



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



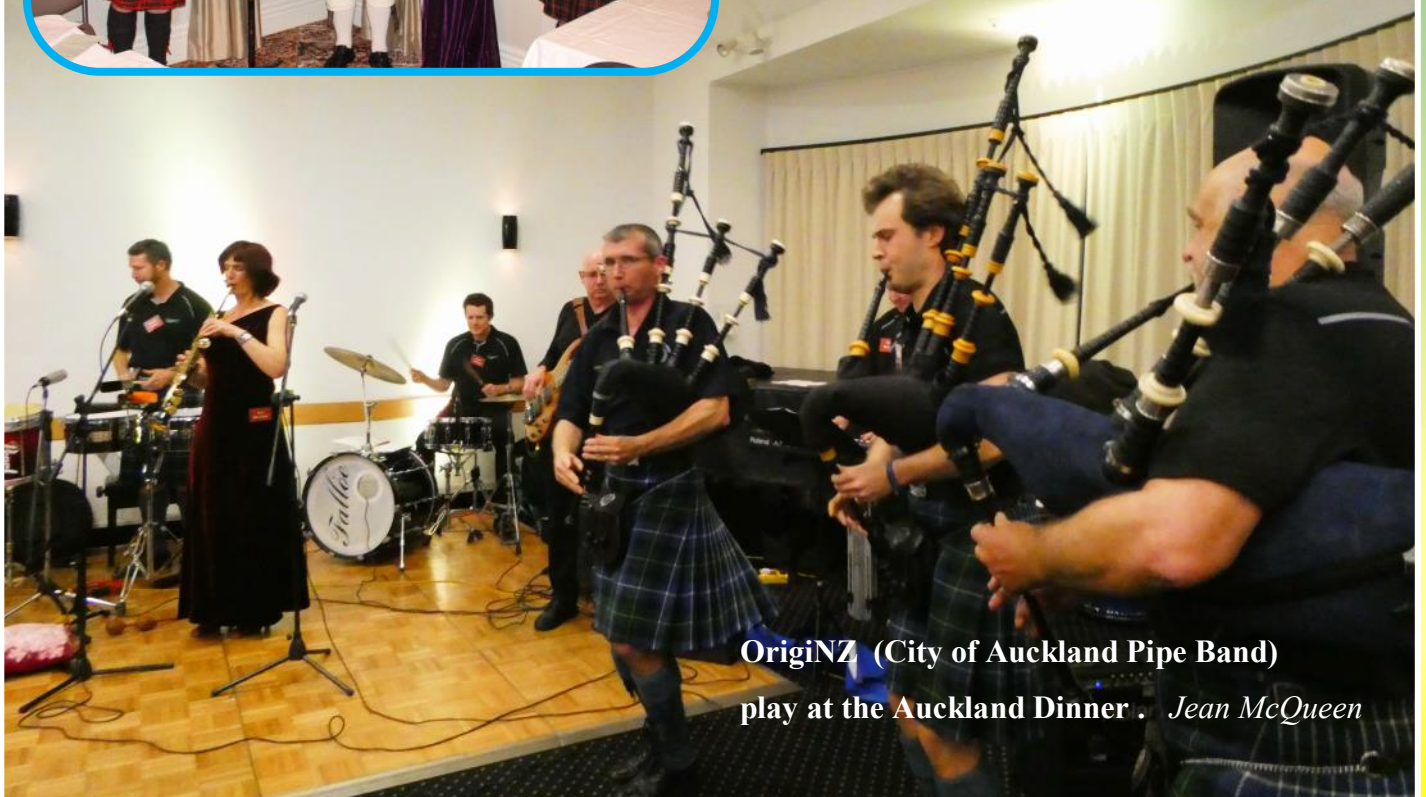
Vol 51 No 5
October
2017



Loch Tarff, a small glacial loch near Fort Augustus. *Bill Cameron*



*John Cameron, after presentation of his Manawatu Branch Life Membership Certificate, with daughter Sarah, Russell Cameron, and Nick Cameron.
Photo: Dean and Jo Cameron*



OriginZ (City of Auckland Pipe Band) play at the Auckland Dinner. *Jean McQueen*

“Cameron”

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

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A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

Julie and I attended the Auckland and Manawatu branch events in the third week of August. The attendance at both events was great and we were well entertained by addresses to the haggis, piping, dancing and other musical items. Brian Cameron's address regarding his historical sword/dagger collection was very interesting as was the address given by Dale Bailey on the Te Papa museum in Wellington and it's various Scottish items and connections to New Zealand. As I remarked to Neil Cameron last week – it is hard to see how these events could be improved – they were simply outstanding and a pleasure to be invited to attend.

