

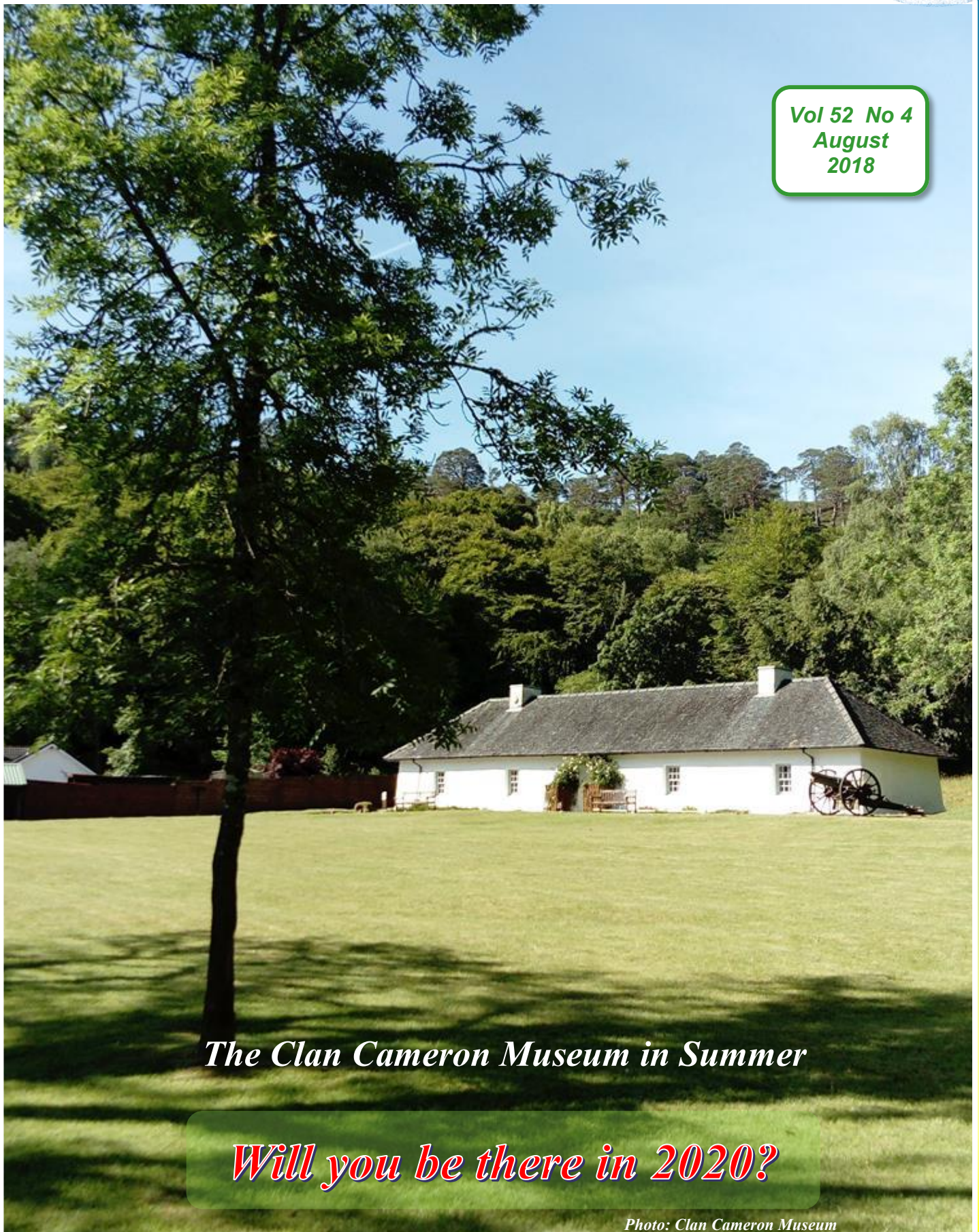


Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

**Vol 52 No 4
August
2018**



The Clan Cameron Museum in Summer

Will you be there in 2020?

Photo: Clan Cameron Museum

“Cameron”

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Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc)

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A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

Since my last report to you I have been a little occupied with a work trip to Europe – and in particular to Salamanca, Spain. This trip did not involve any other Camerons. It was interesting to view the amazing history that country offers. I stayed in the middle of Salamanca in the Mayors Plaza which was a set of sand stone buildings built 800 years ago with a central courtyard built for bull fighting. Coming from the Shaky isles of New Zealand I kept watch as to my surroundings thinking that if we get a good shake here we might have to move quickly!!

We have been thrilled to hear that our BOP branch President and National Secretary Tanya was the winner of a specially made Cameron Kilt. No doubt she will tell us how she came to win this event.

Julie and I will attend the Auckland dinner on the 4th August and the Manawatu branch dinner 2 weeks later. We also plan to attend the 2020 Clan gathering : see below...

