



Clan Cameron New Zealand; founded 1935, incorporated 2000

◆ Cameron ◆

Volume 44, Issue 6

December 2010

Achnacarry in the Autumn time



Courtesy of Lochiel

Photo by Iain Thornber

**A Cameron mission
to St. Kilda
Part one inside**

Main Street, Village Bay, St. Kilda - *Photo: Bill Cameron*

Bay of Plenty Branch

by Joy and Denis Cameron

The Gathering of the Clans in Morrinsville

Saturday, October 2nd, 2010, was the day that the Waikato – Bay of Plenty Combined Scottish Clans assembled in Morrinsville, to take part in the Annual Gathering that has become such a feature for the last 18 years. The day turned out to be bright and sunny, with a tinge of cold earlier in the morning.

But back in 1988, the Bay of Plenty Branch decided to have a social event called the “Tartan Night”. Here we invited not only our members, but those from the Scottish and Kindred societies who had a liking for anything to do with Scottish activities. We were delighted when 97 members and friends turned up for the night.

We went outside our branch members and invited two Clans to be present. They were the Chieftain of Clan Gunn, Mrs Dianne Gunn and the President of the Clan MacNicol, Mr Harold MacNicoll of Whakatane. Later, we welcomed Mr Don Ross who became the prime mover to get the Clan Ross movement started here in New Zealand. The late Mrs Joan Little QSM, President of Clan MacNeil from Tokoroa was also invited and they too became part of our activities from then on. In 1996, we changed the name to “Pot-Luck-Luncheon” and held the festivities in the Ohauti Hall, where we had pleasure to

this wonderful concept go from strength to strength. It was at one of our Pot Luck Luncheons at Ohauti, that we presented a challenge to Mrs Joan Little and invited her Clan to stage the next gathering in Tokoroa the following year. She took it with both hands.

Morrinsville, is a small town 32 km north-east of Hamilton with a population of approximately 7000 and is situated in the Waikato. Auckland entrepreneurs Thomas and Samuel Morrin bought around 30,000 acres [12,000 hectares] and in 1874, they established an estate called “Locherbie”, planning the town of Morrinsville to house their estate workers.

This year the Clan Donald was invited to be the host for the day. We all gathered in the Main Street at 11.00 am by the roundabout and right on time, the Cambridge Pipe Band struck up. We marched down the street, followed by a dozen or so Clans to the venue at the Senior Citizens Hall in Canada Street, a distance of about 200 metres.

Rex Cameron later told us that this was the first time in 52 years since he had marched down the main street of Morrinsville in his kilt. Rex was absolutely buzzing after the event. Of interest, both Rex and Patricia were born in the town of Morrinsville.

Once we had arrived at the hall, the various Clan representatives were piped up to the front of the hall and then greeted by the High Commissioner of Clan Donald in New Zealand, Mr Harold McIsaac. Each of the representatives was invited to give a talk explaining how their Clan fits into Scottish history. The Master of Ceremonies was Mr Murdock McDonald of the Scottish Clan Association Auckland and Districts who did us proud.

One of the visiting pipers led our Vice President, Rex Cameron who was carrying the new Bay of Plenty Banner, followed by President Denis to the front of the hall. Denis gave a short talk on how the Clan Cameron was started in Scotland; then about last year’s fantastic trip we had to Scotland and how the Clan was started in New Zealand.

We were greatly enchanted with the Haggis Ceremony and then it was time for the luncheon. The clansfolk should be congratulated for the array of food they had brought along for the pot luck luncheon. It was just magnificent. Afterwards

we all settled down to listen to a wide variety of items for the afternoon concert. It was the first time that I have heard someone play a tin whistle and that was most interesting to hear. Shirley and John Baillie, members of the Bay of Plenty Branch entertained the audience with a harp and fiddle duet. We were all very captivated.

The eleven Branch members who went over, all thoroughly enjoyed the activities of the day and we look forward to the next one, which we understand will be held in Te Awamutu.



At Morrinsville. From Left: Rex & Pat Cameron, Alison, Antony, Nicholas & Martin Jordan, Jean Barker, Denis & Joy Cameron, Shirley & John Baillie

welcome Mr David MacLachlan, the President of Clan MacLachlan from Hamilton. It was a delight to see how these Clans wanted to be part of our Scottish activities. So at this social occasion, we had the Clan Gunn, Ross, MacNeil and MacLachlan and a representative from Clan MacPhee. As they say – from small beginnings

The Bay of Plenty Branch, is very proud to say that our Branch was the first to plan and then to promote this interesting concept. Over the last 18 years it has been a pleasure to see

Hawkes Bay Branch *by Helen Shaw*

Spring has almost gone, Summer is trying to get established and the first flush of roses are coming to an end. We have a few fine days in the week and then a little southerly bites in again. The easterly sea breeze also kicks in after lunch most days which keeps the temperature down. We here in Napier could do with some rain on the gardens.

At the end of September Mike and Trish Topham and Helen Shaw went over to Palmerston North to the Dinner and Ceilidh hosted by the Manawatu Branch. A very good spread was enjoyed followed by an evening of interesting items.

Our A.G.M. here in Hawkes Bay was once again held at the Clansman Motel with a pot luck lunch followed by the meeting in which the existing Committee members were re-elected. The attendance was down on last year but luckily we had the numbers to be able to have an Election of officers.

Planning for the Annual A.G.M and gathering is going well. Please put the dates in your diary to attend. An event not to missed.

Canterbury News *by Rae Magson*

Our Annual General Meeting was held recently at the beautiful home of Nick Cameron near Darfield, with a good attendance of members. It was great to see Denis and Joy attending, and we wished them well on their recent 50th wedding anniversary. Nick Cameron was elected to be our President, Rae Magson the Secretary, Ngaire Power the Treasurer. Brian Cameron resigned as President but is remaining on the committee. Brian had written a full report of the year's activities, and members had lots of ideas for next year.