The change of venue for the Palmerston North event was a good one – in the Caccia Birch facility - it provided a great atmosphere even if it did mean a bit more work for some of the branch members in terms of organization – they even managed to put on an earthquake for the Canterbury attendees!. It was great to see other branch members support these branch events with their attendance. I presented a brief talk relating to changes in the way we present to clan members in terms of the digital world. I was a little surprised at just how many “hits” we are receiving for both the Manawatu and New Zealand Clan Cameron Facebook pages. We need to encourage members to use the “like” button on these pages if they “do actually like something” as this helps circulation across a broader range.

Your executive members met up in Turangi in the third weekend of September. A number of items were discussed but one in particular was the furthering the communication of our First Light Scheme to bring young (18 – 28 year old) Clans people from Lochaber, Scotland to New Zealand. If you have ideas about how we operate this scheme in future years they would be welcome.

Cheers

Nick.



2018 Australian Clan Gathering on the Gold Coast

John Cameron of Operatunity Travel (and a member of Clan Cameron NZ), who organised the tour to Scotland for the 2009 Gathering, has put together a package for folk that wish to attend this gathering on 20–23 April 2018.

A brochure and registration form has been sent to all members, and both have been placed on our web site. Hard copies can be obtained from the editor.

Time is getting short. Please let John know if you intend joining the group so arrangements can be made.

Please support this ‘no worries’ travel as a group

**Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website**

www.clancameronnz.co.nz



Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Nov.

Printed By

Family Stories versus Official Records - Part 2

By David Weston—Clan Genealogist

In our last issue, David showed the difficulty in confirming family history due to incomplete records and wrong information - now read on:



So are there other sources which can shed light on family history? Is there any evidence that family stories may be an accurate record?

Interestingly enough there is some evidence in our family that does support at least part of the family history. Some years ago I was given copies of letters written to members of John Cameron's family. One is from an Ann McGregor to her son Hugh McKay who moved to live in Whanganui and another from a Cameron living in Australia. The one from Ann McGregor is transcribed as follows:-

Kinlochaline
21 February 1881
My dear son

I received your letter which gave me much pleasure to hear that you are enjoying good health but I was very sorry to hear of the death of my dear sister. It must have been a great shock to her family and your uncle in his weak state but he has the pleasure of having his family all around him to comfort him in his trouble although in a foreign land which is more than I can say. I have no one belonging to me but I have reason to be thankful. I have kind neighbours who are always ready to do anything for me so if anything is the matter with me I am always well cared for which I know you will be pleased to hear. I have been well since I wrote you last only failing in strength. I ought to be thankful to my maker for all his blessings to me when there has been so many taken away around me far younger and stronger than I am. There has been a number of deaths here this winter, all old people. Donald McIntyre the school master died last month. Hugh Sinclair's mother, Kate McPhee that was at Claggan and Sandy McPherson's widow and also Cameron, the school master's wife. This winter has been very trying. We have had a good deal of frost and snow

I wrote to your cousins at Lochgilfkin [?] to let them know of your aunt's death and sent them the printed paper about your aunt's death that they might see how much she was respected. I must now let you know that I received the order all right and the letter by the January mail but the advice did not come until the next mail which was due on the 15th inst and I received the money on the 19th so that was my reason for not answering your letter by the January mail. You wanted to know my age which is ninety four as well as I can remember and your aunt was three years younger than me. You will give my complements to your uncle and all his family and that I am very sorry to hear of their loss but it gave me much pleasure to see that she was so much respected by all about her. My neighbours wishes to be kindly remembered to you and are all glad to hear of your welfare. I will add no more at this time but in hopes to hear from you soon which is the greatest pleasure to me.