Locheil has emailed me last Friday with the following important information re the 2020 Clan Cameron Gathering which I hope he doesn't mind if I share with you all:



“We had a very useful meeting last Monday regarding the Clan Gathering in 2020. Basically, we are going to build on the successful event in 2009 and take on board the comments you all made at the time.

Therefore we will start on Thursday July 30th and end on Sunday 2nd August.

We will have a number of talks spread over two or three days covering Genealogy, Gaelic, the Estate, Hydro, Wildlife, Commandos, The Family etc.

We will organise walks of different lengths for Thursday and possibly replicate them on Friday.

We will have a reception on Friday evening.

On Saturday we will have many and hopefully interesting events such as ‘quack commandos’,

woodcarving, falconry, kiddies corner, march past, clay pigeon shooting, tug of war, sheep shearing, dancing etc and we will have many stalls in the marquee.

We will have a Ceilidh in the evening and depending on numbers, may ask each country to contribute !

We will have a church service on Sunday followed by a barbecue and possibly six-aside shinty at Achnacarry.

In order to organise catering and events, we will obviously have to do guesstimate numbers attending and to that end it would be extremely useful if you could perhaps let me know whether anyone might be planning to come from your country. I appreciate that for some of you it is a long way and also expensive but hopefully one or two might appear !”

Please feel free to comment on the programme and to make suggestions to Nick.

Cheers *Nick.*

Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website

www.clanameronnz.co.nz



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Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Sept

Printed By

I was very taken with the editorial in the Clan Cameron *Rocky Mountain Piper* of North America of July/August 2018, which shows that others have the same problems as we have here in New Zealand. It is reprinted below with the kind permission of Bob and Sandi Cameron:

"Is this the year to consider greater involvement in your clan? For us to be solid in our region, as we have been through the years, we need commitment from those who consider their heritage worthy of embracing! Since our inception in the Rocky Mountain region in 1990, we have had a strong presence at most Highland Games. This, as you may know, requires some effort, but has been so well worth the work involved, as our convenors will likely agree.

Yes, there is a cost. Have you ever been committed to something worthwhile without incurring some cost? Our convenors often travel for miles, plan a night or two at a local hotel (or camp out), and eat a few meals away from home. This may sound like a vacation, but once they arrive, the work continues (I would have said "begins", but much work goes into the preparation, as well.) Once they set up and are ready for visitors to their booths, the commitment is truly apparent! Throughout the day, they meet and greet both members and the curious, alike, imparting knowledge of Clan Cameron and Scotland, participating in discussions focused on cultural and historical interests.

They may share albums of photos from past trips there, notebooks filled with a variety of information and artwork, books particularly keyed to Clan Cameron's geography or history, flags, maps, and so much more. The booths are a smorgasbord of delight for those curious about their Cameron heritage.

The days are long and busy. Does this deter our convenors and cause them to say, "No way! This is too much work..." Curiously, no! They are committed. They love their clan and they are happy for the opportunity to share their knowledge and enthusiasm. They understand that this isn't just about their heritage, but it is a way to perpetuate the love of family. (And really, what is more important?)

Yes, they also enjoy the variety of activities that shout "Scotland," as the competitions that are centred on dance, athletics and music, but often they are too busy with the

booth to spend much time at festival events. Nonetheless, they realize the benefit for their fellow members and are willing to be available to promote the clan. This requires commitment. They may not always receive great recognition, but they are always very sincerely appreciated.

We are honestly blessed to be apart of Clan Cameron. If you visit Scotland, you will know this reality when you mention Clan Cameron to Scots you meet, particularly in the Highlands. We are part of a clan that has a reputation for being honourable and brave, one that has been a very important part of Scottish history.

We share a heritage that brings smiles to faces so, when we convene, this joy is exuded! Our booth seems to be the centre of happy people!

Because of some recent health issues of a few convenors, we need to broaden our list of volunteers, however, and are asking for more members to step up and help at regional Games. Are you willing to get more involved? Let's show our commitment to our clan and, ultimately, to Lochiel. Aonaibh ri chéile!"

A similar commitment exists here within our own branches. We depend on a few dedicated clansfolk in each branch to promote our clan. Each year these same people can be seen manning clan tents at Highland Games and other events, or arranging dinners, outings and other functions. The article by Bob and Sandi above describes accurately what they do, and we are very, very grateful to all of them.

Unfortunately, aging and ill health are restricting the ability of many of these members to do as much as they would like. We need more volunteers to help with these important tasks - to keep alive our traditions, heritage, and memories.

Please consider helping and showing your commitment to the Cameron Clan. We would love to see you on Highland Games days, even for a short period. I can assure you it will be very rewarding.



Coming Events:

[Further events and details on our web site](#)

Saturday 4 August 2018
Auckland Mid-Winter Dinner
Quality Hotel, Parnell.

Registration form for Auckland members enclosed. If anyone else would like one please contact Neil \$63 per person.
Inquiries to Neil Cameron.