We are planning to attend the Scottish Cultural Festival held in Riccarton in February, with a Cameron tent. There was also discussion on possible venues for the Cameron conference to be held in 2012. After the meeting we had a walk around the beautiful gardens of Nick and Julie Cameron. A barbecue lunch and fellowship was enjoyed, the weather was very kind to us.

See photo back page

Manawatu News *by John Cameron*

Celebrating our heritage and culture

Branch Dinner

Since our last report Manawatu branch hosted our very successful and entertaining Dinner. Thank you to our friends for travelling from near and far to join us and I am sure you enjoyed the entertainment as much as we did. The pipers and drummer were outstanding. Pipers Tom Whittle, his father Jimmy, Andrew Peters and of course Bruce Cameron, made the hall reverberate, and they were joined by Branch members Ewen & Roz Grants' Grandson Brodie Grant.

Watch this space, he is a keen and upcoming drummer and had sacrificed a lot to come and play for us. Our youngest and newest member Yvette Morrissey read a poem "Golden Wedding".

The branch genealogist Jessie Annabell told us of some local Cameron history which she had been researching.

That is when the pipers began, each playing a couple of solos. Young Brodie, accompanied by Andrew played "Little Drummer Boy", fantastic, then the 4 pipers played together and wow, the hall rattled. Fantastic.

A humorous ditty was brilliantly recited by Jimmy and enjoyed by all.

Maisie Earle's Birthday.

Senior Clan members hosted an afternoon tea with Maisie Earle to celebrate her 81st birthday. Maisie has not been in the best of health and the afternoon with a group of Camerons gave her a new lease on life, especially when Bruce Cameron played some of her favourite tunes on his pipes. A very enjoyable afternoon which perked up Maisie, and thanks to Roz & Ewen Grant for organising this special afternoon.

Square Day 11 December

It is now close to years end with our last activity and major fund raising event coming up. The annual "Square Day" which hosts a 2nd premier NZ Piping events with solo piping, drumming and pipe bands in all grades. This is all held in

the centre of the city of Palmerston North in the picturesque 4 acre "Square". The Manawatu branch will be there again raising funds by selling sausages and an item gaining in popularity every year haggis sandwiches. Members please make yourselves available to do a couple of hours helping. If you are visiting Palmerston North for the event please come and say "Hi" and support our branch with a purchase of our tasty offerings.

Turakina Games- 29 January 2011

The New Year brings the annual display tent at the Turakina Games, on another great day of highland activities. Hope to see as many of our members assisting and supporting our display. Visitors very welcome.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be hosted on Sunday 27th Feb at "Kenprace", the home of Colin & Joy Cameron. BYO BBQ lunch from 11.30am onwards. All welcome.

Manawatu Branch would like to wish Clan Cameron members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2011.



John Cameron with Manawatu's new youngest member and potential candidate for 1st Light, Yvette Morrissey.

OBITUARY**Robert Bruce Cameron 4 October 1931 – 17 September 2010**

It is with great sorrow that the Wellington-Wairarapa Branch of Clan Cameron records the loss of Bruce Cameron on 17 September 2010.

Bruce was a stalwart member of Clan Cameron for a quarter of a century. Over that time he was Wellington-Wairarapa branch president (1990-1993), branch treasurer (1999-2010), and a committee member from 1985 until his death. For the National Executive, he published and distributed the clan newsletter from 1992 to 2001, and was the correspondence secretary from 1998 to 2001.

Bruce will be remembered for his honest and quick appraisal of a situation, his interest in what others were doing, and his great sense of humour. He invariably supplied a solution to a problem before most members became aware that a problem existed. His interest and concern for others put everyone at ease and kept him in touch with all the goings-on. His dry quick wit was appreciated by all he came in contact with.

Bruce was a very generous member of the Clan. On numerous occasions he opened his home in Silverstream, his office in Lower Hutt, his cottage near Turangi, and his beach home at Raumati Beach for Clan functions. Once he paid for a bus to take branch members on a tour of the vineyards of Martinborough. In 1994 during the NZ Clan Gathering in Wellington he hired a boat to take members on a harbour cruise during the lunch break.

He was a great organiser and was able to provide splendid



venues for Clan activities through his association with clubs of which he was a member.

A large number of members of Clan Cameron assembled at St Mary's Anglican Church, Silverstream, on 23 September to farewell Bruce. Rob and Ken

Cameron spoke on behalf of the Clan at the service.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to his wife Sonja; to Pam; to his children, Robert, Cindy, Gordon and Karina; to his grandchildren; and to his long-serving secretary, Jennie Vogel.

A Pen Portrait of a Branch President**1. John Colin Cameron Manawatu**

John has been a member of Manawatu Branch since 2000 and in 2009 he was elected Branch President, succeeding Joy Cameron who had held this post since 2002.

John has been employed for the past 33 years as a truck driver with Higgin's Contractor's:- Civil Engineering and Road Construction Company.

John has two children. His son Christopher is aged 25 and daughter Sarah Jane is 21.

As a young man John was an enthusiastic rugby player. A motor vehicle collision in 1966 put an end to his playing days but he continued his support for rugby and toured the U.K. and Ireland in 1986 as a supporter of the Manawatu Marist Rugby Club. His other sporting interest is Stock cars. After fifteen years racing he now maintains his interest as a track official at the Palmerston North Speedway.

In 2009 John travelled to Scotland with the New Zealand Clan Cameron group to attend the Clan Cameron gathering at



John in Fort William Photo: Denis Cameron

Achnacarry and thoroughly enjoyed his trip with fellow Cameron's.

John's parents John McDonell Cameron and Maggie Cameron (deceased) became members of Manawatu Branch in 1953.

John is the Great, Great, Grandson of Thomas Ross Cameron of Ardachy, near Fort Augustus, and Anne McDonell of Auchaluachrach, who were married at Boleskine, near Loch Ness on 25th July 1848

Anne's brother James McDonell (1818 – 1875) emigrated to Australia in 1839 and by the mid 1840's was employed exporting livestock to New Zealand. This involved attending the livestock on the voyage to New Zealand and then droving the mob to the purchaser's farms. In May 1849, James McDonell purchased land at Parewanui in the Rangitikei, which he named "Inverhoe" and on the 18th December the same year he married Annie Cameron, a daughter of Donald "The Weaver" Cameron and Christina McLean who with their family had come to New Zealand on the Blenheim in 1840.

