirl of the pipes, clan tents in profusion, Highland sports, good companionship and rain! No, not Scotland but the **Auckland Highland Games**. Left: Peter and Cressida Cameron. Centre: A few of the hardy clansfolk who marched. Right: True Faithfuls, Don and Valmar Cameron. Photos: Ed.



At the Turakina Kirkin o' the Tartan. Ewen Grant carries the bible from the church, followed by the Rev. Peill and Nancy Rhodes



Alisa Stewart displays the tartan



Nancy Rhodes reads a lesson

With thanks to TERRY STILLMAN/COMMUNITY IMAGES for the three photos above