



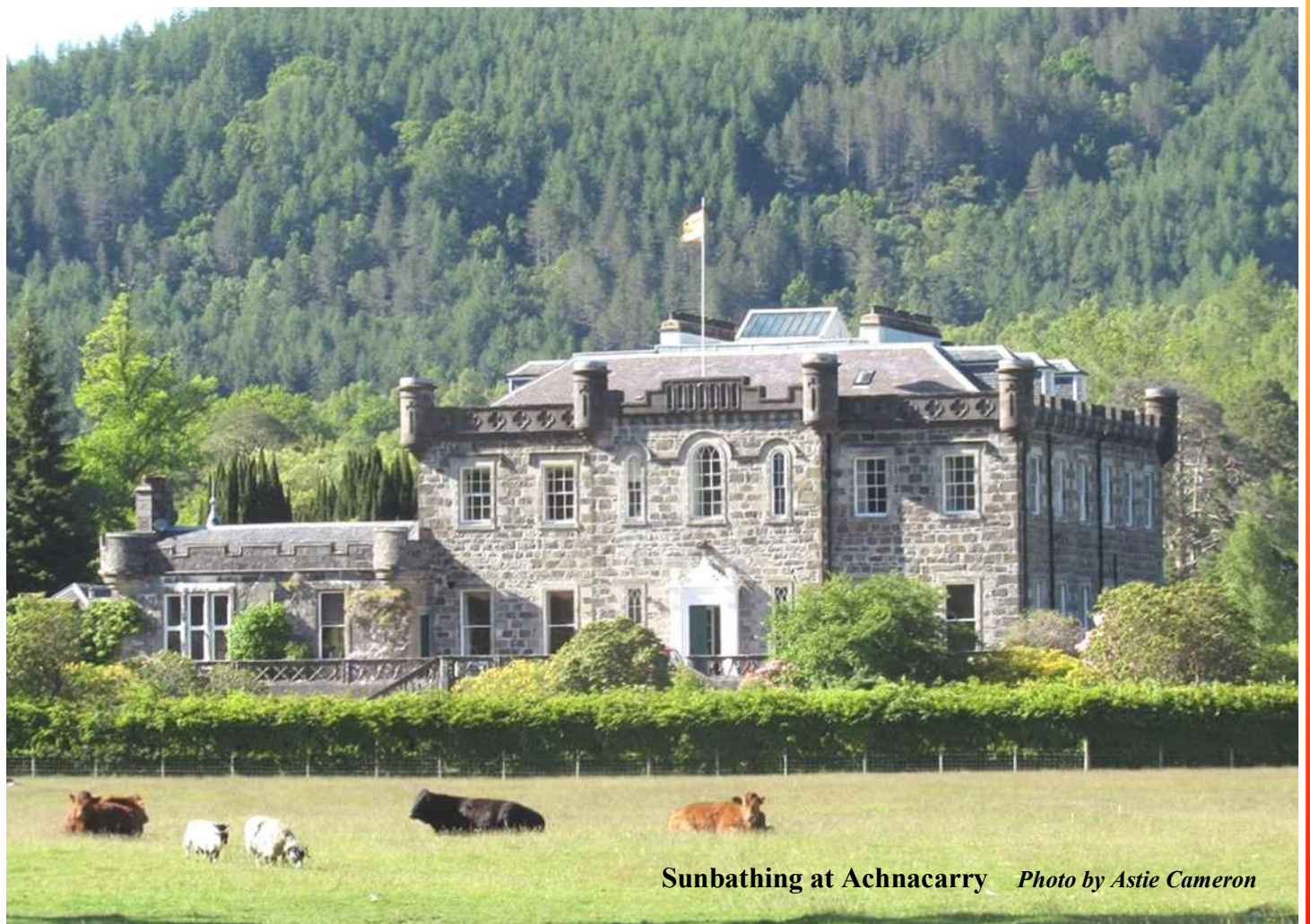
Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

Vol 50 No 4
August
2016

Bràigh Loch Iall (The Braes of Loch Eil)

Photo by Bill Cameron



Sunbathing at Achnacarry *Photo by Astie Cameron*

“Cameron”

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

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Clan Cameron New Zealand website
Coming soon - Watch this space
Use Clan Cameron facebook page in the interim

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

A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

Our local Clan Cameron Canterbury branch this year teamed up with the Scottish Heritage Council Canterbury to organize a tartan day lunch which was held at the Hotel Ashburton, Racecourse Road, Ashburton on Sunday 3 July. The address to the haggis was given very ably by Ross Fraser who is well known to the “Scottish” Cantabrians. Ross is also a prime organizer behind the scenes for the local Scottish Society which have their much restored hall following the earthquake on Caledonian Road, central Christchurch. The local Ashburton Museum Archivist, Kathleen Stringer spoke on “Victorian Underwear”. I think some of the younger members were a little shocked to hear how infrequently the Victorians changed their underwear. Queen Victoria was apparently heard to remark that bathing should only be undergone on birthdays and Christmas. Quite a number of clans were represented and Clan Cameron did a great job along with the help of the Donald sisters organizing the afternoon. Particular thanks should go to Colin our Canterbury branch President and Rae Magson and Pat Tarbotton. It was a great afternoon.

