
◆ Cameron ◆

Clan Cameron New Zealand; founded 1935, incorporated 2000

Volume 42, Issue 3

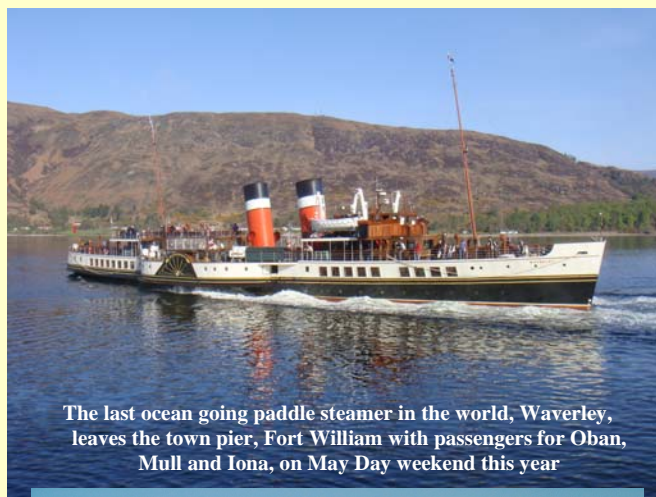
June 2008



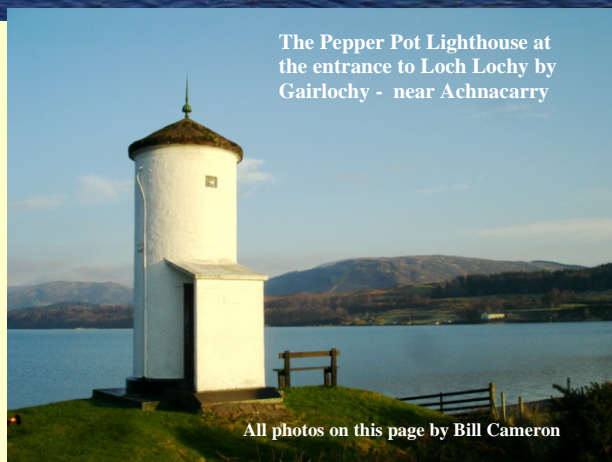
Above: St Ciaran's Church, Achnacarry, where Lochiel's daughter Catherine was married to Henry Trotter on 31 May



Left: The stained glass window in St Ciaran's church



The last ocean going paddle steamer in the world, Waverley, leaves the town pier, Fort William with passengers for Oban, Mull and Iona, on May Day weekend this year



The Pepper Pot Lighthouse at the entrance to Loch Lochy by Gairloch - near Achnacarry

All photos on this page by Bill Cameron

The 2008 Gathering and AGM

Months of planning and hard work by Fraser Cameron, the Bay of Plenty branch president, and his combined Bay of Plenty-Poverty Bay, team resulted in an excellent annual general meeting of Clan Cameron New Zealand at Opotiki on May 16-17.

The Opotiki Masonic Lodge headquarters was the main base for the executive and annual meetings, the Saturday lunch and following calligraphy demonstration by Ray Crafts, and the dinner and ceilidh were held at the Waiotahi Hall, some 11 kilometres from Opotiki. Those who did not attend the calligraphy demonstration were able to take in the sights of this historic town and the dramatic scenery in the surrounding countryside.

The New Zealand president, Denis Cameron, read the traditional greeting from Lochiel who, the day before, had attended the opening of the new visitor centre at Culloden, and was preparing for the wedding of his eldest daughter, Catherine, to Henry Trotter in the Achnacarry church, St Ciarans.

The major business included the formal approval for Hawke's Bay to become a stand-alone member of the clan organisation. The meeting also paid tribute to the lengthy dedication of the treasurer Graeme Cameron, of Wellington, who was not available for re-election. The new treasurer is Lena Cameron, of the Canterbury branch.

Some visitors found it strange to leave the township of Opotiki to attend the dinner and ceilidh 11 kilometres away, especially as night-time navigation in unfamiliar country posed a problem. However, no-one became lost en route to the Waiotahi Hall which, after extensive decoration with Scottish



flags and banners, produced a superbly different setting. The hall, standing alone just off the main highway, is evidently close to 100 years old and has recently been renovated -- with help from the Lottery Board whose \$15,000 cheque was shown in an enlarged photo in the kitchen area.

In a pleasant introduction the various presidents were piped into the dining hall, and early entertainment included a rousing toast to the haggis and later an even more vigorous dissertation on Robbie Burns by Jim Kennedy, a long-ago immigrant from Dundee and a quite splendid entertainer.