So I remain your loving mother Ann McGregor

(Original of this and the following was held by the Baldwin family I understand)

Hugh was obviously writing to let his mother know of Janet Cameron nee McGregor's death and answered a question re her age. Ann obviously believed Janet was around 91 when she died. I subsequently found Ann McGregor on the UK Census, with Hugh living with her up to 1861 and in 1841 an elderly widow, another Ann McGregor was living in the home, most likely her mother. Interestingly enough Ann's age seems to increase rapidly over the years and despite saying in the letter written in 1881 that she was 94 her death registration in 1883 gives her age as 100.

The second letter also relates to Janet and is from an Angus McGregor, writing to a John Cameron in 1891.

Halshorn[?] Hill
Coorrabarabarn
via Sydney
New South Wales
July 26th 1891 [?]
Mr John Cameron
Sir

I had the pleasure of a visit from the Revd Mr Fulton and his wife and in the course of conversation I learned from him that they were acquainted with your family. From other facts which I gleaned I presume that your mother (if named Janet McGregor) was my father's sister and also that she (your mother) and her husband (John Cameron) and family left a place in Scotland named "Morven" for New Zealand. If such is the case you are a cousin of mine. Please let me know if I am correct in my presumption. Trusting yourself and your family are well. I am at present
Yours sincerely
Angus McGregor
per James McGregor

This is slightly confusing as John and Janet's son John Cameron was dead for some years in 1891 although Mr Fulton may have met John Cameron some years before meeting Angus. Disregarding this it again confirms that Janet McGregor was from Morvern and that the name "Angus" was used in the family.

So in this instance there is support for Janet McGregor being the daughter of a John McGregor and Anne St Clair with records kept in the family allowing us to trace her mother particularly in this case there are 2 totally unrelated source letters. Interestingly though there is no support for Janet being 100 years old when she died as was reported at the time of her funeral. Even if her sister was unsure of her own age it is unlikely she would forget which of them was the older and she is clear in stating she was the older by 3 years.

Where does this leave us when doing family research? From our family I guess there are two points to make.

- Family stories can well be true even when not supported by official records
- Do take family stories as a guide rather than the truth

My personal view is that names of parents and family members are more likely to be accurate rather than ages and deeds ascribed to the individuals. There is nothing like a good story when talking about people's achievements.

From the Branches....

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

Auckland by Norman Cameron

Once again the Clan had a very successful Mid-Winter Dinner at the Quality Hotel, Gladstone Road, Parnell on the 12th of August. About 120 guests attended to a wonderful evening of entertainment and fine food thanks to the organisation of Neil Cameron. The amazing part that no one was rung-up and asked to attend.

The entertainment of dancers and the OrigiNZ - City of Auckland Pipe Band was organised by Rex Garland and the programme was very much enjoyed. The guest speaker was Past President Brian Cameron who gave a very polished speech on his Scottish Sword Collection. Our Patron Angus Fletcher attended as did the Commissioner of Clan Cameron NZ, Nick Cameron and also the President of the Bay of Plenty Branch, Tanya Cameron. Clan Donald and Clan Davidson were the two outside Clans to attend. At the end of the evening Murdoch McDonald made a speech thanking the Clan for a very enjoyable evening. The Reverent Bryan Haggitt "Addressed the Haggis" in his usual entertaining way. A special thanks to Duncan McQueen the MC and also the Committee must be thanked for all their contribution.

I was unable to attend the Executive Meeting at Turangi on September the 16th so the Branch was represented by Neil Cameron & Alison Jordan.

The Combined Scottish Clans of Auckland also held their AGM and Dinner on the 16th of September at which Hillary and Cass Hakaraia represented the Cameron Clan. I was out of the Country and have sent my apologies to both meetings.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

I attended the Rotorua Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists DNA Seminar in July and although I am still deciding about getting my DNA done, I know others that have and I was interested to find out more. It was a very informative day.

Representing the Clan Cameron BOP Branch I attended the Auckland Clan Cameron dinner in August, and enjoyed catching up with everyone. The dinner was to its usual high standard with a wonderful speaker and the band OrigiNZ was amazing. When I came through to the Auckland dinner, I also went to the Auckland Family History Expo 2017 weekend which was very informative and had a great feel to the many seminars I attended.

I attended the Manawatu Clan Cameron dinner in August also and enjoyed a wonderful meal and earthquake entertainment. The speakers were also interesting. It is great to catch up with others that you don't see often.