Saturday 18 August 2018
Manawatu Branch Dinner
Wharerata Function Centre, Massey University, Palmerston North.
Speaker: Neal Duff *"Education, Distilleries and Kippers in the Land of the Heather"*
Please email Bryan Barber on <bjbbarber@gmail.com> to register

Saturday 8 September 2018
Executive Council Meeting
Parklands Motor Lodge Conference Room Turangi
Motel booking: Ph. 0800 456 284

Sunday 14th. of October 2018
Kirkin O' The Tartan Service
St. Andrews Turakina at 2pm.
This year's piper will be Callum Cameron along with his parents Heather and Eoin playing the organ.
Information contact Roz & Ewen Grant 06 327 3861 - tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
12-14 April 2019
54th Clan Cameron AGM and Gathering
Quality Hotel, Parnell, Auckland and other venues.

From the Branches....

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

Auckland by Norman Cameron

On Saturday the 12th of May I attended the Clan Donald Dinner at the Quality Hotel, Parnell. Murdock McDonald was the guest speaker whose subject was the recent history of Clan Donald. I was the only Cameron at the dinner and I had very enjoyable evening.



Elaine Ebbitt, our hard working Secretary, organised a boat trip there and back to the Riverhead Tavern at the top of the Waitemata Harbour on the 20th of May. It was a beautiful day for the boat trip and the skipper gave us a running commentary. We spent two hours at Riverhead, plenty of time to have an enjoyable meal. There were fifteen in the party and if you refer to the June Magazine, back page, you will see a photo of the group.

On Sunday the 24th of June at 10am the "Kirkin' O' the Tartan" was held at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Symond Street. Brian & Pam Cameron, Bryan & Jenny Haggitt, Heather Cameron and myself attended, representing Clan Cameron. Brian Cameron carried the Clan Banner and there were five other Clans. For once I took decent photos.

In the afternoon at 1.30 the Tartan Day Tattoo was held at the North Shore Events centre, Glenfield. Neil Cameron, Bryan & Jenny Haggitt and Heather Cameron all attended and Vice-President Rob Cameron was participating.

On August the 4th the Clan Cameron Auckland Branch Dinner will be held at the Quality Hotel, Parnell, 6pm for 6.30 pm.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

It was an exciting time in May learning that I had won the opportunity to have a kilt handmade in Edinburgh at The Kiltmakery. The kilt is hand stitched and there are photos of them making it on Facebook. The Kiltmakery Facebook page had a competition running to win a hand stitched kilt. I had to like and share The Kiltmakery page on Facebook to go into a draw. I have been in contact with them often and I am looking forward to my Kilts arrival soon. I am so excited winning my kilt as I hope to have many more events to wear it to in the near future. Who knows, if the 2020 Achnacarry visit goes ahead, I may be seen at The Kiltmakery shop while I am there. **On page 6 is my journey..**



The Bay of Plenty Branch had their AGM in June and returned most Officers. The new Patron is Fraser Cameron as Harold Cameron passed way last year not long after our AGM. Tanya presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Denis Cameron recognizing his 41 years of Service, Patricia presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Joy Cameron recognizing her 30 years of Service and Tanya presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Fraser Cameron recognizing his 36 years of Service. These certificates were presented to endorse our ongoing appreciation of the services to our BOP Region for Clan Cameron NZ.

We plan to have our end of year luncheon but at this stage nothing else is planned.

Many thanks to the members who have already paid their subscription for this year. It would be appreciated if

outstanding subscriptions of \$25.00 could be forwarded to our treasurer – Joy Cameron, 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa, Tauranga 3118 or paid direct into the Clan Cameron BOP Branch Bank Account – 030435.0024933.00

Canterbury by Rae Magson

Members have been resting on their laurels after the successful Clan Cameron Conference in Ashburton back in April. We are thinking about the Hororata Highland Games in November and the Annual General Meeting coming up also in November. There has been some sickness of members and our President Colin and Isabel will be departing for Scotland soon.



Thank you Neil for the wonderful magazine that you produce, especially the pages in the last edition of the Ashburton Gathering and AGM and the Australian Gathering. We are fortunate to have you.

Iar (Western North Island) by Shona Wallace

Clan Cameron Iar have held our AGM. This was held at The Café in Waverley. Unfortunately a poor choice of venue due to noise. However if you are passing through Waverley a great place for coffee or food!



Officers elected: Chairperson Neville Wallace
Secretary: Shona Wallace
Treasurer: Alan Drake

As usual not a lot to discuss apart from our inability to interest new Members into our Clan.

We also held a pot luck lunch at the Wallace home on June 26th which was well attended by the faithful and a convivial time had by all attendees.

We do wish our sick members a speedy recovery.

I would like to remind some members that Subs are due now!

Manawatu by Anne Walker

Clan Cameron Manawatu were sad to farewell Coline Anderson, from Palmerston North, who passed away recently. Coline was John Cameron's aunt, and a long term member of Clan Cameron Manawatu.



We were also saddened to farewell Sonia Cameron from Hunterville. Sonia passed away last month, and had been a great supporter of Clan Cameron and will be greatly missed by her family, and all Clan Cameron members.

