



Clan Cameron New Zealand; founded 1935, incorporated 2000

◆ Cameron ◆

Volume 44, Issue 5

October 2010

To all Clan Cameron Canterbury Members



I know that the members of Clan Cameron New Zealand would like me to wish all of our Canterbury members well during their intensive ordeal with the current earthquakes.

I am sure that some of our member's homes might still be unliveable but by the time our newsletter has been delivered, we sincerely hope that the earthquake situation may have begun to return to normality.

Please be reassured that our thoughts and prayers are with you all in your time of need.

Denis

Ben Nevis from Bun Arkaig

Taken by First Lighter Tristan. The view is from across the road from Tracy and First Lighter Astie's home.

A message from our President



Dear Clan Cameron Members

Associate Professor **Vicky Cameron** is a geneticist at the University of Otago, at Christchurch. She specialises in the impact of genetics on heart disease.

Professor Vicky Cameron is studying a gene variation linked to a higher risk of developing heart disease, which is the subject of much current research in Christchurch and overseas.

In the past decade, scientists' understanding of genetics has accelerated. The rate of progress is so significant; it is comparable with Columbus discovering the Americas and James Cook exploring the Pacific within five years of each other.

Some highlights have hit the headlines, including the recent sequencing [decoding] of the Neanderthal genome and lately, the generation of bacteria-like cell regulated by a completely man-made set of genes.

New developments have allowed scientists to "read" an individual unique DNA sequence at an affordable cost within a realistic timeframe. DNA variations associated with inherited risk for many diseases can be identified. New technologies are also revealing genetic reasons for different responses to drugs, bringing us closer to the goal of personalised medicine.

Major genetic initiatives:

In 1990, The Human Genome Project began to determine the sequence, or code, that makes up human DNA. During the project, technology has advanced dramatically. It took 10 to 15 years for the first draft of the human genome. A similar amount of sequencing can now be performed in three days. However, this includes only raw data [akin to providing sentences from a book in a jumbled order] not the complex analysis required to link these into something meaningful.

A second project, "The International Hap Map Project" was launched in 2002; it created a catalogue of common 4 million single-base differences, specifying their exact location across the entire human genome.

This information is freely available to researchers worldwide. It has been critical to advances in understanding a host of complex disease, such as heart disease, which result from an interaction of multiple genes and environmental factors, such as diet or sun exposure.

Scientists can now compare the gene chips of thousands of people and see common DNA variants among patients who suffer from the same disease. In the past few years, scientists have identified genetic variants associated with hundreds of human diseases or clinical characteristics, such as obesity and cholesterol.

What do these developments mean for us?

People's responses to drugs – or pharmacogenetics – are influenced by numerous genetic and environmental factors, which determine why some patients, for example, experience no benefit or side effects from some medications.

Already genetic technology has improved the understanding of complex diseases and, in some cases, change what doses of drugs or which treatments are most appropriate for an individual. This is the holy grail of personalised medicine that has been promised since the origin of the Human Genome Project but has not happened until now.

Should we be concerned about powerful genetic technologies?

Science in developed countries operates under a number of regulatory bodies to protect individual and genetic research. These regulations are becoming more stringent to address the unease of a public concerned about potential abuse of genetic information, the spectre of eugenics [selective race] or even exploration of an individual's genetic information for commercial gain. Codes of practice are set not by the conscience of individual scientists, but by a mandate of public opinion and expert advisers. The quiet revolution in new genetic technology is changing the face of medical genetics, but, with the appropriate constraints, has the power to do a world of good.

What are genes and how do they affect our risk to disease?

All humans have the same set of genes, approximately 24,000 of them. Each gene carries part of the inherited information essential to build and maintain an organism, cell-by-cell, and to pass genetic traits to off-spring. Each gene consists of a span of DNA that spells out information in a sequence of "bases" [a subunit of DNA] that makes up our genetic code. However, the code is not precise and it is these variations that make us individuals and can affect our susceptibility to certain diseases and our body's response to drugs and environmental factors. Every species has its own genome, which is all the genetic material in an organism, including its chromosomes, genes and DNA.