Thomas Ross Cameron and his wife, together with his brothers Archibald and Ranald emigrated to Australia, arriving at Port Phillip Bay aboard the ship "Sea" on 18th May 1851. In 1855 the family came to New Zealand to join Anne's brother James McDonell in the Rangitikei. They lived at Turakina and Whangaehu before settling at Halcombe.

The history of the Manawatu Branch of Clan Cameron is rich with the descendants of Thomas Ross and Anne Cameron.

This portrait compiled by Mike Topham

The Two Sir James

Edited by Denis Cameron from an address given by Angus Fletcher at the Auckland annual dinner

Sir James Fletcher Senior [29 March 1886 – 12 August 1974] was a New Zealand industrialist who founded Fletcher Construction, one of the country's largest firms. James was born in Kirkintilloch, Strathclyde, Scotland, and educated in Glasgow; He was the sixth of thirteen children. James was a carpenter who migrated to New Zealand in 1908, to seek his fortune in a country that had been described to him in his grey home town of Kirkintilloch as "the sunnier Britain of the South". He had arrived in Dunedin with a set of carpentry tools and 15 Pounds to his name. He started work the day after he arrived.

Less than a year later he was working as an owner-builder, this time in partnership with Albert Morris. Their first contract was a cottage at Broad Bay, on the Otago Peninsula. It is still there today, maintained by the Fletcher Trust and open to the public. Constructed in 1909, it was restored in 1992. The partners made a profit of 3 shillings and 6 pence on a contract sum of 375 Pounds – a typical builder's margin!



Sir James Fletcher 1

Undaunted, the partners moved on to the next job, this time for James Cameron. When James Fletcher called at the Cameron house to discuss the plans, he was completely bowled over by Charlotte [Lottie] the Cameron's daughter. She was

wearing a pale blue dress he remembered till the end of his life. Lottie's family had been in Dunedin, since the 1860's and had prospered. James married Lottie and they had 3 children - John, named after his grandfather on his father's side, Jim, named after his grandfather on his mother's side and Isabella, known as Ella.

Young Jim Fletcher's life was shaped by this background. First, he was part of a close and loving family and family remained the centre of his life. James's (the elder's) great charm was not something reserved for public life or business advantage. He was a captivating father, and later grandfather, telling stories and involving the family in his projects and schemes. There was lots of laughter and fun in Jim's upbringing. Secondly, he learnt loyalty from his parents. His father James never forgot Kirkintilloch and returned there many times. His grandmother had been left a widow with 10 children. Her industry in providing for her family through shrewd investments and her encouragement set them all up as practical and purposeful tradesmen. James's brother's migrated to New Zealand, but his sisters remained in Kirkintilloch. The Camerons too were loyal and much of James' early success was due to their support.

Similar loyalty in family, friendships and colleagues remained a feature of young Jim's life. Similarly, Jim learned from his family the work ethic that remained with him to the end of his life. The sense of fun, in business that in turn, he passed on to his family and those who worked with him. From childhood he was set in the habit of learning and an attitude of optimism that never left him.

On leaving school, Jim joined South British Insurance in Auckland. He was an office boy on a weekly wage of fifteen shillings. At night he studied accountancy. The office boy eventually returned as a director to South British and ended up chairing

it; a matter that caused some amusement to long-serving South British employees.

In 1912, James Senior established a building firm with his brother William, following the partnership with Albert Morris, known as Fletcher Brothers, with other brothers John and Andrew joining later and from 1920, it was called the Fletcher Construction Company. James Fletcher moved the businesses headquarters to Auckland in 1925. The company grew despite the difficult economic conditions, completing a number of major construction projects, such as the Chateau Tongariro and Dominion Museum in 1933. In 1937, Fletcher Construction completed the Wellington Railway Station and in 1939, the rebuilding of the Social Security Building in Wellington.

Following the election of the First Labour Government in 1935, James Fletcher established an enduring relationship with the government and it was Fletchers' who designed and built the first state houses in New Zealand.

Throughout the Second World War, James Fletcher held several important positions for the government. He was seconded to the War Administration as Commissioner of Defence Construction, then Superintendent of Military Works and later Controller of Shipping in 1942. James Fletcher Senior returned to private industry after the war, was knighted in 1946 and died in 1974, aged 88 years.

Twenty-seven year old accountant Jim [or J.C. as he was known] whose full name was James Muir Cameron Fletcher after his maternal grandfather, took over the running of Fletcher Holdings in 1942. For the next 37 years – a critical period in New Zealand's economic development – he expanded the empire with brave business decisions and a continuous battle against government bureaucracy. Sir James inherited his father's charisma and unshakable belief in big business. Despite great success, he remained a man without a hint of pretension, "one of the most down-to-earth people you could ever meet," said one observer. In 1942 he married Vaughan Gunthorp. They had three children: Jim, Hugh and Angus Fletcher.

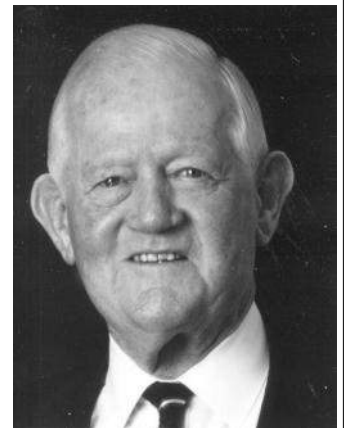
Among Jim Fletcher's greatest achievements, were the forestry joint ventures with the Holland National Government in the 1950's, to build the Tasman Pulp and Paper Company mill at Kawerau and the establishment of Pacific Steel in Otahuhu. Sir James was chairman of Fletcher Holdings from 1972 – 1981 and president of the new Fletcher Challenge conglomerate from 1981; retiring as a director of the company in 1990.

