



Clan Cameron New Zealand; founded 1935, incorporated 2000

◆ Cameron ◆

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The 139th Waipu Highland Games



Photos: Duncan McQueen

Auckland News

by Don Cameron

The Auckland branch decision to buy a new, larger, cooler tent paid a swift profit as the sun baked down on the 129th annual Waipu Games on January 1. The small, long-service, fawn-coloured tent saw, under Neil Cameron's command, many years of faithful service up and down the North Island.

However, as the clan memorabilia grew in size welcoming visitors became a growing problem. Also, it was not easy to erect and seemed to absorb, rather than rebuff, the sun's hot rays.

Neil launched the new tent at the Auckland Highland Games last November, and had it operating at full efficiency at Waipu. The tent now has two 'rooms,' the larger part with ample space to display the wall-panels charting the Clan's history, the books and displays, and meet-and-greet space for visitors. The Clan staff had separate accommodation in the smaller section. The new tent's ability to provide shaded cool space became very important as from about mid-morning the sun blazed down.

Once again the Waipu Games were an outstanding success. Wayne Laurence, the organisation main-spring for the Waipu Caledonian Society, said afterward that the crowd may well have gone past the old record of 8000, and he was delighted at the growing public support. Dame Catherine Tizard performed the opening ceremony, and this tied in nicely with Clan McLean -- of which Dame Cath is patroness -- being the host clan.

The Camerons had a smallish group for the official march in mid-morning, but the numbers had grown to 14 by the time of the grand march past at lunchtime. Lewis Turrell, the outstanding piper and strong supporter of Clan Cameron over the years, gained a special distinction in what must be his 50th year as a top-rank piper. Lewis was awarded the Assynt Quaich, the silver drinking vessel first presented to mark the 125th Waipu Games.

Among the competitors in the Games another long-service man was outstanding -- Pat Hellier, the outstanding heavy events athlete, who won his 14th consecutive New Zealand championship. Hellier now occupies a place in the world's top ten Scottish heavy events men.

And as the crowds drifted away Clan Cameron produced one of the last winning athletes of the day. Mathew McQueen is an outstanding drummer with the St Kentigern College pipe band --- and a track athlete of some promise.

He won the 1500 metres race late in the day and, awaiting the 3000 metres, had a warm-up dash in the 400 metres. Perhaps a race too far -- Matthew was third in the 400, and fourth in the 3000.

The Editor's Column

We are thinking of former Auckland President Brian Cameron and wife Pamela after the tragic death of their son Bradley in a hang-gliding accident. Brad had a passion for the outdoors and youth work and was a youth counsellor for "Man Alive" and a senior member of Youthline. Brad often came to Clan Cameron dinners, where his sense of fun was infectious. Our condolences go to Brian, Pam, and the family at this sad time.

Manawatu News

by John Cameron

Celebrating our heritage and culture

A Happy New Year to all other Branches.

Saturday December 12th dawned wild and windy which meant that our annual fundraising event at the Manawatu Scottish Society 'Square Day' in Palmerston North got off to a slow start. A small but dedicated team of members set about selling haggis sandwiches comprising haggis made by Joy Cameron, Sonia Cameron and Mary Lampen-Smith. These 3 ladies have been doing this task for many years and I would like to recognise them through this newsletter and pass on our thanks for their continued support of this fund raising project. The haggis sandwiches always prove popular but this year we had competition from a haggis pie. As well as the sandwiches we also sell the humble sausage in bread (with tomato sauce of course).

The weather did have an impact on the day overall and takings failed to meet the levels of previous years. As you can see by the photo the team worked well and my thanks go to all.

Joy and Colin Cameron and I attended a very pleasant and relaxed Barbecue lunch with Wellington Branch at the home of Bruce & Sonia Cameron.

During January I had the pleasure of attending the Waipu Highland Games and found it an interesting and enjoyable day watching the highland dancing and participating in Clan March.

We have already had a committee meeting so that means we have some events coming up;

Jan 30 and 31 we will have a tent at the Annual Turakina Highland Games and welcome any visitors to the Games to our tent.

