

Cameron

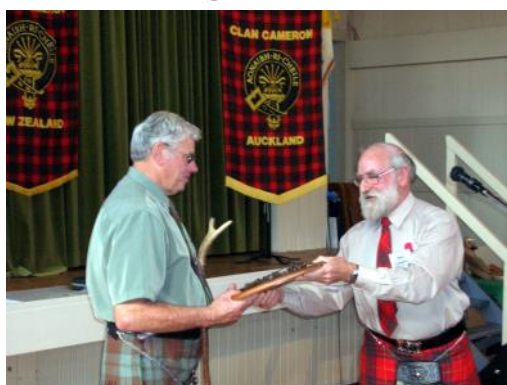
Volume 40, Issue 3

June 2006



Welcome Denis - Farewell Neil

New President of Clan Cameron New Zealand



At the 41st AGM and Annual Gathering, held in Holy Trinity Church Hall, Devonport, on Saturday 22 April, Denis Cameron was elected President to replace Neil Cameron, who has reached the end of his five year term. Denis is shown receiving the shield of office from Neil.

New President Denis Cameron - A Pen Portrait

Denis was presented with his Life Membership Certificate at the Annual General Meeting at Palmerston North in 1998 by Dr Maisie Earle, N.Z. Clan Cameron President. Denis was President of the Bay of Plenty Branch for 13 years and National Secretary of Clan Cameron for 10 years. A letter from Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel congratulating Denis on his Life Membership Award was read to the Members by Dr. Maisie Earle.

Denis was born at Ashburton in 1938. He is married to Joy and they have one daughter, Toni and two sons, Bruce and David. After attending schools in Ashburton, he attended the Canterbury Agricultural College [University of New Zealand] at Lincoln. He worked initially on the family farm at Ashburton, but then moved into industry, mainly in the sales and purchasing areas, and then joined the Tauranga City Council and finally moved to BOP Fertiliser at Mount Maunganui. He also developed a 24 acre citrus orchard at Omokoroa, Tauranga.

Denis was an outstanding sportsman, initially at the school



level in cricket, athletics, swimming, but gradually concentrated on rugby, developing as wing three-quarters of more than average speed and scoring ability. Denis played 33 First Class Matches; for Mid Canterbury [7], Hanan Districts Shield XV [1], Centurians XV [1], N.Z. Trials [4], All Blacks [8] and Counties [12], scoring 19 tries and kicking 3 penalty goals and 2 conversions for a total of 70 points.

He toured Australia and South Africa with the 1960 All Blacks playing only 8 games after breaking a bone in his left hand at Perth on the way over. He represented Counties Senior Rugby team from 1961-1964, but had to retire from all rugby in 1965 because of a serious knee injury.

Denis has been an Executive Committee Member of the Bay of Plenty Branch since 1978; Vice President [1981-1982] and President [1982-1996]. He was Secretary of Clan Cameron New Zealand from 1988 to 1998; New Zealand Vice President [1985-1986] and Junior Vice President [1986-1987]. He was a member of the Ashburton & District Highland Pipe Band, playing as a Bass and Tenor Drummer. A member of N.Z. Jaycees in Te Awamutu, Secretary and Board Member, and Commission Chairman for International Relations. He was made Chief of the Tauranga Highland Games in 1987 and was on their Executive Committee for a few years.

Images from the Annual Gathering



Clockwise from top left:

Some well known Camerons await the serving of the spit roast dinner.

Auckland committee members Ruth Cameron, Hillary Hakaraia, Dorothy Cameron-Gavin, and Pam Cameron

Harold Cameron receives his Life Membership Certificate from Neil, who also was made a Life Member.

The AGM in progress

The Haggis party: Jack Bunt, Lewis Turrell, Don Cameron, Duncan McQueen, Dale Bailey and Brian Cameron.

Young piper Andrew McQueen plays during the ceilidh.



The 41st AGM and Annual Gathering

A very pleasant and interesting AGM and Gathering was held in the seaside suburb of Devonport on April 21-23, with about 42 attending the AGM and 68 joining in the dinner and ceilidh. Members of the Auckland Branch were great hosts and a pleasing spirit of family and friendship pervaded over the weekend. A big thank you to the committee and to all who attended.

As mentioned elsewhere, Denis Cameron was elected President of Clan Cameron New Zealand and Life Membership was conferred on both Harold and Neil Cameron. It was very pleasing to see Harold honoured as he has done so much for the Association, especially his work in putting in place the present constitution. A presentation of the "New Zealand Oxford Dictionary" was made to Dale Bailey, on retirement after 10 years as editor of, what he has made, an outstanding newsletter.

