



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



**Vol 51 No 6
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2017**

Photo: Editor

Auckland Highland Games—the Auckland and Districts Pipe Band

A Merry Christmas and Happy Hogmanay to you all

Turakina Kirkin' O' The Tartan - Haggis Ceremony

Photo: Ewen Grant

**Piper Ross Duncan , Rev. Alan Shaw, Ewen Grant, Dr. Nick Thomson
(addressing the haggis) Peter McNaughton and Bob Morris**



“Cameron”

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

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A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

Last weekend the local Canterbury Branch of Clan Cameron were actively involved in various ways with the Hororata Highland Games. These games attracted more than 10,000 people on the day.

For me it was a 4.30am start with the baking of a Lechies' Butchery haggis – I have had better success baking it in tin foil using a moderate temperature than boiling where previous attempts have resulted in the occasional splitting of the bag!! Then off to the games at 7.30am to try to beat the Clan Donald sisters to secure a favoured site for our clan and drop off the table and other clan items of interest. Being able to deliver spare copies of Neil's fabulous newsletter is also very useful. Once again Maggie Donald beat me by about 15 minutes to the clan alley site. Our branch President Colin Cameron and his team were very active all day at this site with giving out free haggis, selling raffles and educating the large crowd about our clan.

As I was also competing in the pipe band events during the day I was really unable to do much more to help – but Colin's team seemed to enjoy their time on what was for them a fairly busy time. Interestingly the clan tent also featured in an Ashburton television production on the games event. So I think that for our local branch this is a great way to gain exposure for the clan.

Cheers

Nick.

And from Lochiel, our Chief

I wish all clansfolk a very happy festive season and hope very much that 2018 brings you good health, prosperity and happiness. All is well at Achnacarry and my family is in very good shape. I now have seven grandchildren who keep me young! My son is enjoying his role as a member of the Scottish parliament and the girls are all in fine form although Lucy's husband who is a soldier, has been posted to Somalia for a year which is tough on him and her.

The Estate is running smoothly and the Hydro schemes are churning away well. Our holiday apartments have been well let, the museum has done well and we have been felling a lot of mature timber. When we replant we will use a lot of oak, Scots pine and other indigenous species.

I would like to thank you all for keeping the spirit of the Clan alive and for all the hard work you have done - I am very, very grateful.

With very best wishes

Lochiel



Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website

www.clancameronnz.co.nz



Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Jan.

Printed By

Vale.

Donald Douglas Cameron

(16 Feb 1927 – 28 Sep 2017)

Donald was a long-time member of the Wellington/Wairarapa Branch of Clan Cameron. He was Vice President 1989-1993 and President 1994-96. Donald was a direct descendant of Donald and Christina Cameron of Lochaber, Scotland, who emigrated to New Zealand on the Barque *Blenheim* arriving at Kaiwharawhara, Wellington, on 27th December 1840.

Donald's interests and skills were many. He was a piper in the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion Wellington Regiment. He was a keen singer. He was a member of the Hutt Amateur Athletic Club winning several middle-distance running titles during 1944-1946. He also played senior grade rugby for the Taita Club in 1945-1946. After High School, Donald worked on farms in the Hutt Valley, Wairarapa, Canterbury and Otago and studied at Massey and Lincoln Agricultural Colleges obtaining the Diploma in Agriculture, Dairy and Sheep at Massey 1951, Diploma in Valuation and Farm Management, Lincoln 1952.

In 1953 he joined the Public Service where he worked for 44 years as follows:

Department of Lands and Survey 1953-66, as Field Officer, Senior Field Officer and District Field Officer.

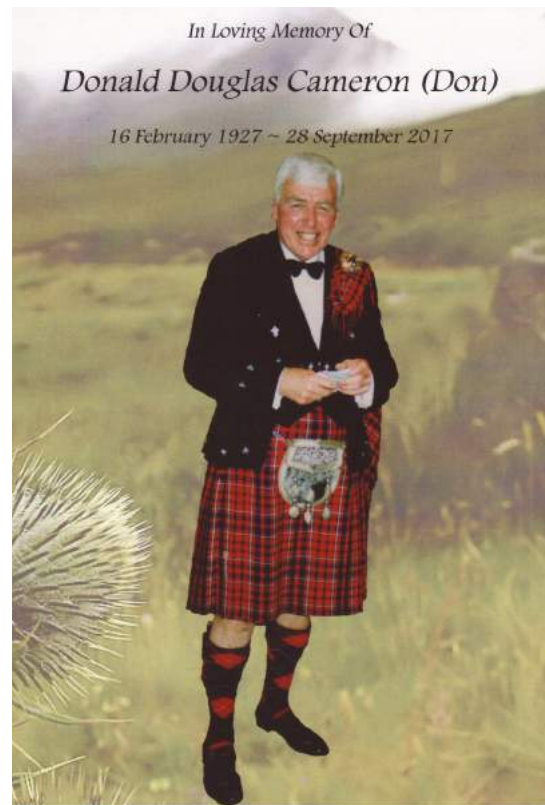
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries 1966-87 as Chief Advisory Officer Farms and Agricultural Training. During this time he was responsible for setting up young farmer training at Flock House, near Bulls, and at the Telford Farm Training Institute, near Balclutha.