The evening had a lively finish when a group of country dancers from various clubs in Auckland, gave a first-class display, and then persuaded a large proportion of the clan members to join in.

A feature of the evening was the way everyone helped in with whatever work was needed. Denis Cameron, the president, helped clear the tables, Fraser Cameron seemed to be everywhere keeping the organisation on track, and Denis's wife, Joy, did a splendid job running the raffles. So splendid, in fact, that the writer of this piece won two consecutive draws (the second re-drawn) and then Neil Cameron, the former national president and now the newsletter editor, also won two draws, returning the second. Curiously, Neil, the writer, Harold Cameron, the Bay of Plenty stalwart, and Dorothy Cameron-Gavin, the clan historian all won raffle prizes and were all staying at the same Eastland Pacific Motel in Opotiki.

by Donald Cameron



Left: Ray Crafts talks about Calligraphy

Above: Secretary Heather Lowes, President Denis and host Branch Presidents Fraser and David Cameron conduct the AGM

Manawatu Branch News

by Mary Barber

On April 12th, the Branch held a Pot-Luck Dinner at the home of Harry and Mary Lampen-Smith to welcome home the First Lighter, Kimberley Walker, and hear of her experiences in Scotland. She spoke for several minutes, and obviously took part in many activities. She was able to tell visitors to the Clan Museum at Achnacarry about the First Light programme, while working there, and visitors from the USA and Canada were very envious of the concept, and were going to take the idea back to their branches.

As it will be mandatory to use the new postal codes from July, all Manawatu members are asked to forward their new postal codes to Mary Barber 5 King St Feilding 4702, or by email to mbarber@nettel.net.nz by the end of May, to enable you to receive your future newsletters.

Reminder: Subscriptions for 2008 are now due. Many thanks to all those who have already paid

'Cameron' magazine is now being distributed using a centralised mail out data base. Please let the editor know if your magazine is not addressed correctly

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Canterbury Branch

Sharon Wallace (Ashburton)

Celia Haggitt (Auckland)

Hawkes Bay Branch

David and Brenda Cameron (Maraekakaho)

Bay of Plenty Branch

Jim and Catherine Kennedy (Whakatane)

Shona Cameron-Thomson (Helensville)

Paul and Jill Shephard (Papamoa)

Auckland Branch

Rev Bryan Haggitt (Auckland)

Marc Ulyatt (Omokoroa)

Meet our new Treasurer

Lena McLeod Cameron

Lena was born and raised in the Townhead area of Glasgow, moved to Arden on the outskirts of the City at an early age. She attended Sir John Maxwell College in Shawlands.

On leaving college Lena took up a position as an office junior at Brown Son and Fergusons, a map and book printing company. From there she progressed to J.W. Galloway, one of the largest butchers in the west of Scotland, Lena finished her training as a bookkeeper with Galloway's and left to take up a position as a bookkeeper in Tennent Caledonian Breweries export office.

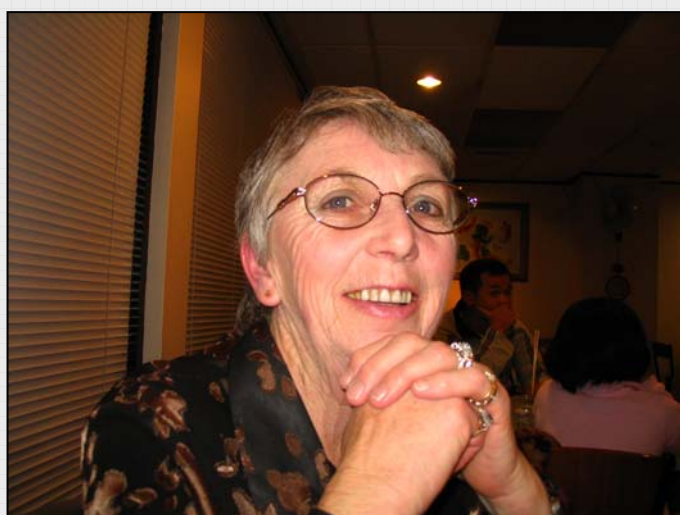
She has held several sole charge office positions both in Glasgow and New Zealand.

Lena's forte is numbers, something she is passionate about.

Lena married Alex in 1966, and arrived in New Zealand in 1972 they have two children a daughter Morag and a son Ewen, as well as two grandchildren Madeline and Isaac.