Clan Cameron Manawatu will hold our annual mid-winter dinner on Saturday 18th August, commencing at 6pm. This annual festive occasion will be held this year at the Wharerata Function Centre, Massey University. Wharerata is one of Palmerston North's original homesteads, set in lovely gardens, and now part of the Manawatu Campus of Massey University. Guests will be entertained with music, and a guest speaker, Neal Duff, whose topic – "Education, Distilleries and Kippers in the Land of the Heather" looks certain to entertain. All members, friends and supporters of Clan Cameron branches are invited, and we would love to see as many as possible attend. Please email Bryan Barber on bjpbbarber@gmail.com or ring 027 443 3837 to register interest or for more information. Cost is \$50. RSVP by 10th August 2018.

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Manawatu Branch

John Watson

Queensland, Australia

Gisborne Branch

Colin Cameron

Gisborne

Ceud Mile Fáilte

One Hundred

Thousand Welcomes

Wellington-Wairarapa by Graeme Cameron

On Saturday 14 April we held a barbeque at the Kaitoke Regional Park. Although attended by only 10 members, we had an enjoyable lunch and get-together.

On Sunday 15 July we held a family picnic and walk around the Nga Manu Nature Reserve at Waikanae. The weather was perfect, and we all had an enjoyable 3 hours at the reserve, although again with only a small attendance. It was great to see our new members Hamish, Hannah, Oliver and Finlay at the gathering.

See picture on page 7



The Tattoo

The tattoo is a display of modern skills and pageantry. Although the display may be on a grand or small scale, it has origins in a very simple piece of army routine, observed as far back as the seventeenth century. In those days all active war operations ceased in the late autumn and the rival forces went into billets in the towns and villages in and around the battlefield.

This was the practice in the British Army serving under King William III in his campaign in the Low Countries during the 1670s. The social centres for the troops were the inns where most troops gathered in the evenings. To get them back to the billets at night it was necessary for the innkeeper to turn off the taps and stop serving. The time for doing this was between 9.30 and 10.00 pm and it was notified to the innkeeper by a drummer beating a "call". When the innkeeper heard the drums he would call out "Doe den tap toe" and turn off the taps. It is thought that the word Tattoo is derived from the expression "Doe den tap toe" which freely translated into English is "Turn off the taps".

The word "Taptoe" was used in official books for a long time but has now given way to the familiar "Tattoo". During this period there were no barracks for soldiers in Great Britain and troops were accommodated in billets, so the "Tattoo" was beaten each night for the same purpose. Over a period of time a flute player joined the drummer and short tunes were played; then a whole corps of drums, flutes or pipes, and eventually bands played for the entertainment of the garrisons. At the beginning of the 20th century tattoos as a public entertainment were begun.

So, a simple piece of military routine has evolved into an established custom, providing entertainment and enjoyment for countless people.

(Description from the programme of the North Shore Tartan Day Tattoo)

Vale.....

Sonia Cameron by Bruce Cameron

Mum's first major Cameron event was the 1969 visit of the late Lochiel and Lady Margaret to Manawatu and to Douglas and Ida Camerons' garden party at their Mt Stewart home. My sister Monica was a toddler & took a dip in the duck pond in front of the house! Mum attended many Manawatu events over the years.



In 2009 Mum attended the Clan Gathering at Achnacarry with Alana & Sarah. Mum made a new friend when Lochiel asked mum for a cigarette!

Mum had a full life and was fully involved with her 6 children, church, Schools, and many local community organisations. Mum

lived the Cameron motto 'unite'!

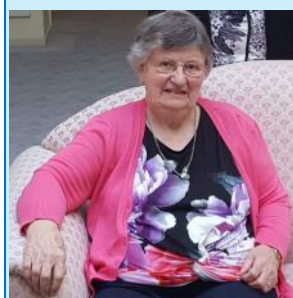
Trevor Edgar Conyers White by Mike Topham

Trevor White passed away at Gisborne on 28th April, 2018. Trevor was the son of Edgar and Marjorie White. Edgar White was a Grandson of Ewen Cameron of "Toanga" Poverty Bay and was a foundation member of Gisborne Branch and Branch President for five years from 1988.

Coline Mary Anderson (nee Cameron)

by Bev Morrissey

We sadly bid farewell to Coline, aged 92, who passed away recently on 7th April 2018. She was first introduced to Clan