An interesting talk by Dorothy Cameron-Gavin in the afternoon on Shipping Lists was followed by a Clan Cameron video in which the late Lochiel showed viewers around Achnacarry and the Clan Museum. There was also footage of the 1995 Glenfinnan re-enactment and the 2000 Gathering. Copies of this video may be ordered by going to the following web site:

<http://www.scotland-info.co.uk/cameron.htm>

Of great interest to many were the files and data sent by the Clan Genealogist, Audrey Rosoman, who unfortunately could not be with us in person. It made us all realise and appreciate the work she is doing. Audrey asks everyone to complete or update a "Record of Ancestry" form and forward it to her. A copy of this form may be obtained from the editor or from the NZSG.

A bus tour of Devonport and a visit to the Naval Museum was well patronised and clansfolk enjoyed hearing something of the history of the area. Later, after an excellent Spit Roast Meal, a Ceilidh took place in the Parish Hall. We were entertained by some great Highland Dancing by pupils of the Braemar School of Dance, songs by Malcolm Campbell, a Haggis Ceremony and Scottish Dancing by a group arranged by Glenis Cameron. Many took part in the dancing and the evening concluded with Auld Lang Syne.

On Sunday, many Camerons attended the 9.30 church service in the fine old church. The congregation of over 100 were entertained to morning tea in the hall by the Auckland Branch and were given the opportunity to look around the displays. This was an excellent public relations exercise and we had much favourable comment

The next AGM and Gathering will be hosted by the Canterbury Branch and will be held in Christchurch in April/May 2007.

Letter to the Editor

Prince Charlie's granddaughter—the story continues

Dear Editor,

- as for the old chestnut of the Stewart granddaughter on Campbell Island!!! Have you read Peter Pininski's *The Stewart's Last Secret - The Missing Heirs of Bonnie Prince Charlie?* He details the fate of Clementina (Not Meg) Walkinshaw's daughter Charlotte and of Charlotte's son and two daughters, one of whom died young and the other founding a now well documented family. Along the way he debunks the New Zealand story (though for now I can't find the page reference). Apart from that, it's a fascinating read. Peter is also a descendant of the Fassifern Camerons, so I've been in communication with him about that.

Robert Cameron
Lochiel's Commissioner in Australia.

Further letters on this subject are welcome—Ed.



Coming events

Please support these upcoming Clan Cameron New Zealand events. They are a great way to introduce friends and family to our Cameron heritage.

Sunday 11 June 2006 at 12 Noon

The Wellington-Wairarapa Branch AGM and luncheon will be held at the Est Wine Bar & Eatery, Memorial Square, Martinborough. Assemble at midday, luncheon will begin at 1230 followed by a meeting and guest speaker at 1.30 pm. Further information may be obtained from Rob Cameron (07) 377-0377 or Graeme Cameron (04) 479-6250.

Sunday 18 June 2006 at 2pm

The BOP Branch AGM will be held at the residence of Joy and Denis Cameron, 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa. For more information and apologies please phone Joy or Denis at (07) 575 4659. All current and any new members are most welcome.

Saturday 1 July 2006 (proposed)

The Manawatu Branch propose to hold a social function at the home of Mary and Harry Lampen-Smith to enable members to meet First Lighter Shona Cameron. Details and confirmation of date, time and venue from Joy Cameron (06) 354 9365

Saturday 26 August 2006 at 7.30pm

Auckland Branch Dinner at Romfords, Tamaki Drive. This annual event is a great occasion and worth travelling to Auckland for.

It is hoped that new First Lighter Shona Cameron, together with Margaret Cameron, First Light convenor in Lochaber and mother of Shona, and Florence Cameron, mother of First Lighter David Cameron, will be our guests.
Contact Don Cameron (09) 520 0716.

A message from our President

Dear Clan Cameron Members,

First of all, I would like to thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me to be your President. I must say that I feel very humble to be asked to be your representative. I feel it is indeed a great honour, I really was very proud to be nominated – that is an honour in itself.

On behalf of all our members, I would like to pass on to Neil, our sincere thanks and congratulations for all the hard work he has done over the past five years, the highlight being the International Gathering, the culmination of two years hard planning by a very dedicated team. We would also like to pass on to Neil, our very best wishes for a well earned rest, but we hope that he realises that he has taken on a very eminent position as our Newsletter Editor. No rest there, I am sure!