On the 30th July Julie and I are looking forward to attending the Clan Cameron Manawatu branch mid winter dinner event to be held at the Coachman Hotel in Palmerston North, followed by a mid winter dinner event in Parnell organized by the Auckland branch of Clan Cameron the following weekend. We intend to make our way up to Auckland from Palmerston North by rental car and will catch up with relatives on the way up. We have pre-warned my Uncle John Cameron (whose cooking prowess is well known) to be ready for us!!.

Now that the Piobaireachd Society have released the tunes for the 2016-17 season I was interested to learn one of these tunes in particular as it concerned a naval wreckage just outside Stornoway. I was interested because my own grandfather Lt. Finlay Cameron served in WW1 and was born in Stornoway – the main and port town on the Isle of Lewis. The tune was written by a resident of Stornoway Pipe Major Donald MacLeod M.B.E. and is an absolutely stunning and haunting piece of music. The tune is called the “Lament for the Iolaire”. It concerns the ship the Iolaire sailing home to Lewis with returning service men from WW1 after 4 years away at war. The Iolaire hit rocks at 2 am only 20 yards or so from shore and because many of the 284 men were dressed in full military uniform and because many had never learnt to swim, at least 200 men drowned in very rough seas. As the men onboard slowly drowned one man, John Macleod, swam for his life hauling a rope behind him. When he reached shore he set up another stronger rope, and 25 men escaped along this safety line. John Macleod was awarded the highest peacetime award for heroism for his incredible courage and strength.

If you are interested - this article is related in: <http://www.scotsman.com/heritage/people-places/the-iolaire-disaster-where-200-men-died-yards-from-shore-1-465122#ixzz4EcLm9EH1>

In reviewing the information on the Iolaire I could find no Camerons who drowned (perhaps they could swim) but I did note the death of seven Campbells. No doubt with this comment I could be challenged to a swimming competition by my brother-in-law Ross Campbell (married to my sister Fiona). Well perhaps I had better start training.

Best wishes.

Nick.



How do you pronounce our
Clan motto?

“Aonaibh ri Cheile”

[Uhniv ree Hail]



Next Magazine Deadline is 15 September



Welcome to the following Member who has recently joined us:

Canterbury: Glen Cameron Christchurch

Ceud M'le Fàilte
One Hundred
Thousand Welcomes

The Tragedy of HMS Iolaire

By the Editor

I intended to write about the Iolaire in this issue after reading Peter May's novel *The Chessmen* from *The Lewis Trilogy* which mentions the incident. I was interested as I believe my ancestors came from the Hebrides, not from Lewis, but from nearby North Uist. I believe my father's great grandfather married a MacDonald of North Uist.

Nick has talked about the tragedy in his report so I will just add a little to that. Nick reports that 7 Campbells were lost but there were also 28 MacDonalds and 41 MacLeods. It is estimated that 205 lives, mostly from Lewis but some from Harris, were lost, but 79 were saved. In the close knit communities of Lewis and Harris, the calamity affected every family, and had long lasting effects, including contributing to the mass emigration from the islands after the First World War. It was devastating after the dis-proportionate high losses of Lewismen in the war, especially now the war was over and they were coming home.

It was 31 December 1918, and a large number of military and war workers from the Clyde, were assembled at Kyle of Lochalsh to catch the ferry home to Stornoway, after arriving by two special trains. Most of the military had been demobbed but a large number were sailors who were engaged in mine clearance and had been given leave to get home for the Hogmanay festivities. Many had stood duty over Christmas to allow their English mates to get home for their traditional Christmas - now it was their turn.

The ferry *Sheila*, which plied the 100 mile run from Kyle to Stornoway, could not cope with the numbers and HMS *Iolaire*, a commandeered former luxury yacht used for patrol

and anti-submarine duties, was pressed into service.

Some 500 soldiers and civilians were embarked in the *Sheila* and about 285, mostly Naval volunteers, (many Lewis fishermen served in the Royal Navy) were crammed into the Naval vessel. The *Iolaire* left port at 7.30pm. into deteriorating winter weather conditions, with the *Sheila* following soon after.

Grossly overloaded, with lifesaving capacity for only 80, the *Iolaire*, probably due to unfamiliarity with the route at night and confusion over lights, struck rocks, known as the Beasts of Holm, very close to the safe channel, just before 2 am on New Year's Day.

The lights of Stornoway were visible through the sleet when the ship struck. Large crowds had gathered on the pier to welcome their menfolk

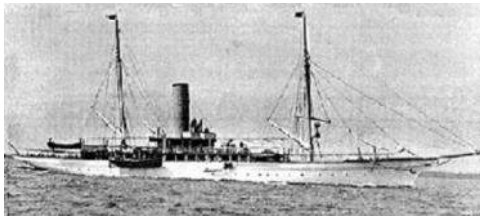
home. Many had not seen their loved ones since the war began. A day that should have been full of joy turned into a day of mourning. The tragedy was to leave 58 widows and 209 fatherless children.

The large loss of life may be attributed to the shortage of life belts and life rafts, that the men were wearing heavy clothing and boots, many could not swim, and the ship, after a boiler explosion, quickly slipped off the rocks and sank.