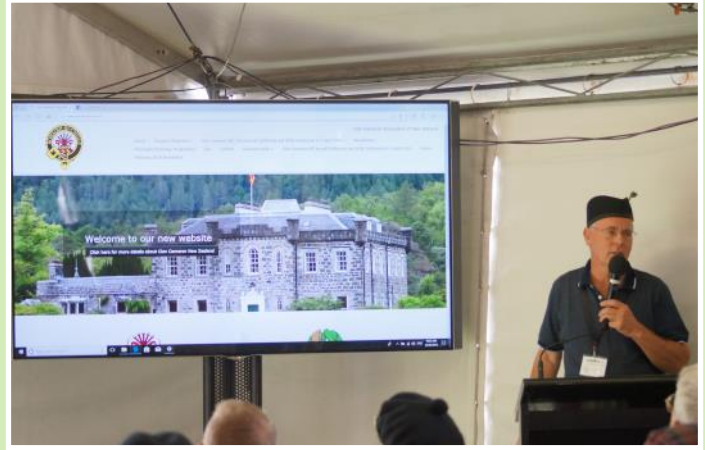
Cameron Manawatu, by her father, the late Colin Cameron (Archibald/Thomas Ross) when it was very first established. From then on, she attended regularly, often with her sister Jean Harnett, who is still a current member at 91 years of age. Jean described Coline as the one who worked quietly in the background, often baking or cooking for fundraisers,

meetings or dinners.

Coline was an active and very passionate member of Clan Cameron, until her health deteriorated, spending her final 4 years at Olive Tree Rest Home in Palmerston North. Coline is survived by current Clan Cameron members: Bev Morrissey (daughter), Yvette Morrissey (Grand-daughter) and Life Member John Cameron (nephew).

More pictures of the Australian Gathering

thanks to Elizabeth O'Brien and Clan Cameron Australia





Tanya's Kilt - see Bay of Plenty Report

I am so excited. My Kilt is on its way here, hopefully in time for my attendance at the Auckland and Manawatu dinners in August.

Watch the winning ticket being drawn :-

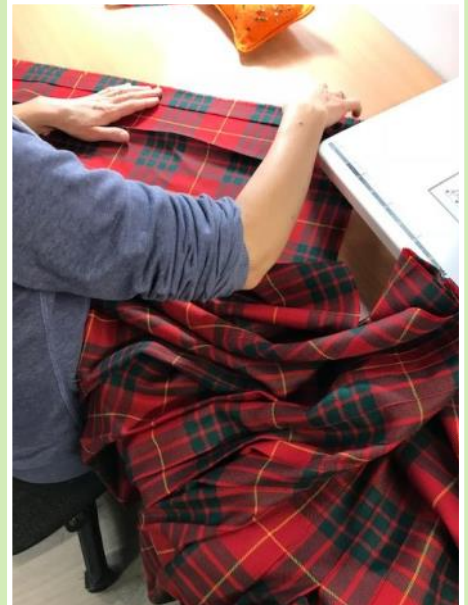
<https://www.facebook.com/kiltmakery/videos/363714387483929/>



Our competition winner is....
Tanya Cameron from New Zealand



Aga making a start on Tanya's Kilt



Aga finishing Tanya's kilt



Bay of Plenty AGM - Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to long serving members Joy, Denis and Fraser by Tanya and Pat. (see page 4)



Nga Manu gathering (photo by Hamish Cameron)
(Back row: Eoin Cameron, Hannah Carty, Graeme Cameron, Graham Hancox, Jay Hancox, Hazel Cameron. Front row: Hamish holding Finlay Cameron, Oliver Cameron).



Rob and Graeme at the BBQ
(photo by Cath Cameron)

Charles Archibald Cameron

by Norman Cameron (Auckland)

Charles Archibald (known as Charlie or Archie), second son of Allan & Margaret Cameron, was born at Bowlands in 1869. Grew up at Bowlands, moved to Springhill in 1873 and finally to Rewa Rewa. In 1899 Charlie & his younger brother Jim drew straws for the two farms as their father had retired to Masterton. Charlie drew Rewa Rewa and Jim, Springhill, as Jim was already married and Charlie wasn't, Charlie decided it was only fair that Jim should live closer to Tinui so they swapped over. While Charlie farmed Springhill he had a house built at 46 Victoria Street, Masterton, this is where his wife Mary lived and he travelled out to Springhill

C.A. married Mary Crawford of Mornington, Dunedin in 1903. Mary's mother Margaret Gillies was born in 1842 at Rothesay, Scotland, arriving in New Zealand in 1864. Margaret married James Crawford in 1870 and Mary was the youngest of four children. Mary's father James Crawford was an Inspector of Public Works and had died by the time Mary married Charlie. Mary had three brothers Dr Andrew Crawford who lived in Wanganui, John Crawford who ran the School for the Deaf in Christchurch and Alexander Crawford a Bank Officer of Christchurch.

In 1908 C.A. sold Springhill to the Langdon family and purchased Flat Point from Fred Hales. Flat Point is on the Wairarapa Coast, 40 miles south of Castlepoint, and was originally occupied by J.A. Wilson in 1850 and his lease stretched from Whareama River to the Pahaoa River. He sold out to Murch and Hales, the property was from the Kaiwhata



In 1872 two weddings were conducted at Flat Point by the Rev J.C. Andrews. The bridegrooms were of the same name, Frederic Moore. The first married Kate Murch the daughter of Mrs Murch who owned Glenburn. The second was the owner of Waikaraka, north of the Kaiwhata and also for a while, Glenburn. His bride was

Helen Garden Smith, daughter of James Smith of Wellington, who in later years patented a particular type of laundry iron. In 1910 a boxing match of some note took place in the horse paddock at Flat Point finally ending with a knock-out in the 69th round.