March 28th will be our Branch Family Picnic/Barbeque. This will be held at Mt Lees Reserve Picnic Grounds in front of the Summerhouse from 11am.

Please bring along your children, their children and their grandchildren for a day of old fashioned picnic fun. (Remember the sack race) We welcome any visiting branch members and their families. For information and location map please contact Secretary Maxine on kmmpecam@xtra.co.nz or ring me on 06 35-80417.

Congratulations to National Secretary Heather Lowes and husband Andrew on the birth of two grandchildren this year. Isaiah, born in February, is the first child of their youngest son James and his wife Charlene. Brooke Sarah, born in September, is the first daughter of their youngest daughter Alison and her husband Shane.

Congratulations also to the Rev. Bryan Haggitt on his first appointment as a full Vicar. He will be inducted into the Parish of Halswell Prebbleton, Christchurch, on 12 February.

Bryan has been a member of the Auckland Branch and for several years has 'addressed the haggis' regularly at the Auckland Annual Dinner. Bryan will return to Auckland briefly to be married to Rebecca in April. We wish them all the best for their future life together.



Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Auckland Branch
Roger Snelgar

Auckland

History Corner by Fiona Cameron

Camerons in the News

So what were Camerons up to 100 years ago this month?

“Lewis A. Cameron gained a second class theory pass in the plumbing examinations at Wellington Technical

Donald Cameron made an application under the Land Drainage Act 1908 to put a drain through Mr William Travis’ property at Westerfield in Canterbury.

Mr W. Cameron of Auckland applied for a patent for a card table top.

Mr E. Cameron of Canterbury was elected as a delegate for the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants”

These and many other snippets can be found on the National Library’s *Papers Past* website
<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>.

The National Library has scanned over one million pages of historical New Zealand newspapers dating between 1839 and 1932 and made them available to the public on this website.

It covers 52 publications from all over New Zealand and includes major newspapers like Wellington’s *Evening Post*, smaller regional papers such as the *Tuapeka Times* and even the tabloid *Truth*.

You can browse papers by date or region, read entire copies of a particular edition, or search the entire database. I did a basic search for any mention of the name Cameron and found over 21000 entries!

And everything’s in there! From small social snippets, such as the retirement of Mr G.D. Cameron as head mail room clerk at the Napier Post Office in December 1892 to major international events. The *Evening Post* of April 16 1912 was one of the first New Zealand newspapers to carry news of the *Titanic* sinking. In a short article, sourced via telegraph from New York, it merely mentions the ship “has collided with an iceberg and is in need of assistance”.

Canterbury News by Rae Magson

The 19th Clan Cameron Canterbury Annual General Meeting was held at the Ashburton Motor Lodge Meeting Room on 29 November at 11.30am. The meeting was chaired by Brian Cameron and there was a good attendance of members. There was a letter of thanks from the Scottish Heritage Council for the donation of \$100 towards the completion of the Tribute to the Scottish Pioneers of Canterbury.

The Election of Officers resulted as follows -

President:	Brian Cameron
Vice President:	David Cameron
Secretary:	Rae Magson
Treasurer:	Ngairé Power

There is to be a membership drive in 2010. Some social

First Light Exchange

“Calling young ‘Camerons’ with an interest in travel and heritage”

We are looking for a young person, between the ages of 18 and 28, who would like the opportunity of travelling to Scotland as part of the First Light Exchange programme. This programme is well supported by Clan Cameron New Zealand

Speaking from experience, having been over as a ‘First Lighter’ in 2005, I can not promote this exchange programme enough. What a great way to see another part of the world and learn more about your family history. As part of the exchange you will have the chance to develop both professional and personal areas of interest.

The exchange is for a period of three months, during which you will be hosted and well looked after by members of Clan Cameron in Lochaber and around Scotland.