Although no ship's officers survived, a public enquiry with a local jury, blamed navigation error and ruled out the popular supposition that drink had been a factor.

The close knit community drew a veil of silence over the incident and it was 40 years before people started talking about it and built a memorial.

In May 2013, Alex Salmond, then First Minister of Scotland, announced that Jan 1 2019, 100 years after the disaster, would be one of 8 commemorative days to be observed in Scotland for the WW1 Centenary.



Coming Events:

(See facebook page for details and for other events)

Saturday 6 August 2016

Auckland Branch Mid-Winter Dinner

at the Quality Hotel, Parnell.

6pm for 6.30.

Price will be \$60 per person. This includes mulled wine on arrival.

Last year's dinner is still being talked about. This year we hope it will be even better. Kintail House will be in attendance with Cameron items for sale.

Please let Neil know if you are coming.

Saturday 19 November 2016

Auckland Highland Games

Monday 2 January 2017

Waipu Highland Games

(Held on the Monday when New Year's Day falls on a Sunday)

Vale

It is with much sadness we report the passing of Elizabeth "Bett" Marguerite Walls 1927 – 2016 Bett, the loved mother of Sue and Ian, passed away at Havelock North on 12th July 2016.

An enthusiastic, committed, foundation member of Hawke's Bay Branch, Bett was fiercely proud of her Scottish ancestry.

Bett's Great Grandmother Annie Cameron came to New Zealand on the *Blenheim* in 1840 with her parents Donald "The Weaver" Cameron and Christina McLean. Annie Cameron married James McDonnell at Kaiwharawhara in 1849 and they farmed at "Inverhoe", Parewanui, in the Lower Rangitikei.

- Mike Topham



We wish Lochiel a

Very Happy Birthday

Lochiel will be 70 on August 2nd

From the Branches...

The views expressed in these reports are those of the writers. Some have been lightly edited.

Auckland by Norman Cameron

The Branch has been very active over the last two months, starting with a luncheon at Devonport. This was organised by our Secretary Elaine Ebbett. Bryan & Jenny Haggitt, Neil Cameron, Heather Cameron, Elizabeth Hartley and myself plus four other guests attended.



On Queen's Birthday week-end David Weston, the new Clan Genealogist, came up to Auckland from Wanganui to collect the Clan files from Fiona Cameron, the retiring genealogist. On the Saturday evening David Weston was invited to a dinner put on by Jenny & Bryan Haggitt, I was unable to attend but the Clan was well represented by Don Cameron and his daughter Fiona.

On Sunday the 26th of June Bryan & Jenny Haggitt, Heather Cameron and myself attended the Kirkin' O' the Tartan at St Andrew's Church, Symond Street. The following Clans had banners, Macleod, Donald, Stewart, Davidson, McPhee and Cameron. Clan Davidson organised the service and the Haggis served at the morning tea.

I wish to thank Bryan Haggitt for representing Clan Cameron at the special general meeting of the Scottish Clans Association of Auckland where all the administration problems were settled and Trevor Stewart can carry on being President.

The Auckland Branch of Clan Cameron are holding their annual Winter Dinner on the 6th of August starting 6pm for 6.30pm with a glass of mulled wine. Nick Cameron National President of Clan Cameron will be the guest speaker. The dinner is to be held in the Quality Hotel (ex Barry Court) 10-20 Gladstone Road, Parnell.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

I am proud to present my first report as President of the Bay of Plenty Branch of Clan Cameron. We had our AGM in June at Denis and Joy Cameron's home with all positions being retained except the Presidengy, as Denis Cameron decided to step down from that and leave this position open. Denis has been part of Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty, and indeed nationally, for quite a while now. He has held the position of National President and Commissioner, National Secretary and BOP Branch President over that time. Denis still retains several positions within the branch including Genealogist. Joy has retained the position of Treasurer for the branch and Denis and Joy have confirmed they will continue to host the meetings at their house in Papamoa in the future.



Our membership remains relatively static at the moment, and as I get to know the ropes and work with the keen Branch members we have, I hope to help increase our numbers. As part of my new role, I would like to get to know our members and how they fit together as families of Cameron's and together as our branch. At the AGM we remembered Phil Renner.

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of Philip Renner a long standing member and a very supportive

member of the BOP Clan Cameron. Phil was in his 88th year and together with his wife Helen were involved in Clan Cameron activities in Gisborne before retiring in Tauranga. We will miss Phil's cheerful and positive personality and the wise words he always had on hand to share.

Although I am sure there are many future items of interest we will unearth when going through our past records, and this point in time, the role is new and untried for me and I hope to draw on the strengths of Uncle Fraser Cameron, Denis Cameron, Harold Cameron, our secretary Pat Cameron and our other Branch members and my own relations to continue to grow this branch and educate the families in their heritage.

Dad belonged to Clan Cameron from 1991 until his death in 2002, from records we have found, and then the subscription passed to me.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

For several years Ashburton members of Clan Cameron Canterbury have travelled up to Christchurch early in July for a Tartan Day luncheon. This year, for a change, we decided to offer to host a luncheon here at the Hotel Ashburton. This proved to a popular decision and invitations were sent out to Scottish Heritage Council, Ashburton County Scottish Society and several Camerons in the local phone book. This resulted in 38 people wishing to come to the luncheon, we were happy with that. Two locals with Cameron connections, who had not been seen at our events before, attended.