On the 16th of September we had our Executive Meeting in Turangi. It was a lovely weekend starting with the majority of us staying the night in Turangi at the Parklands Motorlodge where the meeting was to be held and having dinner there. The next morning after a brisk 2km walk in the drizzle we had our meeting followed by lunch and dispersed. I went on to visit with my cousins who took me for a walk over



the Tongariro River Trail, and although a light drizzle came and went we managed the 4.7km walk with plenty of laughs, stories and rainbows. The views and suspension bridge were great. We felt sorry for the fishermen as it looked very cold in the water.

Our Clan Cameron BOP Branch is looking to host their Christmas function on the 5th of November 2017 at 12 Noon at the Te Puke Citizens Club (near McDonalds) for those that would like to join us.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

Resting on our laurels again, but preparing for the Hororata Highland Games in November. This is always a fun, busy day, and if you are able I would suggest you visit. Bagpipes, people in kilts, haggis, what more could you want?

Several of our members have been unwell, after all we are mostly into our mature years. Consequently there have been no other events.

Hawke's Bay by Helen Shaw

Our Branch has been very quiet over the past few months.

2 members have recently had surgery and are slowly making progress.

Trish and Mike attended the Executive Council Meeting at Turangi on 16th September.

The Lease of our local gathering place has been sold. "The Clansman" has been an excellent venue which has provided many convivial meetings and happy memories for us all. Our sincere thanks and love to Leigh and Maree for their exceptional hospitality over the years.

We are looking forward to the arrival of warmer weather and some renewed enthusiasm!

Manawatu by Anne Walker

On August 19th, the historic Caccia Birch House in Palmerston North, rang to the sound of bagpipes, as a group of 50 gathered to celebrate the annual mid-winter dinner hosted by Clan Cameron Manawatu.

We were particularly thrilled to host Clan President, Nick Cameron and Julie Cameron, and guests from Bay of Plenty, Hamilton, Wairarapa and Wellington. It was a great night with excellent company, good food, and impressive piping and drumming entertainment provided by young local pipers, Reuben Bilsland, Scott Orange, and drummer, Douglas Bilsland.

Guest speaker, Dale Bailey, Clan Cameron Member now working as a Director at Te Papa presented an enthralling Scottish Showcase from Te Papa's Collection, describing key items of Scottish providence, and the interesting stories behind them. The collection items ranged from a Carronade from the ship "Boyd" which sank on Whangaparoa Harbour in 1809, through to a contemporary tartan suit that featured in Air New Zealand fashion week in 2005.

See over →



Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Wellington/Wairarapa Branch:	Wendy Cameron	Greytown	<i>Ceud Mile Fàilte</i>
Auckland Branch:	Lochie Cameron	Auckland	<i>One Hundred</i>
	Diane and Jon Winder	Silverdale	<i>Thousand Welcomes</i>
Bay of Plenty Branch	Tessa Cameron	Turangi	

The next big date in our local Clan Cameron calendar is Scottish Society Square Day on December 9th, where regional pipe bands competitions are held. Clan Cameron Manawatu will 'man' a Clan stall, and prepare our ever-popular haggis sandwiches for the crowds.

Organisers will be happy to welcome you to this spot - "Our Clan Cameron Gathering Home" in April, 2018. -

For detailed information and to follow the Gathering news, visit www.facebook.com/ClanCameronGatheringAustralia www.facebook.com/clancameronnswinc

Royal Pines Venue for 2018 Gathering

by Lynne Cameron.

A view out to the high-rise apartments and the sea 15 minutes away from the site. This photo was taken from the 20th floor of the RACV Royal Pines Resort, Benowa, Gold Coast, Queensland.

And on the right is the location of the venue, identified on the Resort map as the Concert Lawn, again taken from the 20th floor unit. It shows the area, foreground right, where a large marquee will be set up for presentations and displays. The manicured football field is ideal for our planned outdoor activities.

This is where the 2018 Australian Clan Cameron Gathering daytime activities will take place. The Gathering

Continued over



John M. Cameron shows the Gathering site to Australian Commissioner James L. Cameron on 30 July 2017.



Coming Events:

Further events and details on our web site

Sunday 8th October 2017
Kirkin O' the Tartan Service
at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Turakina 2pm.