Jim Fletcher was knighted in 1980, for services to industry, and made an Officer of the Order of New Zealand in 1997. Sir James had many other business interests, including directorships and also an involvement in the charitable sector as well as a longstanding interest in horse racing and breeding.

Sir James Fletcher Junior was a member of the Clan Cameron, Auckland Branch. Sir James was born 25 December 1914, at St Clair, Dunedin. The second generation son of the Fletcher dynasty, he died on 29 August 2007 in Auckland at the age of 92. He was survived by his wife Vaughan [who subsequently died in June 2008] and two of his three sons, Hugh and Angus with Jim dying tragically in 1993.

With sincere thanks to Mr Angus Fletcher for all his help.

Photographs by courtesy of Fletcher Challenge Archives



Sir James Fletcher 2

A message from our President



Dear Clan Cameron Members

It gives me deep regret to announce that Clan Cameron New Zealand has lost a real stalwart worker and supporter for both the Wellington–

Wairarapa Branch and Clan Cameron New Zealand. **Bruce Cameron** had been a member of Clan Cameron Wellington Branch for many years. It was my pleasure to have known Bruce on a personal basis. I found Bruce an admirable person full of ideas and a member who had Clan Cameron dearly in his heart. He was a person who knew no boundaries in his support for the Clan. Bruce was also a Life Member of Clan Cameron New Zealand – an honour he so richly deserved.

Today is a time for memories; a time to remember and express our appreciation to those “few” in every branch who have worked and planned so that we “the many” may enjoy being clansfolk of Clan Cameron. Bruce was such a person and we will miss him dearly. Clan Cameron would like to pass on to Sonja, our deepest sympathy on such a sad loss of a much loved Husband and Father.

Joy and I would like to pay a tribute to the other Clan families who have lost their love ones. Our thoughts are always with you. On the other side, we would like to congratulate the parents of the new Cameron babies throughout New Zealand.

Sunday 3rd October, I was pleased to be able to support Joy in the Papamoa Beach Walk for the Breast Cancer Week. It was just amazing to see so many people who wanted to support this wonderful benefit, all decked out in their pink outfits and all marching along the beach. The line looked like it went on forever and must have made a wonderful sight to those who were in the local camping ground on the hill next door. **Now gentlemen** – I ask you not to forget yourself during prostate week – you are important too.

The Executive Council meeting at Turangi on 9th October has come and gone. We were delighted to say that we had delegates from Canterbury to Auckland. It was our pleasure to welcome Catherine Cameron, our new Secretary and

Alison Jordan, our new Treasurer, to the meeting. It was nice also to welcome, Brian Cameron, President of Canterbury and Ken Cameron, President of Wellington-Wairarapa for the first time to Turangi. Our first priority was to discuss First Light Exchange and a draft review of possible changes will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting in Hastings.

Next year, is looking really exciting with the 46th Clan Cameron Gathering being held in Hastings over Easter Weekend [Friday 22nd until Sunday 24th April] The members of the Hawkes Bay are really looking forward to welcome you to their region. Numbers are essential to make this auspicious occasion vibrant and successful. Do try and be there – it will be a great weekend as the Hastings Highland Games will be on the grounds of the Lindisfarne College where we will be staying for the weekend.

Joy and I have been down south to Christchurch for 2 weeks holiday staying with our 3 children and grandchildren. While there we saw how strong and vibrant the people of Canterbury were after taking on the might of one of the largest earthquake ever experienced in New Zealand. Larger historic houses with chimneys and commercial buildings suffered much damage. But we were amazed just how

quickly the citizens of Christchurch and surrounding districts are recovering from its devastation and making plans for the future. On behalf of all the members of the Clan Cameron – please accept our thoughts and love is with you all during this – your time of need. Go the red and blacks!

While down there we were delighted to be present at the Canterbury Annual General Meeting. Brian Cameron, their President has resigned and Nick Cameron has now taken over. Nick was the President in earlier times; later on combining the position of Secretary and Treasurer. The branch has a very strong committee who are full of ideas on how to create a stronger branch in the future. I would like to thank Brian for taking over the position as the President during some difficult times for the Canterbury Branch. Brian has kindly consented to go on to their Committee. I would also like to wish Nick all the best and I know the Branch will carry on and go from strength to strength. As they say -

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.

Working together is a success”

“Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year”

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

Denis Cameron

Congratulations

To the following Camerons on their recent Golden Wedding Anniversaries:

Denis and Joy	Tauranga
Alec and Rachel	Gisborne
Neil and Ruth	Auckland



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL

Joy and I would like to wish you, the Camerons of
New Zealand

a very happy Christmas, with lots of quality time
with your family.

Enjoy your time together and may you all have a
wonderful New Year.

Do make the most of your family and friends over
the Festive Season –

They are so important in our lives.

Wishing you all the timeless treasures of Christmas

..... the warmth of home,

the love of family and the company of good friends.

Please take care everybody and do drive carefully.

Denis



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 February 2011 issue:

15 January 2011

Please send to:

Neil Cameron,
Newsletter Editor,
28 Oxford Terrace,
Devonport,
Auckland 0624

Phone: 09 446 1177
Email: kncam@pl.net

Printed by

Hereditary Chief and Captain of Clan Cameron
Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel,
Lord Lieutenant of Inverness,
Achnacarry, Spean Bridge,
Imverness-shire, Scotland. PH34 4ES

New Zealand President and Commissioner
Denis Cameron
8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa, Tauranga. 3118
Ph. (07) 575 4659 Fax (07) 575 4661
camisky@clear.net.nz

Secretary
Catherine Cameron
114D Willow Park Drive, Masterton
Ph. (06) 377 0377 sedgemere@gmail.com

Treasurer
Alison Jordan
80 16th Avenue, Tauranga 3112
Ph. (07) 577 9061 thejordanfamily@clear.net.nz

Genealogist and Historian
Fiona Cameron
23 Saxon St, Waterview, Auckland 1026
Ph. (09) 828 2097
cameronhistory@xtra.co.nz **Note Change!**

First Light Exchange Convenor
Heather Cameron
2/50 Titirangi Road, New Lynn, Auckland 0600
Ph. (09) 826 3454. heath_piglet@yahoo.co.nz