Lena has several hobbies mainly in the craft line, and was an Officer in the Boys Brigade for 38 years, again both in Glasgow and New Zealand finally finishing up as a Leader in Charge.

By Alex Cameron



Vale John Gavin 13 8 36 - 20 4 08

We were saddened by the death last month of John, husband of Clan Historian Dorothy Cameron-Gavin. John has been a tower of strength on the Auckland Branch committee where his wisdom and tireless energy will be sadly missed. Our sympathies go out to Dorothy and the family.

Mount Cameron (1)

Do you know where Mount Cameron is ?

Hawke's Bay members would say it is near Rissington – 25 km inland/west of Napier

George Stoddart Whitmore {1829 – 1903} arrived in New Zealand in March, 1861 and in November that year he acquired a large sheep run west of Napier in partnership with Capt.J.C.McNeill.

They named this run "Rissington" after the village in Gloucestershire from whence Whitmore came. Whitmore and McNeill had been Officers serving under Lieutenant General Duncan Cameron, Commander of the British Military Forces in New Zealand. On the Rissington Block were two large promontories. One they named Mt. McNeill and the other which was 390m above sea level, Mt. Cameron, honouring Lieutenant General Duncan Cameron.

After the 1914/18 war, Rissington Station was subdivided for Soldier's Settlement farms. In 1961 the section which contained Mount Cameron became the property of Jock and Sonia MacKenzie. They named their farm "Glen Arigolach". The late Jock MacKenzie was the inaugural Commissioner of Clan MacKenzie New Zealand and Sonia now holds this rank within the Clan.

This is the first of a series by Mike Topham

Letter from First Lighter Kimberley

First of all, I would like to thank the Clan Cameron for giving me the opportunity to be part of the First Light Exchange. This was an amazing opportunity and one that I will never forget!

The First Light exchange offered me the chance to spend time as part of the community of Fort William, giving me a completely different insight to that of a tourist. The Clan Cameron members from Fort William welcomed me with such open arms and I found that by the time I left, I felt that I was part of the community.

This exchange has not only increased my interest in my heritage but I have found that travelling alone has both helped me grow stronger as a person and increased my interest in travel and other cultures.

I want to thank all the members of the Clan Cameron who have supported me. I really appreciate all that the Clan Cameron has done to help and know that I will always look back on my trip to Scotland with fond memories.

Thank you again, *Kim Walker*

A message from our President



Dear Clan Cameron Members,

“From difficulties we gain wisdom and understanding. Our adversities grow our determination and harden our resolve. Hence we emerge from our battles victorious,

stronger and more illustrious. Such is the way to immortality; a pathway to the stars, and glory. Such is the way of Clan Cameron.”

Wow – what a thought and something we should strive to achieve for ourselves.

Clan Cameron is fortunate to have a hereditary chief descended directly from the earliest days of Cameron’s living in Lochaber. Since the year 1528, the chief of Clan Cameron has been called “Lochiel.” If you had a Cameron ancestor living in Scotland, odds are they followed an ancestor of the present Lochiel as their chief. The XXVII Hereditary Chief of Clan Cameron, who like many of his ancestors resides at Achnacarry, is our beloved Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel.

The Clan Cameron has a recorded history from the fifteenth century; although some unsubstantiated histories have its roots reaching back to the supposed first chief, Angus Cameron who was living about the year 1000.

The new exhibition of all things Scottish in New Zealand at Te Papa shows the influence of the Scots on this country is far more widespread than first thought by a whole host of other New Zealanders.

Every 2½ years, the Wellington base national museum replaces the cultural history exhibition with the story of another community or ethnic group. The Italians have had their time in the sun and now, the tales of the Scottish migration and impact those settlers and their descendants have had on New Zealand have taken over.

“The Scots are so adaptable, that they can don the clothes of any country they decide to take up”

“New Zealand Scots have built up a New Zealand Scottish culture which is different from what is at home now,” said our former President of Clan Cameron, Mrs Maisie Earle. Hopefully, this exhibition will help lift the profile of the Scots here in New Zealand as to where it should be. The Scots are so adaptable, that they can don the clothes of any country they decide to take up residence in. Those Cameron’s who have been to see the Scottish exhibition, have come away, enthused and delighted about how our story has been told. Have you managed to see the exhibition yet?