The day dawned, we put up the Cameron banner to guide people into the right room, and of course sold them a raffle ticket or two! We then had the haggis ceremony piped in by our very own Nick Cameron. Ross Fraser (Scottish Heritage Council) addressed the haggis, and the Hotel Chef waved a large knife around. The whisky was shared with the audience. There was a short delay after that but it was filled with conversation and laughter, before the grace was said by our President Colin Cameron and the meals arrived. A roast meal, adequate for the occasion and the dessert afterwards was delicious.

Then the highlight of the day – an address on Victorian Underwear by our local Museum archivist, Kathleen Stringer. Her partner is a Cameron by the way. Wearing appropriate dress including a tartan hat she started off by telling us her address was about Victorian Underwear, therefore it would be short as Victorians wore nothing under their clothes. Kathleen told us that paisley was a forerunner of tartan, and told us much of the history. It seems people living near the sea had more blues and greens in their tartan, while highlanders had more earthy tones. Kathleen captivated the audience well with her dry sense of humour. It is generally thought that the Highlander originally put his plaid on by laying it out on the ground with a belt underneath, and pleating it until two aprons at either end remained. He lay down with the material about knee-height, folded over the aprons and fastened the belt. Then, he stood up and adjusted the rest of the plaid to suit his mood or the weather. When not used as a cloak, the upper part was pinned, but the sword arm would normally be left free. The belted plaid was a superb garment to wear while campaigning. Made of pure wool and closely woven, it was both strong and warm, and might easily be cast aside in battle. Centuries ago the hem of the garment was higher up the leg than it is today.

Kathleen was thanked for her address, thus concluding a very successful luncheon celebrating Tartan Day.

Gisborne by Mike Topham

Below is a photo of Ann McGregor Cameron and family taken in 1904. Ann was the widow of Donald McPherson, the oldest son of John Cameron of Corrychoillie.



Gisborne Branch now has only 14 members and seven of these descend from the people in this photo. In addition, three of Gisborne Branch foundation members are also related to people in the photo.

Elizabeth Trafford was the grandmother of Helen Renner and the late Vivienne McConnell, while David Cameron was the grandfather of the late Theresa Willock.

Tanya Cameron, the recently elected president of the BOP Branch, also descends from John Cameron of Corrychoillie via his son Ewen, who came to New Zealand in 1860 and farmed in the Gisborne district.

Corrychoillie was, in his day, Lochaber's most famous livestock dealer and had his own special blend of whisky produced by Henderson and Turnbull of Leith.



Ann Cameron with five of her ten children., Elizabeth Trafford, Alick, John, David and Margaret Robertson

Photo taken after funeral of Ann's son Charles Edward Stewart Cameron

Manawatu by Jessie Annabell

As winter closes in, our activity has been limited. We are preparing ourselves for the midwinter dinner on July 30th and no doubt we will be able to tell you about that in the next newsletter.



In the meantime, Bryan and John attended the local Scottish Society's Robbie Burns dinner on 25th June. It was a BYO affair, but the BYO, safe to say, was not wine – well-attended, with kilts galore.

Iar (Taranaki / Whanganui Area)

By Shona Wallace



Due to Neville having open heart surgery our AGM was delayed for a couple of months. However we finally made it on the 9th July. We held a lunch meeting at the Wallace home with a few stalwart attendees and some apologies. All officers were returned to office by general vote and reports given and accepted well.

One disturbing factor reported is that the Vivian Connell Banner was not passed on by Manawatu at the National AGM and we have not seen or heard from them since. So Iar Branch has not had the banner at all. Our treasurer is off to the Edinburgh Tattoo in August and we look forward to a report from him. We will meet again when he returns.

Otherwise we have had a very quiet winter with a few members not well and unable to meet. We wish them all good health and hope to see them in the Spring.

Wellington/Wairarapa by Rob Cameron

Clan Cameron Wellington/Wairarapa is preparing for the Annual Gathering to be held in Masterton on Saturday 8th April 2017. The committee have met and venues and accommodation arranged. The programme and registration form will be out, hopefully, in the December newsletter. We are planning to hold a social event later in the year as a get together and fund raiser. All members are hunkering down for the winter which has been rather late this year. The Wairarapa is still quite dry with only 35% of our normal rainfall up until now following last years 75% of our usual rainfall. Anyway best wishes to all fellow Clanspeople from our Branch



Congratulations to Rob.

Rob Cameron, President of the Wellington/Wairarapa Branch of Clan Cameron, has recently been appointed President of the Rotary Club of Masterton South. Rob has been a Rotarian for 6 years and has held office on the various committees Rotary has. During his year as President Rob would like to see his club be very supportive of local community groups and individuals, as well as holding a



number of social events for the enjoyment of members.

The induction of the new President at his Rotary Club this year was an inquisition by a quartet of self-proclaimed lawyers, who after hearing all of the terrible deeds Rob had done, including cattle rustling, cheating at golf, and running sub-standard educational programmes at Pitt Island School while he was Sole Charge Principal there, sentenced him to a one year appointment as President of their club. Rob accepted the sentence with enthusiasm and is looking forward to the next 12 months.