Branch Presidents

Auckland
Donald (DJ) Cameron
34 Aldred Road Remuera
Auckland 1050
Ph. (09) 520 0716 valdon@xtra.co.nz

Bay of Plenty
Fraser Cameron
P.O Box 180 Opotiki 3162.
Ph. (07) 315 7105. Fax (07) 3158527
fl.me@clear.net.nz

Gisborne
David Cameron,
885 Wharekopae Rd, RD2 Gisborne.
Ph. (06) 862 7803 camerondvd@xtra.co.nz

Hawke's Bay
Helen Shaw
3/33 Avondale Road, Napier.
Ph. (06) 844 8398. locaber@xtra.co.nz

Taranaki/Wanganui
Raymond Cameron
5 Keith Street, Wanganui
Ph.(06)347 7830. cameronandsun@gmail.com

Manawatu
John Cameron,
4 Kingston St. Palmerston North
Ph. (06) 358 0417. theclansman1948@xtra.co.nz

Wellington /Wairarapa
Ken Cameron
24 Kauri St, Eastbourne, Lower Hutt 5013
Ph. (04) 562 7335 kenmau@paradise.net.nz

Canterbury
Nick Cameron,
322 Auchenflower Rd, RD1 Darfield, 7571
Ph (03) 318 8721 nick.cameron@xtra.co.nz

Coming events

Saturday 11 December 2010
Palmerston North Square Day
See page 3

Sunday 12 December 2010
Turakina Community Carol Service
Presbyterian Church 7pm.

Saturday 1 January 2011
140th Waipu Highland Games
Events open with formal Clan March at 9.30am.
Clan Gordon will be host clan this year.
Come and visit the Cameron tent and give us your support. Details: www.waipugames.co.nz

Tuesday 4 January 2011
Wanganui Summer Programme—History walk around Turakina.
Meet at Presbyterian Church 2pm. Afternoon tea to follow. Cost \$4.

Saturday 29th January 2011
147th Turakina Highland Games
Public Domain, Cameron Road, Turakina
Come and support the Clan. Cameron tent will be there. Details: www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz

Saturday 12 February 2011
18th Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo
Paeroa Domain. From 9am. Join us for the Clans march to the town centre at 11am. Cameron tent will be there. Tattoo at 6.30pm.
Details: www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

Sunday 27 February 2011
Manawatu Branch AGM
See page 3.

April 22-24 2011
Clan Cameron NZ Annual Gathering and AGM
Lindisfarne College, Hastings.
Something to look forward to!
See registration form enclosed

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.clanameron.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

Auckland Highland Games

By Don (DJ) Cameron

The annual Auckland Highland Games have been operating for the last 35 years in basically the same form. As many Scottish clans with sufficient energy will set up their tents on the western side of the Three Kings reserve. The traditional Scottish pastimes of tossing the sheaf or the 25kg weight will catch the early spectators, the youngsters' dancing competitions will demand family attention.

About the middle of the day the clans will take part in the march past, a dignitary from the Auckland City Council will open the Games and later the pipe bands will stage their competition.

Surrounding all this earnest endeavour to honour the Scottish traditions will be a thousand so spectators, including youngsters attracted by the fun of the fair -- and the good things to eat at so many of the stalls.

When he was Mayor of Auckland John Banks seemed to enjoy the opening ceremony, and we could chuckle at a speaker who tried hard to pronounce 'gaelic' correctly. But in the back of the listeners' minds was the growing possibility that the City Fathers might tighten the wallet strings.

It all seemed new and different this year. The recent Super City elections had promoted as the representative of the Albert-Eden-Roskill (the Games are held in that area) a sparky Scotswoman, Cathy Casey, 53 going on 29 and she performed the opening ceremony.

Compared with the suits who usually do the official trimmings Cathy was a full-on enthusiast for the development of Highland Games. She was, as they say in cricket writing, coming in off her long run. She started her ceremonial with a longish love-affair with gaelic but when she changed to English --with a delightful Scottish twang --- she drew excited murmurs when she claimed that Super Auckland must give the Highland Games stronger financial backing so the event, which drew a crowd of about 3200, would increase in popularity. The biggest Highland Games in the world is staged before 50,000 people in San Francisco, said Casey, and Super Auckland must plan for a Super Games.

The Super Auckland machine will not be rushed. Evidently extra financial backing for events such as the Games must wait about six months before the administration settles on its priorities and how they can be financed.

By a happy chance the official move to up-grade the Games finances co-incided with a heartening spurt of energy from Clan Cameron Auckland members. In the past too many Auckland clan members found other pleasures or duties which did not involve attendance at the Games. Fair enough in some cases, especially with school exams a priority, Saturday morning sports and so on.

A feature of march-pasts has been the inclusion of five or six Highland cattle. Not so long ago there were on parade more cattle than Camerons.

This year, however 20 or so people with Cameron ties were there, and they made the largest contribution to the march past.

Mind you, there were new reasons for the up-surge in interest. For some time Denis Cameron, president of Clan Cameron New Zealand, has tucked away in a cupboard an illuminated scroll of honour intended to mark the magnificent work for so many years by Dorothy Cameron-Gavin.

The tribute was designed by Ray Crafts, of Bay of Plenty, who now specialises in such scrolls of honour. Being of national importance the scroll should have been presented to Dorothy at a Clan Cameron New Zealand annual meeting. This put the 2011 agm in Hastings as the target. However, Dorothy preferred not to travel so far, and the award was switched to her home city of Auckland. Denis Cameron made a very tidy job of the presentation with a dozen or so of Cameron clans people there.

Then there was the first Auckland viewing of the new trailer to carry all the gear necessary for attending shows inside and away from Auckland.

Auckland has a new and much larger tent, and it can be comfortably stowed on the new wagon. The recent meeting of the Clan Cameron New Zealand executive voted \$300 to cover national clan advertising on two sides and the back of the carrier.

The surge of Cameron interest in Auckland Highland Games may continue next year, especially if Cathy Casey wins her case for greater Super Auckland financial backing for the Games.