Lochaber is a place of variety. A countryside of high mountains (Ben Nevis is the highest mountain in Britain) and flat moors, inland lochs and sea lochs, barren hills and green fringes. There is modern industry (an aluminium factory and a paper mill) and traditional crafts, new villages and old ruins of castles and crofts. Some Camerons are still there but they have been joined by a wide variety of other people - from other parts of the Highlands, from the South of Scotland, England and from overseas. There is skiing, climbing, fishing and other outdoor activities, but also piping, fiddling, singing and other music.

If you would like to know more about this exciting opportunity or just to indicate your interest please contact me (Heather Cameron) and I will be very happy to talk through it some more. (My details are listed in the contacts part of the magazine) Also, check out the Clan Cameron New Zealand website for more information on how to apply (www.camclan.orconhosting.net.nz).

event ideas were a mid-winter dinner and maybe an event at Nick Cameron’s home.

Members then adjourned to Robbie’s Restaurant (right) in Ashburton for lunch and fellowship.

The luncheon after the Annual General Meeting was held at the Robbie’s Restaurant on West Street in Ashburton.

This is a very popular eating establishment that has only been open a few years and has a great reputation for their friendly staff and atmosphere, with a vast selection of meals. In fact one of the staff in particular seems to be very interested when the Clan Cameron members arrived, as she is from Scotland and has a lovely accent. The members mixed well and enjoyed getting to know each other a little better, as well as partaking in a lovely luncheon. This Restaurant is to be recommended to anyone who is passing through Ashburton,



A message from our President

Dear Clan Cameron Members



It has been a mixed year for both Joy and I and we are very pleased to say that Joy has been cleared after her 2 operations. This of course is wonderful news and we thank all the members of Clan Cameron for their kind thoughts and cards over this trying time. This coming year 2010 will be a wonderful year all round.

During recent years there has been a greatly intensified interest in the Scottish National Dress, both among Scotsmen themselves and amongst the visitors to Scotland itself, among them many with Scottish blood flowing through their veins.

*“The Kilt - there is **no** substitute for this truly magnificent garment”*

The National Dress of Scotland still remains today a reflection of the national character of the Scottish people and is a symbol of the most fascinating combination of national pride and brotherhood, aptly inspired by the Clan system.

Originally suited to the needs of the way of life of a rugged, pastoral and sometimes warlike people, the Highland Dress may be said not to have altered fundamentally since the eighteenth century. Yet in matters of detail, each generation has introduced modifications and changes and adaptation have taken place. It is both practical and fashionable and can safely be selected for virtually every occasion.

The Highland Dress is available to Scotland’s sons and daughters, and to those who are interested in Scotland, and all things Scottish wherever they may be – in Scotland itself, in England, in Canada, in Australia, in New Zealand and in the USA and everywhere else in the world where the Scots have settled. Now we see them in Beijing and Korea to name a few.

The progressive development of the Highland Dress has reflected the national character of the Scottish people and their instinct to gather together either in family or clans or in clan districts with the Chief or Chieftain as their clan leader and large clans sub-divided into septs and branches. Please do not forget those in far distant lands who have the Scots as their forebears – they too feel the same way. In fact the late Sir Donald Lochiel said to me on his last trip – that he felt that the New Zealanders are more Scottish than the Scots themselves.

Adherence to this clan system has influenced the Highland Dress and made it the symbol of perhaps the most fascinating combination in the world of national pride and definitely brotherhood.

The Highland Dress has maintained such a uniquely coloured identity and individuality that it has remained fashionable and correct attire. This may explain why the kilt can still, as stated above, be safely selected for virtually every occasion without the danger of being out of place or the wearer being unsuitably dressed.

The kilt is wrapped round the lower body overlapping with both a front under apron and a front apron. It is pleated

at the back and the fringe of the front apron lies down the right hand side. The top of the kilt is worn above the waist immediately beneath the rib cage and the bottom falls to the top of the knee cap showing a part of the knee. Straps and buckles hold the kilt firmly in place around the waist. The kilt is a comfortable garment to wear.

One interesting phenomenon is that the loops attached to the inside of the kilt are purely cosmetic and reflect the tradition of hanging the kilt on a tent peg in the battlefield camps of long ago. The modern kilt hanger has now replaced the belt loops in practical terms.