Memories of the 2005 International Gathering in Auckland



Opening Parade



Opening Parade



Sunday Cricket Match



Highland Dancing



Charles and Felicia meet other Camerons



Piped into the Church Service with Guard of Honour



Charles and Felicia with the Maori welcoming



Bill, Sarah and Harris

A Hot day! Ice creams very popular



Part of the large display area



Ceilidh



Committee



Some of the overseas Camerons

You are invited to the proposed Australian Gathering in 2018



Bay of Plenty Branch AGM

Left: Denis hands over Presidency to Tanya.

Right: Denis and Tanya with former Commissioner Harold Cameron.

Centre Photo:

Back Row: Denis Cameron, Tanya Cameron, Mary-Anne Cameron, Patricia Cameron, Helen Renner, Logan Cameron, Patricia Duncan, Janet Crafts, Hazel Cameron, Rex Cameron and Ray Crafts.

Front Row: David Cameron, Jean Barker, Joy Cameron, Betty Cameron and Harold Cameron.

Photos: Tanya Cameron and Ian Martin.



Photo: Bill Cameron

Beautiful traffic calming measures at Allt huic above Loch Arkaig



More of Bill Cameron's photos

Above: The statue to the unknown Highlander at Glenfinnan.

Left: Looking out on lovely Loch Linne from the walls of Fort William.

Right: Cruising on Loch Shiel.



photo: Astie Cameron

A recent aerial view of Achnacarry Castle



Bill Cameron recently visited the Savoy Chapel, resting place of Dr. Archie Cameron, a native of Lochaber and the last man to be killed for supporting the Jacobite cause. We hope to publish an article about Archie by Bill in our next issue.

Photographs by Bill Cameron



The St Kentigern Ceilidh

With a birthday cake to celebrate the occasion, Saint Kentigern held its 21st consecutive Ceilidh on Saturday night; an event that attracts members of our community, and beyond, to an evening of tradition, pageantry - and hilarity!

The Pipes & Drums first Ceilidh was set up and run in 1996 as fundraiser to help boost the band on its way to its first tour of Scotland the following year. According to Head of the Pipes & Drums, Mr Andrew Lightfoot, 'It would have been a one-off occasion but it was such a tremendous success that it was unstoppable.' It has remained an annual fixture ever since and is brought together by a team of Parents, Staff and Old Collegians who sponsor and coordinate the dance band, musicians, dancing and singing, as well as the prizes and auction items. At its heart, it is still a traditional community event which attracts grandparents, parents, friends, staff and students who all look forward to a great meal, entertainment, traditional Scottish country dancing and a good sing along.

While the annual Ceilidh has helped the band to travel to Scotland on five occasions, this year, the proceeds have a new focus. Following the success of the band's recent appearance in the 2016 Wellington Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, The Pipes and Drums have received an invitation from the Swiss Armed Forces to participate in the Basel Tattoo 2017!

The Basel Tattoo is presented annually in Switzerland. It takes place at the historical barracks in the heart of the city on the banks of the Rhine, and is recognised internationally as the second largest Tattoo in the world. In 2015 the event was staged to an audience of nearly 120,000. Being in the centre of Europe, spectators come not only from Switzerland but also from many other countries such as France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. It is an exceptional opportunity for our students to perform on the international stage and to be a part of something quite unique. If all goes according to plan the band will be able to travel to Europe via London to firstly take part in the Old Collegians' annual dinner there.

Despite the lure of an All Black test on the same night, there was a fantastic turnout for this year's Ceilidh with every seat spoken for. It was a pleasure to welcome the Boys' School Pipes and Drums to join with the College 2nd Band to open the evening.

MC, as always, for the evening was Head of Middle School, Mr Duncan McQueen who, with the help of an old-fashioned loud hailer, managed to inject some military precision to the chaos of a Grand March that that brought couples into fours, then eights and finally into lines of sixteen across Elliot Hall – in an amazingly smooth manoeuvre this year! We concluded that we have many guests who are willing to return and now know the routine!

When Wee Jock's Ceilidh Band struck up, few could resist the urge to take to the floor for the dancing. Guests quickly learnt that to prevent spending the evening tripping over their own feet, not to mention their partner's, they needed to listen out for instructions! It was fabulous to see our prefect team and fellow students, right down to the youngest from the Boys' School, joining in on the floor and seeming to thoroughly enjoy it all

Our drummers stepped to the front to give an amazing display of precision drumming before the haggis was paraded in. Year 13 student, James Milner gave his rendition of Robbie Burns 'Ode to the Haggis' before said haggis was put on the dinner table for all to try. Following dinner, Mr McQueen asked for a show of hands as to who had not added haggis to their dinner plate – then suggested they should be put on detention to write lines – 'I must eat haggis!'

During the evening, Lewis Hoggard, James Milner and William Eaddy each came forward to solo pipe and they were superb in their delivery as was Olivia Nobbs, the soloist who sang 'Hector the Hero.'