Come and celebrate the wearing of the tartan and our Scottish Heritage. Afternoon tea to follow.

Enquiries: Roz Grant 06 327 3655
tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz

4 November 2017
7th Hororata Highland Games
Hororata Domain 9am
Come and visit the Cameron tent.
<hororatahighlandgames.org.nz>

5 November 2017 at 12 Noon
Clan Cameron BOP Luncheon
Te Puke Citizens Club
179 Jellicoe Street
Te Puke (Near McDonalds)

18 November 2017
Auckland Highland Games
Event Centre, Ellerslie Racecourse
Note new venue.
9 am to 5pm

The Cameron tent will be there. More details will be on our website when they are known.

9 December 2017
Jenny Mair Highland Square Day
The Square, Palmerston North
8am -6.30pm.
A great day for all. See Manawatu report above.

Date of **Clan Cameron NZ 2018 Gathering** in Christchurch will be advised. Probably the weekend after Easter. Details will be on our website when known.

Images from The Manawatu Branch Dinner



Rex and Erina Wood



President Nick Cameron addresses the diners
From Left: Lena Orum, Dale Bailey, Julie Cameron, Nick, Alison Jarden and Russell Cameron.



Manawatu Branch Life Member Mary Barber with new Life Member John Cameron, proudly showing his certificate which was presented at the dinner



Caccia Birch House, venue for the dinner.



John Cameron with Tanya Cameron and John's daughter Sarah.



Ewen Grant, Alison Jarden, Russell Cameron, Anne Walker and Bryan Barber at the entrance to Caccia Birch House



Dale Bailey, guest speaker, with Lena Orum, his partner.
Dale, a Director at Te Papa, Museum of New Zealand, spoke on the Scottish collections held in the museum.

Photos on this page by Dean or Jo Cameron and Ewen Grant

and from the Auckland Branch Dinner



The Haggis Party—Andrew McQueen, Rev. Bryan Haggitt, Cade Garland (behind), Max, Annika and Lachlan Cameron, and Michel Tent.



“Warm-reekin, rich!”



Above: New Auckland member Lochie Cameron with his raffle prizes. L. Toast to the Haggis



Auckland Patron, Angus Fletcher, buys a raffle ticket from Hillary Hakaraia.



Guest Speaker, Brian Cameron and his wife Pamela.

Photos on this page by Jean McQueen (mostly) and the Editor.

Well Deserved Medal for John Cameron



About a century ago Lieutenant Finlay Cameron, of the Royal Engineers, the youngest of nine of Stornoways Chief of Police became a guest of the Delhaye family, lace-makers in Calais, France. Billeted along with so many other WWI soldiers defending France in the houses of the citizens they were protecting, Finlay fell in love with a daughter of the household and married her. He took her to live in London where they raised 3 children who were all schooled at the Lycée (the French speaking high school in the heart of London).

As WWII progressed one of their offspring, John, still in his teens, enlisted in the navy and, after a period on the freezing waters of Scapa Flow, found himself, like his father before him, defending France, this time on a minesweeper safeguarding the English Channel. Because the minesweepers were often wooden former fishing boats, the Royal Navy Patrol Service gained the nicknames 'Churchill's Pirates' and 'Harry Tate's Navy'. A period of his life rarely mentioned, John's service was recognised recently by France, which awarded him one of France's most prestigious awards, the Legion d'Honneur, almost exactly 100 years after his father's journey there.

Piped to the ceremony at the home of the French Ambassador, Her Excellency Mrs Florence Jeanblanc-Risler, by his nephew Nick Cameron (our New Zealand President), and followed by about 20 family members, John, proudly wearing the kilt, was greeted by the Ambassador, who asked him in French, "How is it that a man, who but for his kilt seems to be French, served with the British to defend our country." And there began a very happy evening, the Ambassador clearly charmed by her Scottish/French guest on whose lapel she pinned the medal.

John lives on his nephew Paul's property at Porangahau where he is an active member of the community. He is also an active member of the Hawkes Bay Branch of Clan Cameron NZ.



John Cameron shares a joke with the French Ambassador, Her Excellency Florence Jeanblanc-Risler.