The kilts are the masterpiece of craftsmanship – beautifully made and beautifully finished and of a quality which makes the kilt remain smart and serviceable till it is worn out – which is generally a very long time. The kilt is the heart of the outfit whether used as a day dress or in evening wear. There is **no** substitute for this truly magnificent garment originally made in Scotland by Scottish craftsmen.

The Fly Plaid is worn on the left shoulder positioned beneath the epaulette. It is normally about 1.5 metres square and is gathered at one corner, attached to the gathered centre with a brooch. The Plaid evolved when the ‘great’ kilt was separated in to the ‘little’ kilt and plaid – the plaid being the upper section.

Let us not forget The Tartan Skirt, which is the most distinctive feature of Highland Dress for women and the Tartan Sash, which is worn over an evening dress and fastened at the shoulder with a Cairngorm or Amethyst Brooch.

I am sure parents, naturally like their children to have the National Dress and the children like wearing it. It is smart, practical and colourful, besides being economical and long lasting. The kilt belongs to the Scottish culture and The National Dress of Scotland. [My thanks to Kinloch Anderson]

Less we forget!

“Leis gach dhurach and Slainte mhath”
[With every good wish and good health]

Denis Cameron

More Gaelic and English Phrases

From Mary MacKellar’s “Tourist’s Hand-Book of Gaelic and English Phrases for the Highlands”

<i>Gaelic</i>	An gabh thu dram?
<i>Pronunciation</i>	Un ga ū dräüm?
<i>English</i>	Will you have a dram?

<i>Gaelic</i>	Air ‘ur slàinte
<i>Pronunciation</i>	Er ur slan-ju
<i>English</i>	Your health

<i>Gaelic</i>	Sgob as e
<i>Pronunciation</i>	Skop áss’ e
<i>English</i>	Drink it off

with thanks to the Clan Cameron Museum



Aonaibh ri Cheile

Cameron

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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 April issue:

15 March 2010

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Coming events

Saturday 13 February 2010

Paeroa Highland Games

Paeroa Domain commencing 9am. Clan Cameron will be there.
Details: www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

Sunday 14 February 2010

Hawke's Bay Branch Picnic Barbecue

11.30am Home of Shane and Tony East. Bridge Pa
Enquiries to Helen Shaw 06 844 8398

Friday 26 February 2010

Auckland Branch AGM and Barbecue

Parnell Cricket Club. 6pm for 6.30
See enclosure for Auckland members.
Enquiries to Don Cameron: 09 520 0715.

Sunday 28 March 2010

Manawatu Branch Family Picnic/Barbecue.

Mt Lees Reserve Picnic Grounds in front of the Summerhouse from 11am. Visitors welcome
Enquiries to Sec. Maxine <kmmpecam@xtra.co.nz>

12 and 13 March 2010

Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Championships at

Masterton. Accommodation may be hard to find.
Contact Warren Cameron: camcraft@orcon.net.nz

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 April 2010

60th Hawke's Bay Highland Games.

Lindisfarne College, Hastings.
Camerons will have their usual display
Enquiries to Mike Topham: 06 879 8215

15 - 17 April 2010

Clan Cameron Annual Gathering and AGM.

Copthorne Hotel and Resort, Masterton.
Full details and a downloadable registration form are on the website: www.camclan.orconhosting.net.nz and were also sent out with the last newsletter.
Please get the completed Registration Form to Warren Cameron as soon as possible.

Useful Websites

Clan Cameron New Zealand website
<http://www.camclan.orconhosting.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 NZ Webmaster:
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Highbridge in History *by Betty Bruce*

Having been brought up in Lochaber, I have always known where Highbridge is.

I have walked past it, cycled past it, driven past it. I knew that this was where the first shot of the 1745 Jacobite Rising was fired.

But it was not until I spent a most interesting afternoon at Spean Bridge Primary School that I fully appreciated the complete story of the Highbridge place in history.