Parliamentary Service 1988-98 as Chief Messenger and Sergeant-at-Arms.

In 1958 Donald married Clarice Nita Cameron at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, The Terrace, Wellington. Don and Clarice have a daughter, Lynette Margaret Cameron.

Donald was ordained an Elder in the Presbyterian Church in 1958, and served on the Sessions of First Church Taumarunui, Fairfield Hamilton, St Andrew's Rotorua and St Margaret's Silverstream.

Donald was a past president of the Hutt, Taumarunui, and Rotorua Scottish Societies. He also founded the Rotorua Scottish Society and was its Chief for three years.



On behalf of the Wellington Branch in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Barque *Blenheim* in 1840, Donald produced a booklet outlining the settlers' voyage and a pictorial history of the Kaiwharawhara settlement as well as providing a guided tour of Kaiwharawhara land marks.

Donald was awarded the NZ 1990 Commemoration Medal in recognition of services to New Zealand Agriculture and Agricultural Training and he was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1991.

With the passing of Donald we have lost a fine gentleman. Confined to hospital care in his later years he never lost interest in what was going on in the world, and held a keen understanding of politics. Donald had a wise head and his advice was much appreciated over the years.

He will be sadly missed.

With thanks to Lynette Cameron and Graeme Cameron.

Coming Events:

Further events and details on our web site

Saturday 2 December 2017
Hawke's Bay Christmas Luncheon
12 noon.
Speight's Ale House,
Port Ahuriri, Napier.

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

Sunday 10 December 2017
St Andrew's Turakina Carol Service
6pm
Enquiries to Roz Grant
<tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz>

Monday 1 January 2018
Waipu Highland Games
Visit the Cameron tent and give us your support. We would welcome some help. Begins with Street March at 9.30am.
<http://www.waipugames.co.nz>

Sunday 21 January 2018
Auckland Branch visit to Highland Cattle Farm
Enquiries to the Editor

Saturday 28 January 2018
Turakina Highland Games
Cameron Road, Turakina
Come and enjoy a day in the country.
Starts 8.30am.
www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz

Saturday 10 February 2018
25th Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo
9am to 9pm
Paeroa Domain. The Cameron tent will be there.
www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

Sunday TBA February 2018
Clan Cameron BOP Luncheon
12 Noon to 3pm
8 Kokomoa Key, Papamoa

From the Branches....

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

Auckland by Norman Cameron

I start this report with sad news of the passing of Val Cameron who died on the 28th of September. Val was the wife of Don Cameron our Past President who passed away last year on September the 7th. Our sincerest condolences go to Fiona, Mark and Adam.



On a happier note Jill and I attended the wedding of Celia Haggitt to David Finn on the 7th of October at St Aidan's Church, Remuera. Celia is the daughter of Jenny and Bryan Haggitt, our Vice-President. Celia has sung at the Clan Cameron dinners and this year she and her brother Bryan sang duets.

The Auckland Highland Games were held for the first time at the Elleslie Racecourse on the 18th of November. I think this was an improvement on the Three Kings Domain, the best part being plenty of parking. The weather was kind as there was rain out to the East but none at Ellerslie. We had to put up with a strong South Easterly which forced the dancers inside. This stopped people walking past the Clan tents. The Highland Band Competitions were well away from the main venue which was a pity. On a fine day it is a perfect venue.

A luncheon is to be held at the Esplanade Hotel, Devonport on Sunday the 17th of December and I hope members of the Clan Cameron Committee plus friends will be able to attend.

Neil Cameron will be attending the Waipu Highland Games on the first of January 2018 with the Clan tent.

James and Fay Cameron of Clan Cameron Highland Cattle Farm have invited the members and friends back for a second visit on Sunday the 21st of January. James and Fay will provide the food with their pizza oven producing pizzas and Highland Cattle sausages. I would recommend this visit as last time we had a very enjoyable day.

On February the 10th 2018 Jill and I will be attending the Paeroa Highland Games including the Tattoo in the evening.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Clan Cameron BOP had a wonderful gathering at the Citizen RSA Club in Te Puke on the 5th of November. It was attended by over 30 family and friends.



This event was our new Bard, Rhys Fenton's, first event and he did a great job. Our outgoing Bard, Ray Crafts, was among the gathering watching proceedings.

We had our lovely piper, Katrina Williams, from last year, and yet again the Te Puke Pipe Band have come up trumps for us. She is a young upcoming piper who will go far.

As this is only my second Christmas Luncheon, there were a few wrinkles to iron out, but all in all it was a great afternoon with plenty of chatter to keep us up to date with the goings on and a great array of raffles to choose from.

Thank you to the committee for your time and effort for this event and helping it to run smoothly.

We will be having a casual Pot Luck Luncheon at Denis and Joy Cameron's house in February 2018 to start off the year, date to be advised.