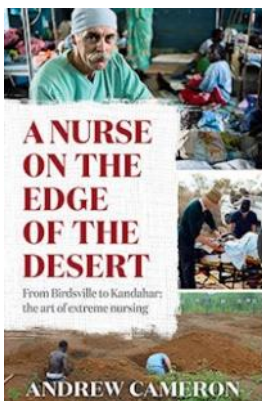
From left to right:

Jean Campbell, Fiona Cameron, John Cameron Jnr, Glen Rodgers, John Cameron Snr, Paul Cameron, Florence JeanBlanc-Risler (French Ambassador), Jocelyn Patch, Ross Campbell, Georgie Hartley, Julie Cameron, Nick Cameron.

John (jnr) and Paul are Nick's brothers, Jocelyn and Fiona are his sisters. Glen and Georgie are his nephew and niece. Another of Nick's brothers, Andrew, is below left.

Andrew Cameron

Andrew Cameron has been awarded a [Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Excellence Award](#) by Queensland University. This adds to Andrew's long list of honours, which include: The Florence Nightingale Medal, Western Australia Nurse of the Year, Australian Nurse of the Year, the Order of Australia (for services to the Nursing Profession), Massey University's Distinguished Alumni Medal, La Trobe University's Distinguished Alumni Award.



By Editor. Rob Cameron, grandson of the late Rodney Cameron, sent me this photo of his grandfather and the Editor in front of Acnacarry Castle at the 1989 Gathering, just as we were going to press. (Haven't video cameras changed)

He also asked me to advertise the **City of Auckland Pipeband 75th Anniversary Concert and Ceilidh on the 7th of October**. Details and tickets can be purchased from the link below;
<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2017/capb-75th-anniversary-concert-ceilidh/auckland/balmoral>
 Concert starts at 4:30, light meal at 6:30, then Ceilidh from 7:30.

Saint Kentigern College

Pipes and Drums Tour to Basel

With thanks to Saint Kentigern College and Mr Andrew Lightfoot

Following on from their successful performance at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Wellington at the start of 2016, it was a great honour for the Pipes & Drums of Saint Kentigern College to be invited to take part in the annual Tattoo hosted by the city of Basel in Switzerland. As Basel is a cosmopolitan city that borders France and Germany the Tattoo attracts around 100,000 spectators not only from Switzerland but from around Europe, and it is also televised across Switzerland and Germany.

As soon as our students arrived in Basel the posters, flags, banners, pictures all around the town and the media reports highlighted to them the importance of the event they were about to be a part of. In between rehearsals and performances they were treated to generous hospitality and time to explore a charming medieval city on the Rhine River, with more than thirty museums and leading fine arts centres.

Friday 21 July was the opening night of the Basel Tattoo and it set the stage for the season of ten entertaining, exciting and diverse, open-air evening performances. The many elements of the show – marching, song, drumming, dancing and the complex choreographies, horse riding and military displays, along with a range of high quality music ensured there was something for everyone. The standing ovation when all the performers returned to the arena for the finale was a triumph - just reward for the hard work and preparation!

For each of the performances our Pipes & Drums formed up with other bands such as The Royal Scots Borderers, The Highlanders, The Royal Air Force, and others (military and civilian) from Canada, South Africa and Australia. The Massed Pipes & Drums formed the pillars of the show, opening with a marching display and a mix of traditional and contemporary marches, airs and dances under the direction of composer Stuart Samson MBE, then closing with the traditional march-off to 'The Black Bear' and 'Scotland the Brave.' During the finale each night, the excitement and energy from the audience was very apparent to the assembled 1000 strong cast as they progressed from the Swiss folk and classical selection, through the evening hymn, to the finish with Cohen's 'Hallelujah.'

There were other highlights for our students, for example the much loved Basel Tattoo Parade where the cast joined with other bands and formations to play to over 100,000 people gathered along the parade route. The band also performed at a sponsor's function, the special 'Kinder Tag' children's event, and paraded at Europa Park in Germany which is Europe's largest theme park and resort.

The band incredibly still made time to make day visits to famous destinations such as Lake Lucerne, and a journey up to the Jungfrau in the Alps. A four night stopover in London, seeing a West End show and attending an Old Collegians' reunion dinner in St James, topped off an unforgettable trip.