Highbridge was completed in 1736 as part of General Wade's plan to help police the Highlands. It was to replace the ford over the River Spean at Inch and facilitate the movement of troops through the Great Glen from Inverness to Fort William. As such it served its purpose well.

Why was the bridge necessary in the first place? Why were the garrisons at Fort William, Fort Augustus and Inverness so important in the Highlands?

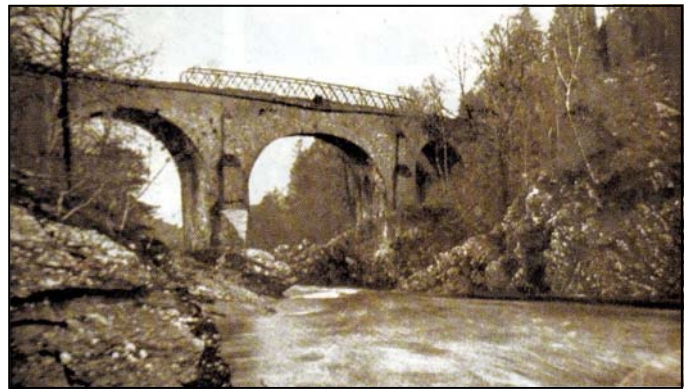
The first seeds were sown in 1688 when Mary of Modena, wife of James VII and II, gave birth to a boy in London. Amid fears that the new heir would be Roman Catholic, unrest allowed William of Orange to land in England.

James VII fled to France, and William and his wife Mary were offered the throne. However, not everyone supported William. The Jacobite cause was born.

There were armed uprisings in 1688 and 1715. Both were crushed but many Highland chiefs felt that their loyalty was to the Stuart cause. This is why General Wade and his road-making became necessary in an attempt to keep the Highlands under control. Highbridge was part of the plan.

In 1745 there were rumours that Prince Charles Edward Stuart had landed in Scotland in an attempt to regain the throne for his father.

The Government responded by ordering two new companies of troops south from Inverness to strengthen Fort



William. News of this reached Jacobite supporters at Spean Bridge.

A party of MacDonnells under MacDonnell of Tirindrish decided to guard the bridge and stop the advance. They numbered only twelve but sent runners to gather reinforcements.

As the troops advanced to the bridge, the intrepid twelve ducked in and out of the wood and bracken, plaids waving, shots firing and wild shouts echoing. This wild ballet of deception fooled the military captain.

Fearing an ambush, he halted and then retreated. Now Keppoch, answering MacDonnell's summons, arrived with twenty men. Together the Highlanders pursued and fought with the military at the head of Loch Lochy. The troops were forced to surrender.

Three days later, on August 19, 1745, Prince Charles raised his standard at Glenfinnan. But the first shot had been fired at Highbridge.

This article appeared in 'Lochaber Life'

Betty Bruce worked in the West Highland Museum for many years and is well informed on local history.

Editor

Rain Capital of Scotland *by Editor*

Fort William has retained its title of "Rain Capital of Scotland" - according to the local "Lochaber news". Lochaber has had a slightly wetter year than usual with the rain gauge at Achnabobane, just outside Fort William, registering 88 inches (2235mm) for 2009.

Despite promise of a "barbecue summer", the reality was 62 consecutive days with rain between July 11 and September 10. This will have been noted by Camerons attending the Gathering at Achnacarry but did not seem to have dampened the activities.

I remember attending the gathering in 1989 when, early on, it poured with rain. Lochiel (the present Lochiel's father) continued to welcome clansfolk from around the world without any covering and with the rain dripping off his plaid and kilt. Lochiel told Ruth that clansfolk had come so far to see him that he did not want to disappoint them by wearing a cape.



The invitation above was to celebrate the wedding of Donald Walter, 25th Chief, to Lady Hermione Graham in 1906. The Miss Kennedys are the daughters of Mr. Angus Kennedy, captain of the *S.S. Rifle* as well as an Estate blacksmith. The *Rifle* used to sail up and down Loch Arkaig. Card lent to Bill Cameron to copy.