The property that C.A. purchased was 6900 acres, this area over the years with the free holding of Maori land and other purchases came to just under 15000 acres.

The Station was run by managers with C.A. travelling out from Masterton. The second Flat Point homestead burnt down in 1909 and a larger homestead was built 1910 with the billiard room being added in 1926. The woolshed was doubled in size to eight stands in 1920.

C.A. and family took up residency at Flat Point in 1926 and C.A. set about improving the buildings. He had built a house, shepherds' quarters and stables all out of concrete with the shingle coming from the beach. From then onwards C.A. was known as "Concrete Charlie". In 1926 the installation of a generator and batteries allowed the homestead to have electric lights.

C.A. bred and raced horses namely Cheerful Lady, Vivid Night, Cheerful Day & Royal Pamper, the stallion was Lord Quick; he had honey bees and also started a dog cemetery with the dog's photo on the tombstones.

Stations up and down the coast relied on the shipping



Flat Point Estate (West view)

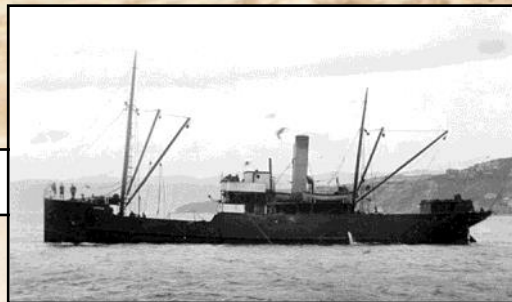
River to the Pahaoa River. North of the Kaiwhata was taken over by the Moore family. The Hales/Murch block was split in half with Murch taking the south block from Waikakeno Creek to the Pahaoa. All three owners were drowned over a period of time and at the back of the property there is a high trig point with commanding views from Castlepoint to Glenburn which was named "The Widows" in memory of them.

company "Richardson's" of Napier for their supplies and the shipping of the wool. The surf boats would carry between 2 and 3 tons ashore and 25 bales of wool out to the waiting ship. At Flat Point a wool dump shed was built close to the beach. The coaster would announce their arrival with the blast of its horn. The wool would be taken from the dump shed by a bullock team to the jetty, which could only be used at high tide. This system was changed in 1920 to using horses and

dray in the bay which allowed the wool to be loaded at any tide from the dray into the surfboat. The coaster "Ripple" was lost in a terrible storm north of Cape Palliser on August the 7th 1924 and a lifeboat from the stricken boat washed up on the beach at Flat Point with a dead crewman in the boat. The last time that wool went by sea from Flat Point was in 1928 because of the improvement of road transport.

In 1929 C.A. had a house built for his eldest son Crawford at the southern end at the bottom of the last hill going to Glenburn. The trucks that delivered the building material, carted the wool back to Masterton.

During the 1930's slump Flat Point did not sell any wool and Dalgety & Company financed the Station until the wool prices rose again. During the slump C.A. employed a lot of men. They cut most of the scrub and built a rabbit proof fence right around the Station boundary and some of this fence was still in existence forty years later. He financed two of his staff in to the purchase of



Left: The steamer Ripple. Alexander Turnbull Library



Waterfalls at Tiraumea in 1923 which had to be repossessed in 1926 and the farm was finally sold to the Laing brothers 1939. He was also in partnership with his brother Alexander at Te Rata at Makuri from 1908 to 1926 when it was sold to David Rutherford.

Charlie Cameron was a councillor on the South Wairarapa Council from 1916 until his death in 1943.

C.A. died on the 25th of May 1943 and the rumour goes he left his estate to his wife Mary who died on the 18th of May 1945 and the death duties were not cleared until the wool boom in 1949/1950

In 1956 Flat Point was divided with Crawford taking the southern portion, Eric the home block and Geoff the northern block.



The Sport of Curling in New Zealand

by David Weston

Given the time of the year and that curling is a sport that came from Scotland it seems appropriate to look at its establishment here. The first mention I can find in Papers Past to curling is in May 1865 but this refers to an event in Scotland. The first mention of an event in New Zealand appears in the Otago Daily Times for 30 July 1866 when a match was reported on at Alexandra:-

On Monday night last a curling match was played at Alexandra, on the ice on Wood's dam, west bank of the Molyneux. McDonald and party and Hillhouse and party were the competitors; the former, after a well-contested game, proved victorious. Skating, sliding, and snow-balling have been pursued to a great extent this winter; in fact, all concur in the one opinion that there has been nothing like such severe weather since Otago first became a gold-producing country. That venerable individual, the oldest inhabitant, is quite out in his calculations, and confesses himself unable to give an opinion of how things are to be; his experiences have no recollection of any such severe weather being encountered.

In fact this event was reported on in a number of South Island papers with comments about the unusual severity of the weather.