The students had an amazing three weeks together and will take happy memories and lifelong friendships away with them. It was a privilege to have worked with some of the world's foremost performers who work with such passion in their disciplines. The Pipes & Drums can be justifiably proud

of their achievements, representing Saint Kentigern on the world stage!



Performing in London



At Basel



At Basel. Auckland Branch Piper Andrew McQueen on left.



The massed bands at Basel

DNA and the Cameron's of Kilmallie

by Jo Cameron (Manawatu)



Following on from the wonderful articles that Roger Cameron has written this year about his Kilmallie Cameron's, I thought that an update was due on the progress that has been made in this family with the help of DNA testing.

There are currently 16 known descendants of Angus Mor Cameron and Anne MacIntyre who have tested their atDNA, most through Family Tree DNA (ftDNA) and a couple through Ancestry.com. with more in the process of testing.

The majority of those tested are descendants of John Mor Cameron and Janet MacGregor but we also have two new participants who are descendants of Allan Cameron and Jessie Grant, both families were of course emigrants to New Zealand in 1840 onboard the SS Blenheim.

In recent years there have been questions as to whether or not John Mor and Allan were actually brothers, well we can definitively answer this once and for all, yes they were. This shows up loud and clear through not only the atDNA, with almost everyone descended from John Mor and Janet showing up as a 4th cousin to the two descendants of Allan and Jessie, but also through the Y STR DNA tests.

The cherry on the top of the Y DNA testing is for this Cameron family as a whole is that one of the participants has also carried on the testing to include the Big Y.

A quick recap of the two different kinds of Y DNA testing: **STR - Short Tandem Repeat** - these tests are used genealogically to determine whom you match within a recent timeline, say 500 years or so. For best results and Haplogroup placement, testing should start at 67 markers or even better 111 markers. This testing must take place before SNP testing.

SNP – Single Nucleotide Polymorphism – is a different kind of mutation on the Y and is tested for deep paternal ancestry.

The Big Y tests thousands of known branch markers as well as millions of places where there may be new branch markers. It is intended for expert users with an interest in advancing science and knowledge of a paternal line/ Surname Projects.

Another burning question that has always been raised is if Angus Cameron, also of Kilmallie, who married Mary McKechnie and whom emigrated to New Zealand onboard the SS John McVicar in 1857, was either a full or half brother to John Mor and Allan. Obituaries at the time of John Mor Cameron's death in 1881 mention that they were brothers.

A descendant of Angus and Mary's has also tested their atDNA and the results show that he does match some of the descendants of John Mor Cameron, some of whom he would be a double cousin to, which shows very clearly, but also to a degree with five of the others who he is not a double cousin with. He also shares segments in common with Allan's two descendants. The amount of shared atDNA suggests a half cousin scenario, although having more descendants of Angus and Mary tested would be better to prove or disprove the relationship. Because atDNA is inherited at random it is always better to have more cousins test to widen the net so to speak.

So at this point it is looking more likely that Angus was a half sibling to John and Allan. Just because some of John's descendants don't match does not mean that there was not a relationship, it may simply mean that these other cousins did not inherit any of that particular atDNA from their parents. This happens more as the generations go on.

Thank you to all those who have tested and kindly let me analyse their results.

The next sale at Family Tree DNA to look out for if you are considering testing is the big Annual sale which usually starts in early December and goes for about a month. This usually also includes sale prices on upgrading STR markers and Big Y.

Your attention is drawn to my earlier articles in the June and October 2016 Clan Cameron NZ magazines. These may be read on the CCNZ website.

If you have any questions I can be reached via the Clan Cameron Manawatu facebook page.



Re: A Cameron Story to the end of the earth

Mike Topham, of Hawke's Bay, writes:

The article by Heather Cameron in the last issue of "Cameron" reminded me of an item I read in "Beyond the Blue Mountains" about John Cameron of West Otago.

"Another prominent settler in the Crookston district was John Cameron, who for years had managed Spylaw Station and who later took up the property known as "Drimnisallie" on the opposite side of the creek. Cameron's speciality was merino sheep, but at Drimnisallie he started mixed farming and grain growing after getting his place broken in.