The Cameron Monument

The Cameron Monument sits on its granite plinth, in the centre of Fort William's Parade, as it has done for the past 100 winters since its unveiling on December 20, 1909.

The now oxide-stained bronze statue is a life-like representation of Donald Cameron of Lochiel, 24th Chief of Clan Cameron.

The monument is the oldest of four public memorials on the Parade and over the 100 years has withstood Lochaber's demanding weather conditions, the erection and demolition of buildings on the nearby High Street, and the passing by of generations of Lochaber folk and of thousands of visitors.

This public sculpture promoted bilingual signage long before Gaelic road signs made the headlines with its Gaelic and English inscriptions on the front and rear.

On a snowy Monday afternoon on December 20, 1909, Mrs Cameron Lucy of Callart unveiled a Cameron tartan plaid to reveal the striking dark bronze statue by sculptor William Birnie Rhind, whose works can be found in major cities, as well as the parliament building in Winnipeg, Canada.

MP for the Lochaber area for 17 years, Donald Cameron of Lochiel played an influential role in the establishment of the West Highland Railway, serving as convener of Inverness County Council as well as taking part in the Napier Commission in which crofters' rights were established.

But fast-forward 100 years, and the current appearance of the statue has become a cause for concern.

William Cameron from Inverloch, a member of the 120-year-old Clan Cameron Association, told the Lochaber News: "The old clan system has changed a lot since the Cameron statue on the Parade was erected. "However, the original principles of the association remain in preserving and extending a collective heritage which is now maintained through a worldwide collective - connected through websites, newsletters and gatherings. "I think Clan Cameron members would like to see this unique statue preserved. "After a hundred years on the Parade, it could now really benefit from some

restoration work which I am sure the association would support." Highland Council's Lochaber wards manager Dot Ferguson said: "We are aware of concerns over the war memorial in the Parade and are having a meeting early in the new year about this.

"We'd certainly be willing to add the Lochiel monument to that agenda. "We recognise that whole back area of the Parade as a war memorial and we're mindful of the high praise we've received for the quality of its upkeep.

"We're happy to work with interested parties to address any issues with the monuments."

The above is an edited version of an article Bill Cameron wrote for the Lochaber News

The cutting below was sent in by Glenis Cameron of Auckland

A recent winter photo of the monument by Bill Cameron



From the pages of history

Donald Cameron: The King of Pipers

From an article published in the Celtic Monthly in 1902

NO ARTICLE on the music of the Clan Cameron would be complete without reference to Donald Cameron, who was born at Fodderty, about 1810.

When a mere child he could play the pipes, and the late Mr. Mackenzie of Millbank taking an interest in him, placed him under the tuition of Big Donald MacLennan, of Moy.

He was afterwards taught by Angus Mackay.

His last tutor was John Ban Mackenzie.

Cameron first competed in Edinburgh in 1838, at 17 years of age, and won second prize.

In after years he won many prizes, and was the last to bear the title Champion of Champions or "King of Pipers."

In 1863 Seaforth presented him with the title deeds of one of the best houses in the village of Maryburgh, where he died in 1868.

Three of his sons became famous pipers - Colin, to the Duke of Fife; Alexander, for some years piper to the



Marquis of Huntly, and Keith, now dead, who was a piper in the Highland Light Infantry.

It is to be regretted that so able an exponent of Ceol Mor as Donald Cameron should not have composed any specimen of this class of music.

He, however, composed some first class marches and reels, such as "Kessock Ferry," "Braham Castle," and "Lady Anne MacKenzie's Farewell to Rosehaugh."

In personal appearances as the sketch shows, Donald Cameron was the ideal successor of such hereditary pipers as the MacCrimmons, and we shall not look upon his like again.



Photo: Maxine Cameron

Square Day Palmerston North. From Right: Harry Lampen-Smith, Adam Cameron Clayton, Bellana Cameron, Dianne Burke, Roz Grant



Photo: Valmar Cameron

Images from Waipu: above: The Avenue of the Clans and 'waiting for the call'. Below: The official opening after the Grand Parade.

Photos: Editor