After much fun and laughter, the evening concluded with a spirited Auld Lang Syne. If laughter is a good measure of success, then the Ceilidh surely succeeded in providing an evening of fun-filled entertainment, mixed with a fine meal and a surprising amount of exercise!

We would like to sincerely thank all our parents and staff on the organising committee and especially to our students and supporters who performed on the night and assisted in the great success and smooth running of the event.

The Pipes and Drums would also like to express heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our sponsors who generously donated goods for auction and families and friends for their continued support of our Ceilidh!



Above: The Pipers from the Pipes and Drums perform.
Below: Well known members of Clan Cameron at the Ceilidh Duncan (MC) and Jean McQueen, Jenny and Bryan Haggitt.



By the Editor: Our thanks to St, Kentigern College for allowing us to re-print this article and use their photographs. We are grateful to the college who kindly made it's facilities available to us for our International Gathering in 2005 and continues to imbue into it's pupils a strong Christian and Scottish cultural tradition.

Moving the Clan Cameron Archives

by David Weston

Having been appointed the Clan Cameron New Zealand Genealogist/Historian the next step was to move the records down to Whanganui. The Clan Executive very kindly provided monetary support to help with this – I trust this did not go too much against our canny Scottish heritage. I was thus able to hire a van for a weekend. So after discussion with Fiona we agreed I would come up on Queen's Birthday weekend. This gave us time to discuss the records while I was up there, meet with some of our Auckland members and have Monday off to recover.

So on the Friday I set off. I must say travelling in a large empty van is not my preferred way of getting to Auckland, noisy and not the easiest to drive. Despite this there were no problems with a lovely sunny day with beautiful views of the mountains. I eventually arrived in Auckland late afternoon and headed to the Haggitt's home as they had kindly offered to put me up for the weekend. Fortunately I only took one wrong turning from the motorway to their home as manoeuvring a large van around city streets in the dark is not always easy.

The next day I headed over to Fiona's place to collect the records. She very kindly had them all boxed and ready to go and also went over what there was and how she had organised the computer files. As well she gave me the details of how to take over the email address. We then loaded up the van with boxes and card files. As the photo shows we covered the floor of the van so had plenty of room.

I gave thought to exploring the nearby Sylvia Park Shopping Complex but soon realised a holiday weekend was not a good time to do this, particularly if driving a vehicle which does not really fit into car sized parking spaces.

On the Saturday night my hosts and organised a get together for some of the Auckland Clan Cameron members over a meal so we had an interesting time enjoying good food and talk that evening. Interestingly we discovered that I have a family connection with Bryan Haggitt but not through our Cameron families, rather through Ralston ancestors who had moved from Scotland to Tasmania.

Sunday it was time to return to Whanganui. It was another fine day and luckily a loaded van does not make quite as much noise as an empty one and sticks a bit better to the road. I reached Taupo in time for lunch and again enjoyed clear views of the mountains, although even over the 2 days there was noticeable less snow.

I arrived home by late afternoon and unloaded the van but have still to fully organise the physical records. Unfortunately my computer decided to get sick at the same time so had to go away for some remedial treatment and our repair person convinced us to upgrade to Windows 10 at the same time. Thus while I am up and running and can access and reply to emails to clanameronhistory@gmail.com I am still going through a learning curve with the different operating system.



Tartan Day Celebration Tattoo 2016

– North Shore Events Centre

by Rex Garland

It was all about the Scots taking back their tartan. The compere, Doug Robertson, again was professional and told the story of those English who banned the kilt and how the Scots got it back. Hence "Tartan Day".

Pipe Bands, Scottish Country Dancers, Highland Dancers, Marching Teams, Drum Corps – in fact 250 performers took part in the two hour long official Tartan Day Celebrations at the North Shore Events Centre and it was a packed stadium. It was clear to those who attended that it was a "showcase performance" with the many hours of practice from all those going to the L'orient Festival in France. Sixteen dancers from the Highland Dance Company of New Zealand opened the show with a world class act. Three of those were male dancers. They went on to perform throughout the afternoon event showcasing their talent and costumes. They stole the show.

Eighty Country Scottish Dancers reeled the crowd in and had them on the edge of their seats.

The Westlake Marching Team put on a splendid display with flags, enjoyed by all.

Massed Bands played "foot tapper" tunes and backed the very talented singer, Ms McKay. Ms McKay was dressed in a full length red dress for the occasion. It is amazing how quiet a stadium can be!

The massed bands this year wore full dress uniform, bonnets and all.

Photographs *by the Editor*

We now have more space for photographs, so please send me any you have of Camerons in New Zealand, past visits to Scotland, or any of general interest

We are very lucky that Bill Cameron is a great photographer and makes his images available to us. We thank him very much for these and also for news items and stories from Lochaber.

I am sure there are some wonderful photos in your albums. If you have old photos scan them or send them to me as hard copies - I will scan and return.

I could not resist printing this photo of my six year old grandson, Max, showing a sign he had made.

"I am a Cameron"
- says it all in a nutshell!



The Art of Teaching Pipe Band Drumming

by Glen Rodgers



I have been invited by the editor to present a brief article of interest on the art of Scottish pipe band drumming. I will focus on how snare drumming complements the Highland bagpipe, and some of the aspects and challenges of teaching the instrument.