Behind all good men, there has always been a person who has stood behind her man and that lady is Ruth. To Ruth, we thank you for all that you have done for our Clan. You have been quietly working in the background to ensure that the Clan was always being seen. Ruth, we thank you, for the way in which you have always been of assistance, not only to Neil, but to all Camerons throughout New Zealand.

Perhaps my principal qualifications are that I have been a member of the BOP Branch since 1978. From its foundation in 1959, the BOP Branch has been synonymous with the strength of our members and friends who were ever ready to help in any way.

During my term of presidency, I will endeavour to do my very best and continue the work already done by my predecessors, by continuing to forge those links which will bind all Cameron's together. I look forward to be working with the Executive Council that will have the energy to visualise the future of where the Clan needs to go and what to do about enticing and increasing our membership. I would envisage an active membership that would like to contribute the unique heritage of our Clan that we all have and share together.

I hope to see as many members as possible throughout New Zealand, and my sincere hope is that we may recruit some new ones on the way. All our members should remember that they are the clan's best recruiters. We are always glad to offer such help and advice as we can, especially for those who reside in regions that are further a field.

I will be available to come and see all the branches during the year, so please let me know what you are planning, so that Joy and I can make our plans to dove-tail in with yours.

To our members at home, I hope that you will continue to attend our social occasions and enjoy the companionship of our kin and other clansfolk.

May the name of Cameron still command respect today and may there be many more people come forward to join us and show the world that they are proud, as we the present members are, to be Cameron's.

Finally - let the Cameron's of New Zealand heed the call, as they did in past days. Salute their own folk and "Unite" for all the good that the Clan can do to keep alive it's links here in New Zealand, aye and overseas in Scotland.

Sincerely, *Denis Cameron*

Denis apologises for two errors in last issue's "A trip to Lochaber" In paragraph two, "Captain Donald Cameron" should read "Captain William Cameron" and in paragraph three, "spouse Isabella" should read "second wife Isabella."

***"All our members
should remember
that they
are the clan's
best recruiters"***

Websites

Clan Cameron New Zealand website

[http://
camclan.orcon.net.nz/](http://camclan.orcon.net.nz/)

Clan Cameron Online

[http://www.clan-
cameron.org/](http://www.clan-cameron.org/)

Lochiel, our Chief

<http://www.lochiel.net/>

Clan Cameron Scotland

www.clanameron.org.uk

Clan Cameron DNA project

[http://www.clan-
cameron.org/dna/](http://www.clan-cameron.org/dna/)

Clan Cameron Australia

[http://
www.clanameron.org.au](http://www.clanameron.org.au)

Lochaber Life

[http://
www.lochaberinternet.co.
uk/life/](http://www.lochaberinternet.co.uk/life/)

Fort William Online

[http://www.visit-
fortwilliam.co.uk/](http://www.visit-fortwilliam.co.uk/)

McKirdy Index

www.mckirdyindex.co.nz



Aonaibh ri Cheile

Newsletter deadlines for 2006

Issue 4

August by 15 July

Issue 5

October by 15
September

Issue 6

December by 15
November

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Two weeks stretched to 27 years for popular teacher



Gill Corballis signed on for two weeks...and stayed 27years. "I'm lucky to have worked so long in a job that I've enjoyed so much" she said.

St. George's School marked her exceptional service and presented her with an honours brooch.

Mrs Corballis joined the school as a relieving teacher and, to state the obvious, quite liked the place.

She's the teaching equivalent of the prefabricated classroom, a supposedly short-term accommodation measure that came to be known for it's durability.

She was raised in an Anglican vicarage. Her teaching career began in 1962 at Christchurch Preparatory School and included a secondary modern school in London before her return to New Zealand. After marriage and an eight-year break, she went back to teaching with numerous relieving jobs in Wanganui's primary sector.

"I went to St. George's in 1978 as a relieving teacher for two weeks...and I'm still here 27 years later."

"It was a boy's boarding school then, with day pupils and very strict discipline. Girls were introduced in 1980 and it grew into a co-ed school.

"I just became a permanent member of the staff, teaching 9 or 10-year-olds. That was my favourite age. And I've stayed with that age all the way through. They're intelligent and exciting. The most satisfying thing about teaching is to see them progressing, academically and socially ...and with values, particularly."

With no fondness, she recalled the early times, teaching a class of 12 boys in a tiny room.

"Today the children have far more freedom, though they know the boundaries. If they abuse a privilege, they lose it. They can approach something new or difficult in their own way."