In February the 25th Paeroa Highland Games is on next year and we hope to get a good attendance for the 25th year celebrations.

I am looking forward to attending the National AGM in Christchurch in April next year and then the International Gathering in Australia.

Have a safe and happy Christmas

Canterbury by Rae Magson

It was an early start for the carload of our members going to the Hororata Highland Games on Saturday 11 November. The weather was not really favourable but at least not raining.



We arrived at the tent which Nick Cameron had started setting up. We had lots of Cameron information to give away, free haggis, some pens and magnets to sell, also a whisky raffle.

According to the Christchurch Press "like the kilts of William Wallace's men, attendance at the Hororata Highland Games continues to lift thanks to community support." That would be true, and the event manager said about 200 of the town's 500-odd residents volunteered to assist. Apparently the community needed something after the September 2010 earthquake damaged many of the district's buildings, so now they are not just rebuilding buildings, but rebuilding the community spirit and getting the district moving again.

Tickets sales were up and there were international competitors travelling for strongman competitions. These are now New Zealand's biggest one-day highland dancing competitions, and are massive. The events include the kilted mile, where they tackle different obstacles along the course, including eating a legendary Hororata Pie and drinking some Irn Bru. As well there was the Armistice Day Remembrance, fleece to garment competition, piping and drumming competitions, tug o' war, porridge eating competition and much more.

We were situated in Clan Lane, and had many people visit our tent. People either love haggis or hate it! We found many people who said "my mother was a Cameron" or perhaps "my grandmother was a Cameron". Several membership forms were taken, and we have high hopes of some new members.

On Sunday 26 November we are having the Annual General Meeting at the home of our President Colin Cameron, then to lunch afterwards at Robbies in Ashburton.

Hawke's Bay by Helen Shaw

The Branch has experienced a very quiet time while two of our active members have been recovering from surgery.



We have arranged a Christmas Luncheon at Speight's Ale House, Port Ahuriri, Napier for Saturday 2 December at 12 noon.

We extend our Christmas greetings and best wishes to all Clan members and hope that 2018 brings happiness and good health to you all.

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Ceud Mile Fàilte

Auckland Branch:

Brett and Lisa Clark

Auckland

One Hundred

Chris and Cameron-Lacey Wallace

West Auckland

Thousand Welcomes

First Lighter Marries

By Shona Shirley (nee Cameron)

No longer a Cameron by name but still by nature! On a sunny October day I went from a Cameron to a Shirley when I married Gavin surrounded by close friends and family in the Liguria region of Italy. Gavin's parents have a house in the area and we have holidayed there many a time



and we both fell in love with the area so thought it would be perfect for our wedding. There was the additional benefit of the weather being a bit warmer than Scotland at that time of the year! The Shirley's (up until this year) didn't have a

family tartan so Gavin decided to design one. It's based on the Cameron of Erracht tartan and incorporates the colours of the Shirley family crest.

I've been living for the last few years in Castle Douglas in the south west of Scotland. I recently finished a post graduate diploma in health visiting so am working as a health visitor with the under 5's and their family. (I believe health

visitor is a similar role to the Plunket nurses.) Gavin works as a planner for a renewable energy company. We both enjoy getting out on our bikes at the weekend and exploring the local area which is blessed with many quiet roads.

Eleven years on, I still can't believe the number of times I talk about the First Light exchange and my experiences in New Zealand. I'm busy trying to persuade Gavin that we are both overdue a visit back to New Zealand but I think his memory is jaded by his night shifts at a bakery in Wanaka!

By Editor: Shona, from Spean Bridge, Lochaber, was the fourth First Lighter from Scotland, and spent four months here in 2006. She was hosted by the Manawatu Branch and worked in the Massey University Library. Shona arrived in New Zealand June 15th. She spent a few days with Heather Cameron, our 2004 First Lighter, then travelled to the Manawatu She visited Mt Bruce Bird Sanctuary and Te Papa.

She visited family friends in Nelson, attended the Rugby Test in Wellington, meet Clan members from Wellington, Wanganui and Hawkes Bay, and attended the Manawatu Branch dinner.

She also visited the Gisborne and Bay of Plenty Branches before returning to Auckland in time to welcome her mother and Florence Cameron. They attended a Clan Dinner in Auckland before setting off to tour New Zealand.

Photos on page 7. Some images of Shona in NZ are below,



Above: First Lighter Shona was met at Auckland Airport by Camerons; Ruth, Heather, Don, Valmar and Neil.



Left: With Roz and Ewen Grant at Te Papa. Right: With Graeme Cameron in Wellington

Turakina Kirkin o' the Tartan

By Roz Grant

St. Andrew's Church Turakina held another Kirkin o' the Tartan service on the 8th of October – luckily the day didn't turn out to be as it had been forecast, and a large crowd gathered again for this service, the piping in of the haggis and afternoon tea. The Rev. Alan Shaw from Palmerston North. took the service this year. People enjoy the afternoon, travelling some distances to come, which sees the Kirk full.