The bagpipes and drums are worlds apart in every aspect, yet they come together perfectly in unison to create a unique Scottish flavor and tradition of Scottish song and dance music. The drum produces staccato or short notes and the pipes legato or long notes. The drummers learn and play complex rhythms that coincide with the piper's song like melodies and phrases, and while the pipers have the challenge of blowing the instrument and holding tone, the drummers get off lightly in that respect but are required to learn to march while *coordinating* such complex patterns. The drummers produce the dynamic effects by playing loud and soft, whereas the pipes are limited to playing at just one volume – loud! (The Scottish snare drum has been manufactured to follow suit). Both instruments have their own complex set of fundamentals called rudiments and small muscle techniques to master. When all these factors come together well in a pipe band we call it the “ensemble!” – Good sound!

In Scotland pipe band snare drumming has evolved over the years along with piping. Both the March, Strathspey and Reel remains traditional and is referred to as Big Music because it remains robust in both its presentation of technique and rudiments. Modern pipe music however has generally rounded out rhythmically, resulting in faster tempos, with drummers having to adjust accordingly by simplifying the drumming arrangements to suit. Hence, quicker notes from the piper's means less time to play complex drumming patterns.

We have a strong tradition of pipe banding in New Zealand. While teaching drumming and piping to younger children seems to take longer, an older child tends to learn at a steadier rate, and is competent enough to compete well in contests within two years of first picking up the instrument.

With the advancement of technology, we as New Zealanders have caught up with Scottish standards. Before this we were reliant on players traveling to us to pass on knowledge, and although many pipers travelled and located here, not many drummers did. Most drumming was learnt by rote and without the necessary techniques. It hasn't really been until the last twenty years that we have started to catch up. These days having a student put on a drum and parade without

receiving lessons and structured learning first, just doesn't cut it.

As an educator, I'm very mindful of two things. Firstly, as teachers we need to learn alongside our students and I'm always looking at how I can up-skill and receive guidance from others. Secondly, I constantly evaluate my teaching practices to reflect the needs of my student's.

Often in existing bands or teaching environments I encounter resistance to change, I think it's important to understand that just because something has always been done a certain way, doesn't mean that it is right or the best way to do it. It is amazing what has been achieved on the world stage by young drummers and pipers from this country recently, which is reflected in their playing standard and in the competition results being achieved. There are excellent teachers and teaching practices happening across our nation and those that take the opportunity to learn from others rather than just their existing teacher by attending National Summer schools, National and Regional Youth Development Programs, or take SKYPE lessons with international tutors truly benefit.

The term “Monkey See, Monkey Do!” Is a term that refers to the process of learning without an

understanding of why, and implies the act of mimicry, usually with limited knowledge or concern of the consequences! This type of teaching and learning should be avoided at all cost. So how do I teach students?

The approach I use to teach is generally in-line with common practices shared by my peers in various schools around NZ and abroad, and we are lucky to often tutor together in workshops around the country and share ideas and evaluate each other's teaching methods. I should acknowledge these other drummers for the inspiration they provide to me, and for their open-lines of communication.

There are a few different facets to teaching pipe band drumming. Firstly there is a requirement to establish foundation and technique using various exercises and drum-rudiments. These eventually combine in what we play as a drumming score (arrangement) or accompaniment to the pipes. Then there is co-ordination between limbs; speed and agility; timing and understanding of note values and groupings; music theory; rhythm; quality of sound; musicality and the learning of melodies. One aspect I've noticed in New Zealand is that students don't always identify with Scottish

melodies. It's taken me a while to realize this, as both my parents were pipers so I grew up just knowing most of the common tunes already. However, now that I realize that this isn't the case with most New Zealanders, I start off by teaching them drumming arrangements to localized tunes that they already know and that can also be played on the pipes, tunes such as Pokarekare Ana and God Defend NZ. Following this as I introduce Scottish tunes, I always sing as I play, and I encourage my students to learn the melodies also. If they can do this it helps with all aspects of timing, rhythm, and the speed at which they can learn a drumming arrangement. It also



Featured middle right with the Wellington Red Hackle Pipe Band after winning the 2016 NZ Pipe Band Championships in Fielding.



Featured middle centre while tutoring members of the National Youth Pipe Band at the 2016 National Summer School in Christchurch

follows that all good drumming arrangements are constructed well enough to sound rhythmically like the bagpipe melody.

I believe that the key to a successful teaching programs are to foremost have fun, set realistic expectations and goals, teach with passion and humor, and never ever belittle a student.

In concluding I would like to acknowledge the support of both the Clan Cameron Auckland and Manawatu Branches who support the up and coming youth by sponsoring drumming trophies at their local games. Forgive me if there are others that I do not know of.



Glen Rodgers is a member of the Clan Cameron (Auckland Branch) and is the nephew of the Clan Commissioner Nick Cameron. He is the Principal Drumming Instructor for the Auckland Academy of Piping and Drumming and holds an Advanced Drumming Qualification from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association. He a recognized Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Association Drumming Tutor; Examiner; National Panel Judge, and he operates his own drum teaching practice in Auckland specializing in drum set and rudimental pipe band drumming. For lesson information he can be contacted through the editor.