On behalf of all members of Clan Cameron, may I pass on our sincere thanks to John and Susan Cameron for their magnificent effort on the Cameron Tour to Scotland next year. What can I say – here we have a golden opportunity of going back to the very historical places that our ancestors fought at, live at and generally made a meagre living, before leaving this land for newer countries. I can’t wait to get on the plane.

By now the 43rd AGM and Clan Gathering held in

Opotiki has come and gone. This time it was decided to incorporate both the Bay of Plenty and Gisborne Branches to plan the AGM. On behalf of the Clan members, I would like to thank Fraser and David and their members for all the hard work they did to ensure we were well catered for. The sub-committee met on several different occasions to plan and distribute ideas in the hope that the rest of New Zealand would have fond memories of their visit to Opotiki.

I have heard that the refurbishment of Achnacarry Castle is going along quite nicely and it is pleasing to see that some of the local tradesmen have been part of this mammoth task that is expected to be completed by late summer. We are very pleased to see that the old stables are being converted into five modern flats for long term letting. Our tour group certainly looks forward to seeing all the new renovations on their trip of a lifetime next year.

“Leis gach deagh dhurachd and Slainte mhath”

[With every good wish and good health]

Denis Cameron

Lochiel’s Message:

“ As I write this, the sun is shining on the snow-capped hills and Lochaber is as beautiful as it can be.

Today is April 16th and I am about to go to the opening of the new visitor centre at Culloden which I am told is amazing although, of course, a sad place for the highland clans who fought so bravely on this day in 1746.

On a happier note we are busy planning my eldest daughter Catherine’s wedding to a really lovely young man called Henry Trotter who comes from the borders of Scotland. They are getting married in the Achnacarry church, St. Ciaran’s and we have been frantically tidying up around the house and church.

I hope you have a happy and successful AGM and am so very grateful to you all for your support, loyalty and hard work - it means a great deal to me.

Very best wishes

Donald Cameron of Lochiel ”



Achnacarry after removal of scaffolding revealing the renovated roof.

Photo: Bill Cameron



Aonaibh ri Cheile

Cameron

is the magazine of the Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc) and is published on or near the 1st day of every even month of the year

Deadlines for articles are on the 15th of the month before publication. Items of urgency or importance may be accepted up to 10 days later.

Articles about Camerons, Branch activities with photographs, and advice of Coming Events are especially welcome.

Deadline for the August issue:

15 July 2008

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Coming events

Sunday 29 June

Annual Kirkin' o' the Tartan

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Symonds Street. Auckland. Clan Banners muster at 9.30am. Service begins 10am. Morning tea after service. Enquiries to Murdock McDonald 09 298 4802

Saturday 30 August

Auckland Branch Annual Dinner

Fairway Lodge, 7 Argus Place, Glenfield, North Shore. Enjoy good company, good food and a celebration of our Highland heritage. Enquiries to Neil Cameron 09 446 1177

Saturday 5 July

Tartan Day 2008.

Waikato and BOP Scottish Clan Societies. Hosted by Clans Gordon and MacRae. At St Andrew's Church Hall, Rora St, Te Kuiti. Starting with street march at 10am. Pot Luck Lunch - please bring a plate of finger food to share. Ceilidh 1-3pm. Door charge \$5 pp to cover costs.

Enquiries to Glenyss O'Halloran 07 878 7582, Sue Tregoweth 07 878 8021, or contact the Editor for a Flyer.

Saturday 13 September

Scottish Clans Assn-Auckland District Annual Dinner

Rutherford Room, Alexandra Park Raceway. Four Course meal plus live entertainment. All Clan Societies and Kinsfolk welcome. Enquiries to Murdock McDonald 09 298 4802

Saturday 11 October 2008

CCNZ Executive Council Meeting

Turangi RSA. Morning tea at 10am, followed by the meeting at 11am.

Useful Websites

Clan Cameron New Zealand website
<http://camclan.orcon.net.nz/>

Clan Cameron Online
<http://www.clan-cameron.org/>

Clan Cameron Scotland
<http://www.clancameron.org.uk>

Clan Cameron Australia
<http://www.clan-cameron.org.au>

Scottish Clans Association Auckland District
<http://www.scottishclans.co.nz>

Clan Cameron DNA project
<http://www.clan-cameron.org/dna/>

A Great Site showing Images of Lochaber by J.A.Cameron (includes archive of old postcards)
<Http://mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/FortWilliam>

Clan Cameron NZ Webmaster:
Warren Cameron
camcraft@orcon.net.nz

Korean Interlude *By the Editor*

In April Ruth and I were able to join other Korean War Veterans in a re-visit to South Korea to take part in memorial services and also see the transformation of the country from what was a country destroyed to the vibrant and prosperous country of today. We were part of a group of 150 veterans, wives, widows, or daughters, from Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. During most of our stay we were the guests of the South Korean Government and the Korean Veterans Association as a gesture of gratitude and appreciation for our help in the war.