An item appeared in the Grey River Argus on 4 July 1868 mentioning an advertisement in the paper asking for interest in a Curling Club and expressing doubt that the ice would ever be strong enough in the vicinity of Dunedin for this purpose.

The Bruce Herald of 1 November 1871 has a report from their correspondent in Havelock who laments the lack of interest in cricket in the area and speculates that *"If the ice was strong enough in winter, I fancy it would be different if the Scotch game of curling was in question there would be some activity shown"*.

On 27 September 1873 the Wellington Independent reports a Curling Club has been started in Dunedin and later in the extract notes that there was ice over a foot thick in Dunedin. Despite this there appears to have been no comments in the Otago papers.

The next year though on 17 June the Otago Daily Times is reporting on curling stones having been imported by a Mr T Callender and that work was progressing on a curling rink near the Water of Leith mill which was expected to be finished later that month. A later report on 22 June noted that 2 of the stones had been put on display in a shop window and raised debate about their purpose, perhaps a new type of flat iron being suggested.

On 18 July 1874 the Otago Daily Times reported *"if the frost holds good to-day the members of the Curling Club intend starting for the "ice "at twelve o'clock. Water was laid on to the rink yesterday, and there seems every probability of a good day's sport for the members. We might state that any information in connection with the movements of the Club can be obtained from Mr Mendershausen."* Unfortunately for the Club members a later article on 21 July reported that the ice was not up to playing standard by 12 noon although one enthusiastic curler who arrived at the rink at daylight was able to enjoy some hours of play. He was reported to have shown some skill in the game while living *"in the old country"*.

The next report is on 8 February 1875 in the same paper. *"It is perhaps not generally known that there are two Curling Clubs in New Zealand, one the Dunedin Club, the other the Haldon Club, whose habitat is the Mackenzie Country, Canterbury. The Dunedin Club was organised before last winter, but as the rink was not ready before the frost set in; no curling took place. The Club, however, took steps to become affiliated to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, and by the last mail from home the Hon. Sec. received a notice from Mr Alex. Cassels, W.S., Edinburgh, the indefatigable secretary of the Royal Caledonian*



Curling Club, to the effect that a district medal had been awarded for competition between the Dunedin, N.Z., and Haldon, N.Z., Clubs. The medal, which was forwarded by the mail, is a very handsome one. and it is only to be hoped that when winter sets in the representatives of the two Clubs will have an opportunity of competing for it."

By the following winter, 1876, it appears curling was established in Dunedin with a lengthy article in the Otago Witness on 15 July reporting on play taking place with a match between two teams on the 11th of July. There was also talk of a match with the Haldon Club from the McKenzie Country for the medal mentioned above. The paper reported that there were a large number of spectators enjoying the sight and many comments from the players were in a Scottish accent. This match was reported widely with papers from throughout New Zealand making mention. A good frost also allowed a game 13 days later on the 24th.

An interesting comment appears in the Otago Daily Times for the 7 August 1876 which reports a meeting of the Curling Club was to be held that night at Jones Hotel for *"the purpose of initiating members"*.

The following winter, 1877, there were a number of reports of games and it was noted there was a period from 24 July to 4 August when play was possible everyday although not on Sundays. It was also reported that the Dunedin Curling Club now had 53 members.

Over the 1877-78 summer reports on the sport in Scotland appeared in Otago papers and by the winter of 1878 another club had been started at Mount Ida. There was also a report of a Club at Naseby but I am not certain if this was a different club to that at Mount Ida. There were also regular reports on curling events run by the Dunedin Curling Club.

By the winter of 1879 the Naseby Club appears to have been well established and has encouraged a group from Palmerston to take up the game and the two groups competed on a number of occasions. Games continued to be played in Dunedin.

In 1880 the Naseby Club was also affiliated to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club but there was little activity at Dunedin because of a mild winter.

In 1881 the Naseby and Dunedin clubs finally met to compete for the medal with Naseby running out clear winners. As the comment is made these were the only 2 clubs in the Southern Hemisphere I can only assume that the Naseby and Mount Ida clubs were the same club. There is no further mention of the Haldon Curling Club. There is a mention though of a new Club at Clyde although it is also noted members will need to travel a long way for ice.

By 1882 most activity seems to be centred on Naseby and a comment made that it was becoming popular in the district with a number of new clubs forming. The Dunedin Club suggested the medal given by the Royal Caledonian Curling Club could be played for by the clubs in the inland area.

The game appears to continue to flourish in Central Otago and as roads improved more meetings were arranged between Clubs and attempts were made for annual Bonspiels, or gatherings to play the game. From reports in the papers it appeared to be particularly enjoyed by the Scottish immigrants with comments made about the broad accents of many players but it was also noted it was attracting other people.

There are now around 36 Clubs in New Zealand with even 2 in Auckland but it is mainly in Central Otago where they are concentrated. While there are some indoor centres tradition has it that the Bonspiel continues to be held on outdoor rinks in New Zealand so it can only go ahead if the weather is right. The last one was in Naseby in 2015.

Despite it largely being a Scottish game I can find no reference to any Cameron's taking part.