We are grateful to Jessie Annabell for the loan of her collection of tartan scarves which decorate the church each year and to Andrew McNaughton for his blessing spoken in gaelic, along with members of The Pipe Band Society.

The 2018 Clan Cameron New Zealand AGM and Gathering

This will be held in **Ashburton on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th April 2018**. These dates are firm and you may wish to make travel arrangements

The Canterbury president, Colin Cameron, is hoping to arrange facilities at the Ashburton Motor Lodge and the Ashburton event centre. Details will be placed on our website when known.

Full details and the Registration Form will be in the February edition of this magazine.

Turakina Kirkin' o' the Tartan ...



Jessie Annabel, Manawatu branch member, talks on her collection of tartans - Clan Gordon member, and Bryan Barber, Manawatu Branch, with banner

photos: Ewen Grant



Isobel Lovelock, Marton, sister Jessie Scot, Tauranga, member & cousin Margaret Hughes, Wanganui. All descendants of Donald (Bane) and Mary Cameron and Alexander and Mary Grant - Barque Blenheim people. All wearing their Grant tartan scarves

Bay of Plenty Christmas Luncheon ...



Above left: Patricia Cameron talking to Glenda Walker and Jytte Anderson (Clan Ross). Alan Sutherland and Fraser Cameron are also visible.

Below: Tanya with the Branch Bard, Rhys Fenton, who addressed the haggis.

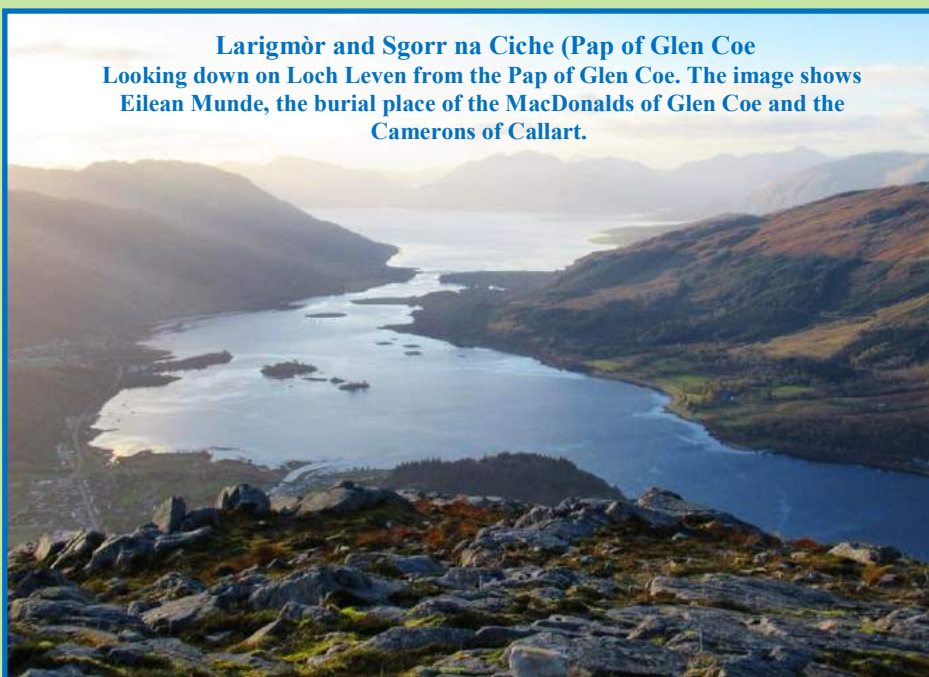


Above Right: Janet and Ray Crafts, Hazel Cameron, Joy Cameron and Helen Renner.



Photos: Tanya Cameron

Larigmòr and Sgòrr na Cìche (Pap of Glen Coe)
Looking down on Loch Leven from the Pap of Glen Coe. The image shows Eilean Munde, the burial place of the MacDonalDs of Glen Coe and the Camerons of Callart.



Another of Bill Cameron's great photos

Wedding Bells

Left: The marriage of Celia Haggitt to David Finn

Pictured with Celia's parents, Bryan and Jenny Haggitt, brother the Reverend Bryan Haggitt with his wife Rebecca, and their children Bryan Junior and Katie.

Below: The marriage of Shona Cameron to Gavin Shirley.

Pictured after their wedding in Italy and with Shona's mother Margaret.

Shona is well known to us as a First Lighter and Margaret as the original organiser of First Light in Scotland.



At the Hororata Highland Games ...