Left: A lively opening address by Cathy Casey



Right: The flag at half mast over the Cameron tent to honour the miners lost at Pike River.

History Corner *by Fiona Cameron*

Genealogy Queries

The magnificent Audrey Rosoman Genealogy collection is now happily residing in my workroom. It is indeed a rare and very special treasure trove of Cameron history and genealogy information. With thanks to Denis and Joy for storing all that material so carefully and arranging for its shipping to Auckland. Thanks also to my father for giving up precious garage space as interim storage.

I am currently working on an index of all the material which I hope to have available to branches shortly. In the meantime, please send through any queries or any material you would like added to the collection.

Email contact: cameronhistory@xtra.co.nz

Note new e-mail address

The Camerons of Otunui –Part 2

by Margaret Steedman

Continuing the story of the Camerons of Otunui, near Taumarunui—part one of which was published in Feb. 2009

The members of the Cameron family in Otunui were acknowledged as good athletes and sports people, the men being over 6ft tall. The only thing we have of those days is a large round stone taken from the creek which they used to throw around. There were rugby teams in all the little districts close by which enabled everyone, who wished, to partake. The story was often told of how Uncle Dunc was chosen to travel to Wellington to take part in the All Black trials. He started off on his journey but never made it. There were too many pubs and drinking outlets on the way. How sad. We thought Uncle Dunc was a bit scary. When he and his wife Aunty Sybil visited, we uncivilised children would run away to hide. There were two reasons, one being the fact that Aunty Sybil hugged and kissed us and the other being that Uncle Dunc was a large man with a florid face and a loud voice.

My Father was 42 or so when he married Joan Atkins - she was a mere chicken at the age of 21. What with the Great War and WW2, the felling of the bush and breaking in farms no one had much time for such things. Dad was too young to go to the 1st WW and when the 2nd WW broke out he was discharged on health grounds and therefore had several farms belonging to relations to keep an eye on, always having to walk miles across country to get from one to the other. After the war we lived up Whakamaro Road where a home was built and where we farmed successfully until Dad's death on 27th May 1960 when aged 63 years.

Archie was a gunner at the Great War. He died on 24 May 1939 aged 58 years and is buried in a war grave in the

old Taumarunui cemetery. He almost got married – traveling to Wellington to marry the daughter of a settler who had previously lived up Whakamaro Road. Krina (short for Katrina) Morgan. The daughter of Jack and Janie Morgan. She was a cousin of Archie as her Mother Janie was Willie's sister. Before he had the chance to be married he died. Apparently he was gassed in the war and probably combined with celebrations for the upcoming wedding it all became too much and he succumbed.

George was engaged for 11 years to a school teacher from New Plymouth. Her name was Clarrie. She declared that they would not get married until George gave up the drinking. He didn't. After selling the original farm he lived in Carter's old boarding house in Taumarunui. This place burnt down and Dad brought Uncle George home to live with us. He was a good old bloke as long as there was no alcohol around. Uncle George was known as a prankster and had played lots of tricks on his nieces and nephews over the years when he was a lot younger and he was still up to tricks when he came to stay. He would say I'll give you 2 bob if you can draw this on a piece of paper without lifting the pencil or going over the same line twice. He, of course, knew full well it couldn't be done but the offer of 2 shillings was just too much and we wasted a lot of time on this fruitless exercise. "I've done it George. "Come and show me then". It was very frustrating.

Another task George set to earn 2 bob was to get up off the floor on just one leg. We did do that now and again but George would say "No that wasn't right, you touched the ground". We never ever got 2 bob from George but it didn't stop us from trying. Occasionally he was generous with a boiled lollie from the depths of a pocket – it would be liberally coated with tobacco and looked most unhygienic but a lollie was a lollie after all.

To be concluded in a future issue.

Award to Dorothy Cameron-Gavin

by Don Cameron

If anyone deserved an award for long and faithful effort, then Dorothy Cameron-Gavin gained a place at the head of the Cameron clan queue.

Dorothy was there when the Clan Cameron Auckland branch was reformed in 1986,

She was on the first committee, and soon afterward took over the role of historian for Auckland, and then Clan Cameron New Zealand.

From an early age Dorothy was moving about and gaining wide knowledge of New Zealand. After spending the Second World War moving around Air Force bases, Dorothy finished her schooling at Tauranga --- winning prizes for writing, spelling, essays, speech, poetry and art. She was captain of the tennis team, and also was involved in swimming, basketball and softball.

By 1959 Dorothy had completed her training as a State Registered Nurse, gaining honours in anatomy, medicine, surgery, nursing theory and practical examinations.

She married John Gavin, very much involved in trotting, in 1960 and they started a family of two girls and two boys.

Even while setting up a family, Dorothy moved into other fields such as kindergarten, Plunket, girl guides and the Red Cross. Then she moved to teaching, public health, gained a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and ancient history, developing this to an MA by 1989.

She moved into museum work and eventually became a life member of the Auckland War Memorial Museum. She also developed a passion for flowers, especially camellias, and spent a lot of time as an official with various garden organisations.

About the same time she became involved with the national Federation of University Women, and even found time to become a keen championship winner at croquet.

Included in books she has written are *Garden Surveys* (1992), and *St Kentigern College (1953-88)*, while she edited "*A Cameron Story*" by Mary Cameron and "*Poems*" by Bernice Hill. In 2003 she wrote *Clan Cameron New Zealand*, a history of the Clan Cameron Assn. of New Zealand.

Recently Dorothy passed over her roles as historian for Clan Cameron New Zealand and the Auckland branch of the clan to Fiona Cameron.