The coronary heart disease puzzle?

Coronary heart disease is New Zealand's biggest killer. Genetic factors make some families more susceptible to developing heart disease. In 2007 several large, international studies looked at all gene variations relating to heart disease across thousands of coronary patients and healthy people. These "genome-wide association studies" all identified a region on chromosome 9 as strongly associated with coronary disease risk. However it was not clear how inheriting this DNA "hot spot" influences heart disease. Researchers at the University of Otago, Christchurch, led by Associate Professor Vicky Cameron, investigated the impact of the chromosome 9 region on a person's survival after a diagnosis of heart disease.

Dr Cameron has a personal interest in this subject, as she inherited the "hot spot" gene from both of her parents. This led her to investigate whether carrying the risk variant was associated in about 2000 heart disease patients and healthy people. Dr Katrina Ellis worked with Cameron on the project. They found the progression of heart disease in people who carried chromosome 9 variation was no different from those without it. Patients with it were no more likely to die or be readmitted to hospital up to nine years after a heart attack. However, people with it were likely to develop heart disease three to five years, on average, earlier than others. The research, soon to be published in *Circulation; Cardiovascular Genetics*, was funded by Health Research Council and National Heart Foundation of New Zealand. Dr Vicky Cameron is a member of the Canterbury Branch of Clan Cameron [My sincere thanks to Vicky for allowing me to use parts of her article]

"Leis gach deagh dhurachd and Slainte mhath"
[With every good wish and good health]

Denis Cameron

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Wellington/Wairarapa Branch

Garry and Malissa Nielsen

Masterton



*Dr. Vicky Cameron in the laboratory
(see previous page)*

Canterbury News *by Rae Magson*

Our plans have had to change due to the earthquake that shook up Canterbury in the early hours of 4 September. We had an Executive Meeting set down for Sunday 5 September but this was not held. Our President, Brian Cameron was not well, but then we heard that two of our members - Nick and David Cameron had serious damage to their houses. Nick lives near to Darfield, the centre of it all! At the time of writing the region is still experiencing quite severe after-shocks that can be rather unnerving.

Our tentative plans had been to hold a garden party/barbecue at the home of Nick and Julie Cameron, but of course this idea has to be put on hold. We never were able to confirm this with him and naturally he has other things on his mind. I'm sure all of our members will understand this decision. However we are planning our Annual General Meeting and luncheon in November, the details still to be arranged.

Life is slowly returning to normal in the Canterbury region, but the earthquake is something we never wish to experience again.

Auckland News

by Don Cameron

For a week or two Auckland Clan Cameron members were worried that their popular annual dinner did not appear likely to drag more than 30 or 40 folk out into a cold mid-winter night. Usually 70-odd attended.

However the outlook improved when Denis Cameron, chief of Clan Cameron New Zealand, and his wife Joy said they would attend - and this time accompanied by a band of Bay of Plenty members led by Fraser Cameron which helped lift the total into the 70's.

Help also came from a welcome direction. For some time members had queried whether they should be entertained (or educated) by a guest speaker.

Recently Auckland members had been chatting to members of the Fletcher family whose building empire was born in Dunedin about 100 years ago, at a time when the young James Fletcher married Charlotte Cameron.

Angus Fletcher, 21 years with the company and now heading the Fletcher Trust and a group of philanthropic committees aimed at improving the lot of young people. Angus, an old cricket acquaintance of the writer, and president of the Auckland Cricket Supports Club, agreed to be the guest speaker.

He started well, introducing his daughter Jean and his son Andrew to the clan -- two sparkling personalities -- to the diners, and then stitched together a fascinating, and sometimes amusing, tale about the start of the Fletcher-Cameron connection in the early 1900's, and how the eventual Sir James Fletcher, Angus' grandfather, had laid the plans and ambitions for the firm that built so much of New Zealand's backbone.

Angus made such a fine impression he set a high standard for future guest speakers.

There were other changes. The McQueen children, Andrew (piper), Matthew (drummer) and Sarah (dancer) have been consistent entertainers for years -- and eager members of the Haggis ceremony party.