*Left: Colin and Isabel Cameron have a roaring trade in haggis.
Above Left: Colin and Nick present the raffle prize (bottle of Glenfiddich)
Above Right: Colin prepares for the Clan March.*

Photos: Colin and Nick Cameron

The Departure of the Blenheim - Additional Newspaper Reports

Roger Cameron (Marrickville, NSW, also Iar Branch, NZ)

Following my wife's and my trip to the UK in 2016, and following our visits to Lochaber and Morvern, I have been seeking to add to, correct and expand my earlier writings. Amongst other new sources, I have recently discovered the 'British Newspaper Archive' through *Findmypast*. This website has been helpful, although there appear to be many newspapers yet to be scanned - for example, there are no pre-1844 scans of the *Glasgow Herald*. But other pre-1844 regional Scottish newspapers often printed syndicated articles from this paper before this date and some of these are available. By "additional" in the title, I mean additional to the account in the *Stirling Observer* of 3 Sep. 1840 (McPhail, 2015). Currently, scans for this newspaper also do not start until 1844. One evening, seeking a displacement activity, I entered "Blenheim" and "1840", narrowed it down to August and September and received a goodly number of hits. There was a short almost word-for-word version of the departure (see Newspaper Cutting 3), followed several days later by a longer version (Newspaper Cuttings 1 & 2) which have some regional variations in the wording.

NEW ZEALAND—THE SHIP BLENHEIM.—On Monday forenoon, the Royal Tar steamer left the Broomielaw with the Rev. Dr Macleod, Mr John Crawford, and other gentlemen, on a visit to the ship Blenheim, then lying at the Tail of the Bank, previous to her departure for New Zealand. The ship is commanded by Captain Gray, and the emigrants amount to betwixt 150 and 200. They are chiefly from Lochaber, Morven, and Skye, with a few Lowlanders. The families consist of the parents, with from six to ten children each, and they are all under the care of Mr Macdonald of Drimintoran, a genuine and highly respectable Highlander, who, to prove his confidence in the benefits to be derived from emigration, and the trust that might be put in his sincerity, goes out along with his family and friends to the land of hope, which, we understand, is Wellington, Port Nicholson. Besides this gentleman, there is Captain Campbell, from Lochaber, and family, Dr Sutherland, Mr John Cameron, Mr Macfarlane, and Dr Campbell, the surgeon of the ship, from Mull. When they had all got on board, they were assembled below to hear an exhortation, in Gaelic, from the Rev. Dr Macleod, who seemed to be almost adored by his countrymen. Although we knew nothing of the fine musical language which fell from the lips of the reverend gentleman with earnest volubility, we do not envy the feelings of the man who could have witnessed such a scene with dry eyes and a light heart. The parting of friends is always, in our opinion, one of the most melancholy events that can take place; and a parting such as this was, almost without hope of ever meeting again, doubly painful. The women sobbed aloud, and many a tear trickled down the cheeks of parents and children, as they bethought themselves of their native glens, and homes, and the friends they had left behind. It is no doubt all for the best that these poor Highlanders should leave a land that cannot even supply their very limited wants, but it is a woful thing when it comes to the moment of departure. Never, we believe, did a more simple and unsophisticated people traverse the deep, than those who sail in the Blenheim. The Bible seemed to be the chief treasure of the adults; and what a striking thing it was to see some of the young women perusing, in sadness, the ministerial certificates of good character and conduct they had all been careful to procure before leaving the land of their fathers! With our whole heart we bid them all "Good speed." Before leaving, Dr Macleod presented to the emigrants, from Mr Maclean, fifteen volumes of the most valuable books in the Gaelic language, with a view to found a Celtic Library in New Zealand, under the superintendance of the Rev. Mr Macfarlan there.

Newspaper Cutting 1: I thought that readers might appreciate deciphering a copy of the actual newspaper rather than a transcription. Reading a newspaper of the time takes you there in a way that a transcription can never quite manage. The longer versions were similar at the beginning and end, however there were variations in content in the middle of each of these longer versions. This longest version certainly adds to the descriptions of the emotions on display during departure.

From: *Inverness Courier*, 2 Sep. 1840, p.2 British Library Board (2017).

From this cutting, I am left wondering what happened to the gift of 15 books in Gaelic intended for the Rev. MacFarlane's library. Was a Gaelic library ever established in New Zealand or were the books, shall we say, 'distributed'? On a different note, all the young women had "... ministerial certificates of good character and conduct ...". Were they in Gaelic or English? Do any copies survive? I also find the paternalistic touch "It is no doubt all for the best ..." a tad patronising, especially in the light that many had been recently cleared from Morvern by that much-reviled establishment figure Patrick Sellar (Gaskell, 1980). In 1840, the clearances were a topic around which writers 'tippy-toed', or did not even mention, as here.