Mrs Corballis said today's 10 year-olds, compared with those

All in the family: They travel together and learn together... grandmother Gill Corballis at St. George's School with Dickison kids from the farm, Ross, 13, Ella, nine, and Sally, 11.

27 years ago, were much quicker to understand what they were being taught and were more worldly. "I think that's because of our teaching methods, computers at home, the library... it's very exciting for children these days. They're wanting to learn."

In return, she said, she has had so much.

"I can't remember ever not wanting to come to work. I suppose the greatest thrill is when a child comes back years later and says they remember my camps up Mt. Egmont and they want to retrace their steps because they loved it."

Frustrations in the job?

"Sometimes I think we try to jam too much into the curriculum," she said, after a long pause.

Many people return to St. George's to look at the changes. The *Chronicle* has been told that invariably they ask about Mrs Corballis.

"Only because I've been there so long," she said. "I'm the ancient relic."

She and husband Neil farm at Marangai.

Re-printed with the kind permission of the Wanganui Chronicle. (25 November 2005.)

Gill's husband Neil is President of Clan Cameron Wanganui.

What's new on the Net

McKirdy Index.

An Analytical Genealogical Finding Aid to the Statutory Registers of Death for Scotland 1855-1875.

This web site has recently gone on line, and should be of major interest to members undertaking Scottish genealogical research. Also includes spouse, parents, and sometimes, children.

Clan Cameron Assn. of Scotland Web Site.

In the latest news section, we have pictures from the Culloden Memorial event which was visited this year by Lochiel, Lady Cecil and Donald Andrew.

See Page 4 for addresses.

Possum Sporran

Kilted Highlander Willie Cameron (First Lighter Bill) sports an unusual sporran made of possum fur from Down Under.

In case anyone jumps to adverse conclusions about using the tanned animal fur of a wild creature, Willie, 31, from Inverloch, near Fort William, is at pains to point out that the possum is viewed as a pest by New Zealanders who are desperately trying to cull the creatures. Despite Dame Edna Everidge's constant TV mention of "possum" as a term of Australian endearment, it is anything but a furry friend in the Antipodes.

While living in New Zealand three years ago, the possum—*trichosurus vulpecula*—captured Willie'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, Willie 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, Willie explains, "represents a mix of Scottish and New Zealand cultures."

Willie explained more about the New Zealand possum. "It was introduced there from Australia in 1837 to establish a fur industry, but were released into the wild 60 years later, due to the downturn in the fur trade.

Seizing the opportunity to multiply, the destructive creatures had free rein to munch their way through large tracts of forest.

Since 1940 the New Zealand government has been actively involved in trying to solve the ever-increasing possum population, which has now reached 10 million. It spends New Zealand Dollars 58 million a year on implementing possum control measures. Among these are bounty schemes of the type being used to eradicate hedgehogs in the Uists, rats on Canna and rabbits in Shetland."

Duncan Chisholm, of Chisholm's Highland Dress, in Castle Street, Inverness, said sporrans were made traditionally from deerskin or hides.

Some Clans had sporrans made from the heads of smaller animals, such as badgers, foxes, pine martens and wildcats.

He said: "The head was used but of course it was much more difficult to make because there was a bit of taxidermy involved.

At one time we had quite a selection of all these animals but now they are protected. To have a badger sporran made the animal would have to have been killed accidentally, such as on the roads."

He said sporrans were still made of musquash which are killed as vermin in the Netherlands.



He said: "The Dutch need to keep the numbers down because they keep digging into the dykes, so these skins are available for sporrans.

But possums are not animals I have heard of before being used to make sporrans.

Thanks to Bill Cameron, Ian Abernethy and photographer Iain Ferguson for permission to re-print this article.



A First Light Occasion: Don (Auckland President) and Valmar Cameron pictured with Shona, Margaret, Florence, Bill and David during a visit to Lochaber in May.



Aonaibh ri Cheile

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In This Issue...

"What's Willie got on down under?"headline from Lochaber Times

Cameron connections



Left: Dr. Rees Cameron of the Wellington/Wairarapa Branch in Cameron, Arizona. Cameron is a small trading post on the eastern approach to the Grand Canyon National Park and is named after Ralph Cameron (1863-1953), an early pioneer in the area who helped build and control what is today the Bright Angel Trail, a rim-to-river trail of the Grand Canyon.

Below left: First Lighter David Cameron photographed this road sign in HongKong.

Below: A Manawatu member recapturing her lost youth at a Branch barbecue on Mount Lees Reserve.