We had a very full programme. The first day was spent at a Folk Village with a lunch of traditional Korean food, enabling us to soak up some culture, and ending with a reception for the New Zealanders at the NZ Ambassador's residence. Next day we were into the official part of the programme, visiting or taking part in ceremonies and services at the National Cemetery, where 54,000 Korean soldiers who lost their lives in the war are buried, the War Memorial and the War Museum. In the evening we were guests at an official banquet at which all veterans were presented with the War Veterans Medal and a certificate proclaiming each of us as an 'Ambassador of Peace.'

Over the next four days we visited Panmunjom, in the Demilitarised Zone, where the cease fire was signed and armistice talks are held; Busan, at the other end of the country by fast 300kph train, to take part in a Commonwealth Commemoration Service at the UN Cemetery; ceremonies at the Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Memorials at Kapyong and at the British Memorial at Solma-Ri. We also visited battlefields and observation posts on the border and on one occasion lunched with the Swedish / Swiss Neutral Nations' Supervisory Commission .

After a day to ourselves for shopping we began our last day with a visit to the Landing Memorial and Museum at Incheon, followed by sightseeing and shopping before arriving at the airport for our flight home. So ended a memorable and at times, emotional, visit.

The South Korean people are really grateful for what the countries of the United Nations did for them during the war and show this in many ways. The buses we had at our disposal for the tour had a banner saying Korea War Veterans in Korean and English on the side and, whenever we went through the towns and villages, the people spontaneously bowed and clapped. Whenever they saw we were war veterans by our name badges, we were asked to pose for photos and, on one occasion a group of schoolgirls thanked me in English for coming to their aid and then proceeded to open their lunch boxes and offer me biscuits. I think they only have to look at North Korea, just 50 kms away from Seoul, to see what might have been their lot.

We saw a lot of the country from the window of bus or train and our lasting impression is of towering apartment blocks and tunnel houses on every available piece of flat land. During our visit visibility was poor due to smog – I understand this originates as dust from the Gobi Desert which is carried to Korea picking up pollution from industrial China on the way.

One British veteran in a wheelchair was 85 year old George Newhouse who, accompanied by his wife and granddaughter, was visiting for the first time since the war. While serving in a medical platoon near the Imjin River in 1951 he had been captured by the North Koreans and had spent 32

months in a prison camp under harsh conditions. George was finally released some months after the cease fire and made his way to the UN Lines over 'The Bridge of No Return'. We visited that bridge and, under strong security, George was able to go halfway across and, with support from his family, re-enact his walk to freedom – a most moving occasion!

You may wonder what this has to do with a Scottish publication. There are two links. First: After taking part in the service at the British Memorial which is situated under the hill on which the Gloucestershire Regiment lost so many men at the Battle of the Imjin River, we thought we would



have time to reflect and enjoy a packed lunch provided by the hotel in the now peaceful valley. To our surprise, we found a man wearing a Scottish bonnet cooking up sausages for all at a barbecue. This was an enterprising ex British Army man from the Royal Signals, Gavin McKay, who married

a Korean and settled there. He found that there were no decent sausages to be found in Korea so imported the ingredients from Scotland and started making his own. They were so popular that he now has a thriving export business sending sausages to expatriates throughout the East. I enjoyed them – much better than the rice in the packed lunch! Incidentally Gavin knew Ruth's brother who also served in the Royal Signals. Small world!

The other link was the presence of an outstanding Australian piper, WO2 Andrew Iverson, at all the ceremonies. Although he was rather prone to play 'Waltzing Matilda,' the sound of the pipes during the wreath laying at the Memorial Services to remember those who lost their lives fighting for a country many had never even heard of before, brought tears to many eyes.