NEW ZEALAND—THE SHIP BLENHEIM.—On Monday forenoon, the Royal Tar steamer left the Broomielaw with the Rev. Dr. M'Leod, Mr John Crawford, and other gentlemen, on a visit to the ship Blenheim, then lying at the Tail of the Bank, previous to her departure for New Zealand. The ship is commanded by Captain Gray, and the emigrants amount to betwixt 150 and 200. They are chiefly from Lochaber, Morven, and Skye, with a few Lowlanders. The families consist of the parents, with from six to ten children each, and they are all under the kindly and fatherly care of Mr M'Donald of Drimintoran, a genuine and highly respectable Highlander, who, to prove his confidence in the benefits to be derived from emigration, and the trust that might be put in his sincerity, goes out along with his family and friends to the land of hope, which, we understand, is Wellington, Port Nicholson. Besides this gentleman, there is Captain Campbell, from Lochaber, and family, Dr Sutherland, Mr John Cameron, Mr M'Farlane, and Dr Campbell the surgeon of the ship, from Mull. Some families were taken into the steamer at Glasgow and Renfrew, to be conveyed to the ship, and it was pleasing to observe the kindness and attention paid to these people by the active Secretary of the New Zealand Company here, Mr Crawford. When they had all got on board, they were assembled below to hear an exhortation, in Gaelic, from the Rev. Dr M'Leod, who seemed to be almost adored by his countrymen. Before leaving, Dr M'Leod presented to the emigrants, from Mr M'Lean, fifteen volumes of the most valuable books in the Gaelic language, with the view to found a Celtic library in New Zealand, under the superintendance of the Rev. Mr Macfarlan there.

Newspaper Cutting 2: This shorter long account at least makes mention of the New Zealand Company. It is re-affirmed that the Rev. McLeod's address took place below decks.

From: *Caledonian Mercury*, Sat. 29 Aug. 1840, p.2. British Library Board (2017).

Other newspapers report that families were given Gaelic bibles. Were there 15 Gaelic books plus bibles for all families? Or just 15 books, or just bibles? Additionally, other newspaper reports mention either a 'Glasgow Colonial

Society' or the 'Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland'. Different newspapers attribute to these differing organisations the responsibility for the distribution of Gaelic Bibles.

NEW ZEALAND.—The Blenheim, a fine ship of 380, chartered by the New-Zealand Company of London, to convey a party of emigrants from the Highlands, for the Company's settlements at Wellington, and Port-Nicholson, sailed on Monday, from Greenock. The Rev. Dr M'Leod, appointed by the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland to distribute Gaelic bibles among the emigrants, delivered an address to them previous to their departure.

Newspaper Cutting 3: An example of earlier reporting of the sailing of the Blenheim. Brief and to the point - slight variations of this version appeared in many regional papers.

*From: Aberdeen Press and Journal Wed. 26 Aug.1840, p.2
British Library Board (2017).*

So, many papers reported, in one form or another, the departure of the Blenheim. In fact, even the *Essex Standard* (... yes, Essex!) on Friday 28 Aug 1840, p.4, reported the departure of the Blenheim.

So, having spent years using *Trove* and *Papers Past* on both sides of 'The Ditch', I am now having lots of research 'fun' with this British version - albeit with incomplete coverage, both in time and regions covered. This is exasperating when I expect to find something and don't - such as court case reports. Then

there are moments of serendipity such as the newspaper report on the 1832 deaths of 'our' 95 year old Tacksman, Alexander Cameron and his wife Elizabeth MacBean. This is one year later than the tombstone inscription in Kilmallie Cemetery.

However, what with post-Thatcher England and all ... free it ain't! I am currently on a monthly subscription for which I pay £12.95 a month, from which I hope to bail out early. By contrast, a year's unlimited subscription would be proportionally cheaper at £80.04 as an up-front payment. Something for a winter's evening perhaps?

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McPhail, Hugh (Compiler). 2015. *The Blenheim People. Commemorating the Scottish emigrants who travelled to New Zealand on the Blenheim in 1840*. Creative Commons Publisher: Hugh McPhail, 7 Westland Road, Mt Cook, Wellington 6021, New Zealand. ISBN 978-0-473-32988-4. 284pp.

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John Cameron - the Drover of Corriechoille

With thanks to 'the Braes of Lochaber' newspaper.

John Cameron of Corriechoille was probably the most famous person to be buried in Cille Choiril in the last 300 years, John Cameron of Corriechoillie was not only the greatest of the Drovers who drove sheep and cattle from the Highlands to the markets or Trysts in the south but he was also a multiple farmer in his own right. It is said that in 1827 over 120,000 cattle and 200,000 sheep were sold at the Falkirk Trysts and more than 20,000 of them were driven south and sold by "Corry".

He was described as "a badly dressed little man about five feet, six inches in height of thin make, with a sharp, hooked nose and lynx eyes. A man of great energy he frequently rode night and day on a wiry pony, carrying for himself some bread and cheese in his pocket and giving his pony now and then a bottle of porter. As may be supposed, he possessed a wonderful power of organisation."

There are many tales of Corry's quick wit and pawky humour. A number of them were collected by Calum Maclean who stayed in Spean Bridge in 1951 and took them down mainly from John the Bard from High Bridge. There is a common theme: Corry, apparently a simple drover, outsmarting apparently richer and superior competitors. The tales can be found on the internet and were clearly a recurrent part of Brae Lochaber folk-lore.

To dig a little deeper into Corry's background, we are told that he had a poor upbringing. He apparently worked as a boy at a changehouse much used by drovers and would accompany them on their road to the markets. His family may have had little money but his mother, a MacArthur, was from family of noted and successful drovers and one of his Cameron cousins came to be known as "King Cameron" in S.Australia where he and his family farmed over 100,000 acres at Penola.