One of the first reaper and binders in the district was

worked by Mr. Cameron, who was an enterprising settler of the best type— warm hearted, generous and genial. His sons, who received their training at Crookfield, later went to Patagonia, where, near the Straits of Magellan, they became pioneer managers of a sheep run that comprised millions of acres. From a small start they rapidly acquired huge areas of country from the Argentine Government at a trifling rent. Some of the stud sheep for these runs were sent out from New Zealand, and these included sheep from Conical Hills."

Crookston is on Highway 90, about 10km north of Tapanui. Conical Hill is about 12km south of Tapanui.

Ref: Beyond the Blue Mountains. A History of the West Otago District. F. W. G. Miller 1954. Otago Centennial Publications.

Highland Dress. A Brief History. Part 1 by Bill Cameron (Lochaber)

So strong is the image of Highland dress across the world that it is instantly pin points a person as having Scottish ancestry, or maybe that they simply choose to associate with the distinctive style of Highland dress. Whether it's wearing a tartan scarf on a cold winters morning in the South Island of New Zealand, or wearing a full kilt outfit at a family wedding in Lochaber. The seemingly timeless appeal of Highland dress continues to draw people to wear it with pride.

Of course fashions change on a regular basis, yet the modern day Highland dress which usually consists of a tartan kilt, kilt jacket, sporran, belt, brogues and sgian dhubh continues to be worn with a proud sense of identity in being part of a wider family or clan.

The modern day kilt originates from the traditional Féileadh Mór, or great plaid. In which a long length of cloth or tartan was worn in the form of a plaited kilt with the remaining cloth gathered up and worn over the shoulder. This practical form of clothing served to protect the wearer against

the elements when out on the mountains and offered a warm covering whilst residing in draughty dwellings.

From the féileadh Mór the féileadh beag, or small kilt would develop. A garment consisting of a much shorter length of tartan worn with a belt and very similar to the modern day kilt. The féileadh beag is made of less material and was therefore less cumbersome to wear and would eventually develop into the modern day kilt with pleats sewn in to a length of tartan along with straps and buckles added to gather it together at one side.



An example of the féileadh mór.

The distinctive designs of kilts also vary due to the different tartans that distinguish one family alongside another, namely due to the selection of different coloured threads used in the weave, as well as the particular arrangement of vertical and horizontal bandings in the design.

It is believed that some of the oldest surviving examples of woven tartan take their colourings from the natural plant dyes found in the nearby locations from where they were woven. From this we can understand that the early weaving processes of making tartan was often site specific and to an extent, reflect certain aspects of the landscape in their mix of colouring which continue to be used in the designs of modern day kilts.

To be continued next issue.



A group of kilted gentlemen taken at the Glenfinnan Gathering

More Pictures from the Past....



These two images show Lochiel's visit to the Tauranga Highland Games in 1969.

Above he is with Charles Cameron, Bay of Plenty President, being introduced to the Games executive and other dignitaries, and on right receiving a pōwhiri or challenge from Ben Gage of Opotiki. NZ President, Ian Cameron, is standing

behind Lochiel.

Lochiel was piped into the Tauranga Domain by Clan Piper Ewen Cameron, son of Ian Cameron. My thanks to Ewen, of Masterton, who has sent me these pictures.

The Clan Cameron New Zealand History records that sheep were shorn and the wool spun and knitted by eleven spinners and knitters from Te Puke, all in the space of four and a half hours, with the finished jersey then being presented to Lochiel.

Editor





Aonaibh ri Cheile

The Back Page



Dining out in Turangi on the evening before the Executive Council Meeting

Above: Denis, Joy, Tanya, Nick, John Cameron, David Weston, Ruth Cameron
Below: Elaine and Shona Cameron, Trish and Mike Topham, Vivienne and Fraser Cameron

Photos: Editor



John Cameron receives the Legion d'Honneur from the French Ambassador, Her Excellency Florence Jeanblanc-Risler.



More pictures from the Auckland Dinner taken by Jean McQueen



The MC, Duncan McQueen, with John and Barbara Hawthorn



Dorothy Cameron-Gavin with daughter Diane Wassell

Left: John Cameron



Cressida and Peter Cameron, Michel Tent, Cade, Rex and Linda Garland ready for Auld Lang Syne



President Nick tries the pipes



Andrew McQueen plays folk to the tables to start the evening