This year Celia Haggitt, daughter of branch treasurer Bryan, brought her delightful soprano voice to the entertainment. Andrew remains the official piper.

We still feared the worst when it became apparent Neil Cameron, the inspiration of the branch since its 1986 revival and the expert dinner organiser, would not attend. He had a knee replacement operation three days before the dinner. On the morning of the dinner Neil suggested he would be well enough to attend. Ruth, his wife, would not be convinced -- and Neil never looked like winning the argument.

However, Neil had set the standard for the dinner, and his son-in-law Duncan McQueen was the expert MC who kept the programme moving at a smart pace.

In this regard the toasts to Lochiel, other clans and the Camerons -- which had sometimes been lengthy -- were reduced to a maximum of five minutes each.

Hillary Hakaraia and Fiona Cameron made such a good job of selling the raffle tickets (prizes given by members, including Carolyn Vaudrey's superb cake, won by the writer) that \$328 was raised as a donation to the First Light funds.

(by Ed - thanks should also be given to Don and Valmar who did so much to make this a success)

Bruce Cameron

It is with great regret that we advise the passing of Bruce Cameron on 18 September 2010. Bruce was a past president, and the current treasurer of the Wellington-Wairarapa Branch.

A full obituary will be published in the next newsletter

An Appreciation of Angus Cameron (Laxdale) 1930-2010

By Bill Cameron

We were saddened by the passing of Angus Cameron (Laxdale) here in Lochaber in early July.

Angus was a founder member of the First Light exchange committee in Lochaber, and a great supporter of the programme throughout its first ten years.

A life long friend of Lochaber-born Maisie Earle who lived next door to him. Angus was born in the family home 'Laxdale', alongside Neptunes staircase at Banavie near Fort William.

After attending Banavie primary and Fort William secondary schools, Angus went on to complete his National Service in the RAF, although ironically on RAF boats. Angus spent all his life on ships, acquiring his Master's Certificate and becoming a *by pilot* at Loch Ewe and The Forth. Returning from National Service, Angus worked through a number of positions with the Admiralty, becoming Chief Admiralty Pilot and Assistant Queen's Harbour Master at Rosyth.

During his time as an oil pollution officer on the Forth, Angus was involved in operation 'Clear Water Forth' and was

subsequently awarded an MBE for services to the marine environment in 1989.

Married to his late wife Margaret for thirty-seven years. He is survived by a son and daughter. Angus's daughter, Marion, lives in Lochaber with her husband and three children. Angus was very proud of all five of his grandchildren.

Retiring to the family home at Banavie, Angus was kept busy renovating the family home and gardens, from which you can see some of the finest views of Ben Nevis.

A devoted member of Kilmallie Parish Church. Angus was also a great source of local history and bearer of the old traditions of Lochaber. He had many interesting stories of his Cameron ancestors, however, he would only tell them if you asked, and always delivered them in his typically unassuming quiet West Highland manner. Angus was in every sense of the word - a gentleman. We will miss him.

A lone piper played 'The march of The Cameron Men' and 'The Braes of Lochiel', as Angus's coffin was respectfully carried by neighbours, friends and relatives up to the old Cameron graveyard (*Achadh nan con*) in

Glen Nevis - where he was laid to rest alongside his ancestors in a traditional Highland service.

Our sympathies go out to Angus's family.



Angus Cameron, with wife Margaret,
after receiving his MBE

Mary MacKillop *by Don Cameron*

On October 17, the Catholic church bells will be ringing loud in Australia, and just as fervently in New Zealand and Scotland, when Mary MacKillop, co-founder of the congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph, is canonized as a saint.

In the early 19th century a group of Camerons quit their homeland and settled in Australia, eventually establishing a large farm in Penola, a part of up-country South Australia. They were led by Alexander, later known as "King Cameron of Penola," whose daughter married into the MacKillop family.