He was no Pretender

with thanks to Iain Thornber and the Oban Times newspaper

I came across an interesting little story recently in connection with Queen Victoria's visit to Lochaber in 1873. On the day Her Majesty went out from Inverlochy Castle to Glenfinnan, her coachman was a Cameron employed for the occasion by Lord Abinger. On the way, it seems, he and the Queen chatted freely until they reached Glenfinnan when the Queen, on seeing the Jacobite monument, announced that that was where the Pretender had raised his Standard. The coachman straight away said, "Ma'am he was no Pretender", which resulted in them driving back to Inverlochy in silence - not helped by meeting some 'dreadful reporters' on the way. Afterwards she complained about Mr Cameron and he was dismissed. But the story of him upholding the Clan Cameron loyalty to Prince Charles Edward Stewart spread, and although he had no steady occupation, he was never out of work for the rest of his life!

A similar exchange happened at the time of Queen Victoria's uncle who became King William IV whom she succeeded. He met a party of Macleans who had been out in the '45. 'You are all rebels here' he exclaimed, 'No may it please Your Royal Highness' said one of them, "I did fight for our rightful Prince but as that family have gone and George the Third, your Royal father, is now the nearest Heir, I can say that you have no more loyal subjects than the Jacobites of Scotland."

Queen Victoria left Balmoral for Inverlochy Castle at about eight o'clock on the morning of the 9th of September. She travelled by train to Kingussie and from there the Royal Party were transported in four, horse-drawn carriages, arriving at their destination some ten hours later. Accompanying her were: Princess Beatrice, her eldest daughter, aged 16 at the time, whose daughter Victoria Eugene became Queen of Spain; Lady Jane Churchill (Lady-in-Waiting), General, later Sir, Henry Ponsonby (Private Secretary and Keeper of the Privy Purse); Dr Fox, (physician) nine servants and her collie dog called 'Noble'. One of the servants was John Brown, her attendant and personal bodyguard.

There had been six attempts on the Queen's life up until 1873, the most recent was during the previous year, which is why John Brown was always accommodated close to the Queen. It is most likely that both he and General Ponsonby were armed during the visit.

Queen Victoria recorded the main events of her weeklong stay at Inverlochy Castle in her Journal which was published in 1884. The *Oban Times*, whose local correspondent more than likely had a 'hot-line' to the butler's pantry, filled in the minutiae by reporting as early as the 26th of July, that the Queen's bed and other objects had been sent ahead.



Donald Cameron 24th Chief

What was the purpose of the Queen's visit? There were probably two reasons. Firstly, to visit the historic and spectacular Glencoe evidenced by the entry in her Journal for Saturday, Sept 13, 1873 in which she wrote, "We meant to go to Glencoe, which was the principal object of our coming here."

As an artist in her own right and a great admirer of others who could capture the wild grandeur of the Scottish mountains on canvas, she was likely to have been inspired by the oil painting of Glencoe executed in 1864 by Horatio McCulloch (1805-1867) who was one of her favourite landscape artists.

Secondly, she wanted to relive a visit to the area which she and Prince Albert had made twenty-six years earlier.

During her time at Inverlochy Castle Queen Victoria not only visited Glenfinnan and Glencoe but also the head of Glen Nevis, Fort William and Banavie. The most popular though was a boat journey up Loch Arkaig as a guest of Donald Cameron, 24th Chief of Clan Cameron.

The Queen wrote in her Journal, 'He [Lochiel] received us wearing his kilt and plaid just above the pier, and we all went on board the little steamer. The afternoon was beautiful, and lit up the fine scenery to the greatest advantage. We went about half way up the Loch (which is fourteen miles long), as we had not time to go farther, to the disappointment of Lochiel, who said it grew wilder and wilder higher up. To the left is the deer forest; to the right he has sheep'.

General Ponsonby, a master in the art of diplomacy who clearly wanted to defuse the incident with the coachman, later remarked to the Queen, "There was Lochiel, whose great-grand-uncle had been the real moving cause of the rising of 1745, without him Prince Charles would not have made the attempt, showing your Majesty (whose great-great-grandfather he had striven to dethrone) the scenes made historical by Prince Charlie's wanderings. It was a scene one could not look on unmoved".

Angus Kennedy, the captain of the little steamer named *The Rifle*, of which I will have more to say in a future column, used to relate that it was John Brown who gave orders to turn just at the point on the loch when the finest scenery was opening out - much to Lochiel's great annoyance.



Inverlochy Castle

Photo: The Write Image



Canterbury Tartan Day Lunch in Ashburton

Above: Kathleen Stringer giving an address on Victorian Underwear and Tartans

Left: Canterbury President, Colin Cameron presenting the raffle prize.

Left Below: Pat Tarbotton, Isabel and Colin Cameron, Rae Magson and John Atkinson.

Right Below: Ann Smith (President Scottish Heritage Council), Val Donald, Maggie Donald and Rosemary Dodson being served a glass by Derrick Cullimore (Ashburton County Scottish Society).



Tartan Day 2016



Auckland Kirkin' o' the Tartan



Photo: The Highland Dance Company



Photo: Marcia Brady