From an early age Corry was exposed to and learnt the droving world and we are told that by the time he was 20 he was

dealing on his own account at the Trysts. He was to claim in his old age that he had "stood at the Falkirk Trysts every year for 50 years." Born in 1781 Corry was fortunate to start Droving at a time when war made cattle prices high and when the sheep stock in the Highlands was increasing yearly. It is probable that he established himself at Corriechoillie early in his career. The tenant Lewis Leslie and his wife, a Macpherson, were short of capital and are on record as having a number of subtenants. On Leslie's death in 1722 Corriechoillie took over the lease - some of the best summer grazing in Lochaber and on the main Droveway to the south. By then he had consolidated his position by marrying in 1816 Leslie's daughter Amelia. Prices were falling then after the war's end but Corry's judgment and reputation meant that he was able to continue to expand.

By the 1830s he was tenant of 11 farms mainly on the side of Loch Arkaig We are told that at his death in 1856 Corry, once very wealthy, had suffered because of the loans he had guaranteed for others. Like the stories that lived on about him, this suggests that there was a human side to a man who by his skill and energy had dominated highland farming for a generation. Above all, he is remembered for his integrity and trustworthiness.

An Bodach



NZ descendants of John Cameron of Corriechoille pose at the Hawera Gathering in 2009 - photo: Editor

DNA—How to start your Journey

by Jo Cameron (Manawatu)

The Big Annual Holiday Sale is on again at Family Tree DNA with savings to be had across all of the DNA tests. If you have decided that now is the time to join the many who have tested, I have written up a few pointers to get you started.

1) Choose the test/s you want.

*The most popular test is the Family Finder, which is on sale for \$59 plus P&P USD. This test is for both males and females and tests the 22 autosomal chromosomes which you inherit roughly 50/50 from both of your parents. This test gives you your DNA cousins from both sides of your family and also gives you your ethnic makeup.

* mtDNA – This is the mitochondrial DNA that you inherit from your mother and your mother's mother and so on. This test can be taken by both sexes and is for deep maternal research.

*Y STR DNA – Tests your paternal lineage, your father and your father's father and so on. This test is for men only as women do not have a Y chromosome. If you are interested in a surname study such as the Clan Cameron Project you are best to start the ball rolling with a Y 37 STR test.

2) The next step is to get onto your PC and head to the ftDNA website <https://www.familytreedna.com/> and order the test you want.

Just follow the online prompts and once the creditcard payment is made ftDNA email you your own unique account details which include a kit number and password. Once you have sent your sample in everything is done via this account.

It takes about ten days to two weeks for the kit to arrive and it consists of two cheek scrapers (one for each side of your mouth). Full instructions come with your order.

ftDNA keep your DNA sample for 25 years so that if you ever want to upgrade your test, for example your Y DNA testing, it can be done so without having to re-submit another sample.



And this is how you get started on your Genetic Genealogy Journey!

I have additional coupons which are renewed weekly to save you extra \$\$ off the sale prices. These range from \$5 off the sale price of the Family Finder to up to \$60 off a Y37,67 or 111 STR test.

The Big Y test is also on sale. This test is used to explore deep ancestral links on our common paternal tree. Big Y tests thousands of known branch markers as well as millions of places where there may be new branch markers. This test is intended for expert users with an interest in advancing science. It is also of great interest to genealogy researchers of the Clan Cameron Y DNA Project. You have to have already taken a Y STR test at ftDNA before you can upgrade to this one.

At a cost of USD \$475 ftDNA have just announced that if you order during the current sale they will upgrade your Y STR markers to 111 for free! I have additional coupons for more savings on this test also.

The sale ends on the 31/12/2017.

If anyone wants further advice about DNA testing I can be reached via the Clan Cameron Manawatu Facebook page.

Have a safe and Merry Christmas everyone!

Jo

(By Editor: Next issue—Colin Cameron's DNA research)

John Colin Cameron—Honoured by Manawatu.

At the Manawatu Annual Dinner in August, John Colin Cameron was presented with a Manawatu Branch Life Membership certificate in recognition of his service to the Branch.

John descends from a family who has been long standing supporters of this Clan.

His Great Great Grandparents, Thomas Ross Cameron 1822 – 1913 of Ardachy, and Annie McDonell 1823 – 1905 of Auchluachrach, emigrated to Kyneton, Victoria on the ship "The Sea" in 1851 and moved to New Zealand in 1855, settling in the Rangitikei and Manawatu districts. Their eldest son Archibald, born 1850 was John's Great Grandfather.

John's Grandparents, Ida and Colin Campbell Cameron were founding members when the Manawatu Branch was re-established in 1958, as were his parent's Maggie and John Alexander McDonell "Mac" Cameron.

In his youth John played Rugby and raced stock-cars.