With Tristan in Scotland

A second report from First Lighter Tristan Sanders

TOS Story (part 2)

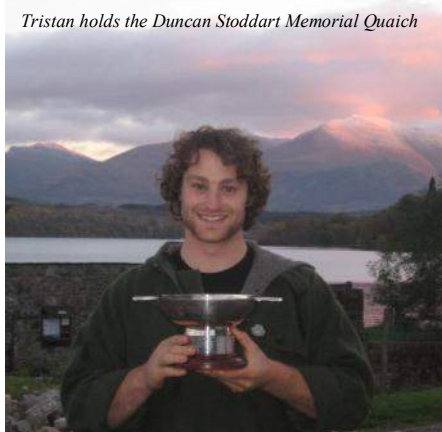
Apparently it's not the done thing to wear shorts, singlet and a swandri when you go stalking in Scotland. I had been asked if I would like to go stalking with Paulo at the beginning of October. I'd previously worked for Paulo mustering and bringing in the silage, so based on that he called to check the arrangements for stalking the next day and that I had the right gear. When he asked what I had to wear he told me I was a "crazy Kiwi Boy, no-one wears shorts on the hill at this time of year" and that he had some camouflage pants that he'd bring for me.

Astie would drop me off at Banavie, on his way to work, where Paulo and Sandy another of Paulo's stalkers would pick me up and we'd head out on the "Road to the Isles". We were stalking on the hill near Lochailort, the view was magic! You could see right out to the Isles of Eigg, Muck and Rum. The terrain was reasonably steep, much steeper than the ground I'd been fencing on.

We had four clients, who would be split in to twos, with each group there would be a stalker and a ghillie. I was given the role as the ghillie with Sandy as the stalker. For this I carried the lunches and the rifle, until we were getting closer to the deer where I would hand the rifle over to Sandy who would set up the shot for the client.

One of the clients was however a celebrity... John Carter Cash, the only child of Jonny Cash and June Carter. We had good craic with John and the rest of the team, not only on the hill but also when we went out for dinner on the Thursday night. Thurs night is session night at the Glen Finnan Lodge, I decided to drag Astie along as my designated driver and the bonus of the night for all, John played a few songs that had everybody in the bar singing, a good voice but nothing compared to his old man! After a couple of drams we called it quits for the night and went out for an early start in the morning to try and shoot a few more stags on the last day on the hill. Successfully we shot a couple on the last day giving a total of nine for the week. All in all everyone had a great time and a great experience.

Still the subject of Glen Finnan... Ian Love, one of Astie's mates, rang me up and asked me if I wanted to go to a shoot over in Glen Finnan as I might win some venison, luckily rugby was postponed due to a water logged pitch – in Lochaber who would have thought that possible... On the way over Ian explained the format for the day. It was the Duncan Stoddart Memorial Shoot, Duncan was a lifetime member of the shooting club and an old keeper on the Glen Finnan Estate.



Tristan holds the Duncan Stoddart Memorial Quaich

The shoot started with a 10 bird single rise (sweep), then a 20 bird single rise and finally a 20 bird point score, the final rise being for the Duncan Stoddart Memorial Quaich. I shot a possible on the 10 bird single rise sweep, missed three in the 20 bird single rise and then a possible in the 20 bird point score. The possible in the point shoot gave me the outright win for the Duncan Stoddart Memorial Quaich. I'd love to bring it home but I'd be hunted down by the Glen Finnan Shooting Club ☺. As for the venison, because I missed the three birds in the single rise I only won a half haunch, which was lucky as Astie & Tracy told me not to come home unless I brought home at least a haunch... But not only that, I also brought home the trophy which Nina saw the minute I stepped out of the car. She had me overwhelmed with her excitement which I could hear from the road...

As an added bonus, the day the haunch arrived from the Glen Finnan Shoot, I was out cutting and delivering Christmas trees for work and my boss asked if I could do home butchering. So I ended the day skinning a Roe Deer and cutting out the haunch for him and taking the rest back home to fill Astie & Tracy's Freezer.

Normally I would never attend an organised bonfire on Guy Fawkes night, however this year I was at two. The first was the Rugby Club Bonfire which is famous in Lochaber! This of course I had no choice on attendance as I had been appointed chores to do. First I had build the bonfire (on the Sunday morning after the Rugby Club Halloween Party) and secondly it was my turn to be on bar duty. There was a huge attendance, seemed like the whole town, and a great display that went on for about half an hour.

The second bonfire was the next night at Achnacarry. In the morning, we had planned to have the community wood collection day, but we decided to build the bonfire instead. The bonfire was made from the leftovers from the last wood collection days. In the evening we took a couple of quiet ones down, got the bonfire going, set off a few fireworks and had a good craic with the neighbours.

One of the guys from the rugby team, who is getting married on the 27th November, organised his stag night for the weekend of the Scotland – All Black match. So sixteen guys from the team headed down on the Friday night to Glasgow. Then we met up with the rest of the club on the Saturday at the game at Murrayfield in Edinburgh. As I'm sure everyone back home knows the All Blacks had a convincing win over the Scots. During the game the craic was amazing! If you heard anything about somebody getting a Mexican Wave going – which was mentioned on the BBC commentary – I was that guilty person... The atmosphere at Murrayfield was truly amazing, like nothing I've ever experienced.

The word "craic" used by Tristan means an enjoyable conversation or a good fun time - Ed

From Fraser Cameron, Bay of Plenty Branch President:

It is certainly a pleasure for the Branch to be the sponsor of the First Light Candidate, Tristan Sanders. From his reports and letter from his foster mother, it would appear he has been accepted into the family circle. A result that has made life enjoyable as well as enhancing his capable work attitude. As President it is my hope that our members agree that Tristan has been a very successful First Light candidate.

A Cameron Mission to St. Kilda

Part 1

By Bill Cameron

The mention of St. Kilda to most Scots folk will likely conjure up images of a remote island far out in the roaring Atlantic. They will probably consider a place of distant sea stacks, inhabited by thousands of sea birds, and where until only eighty years ago, a distinctive Gaelic community and culture had existed for hundreds of years amidst the harshest of climates and challenging living conditions.

On the other side of the world, New Zealanders and Australians will no doubt hold different images of St. Kilda, as both countries also have places by the same name - St. Kilda in Dunedin New Zealand, and St. Kilda in Melbourne, Australia. Together, they can trace the origins of their place names back to the island of St. Kilda off the west coast of Scotland. One theory suggests it was through the schooner *The Lady of St. Kilda* - a trading ship named after Lady Lydia Acland, the wife of Sir Thomas Dyce Acland, in proud recognition of her being the first Lady to voluntarily land on the island in 1812.