Mary was born in 1842, for a time was governess for "King" Cameron's young family which included five cousins -- Donald Angus, John Baptiste, Angus, Alexander and Duncan. In the early 1850's Donald Angus led several of the brothers on visits to New Zealand, which eventually led to Donald Angus gaining the lease of a very large farm at Nokomai farm in northern Southland.



Mary MacKillop remained in Australia, first as a school teacher, then a nun and eventually co-founder of the Sisters of St Joseph. An educationist ahead of her time, Mary

MacKillop quickly gathered helpers, formed a new style of teaching and the nuns spread quickly about Australia and New Zealand. Over the second half of the 19th century Mary was a frequent cross-Tasman traveller, taking teaching nuns with her and bringing in New Zealanders to staff the schools here.

She started in the South Island, with the first school at Temuka, and then stayed at Nokomai with her uncles, including at that stage Donald Angus and John Baptiste. Mother Mary, as she became known, visited New Zealand frequently and set up nine Josephite centres throughout the country, but suffered a stroke in Rotorua in 1902 and died in Australia in 1909.

The writer is one of four New Zealand Camerons with a rather indirect relationship with Mary MacKillop -- my great-grand uncle's wife's niece. Two, Charlie (Rolleston) and Donald (Balcutha), have similar status as Donald Angus' grand-children, and Jim (Dunedin) shares with me John Baptiste as our grand-fatherly links.



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 December issue:

15 November 2010

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Coming events

Sunday 3 October 2010

Hawke's Bay Branch AGM and Lunch

Clansman Motor Lodge.
Pot luck lunch at 12.30, followed by meeting.
Enquiries to Helen Shaw 06 844 8398

Saturday 27 November 2010

Auckland Highland Games

Three Kings Reserve. Commencing 10.30am. Free entry and a wonderful day for all the family
Visit the Cameron tent for a friendly welcome and to learn about the clan.
Enquiries to Don Cameron 09 520 0716

April 22-24 2011

Clan Cameron NZ Annual Gathering and AGM

Lindisfarne College, Hastings.

Something to look forward to!

See enclosure

More Gaelic and English Phrases

From Mary MacKellar's "*Tourist's Hand-Book of Gaelic and English Phrases for the Highlands*"

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Gaelic | Taigeis |
| Pronunciation | Taik esh |
| English | Haggis |

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Gaelic | Buntàta |
| Pronunciation | Bun-tàh-ta |
| English | Potatoes |

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Gaelic | Brochan |
| Pronunciation | Broch-an |
| English | Porridge |

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Gaelic | Im |
| Pronunciation | Imm |
| English | Butter |

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Gaelic | Salann |
| Pronunciation | Sall un |
| English | Salt |

with thanks to the Clan Cameron Museum

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:
Warren Cameron
camcraft@orcon.net.nz

With Tristan in Scotland

A first report from First Lighter Tristan Sanders

TOS Story (part 1)

I left New Zealand with a farewell committee made up of my Family and Clan members. It was a long flight, a lot of sleeping and a few movies helped pass the time along with 1.5 hr break in Hong Kong and a further 3.5hrs in Heathrow. I finally arrived in Glasgow where I was met by previous First Lighter Robert Nairn.

We left Glasgow and headed up to Robert's family home in Acharacle, arriving at 11:00pm, and after a quick introduction to Robert's family I finally headed for bed...



Jet lag had me awake with the birds, but was easily in time for the half seven breakfast. After breakfast Robert had me out on the croft to help with some fencing before the vet arrived to de-horn the calves.

Robert was heading off to Shetland to play a gig, so after the vet left he gave me a lift up to Astie and Tracy's house in Achnacarry. Astie was at work when I got there, so I met up with Tracy and the kids – Alex (16), Nina (5) and Alan (2). After a quick yarn and a cup of tea with Tracy, I headed up to my room to unpack and get organised.

Most of my first week was taken up with a tiki tour of Lochaber, a walk along the Dark Mile to the Cia-aig Falls and back through Achnacarry, a drive out to Aviemore, and another up Glen Nevis. I also met Lochiel, who dropped by to say hi to Tracy.