By Editor:

This space was reserved for Bill Cameron's story about the Ben Nevis Model T Ford but due to pressure of work Bill was not able to complete it in time. Look forward to this story in our next issue.

In its place we are repeating an article by Astie Cameron published in this magazine 10 years ago:-



An Gearasdan Dubh

(The Black Garrison)

by Astie Cameron

We've been going through some old pics of the aluminium smelter here at Lochaber ("the B.A.") and found a newspaper cutting with a poem that may be of interest.... Having done a quick search I have found a bit of information on the kilmallie.com website - that the author of the poem is **Johnny Wilson, the Bard of Bogmonie**. He was born in Tomonie in 1892, one of six children and died in 1980. He worked in the railway signal box at Banavie and Mallaig, writing poetry and making toys in his spare time. Kilmallie Community Council have published a book of his poems called "Passing Glimpses" and is available from the Community Council email: Info@kilmallie.com

Bygone Days

This poem was written by the late, lamented Johnnie Wilson, the Bard of Bogmonie. Donald (Don) MacMillan, also known as "Lockan", mentioned in the last verse is pictured here. He was the last hand loom weaver in Lochaber and wove a Cameron tartan plaid that gained a diploma in 1909.



An Gearasdan Dubh

*As MacJohnigall the Bold, I'll try now to unfold,
A tale about a town that's seldom 'dry';
It has a narrow street, lies south of Achnappeat.
'Neath Ben Nevis towering to the sky.*

*Built by Sassenachs, oh heck! To hold Hielan' men in check
Who roamed about in kilts and "Beetag Doos,"
With fierce Lochaber Axe they made occasional attacks,
And pinched the best of on another's coos.*

*But tempers soon cooled down and the Fort became a town,
No longer Gearasdan Dubh with sodger men;
Its roots now spreading far 'cross Lochy and the Blar,
As industry arrived beneath the Ben.*

*I'll attempt now to review some characters I knew,
In the Gearasdan of 70 years away;
Some names I will not mention, for they're bound
redemption,
But I'll tell you of some worthies of the day.*

*No slate so thin or fat as Bellman Donald "Fat,"
Who pushed a big wheel barra up the Ben;
With Barber Willie Swan, Ben Nevis Race began,
And 'Kilgour' wrote the records with his pen.*

*"Oss" could sole a leather boot for "Beetag" or "The Cute,"
"The Para" make a suit to fit you neat;
At the reins was Bill MacRae - you'd see him once a day,
Carting Hughag's coal along the street.*

*A cailleach from the Glen could out-drink the local men,
She liked a good stiff gillag with her beer;
One day she slumped in Town, "Your sign has fallen down!,"
Observed "Father Mac" to John the Volunteer!"*

*Peter Dubh, "Black Jeck," we knew him as "The Bleck"
Fished Linnhe Loch so deep and blue;
If some fannags got enmeshed instead of herring fresh,
Bleck sold them, on the fly, to those who knew!*

*"The Butler,"orra-man, with messages he ran,
From shop to shop, and tried to dodge the rain;
Or waited on the pier for steamer "Mountaineer,"
To catch the ropes for David Hope MacBrayne.*

*A mighty smith was John who cheered us with a song,
at ceilidhs in the good old Gaelic tongue;
I have seen his hammer swing and heard his anvil ring,
In Corpach when I was very young.*

*From Tomonie Don MacMillan walked over to Fort William,
To see if Balmoral Bonnet could be bought;
For his 6' size head they found 71/8 instead,
So he boiled and shrank the bonnet in a pot.*

Astie Cameron, who sent this interesting article, was the first First Lighter, coming to New Zealand in 2000. He was, at the time (2008), the Environmental Co-ordinator for Alcan Aluminium, based at Rio Tinto Alcan's smelter in Fort William.



An Gearasdan Dubh:

Fort William was known as 'The Black Garrison' in the past. This probably comes from the name of the fort prior to 1690, when it was called The Garrison of Inverlochy, built to keep the turbulent marauding clans, especially the Camerons, in check

In the poem, Johnnie wrote about John the blacksmith. The photograph above was sent to me by First Lighter David Cameron and shows on the right his great grandfather John Cameron, who is the blacksmith in the poem. David says he was also known as Jocky the Blacksmith. His assistant was also named John Cameron so they were known as Big Jocky and Wee Jocky. He had a "smiddy" at Corpach and another in Fort William.



Aonaibh ri Cheile *The Back Page*



Tartan Day 2018

The massed bands at the Tattoo opening ceremony

Photo: Ed



Photo: Norman Cameron



Photo: Norman Cameron

Auckland Kirkin' 'O the Tartan. Left: Bryan Haggitt, Pam and Brian Cameron, Norman Cameron, Heather Cameron and Jenny Haggitt.



Photo: Ed



Photo: Ed

Auckland Tartan Day Tattoo. Left: OriginNZ Band. Right: Scottish Country Dancers. Below: Massed Pipe Bands and singers.



Photo: Ed