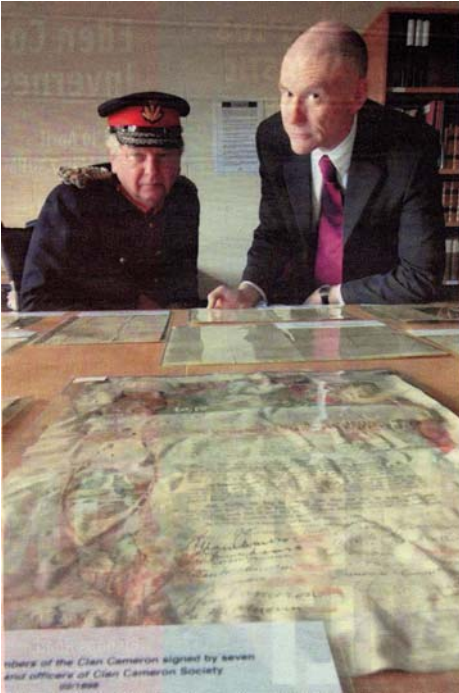
Top: The Editor and Ruth with our lovely Korean guide, Conna

Below: New CC members Paul and Jill Shephard, at the veterans' banquet



Photo: Forbes Taylor

Lochiel opens Lochaber Archive



An £80,00 archive centre geared toward the preservation of documents relating to Lochaber's history was officially opened yesterday by Lord Lieutenant Donald Cameron of Lochiel.

The centre, which is located at Lochaber College, will store estate and family archives of Cameron of Lochiel and Cameron-Head of Lochailort, as well as archives of parishes within the Presbytery of Lochaber.

In some cases the documents date back to the 15th century. Lochiel said: "I am delighted to open this wonderful centre as I am very supportive of gathering, preserving them and making them available to the public."

He added: "Lochaber has a rich history and I hope many people will gift or lend documents so that the archive will become a repository of unique and important information." The public will be able to access the documents, which include valuation rolls, maps and burial records, via a supervised 'search room.'

Bren Gormley, vice-chairman of Highland Council's education, culture and sport committee, said: "The opening of Lochaber Archive Centre confirms the council's commitment to maintaining and developing an active interest in the heritage and history of the Highlands."

Photo left shows Lochiel with Hugh Fraser, Director of Education, Culture and Sport at the opening.

from *The Press and Journal* 12 April 2008

see also '*Cameron*' of April 2008



Above: Cameron Decorators van, spotted in the fishing port of Mallaig.

photo: Bill Cameron

Left: WO2 Andrew Iverson (page 6)

photo: Editor



The Cameron Gate at Achnacarry

photo: Bill Cameron



Congratulations

Retiring Clan Cameron Treasurer Graeme pictured, a few days ago in England, with Hazel, daughter Megan, son-in-law Siegfried and grand children Anais and new arrival Liam.

Congratulations to all, especially the proud grandparents.

Graeme was thanked, at the recent AGM and Gathering in Opotiki, for his long and dedicated service as Treasurer. This service extended over 21 years. Graeme was made a life member of Clan Cameron New Zealand in 2002.



Aonaibh ri Cheile

'Cameron' June 2008

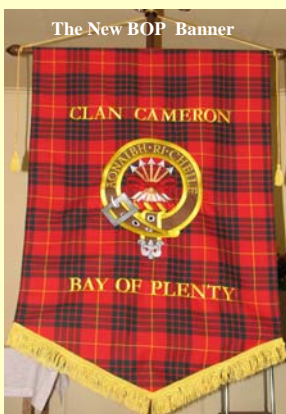
The Back Page

Photos from the Gathering in Opotiki

by Valmar Cameron and the Editor



Joy Cameron with Lena and Alex Cameron



The New BOP Banner



NZ President Denis and Joy are piped into dinner by Andrew Lowes



Ray Crafts, Ruth Cameron and John Cameron



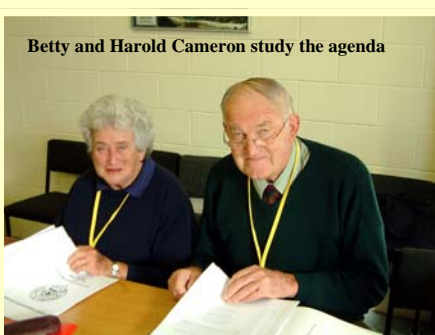
Tricia Duncan, Judith Bean and Hazel Cameron



Georgina McLeod and David Cameron (foreground)



Jean Barker, Alison Jordan, Helen Renner & Janet Crafts



Betty and Harold Cameron study the agenda



James and Chloe Gavin



Dancing with the Stars?



Mike Topham



Trish Topham, Dorothy Cameron-Gavin and Patricia Cameron



Donald Cameron



Helen Shaw and Shane East



Fraser Cameron



New CC member Jim Kennedy in 'An Ode to Robert Burns'



Rex Cameron plays the Historic 'Blenheim' Pipes