Week 2, Astie & Tracy were away on holiday, so I was left to house sit and relax. As well as climbing Ben Nevis with Bill; Margaret and Shona Cameron, another First Lighter, called and invited me round for dinner. They also took me for a drive up to Inverness and a visit to Culloden. It was a good trip and I learnt a lot about the Jacobite's and clan history, pretty bleak place on the moor.

On my birthday, turning the big two 0, Astie & Tracy got up early (half past five-ish) to make me a birthday breakfast before I left for work. Alex even got up and said happy birthday, but didn't hang around and went back to bed for a bit more shuteye before school. When I knocked off from work, Tracy had laid out Alex's kilt, a sporran – Alex's from when he was younger – and a shirt, we were all to get dressed up for my birthday tea. Tracy made a Fillet steak dinner washed down with some not bad wine and champagne and followed by the Lochaber, so I am told, favourite desert sticky toffee pudding – Tracy was relieved I didn't ask for a pavlova, they got me a pressie too, something for the colder days playing rugby, a sort of base layer top to go

under my rugby shirt, I was stoked about this as they have been saying how cold last winter was, but I came prepared with my possum fur hat(see Ben Nevis pic last issue).....

Astie and Tracy's house is the original kennels for the estate, as part of the work to make it a home they have made the original building open plan and extended the house to form a courtyard. It is heated by two wood burning stoves so keeping the wood shed full is a full time job so amongst other things we've been out cutting wood quite a bit. Tracy's in charge of painting the house, so I've timed it right with my trip to be lending a hand. We also did a bit of work getting the courtyard ready for laying slabs, Astie had dug the majority of the material out with a digger but there was some material closer to the building that needed to be dug by hand, so we had a day of digging the courtyard, and levelling the ground ready for the next stage. Alan was desperate to get in on the action and got his digger out to help... Astie is building a drystone wall along the roadside in front of their house so we have been working together on this, pretty hard going with some of the big stones, taking the two of us to move them!

After a delayed start and some initial enquiries, Tracy managed to score me a few days work with their friend Paulo Berardelli, mustering sheep, bringing in the silage using a real boneshaker tractor and repairing some fencing. Paulo would phone the house and ask for the "Kiwi Boy". The Berardelli family have been farming in Scotland for a very long time, Paulo's family are really nice and I had some great family meals with Paulo, his wife Elsbeth and their five kids and Paulo's folks.

One day I told Tracy I would be repairing some fencing in Brackletter, and Astie knows the area so they took a chance to find me and turned up with some McFlurries for morning smoko, great on a really hot day!!!. Paulo's family also have some land down in Glen Coe, so he's promised me a week of stalking in October, which will be excellent!

Paulo put me in touch with one of his friends, Paul who owns Gillies fencing, and I've been working for him fencing on a hillside near Lochaline for the last few weeks. It's an early start and hard work, and typically, John who I'm working with, calls me the Tourist!

I've signed up with the Lochaber Rugby Club, who's home ground is just down the road in Banavie. We've played 4 league games and a few pre-season games. With two out of the four matches as convincing wins, Lochaber have had a good a start to the season are currently sitting third in the league. The away games will take me all over the Highlands and Islands, a great way to see the country!

Astie cycles to work in Fort William every day – a round trip of 23 miles. A few weeks ago, on his way to work, he fell off his bike just round the corner from the house and broke his collar bone. Not long after that I hurt my ankle at rugby, so yet another trip to Accident & Emergency for Tracy...I think Tracy was worried about having two guys to look after as Astie was pretty knackered with his collar bone. But the ankle is fine now after some impressive bruising and Guinness. Astie is now back to work after 4 weeks off.

Since I arrived we've been doing quite a bit of fishing on Loch Lochy in front of the house. Mostly spinning but Astie recently bought a fly rod so we've also been getting to grips with that. Form has not been good but we did eventually have some luck with some real tasty trout. The midges have sent me crazy and have been partly to blame for no fish!, no one told me about them before I left!!!!