In August this year, just a few days short of the 80th anniversary of the island being evacuated, I boarded a boat from Leverburgh on the Island of Harris, which was to take me forty miles out into the wild Atlantic to visit the remotest strip of land in the British Isles.

After a couple of hours being thrown about in the stern of the boat, the faint outline of land appeared on the horizon, as clouds paused over Conachair, the highest point on St. Kilda.

As we headed in to the relatively sheltered waters of Village Bay on the main Island of Hirta, you couldn't help but be overwhelmed by the sudden appearance of this massive almost vertical rock jutting out through the never-ending seascape.

You just had to reflect upon the fact that 80 years previously, it was from this same landing pier that the last 36 remaining St. Kildans had waited with all their worldly possessions to board the *Harebell* for mainland Britain. At 7 am, a constant human link which had spanned thousands of years of human ingenuity and survival, and against the harshest elements on an isolated rocky outcrop in the Atlantic would end forever.

In the intervening years, many hundreds of books have been written about this remote archipelago. Many of these portray a romantic idyll, far from the worries of money, class and man's ever present need to consume in order to achieve status. Fortunately there are a few titles in which we can gather glimpses of the St. Kildans' distinctive culture, their devotion to the church, and their inspiring ability to overcome the adversities of their remote location.

Due to severe and unpredictable weather conditions out in the Atlantic, getting to St. Kilda by boat is generally limited to a few of the summer months. As such, the St. Kildan community was largely self-sufficient, dependent on an annual seafowl harvest, gathering puffins, gannets and fulmars from surrounding sea stacks hundreds of feet above the roaring Atlantic below. From this harvest, the islanders stored and dried the meat, feathers and oil of the birds in their distinctive stone buildings (*cleits*) in order to see them through the harsh winter months. A large amount of their annual store was set aside and used as a form of currency to pay their rent to the landlord - MacLeod of MacLeod on the Isle of Skye.

Like most visitors to St. Kilda, I had read a number of books on the islands history prior to my visit. I should also add that I had waited two years to get on to one of the summer trips to the island. In fact, it was easier to visit the other two St. Kildas at the other end of the world than the one here in Scotland.

It was whilst reading about St. Kilda that I chanced upon an unlikely Cameron connection with the island, in the form of a missionary man by the name of Donald Cameron.

It was 1919 when Donald Cameron, a native of Ballachulish, then working as an assistant at the High Church in Stornoway, was called by the United Free Church authorities in Edinburgh to serve the remote St. Kildan community. It would appear that Donald had no hesitation in taking up this remote calling. In fact there turned out to be a dual role, as his wife, Mary, a trained schoolteacher, was also called by the authorities to educate the children of St. Kilda.

Donald and Mary, along with their two little daughters Mary (5) and Christina (4) made the journey on board the steamer *Hebrides* from Lochmaddy on North Uist over to St. Kilda in the summer of 1919.

Travelling with all the necessary supplies to last them through the tough winter months, the Camerons reached St. Kilda with all their essentials including: large quantities of food, educational materials, Christmas presents for their two daughters, and even the family cow (*Annie*) for a ready supply of milk.



Photo: Bill Cameron

St. Kilda church and manse

Arriving at the pier in Village Bay, we can gather from accounts left by Christina Cameron as an old woman, that the Cameron family were well received by the close-knit St. Kildan community.

They were housed in the Church manse, which still

stands (although extensively renovated since the evacuation), along with the St. Kilda Church and its adjoining schoolroom. This small collection of buildings would be the family home for the next seven years, until they left in 1926 - four years before the eventual evacuation of the island in 1930.

During the Cameron family's time on the island, they were inextricably linked with every aspect of the St. Kildans' way of life. From being involved in seeing off parties of men to hunt and gather birds from the surrounding sea stacks, to preaching and teaching respectively to the islanders young and old, all the while catering for the entire community's strict religious observance in the beliefs of United Free Church of Scotland - Donald and Mary led the way.

To be concluded



Remains of the houses on Main Street



Aonaibh ri Cheile

'Cameron' December 2010

The Back Page

Camerons Gather Around the Country



Maisie's Birthday

Back: John & Jessie Annabell, Sonia Cameron, Ewen Grant, Joy & Colin Cameron, Alistair Cameron, Front: Bruce Cameron, Dick & Maisie Earle, John Cameron. Photo: Roz / Tracey Grant



Canterbury AGM

Photo: Denis Cameron

From Left: Nick, Julie & Rowan Cameron, David Cameron, David Cameron, Joy Cameron, John Cameron, Rae Magson, Rex & Patricia Tarbotton, John Atkinson, Beverley Cameron. Photo: Denis



Executive Committee Meeting

Photo: Mike Topham

Ken & Maureen Cameron, John Cameron, Alison Jordan, Fraser Cameron, Catherine & Rob Cameron, Trish Topham, Brian Cameron, Elaine Cameron, Joy & Denis Cameron, Helen Shaw.



Gisborne AGM

Photo: Elaine Cameron

Standing: Fraser Cameron, Trish & Mike Topham, June Cameron-Maynard, Denis & Joy Cameron, Marion Lewes, Elaine Cameron. Sitting: Georgina McLeod, David & Ann Cameron



Alison & Fiona North chat to Don Cameron at the Auckland Games



Above and Right: Dorothy Cameron-Gavin receives her Scroll of Honour from Denis at the Auckland Games. Photos: Ed



Wellington / Wairarapa member Kris Nielsen Plays at the Branch BBQ

Photo: Graeme Cameron



Drummer Brodie Grant plays at the Manawatu dinner Photo: Roz Grant



At the Auckland Games: Glenis Cameron with grand daughters Ella and Amy. Ph: Ed



Photo: Roz / Tracey Grant

At the Manawatu Dinner. From left: Harry Lampen-Smith, John & Val Grant (Wanganui), Joan & Neil Gilchrist.