Family encouragement saw him join the Clan in 2000. He was soon appointed to the branch Committee and from 2008 to 2012 he was the Manawatu Branch President. Since 2005 he has attended the Clan's Annual General Meetings throughout New Zealand and regularly attends the Paeroa and Hawke's Bay Highland Games.

A tireless worker, he has been involved in the organisation of the Branch displays at the Annual Manawatu Scottish Square Day, and for several years has been convenor of the Cameron stand at the Turakina Highland Games. In 2016 he, together with Brian Barber and committee, set up a food tent at the National Pipe Band Championships at Feilding. John has also convened several Branch Dinners.

In 2009, John was part of the New Zealand group who attended "The Homecoming" tour of Scotland and the Clan Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry. John was honoured to be nominated to carry the Clan Cameron N.Z. Inc. Banner and lead the large contingent of New Zealand Camerons on the historic march on Edinburgh's Royal Mile.

In September 2016 John made another trip to Scotland, visiting Bannockburn, Glenfinnan, Culloden Moor, Fort William, the Clan Museum at Achnacarry and met with Lochiel.

Branch Life Membership is a well deserved recognition of John's commitment to the Clan.

With thanks to Mike Topham.

Highland Dress. Part 2

-the Sporran

by Bill Cameron



Bill's dress sporran

Traditionally used to hold small amounts of food such as oatmeal if you were out on the hills during the day, or alternatively for storing a few smaller items such as coins if you were going to market. The small purse like gathering of deerskin or calfskin essentially worked as an external pocket that was worn to the side of the kilt with a piece of rope or leather pierced through its outer edges to draw it

together and another piece of leather holding it next to the kilt around the waist.

Unlike today, the traditional sporran was used very much as a functional accessory although its design would vary from area to area depending on the level of craftsmanship employed in lacing the drawstring through the outer edges of the animal skin and the quality of skin used.

From its simple origins as a pouch made from animal hide, there now exists a great variety of sporran designs from day sporrans, dress sporrans, full dress sporrans and full mask sporrans.

Day sporrans are probably the most well known modern design of sporrans that are worn with Highland dress when attending a wedding or Burns Supper. Typically manufactured in a stiff leather material with an indented decorative design on the front - often including celtic knot work. This sporran usually includes a folding flap under which a stud faster is placed to keep it from opening and three or more decorative tassels added to the front.

Dress sporrans are often made from a variety of different furs such as otter, fox, badger and horsehair. Slightly larger in size than day sporrans they usually include silver fretwork designs on the top of the sporran flap, as well as silver ferrules around the three or six tassels on the front. This type of sporran is often handed down from generation to generation due to the changing use and availability of animal skins.

Full dress sporrans have long since been associated with Scottish regiments, such as the Cameron Highlanders or the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. These longer format sporrans are often finished in contrasting horsehair colours – white/cream for the sporran itself and black or brown for the tassels. These sporrans may also include silver mounted

fretwork including the regimental motto amongst the decorative silver mounted fretwork.

Full mask sporrans are made from animal heads or animal skins that are now no longer permitted by law in Scotland. These may include badger, seal and otter. This type of sporran is still quite commonly seen at formal occasions, as many of them were manufactured before changes to the law and may have been passed down through the family.

Although the sporran is no longer worn on the hill when out shooting, or when gathering sheep in the glens, it now fulfils a new function in holding a variety of modern day items from the wallet, mobile phone, keys and maybe a wee flask of uisge beathe to keep the cold days of winter at bay.

By Editor: The following is an excerpt from an article published in *Cameron* about Bill's sporran in 2006.



"While living in New Zealand three years ago, the possum—trichosurus vulpecula—captured Bill's attention.

He said: "I spotted numerous dead samples along the highways and byways of both North and South Islands obviously hit by cars, but due to their nocturnal lifestyle, I never did manage to see a live one."

Before returning to Scotland at the end of 2003, Bill was presented with a possum fur.

He said: "It lay draped over the back of a chair for two years, but they do reckon that if you keep anything long enough it will eventually come in handy."

Aware of what he describes as the "aesthetic and tactile qualities" of possum fur, Willie found a company in Perthshire to make it into a sporran.

His Cameron tartan kilt is now complete with this new adornment, which, Bill explains, "represents a mix of Scottish and New Zealand cultures."



Cameron Highlanders sporran



Bill wearing his possum sporran.
Photo: Iain Ferguson

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—22 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.

Please be aware that folk may attend the Gathering and make their own travel and accommodation arrangements, without using Operatunity Travel.

Information may be found on the Gathering facebook page: Clan Cameron Gathering 2018—Australia.



Aonaibh ri Cheile The Back Page



Images from the Auckland Highland games

Very Scottish—cold and windy with rain threatening!



Ponies



Dancing



Mock Battles



Haggis Ceremony



Clan Tents



Pipe Bands



Jenny and Elaine—the smiling faces of our welcomers



A Scottish visitor to the Cameron tent



Clan March



Editor's family give support



New members Chris Wallace and daughter Cameron-Lacey outside the Cameron Tent, with Cameron-Lacey's grandmother Mary.

Photos: Editor