Donald Andrew, Sarah and their new baby Donald Fergus dropped in for a coffee and a chat one day. We talked about the exchange and my plans and then Donald introduced me to the Estate Ghillie, Mark, and asked him to keep me right with the fishing in the area. There's only a few weeks left of the season so Astie and I are going to go out and give it a good bash on the weekends, and fingers crossed we've got the right flies on the line.

That more or less brings us up to date with some the adventures so far, others I might tell... one day.....

(see pictures on back page—Ed)

Tristan

The letter and picture below was sent in by Bay of Plenty Cameron member Patricia Duncan (nee Miller). Patricia is on Sir Donald's left in the front row. Names are correct as far as can be established.



Dear Editor,

I was interested in the article Denis wrote on Sir Donald Cameron of Dunedin and thought this photo might be of interest to you.. He was my great Uncle (Paternal Grandmother's sister). My sister Jennifer and I went to stay with him in about 1958, then the rest of our family came down to Dunedin to stay for the summer holiday. This was our first trip to the South Island so was a major event. Also our first introduction to our Scottish relations. I know Harold and family moved to Auckland. We kept in contact with Elsie and Syd and saw some of the younger generation a few years back when Elsie was 90. Sir Donald is third from the left in the front row.

Back Row:

Elsie & Syd Johnson, (brother & sister), Lew Cameron, Art Cameron, Ewan Cameron, son of Harold, Harold, son of Sir Donald, Jim Cameron, Harry Johnson, Isobel Cameron,

Front Row:

Vi, Chris Johnson, Sir Donald, Patricia Miller, Lesley Cameron?, Jennifer Miller, Ian's son Harold, Fanny, Vi, Flo (Lew's wife) Annabel (Harold & Isobel's Daughter)



In the next Issue: "St. Kilda and the Cameron Connection"

Bill Cameron writes about his recent visit to the Atlantic Isle of St. Kilda, from which the permanent population was evacuated in 1930.





Aonaibh ri Cheile

'Cameron' October 2010

The Back Page

Tristan in Scotland and the Auckland Branch Mid Winter Dinner
Photos by Tristan and Duncan McQueen



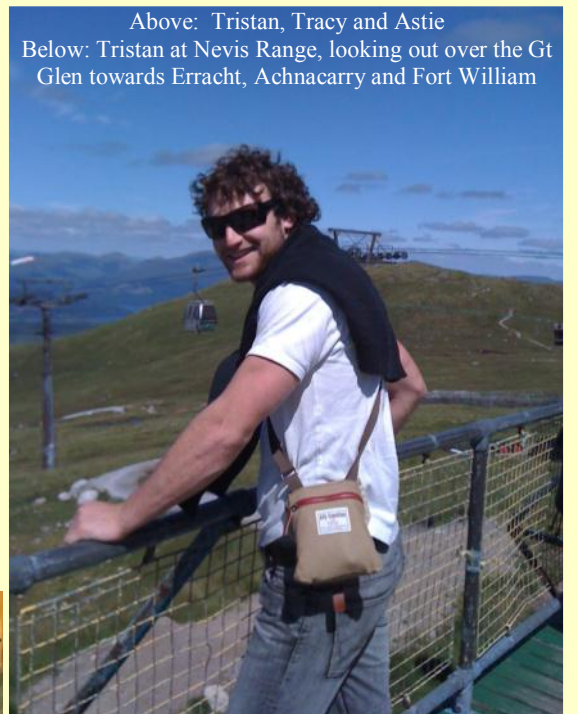
Don Cameron; Jean, Angus, and Andrew Fletcher; Denis Cameron



Above: Tristan, Tracy and Astie
Below: Tristan at Nevis Range, looking out over the Gt Glen towards Erracht, Achnacarry and Fort William



Shona Cameron, Vivienne Sanders, Elliot Fenton, Maryann Cameron, Geoff Thomson, Rhys Fenton, Elaine and Fraser Cameron



Wendy Aranga and Alastair Cameron



Dale Bailey and Lena Orum



The Auckland Branch Mid Winter Dinner

From left:

Richard and Zeta Robertson,
Jenny Haggitt,
Janet Marshall,
Mark de Courcy,
Roseann Cunningham
Ruth Cameron