



*Clan Cameron New Zealand is Seventy Five years of age*



*Clan Cameron New Zealand; founded 1935, incorporated 2000*

# Cameron

*Volume 45, Issue 1*

*February 2011*

*Another great photo of Achnacarry  
in the Autumn  
by Iain Thornber*



**The Cameron flag flies at Waipu**



**Massed Highland Dancing at the Waipu opening ceremony**



**Achnacarry in winter  
Photo: Tristan / Astie**



**St. Kildans gathered at the bell outside their church**



**Gaelic bible and pulpit in St. Kilda Church  
Photos: Bill Cameron**

***Don't forget to register for the Easter Gathering and AGM at Hastings***

## 2010 All Black Reunion

by Denis Cameron

On Friday 16th July, 2010, Joy and I were delighted to be present at the Tenth Annual New Zealand Rugby Union Reunion that was held in the Wellington Town Hall. In addition to the Annual Reunion, the Rugby Union was also hosting a special capping ceremony for some of the All Blacks of the past. On the night there was a great mix of past players, referees and officials who had travelled from Northland to Southland.

As the "In Memoriam" was read out, we were sorry when some of our team member's names were missing since the last reunion. That night, we celebrated the Test debuts of 17 All Black players who represented their country with much pride from the years 1946 until 2002, by presenting those players or their representative with their well earned All Black Test cap.

Some to receive the player's caps were the wives; while others had their children and some even had their grandchildren who went on stage to be presented with their absent father's tasselled caps. This was most impressive and certainly very imposing.

An All Blacks' Test debut is a tremendous occasion, not only just for the player who ran onto the field, but also for his family and his team-mates, coaches and the administrators who have watched and supported him all the way through his development over the years.

From the earliest days in our All Black history, a player's first appearance in a Test match has traditionally been rewarded with a Test cap.

However, a significant number of the Test players missed out on this important honour when the tradition of capping lapsed after the Second World War. When capping was resumed again in 1997 it left more than 400 of the national representatives without the cap they had so proudly earned.

In December 2008, the New Zealand Rugby Union

announced the launch of an initiative to fill a significant gap in the proud rugby history and the New Zealand Rugby Union is committed to ensuring that all former uncapped Test All Blacks be capped by 2011.

In 2009, six capping ceremonies were held across the country, as well as a number of individual cappings. Over 200 All Blacks or their family representatives have so far received their caps. It was a privilege and an honour to be able to be there to share this event with them and their families.

Alas, some of these players left our shores in times of need; while many of them never returned. Some tragically died for our country and now lie in foreign soils.

The men we recognised that night had played more than 150 Tests between them, and appeared in many more games for their country. The Tests in which they earned their caps, were against some of the All Blacks most respected opponents and in some of the biggest matches and series in our All Black history.

Many of these players have gone on to serve their clubs, provinces and their country as coaches and administrators. They have had varied careers outside rugby, where many have done extremely well in commerce or other relevant careers. Regardless of any differences, each of these men proudly pulled on the All Black jersey and wore it well.

The All Black jersey is held in immense respect not only in New Zealand but around the world. The actions of these men that we celebrate at each of the presentations have helped earn that respect.

On this occasion the Recipients were: 1940's: John McRae, David Mason, Vincent Bevan, Manuere Couch, Graham Moore, 1950's: Ross Smith, Kevin Stuart, 1960's: William Davies, Ian MacRae, Kenneth Gray, Owen Stephens, 1970's: Bob Burgess, John Dougan, 1980's: Hika Reid, 1990's: Graham Purvis, Alama Ieremia and Christian Cullen had their caps presented.

It was a privilege to be present on this auspicious occasion and to see their elation of being called an All Black. We thank them for their contribution to rugby in New Zealand.

## History Corner *by Fiona Cameron*

### Looking for George

My great-great-great uncle George Cameron is a bit of a problem. I'm sure he was a perfectly fine gentleman. He's just ended up as one of my research brick walls.

I know when he was born. I know when he left Scotland for Australia. I know the names of his wife and children. I even know when and where he arrived in New Zealand. After that ... nothing.

So where to from here? Maybe someone else out there is also looking for George?

Maybe somebody has suggestions of where to find more information? Time to ask the online genealogy community. Here are a couple of my favourites.

#### **Mailing Lists**

Mailing lists work like an online noticeboard. You post your question or problem to the list and all the subscribers to the list receive your question as an email. If a subscriber can help, they can either email back to the list or just to you. There a simple article on mailing lists on About.Com [http://genealogy.about.com/od/maillinglists/a/mailling\\_lists.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/maillinglists/a/mailling_lists.htm)

#### **Rootsweb**

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

Rootsweb is one of the largest genealogy communities. They host thousands of mailing lists covering places, surnames, occupations and specific interests.

#### **Rootschat**

<http://www.rootschat.com/>

Rootschat is a UK based messaging forum. It has 'rooms' where you can post questions and other members can send you suggestions or answers. It's a little more 'private' than other forms of genealogy communities in that you can keep your email address private.

#### **Tips**

- Search Rootsweb or Rootschat archives to see if someone else has already asked about your person or family.
- One query per post – keep it simple
- Tell people what you do know already and what specifically you want to find
- Many of these services need to you sign up. If you don't want to use your personal email, set up another "just for genealogy" email through a free email service like gmail.

As for George? I'm posting my queries about him tonight.

## News from the Branches

### Manawatu *by John Cameron*

Happy New Year Folks,  
 A small report - just the one activity, Square Day, not a successful day financially, just a small profit. Haggis sandwiches sold well - sausages not so good. Good support from members. Thanks to you all. On a sad note Bob Barber, Mary Barber's husband, died after a long illness. Bob supported Mary over the years during Mary's involvement with Clan Cameron.  
 A reminder to our members our AGM on 27th February 11pm - a pot luck BBQ at Colin at Joy Cameron's residence

### Canterbury *by Rae Magson*

Early in November one of the Clan Cameron Canterbury committee members had a baby boy, weighing 6lb 4oz. Proud parents are Sharon and John Wallace. Sharon is a very keen member of the Clan, as also is her mother Jenny Leishman. Sharon reports that Joseph (Joe) is a good wee boy and sleeping well. His big brothers Angus and Louis love cuddling the latest addition to their family.



### DAVID POWELL *by Rae Magson*

Clan Cameron Canterbury members were saddened to learn of the death of David Powell just before Christmas. David and his wife Catherine had been members of the Clan for many years. Their interest was through Catherine, who was originally a Cameron. David was always fascinating to talk to, as he claimed some linkage on his side to English royalty. He worked as an Engineer for DSIR for some time and made a number of banners for our clan and others. He was a keen member of the Welsh Society and obviously Clan Cameron and attended most of the events the Canterbury branch held. Nick and Julie Cameron remember that he made them a weather vane with a full ball bearing swivel, which they have mounted at one end of their house. Each time they look at it they are reminded of his generosity in making it for them. The Clan Cameron Canterbury extend their sympathy to Catherine and family.



*Photo: Canterbury Branch 2007*

*By Editor*

*David made the banner pole for the Auckland Branch which he presented to Ruth and me at Hamilton. We remember his generosity and valued his friendship.*

### Auckland *by Neil Cameron*

Auckland Branch is in the middle of the Highland Games season during which it takes the tent and promotes the clan at Auckland, Waipu and Paeroa.

Waipu, despite a forecast of rain, produced its usual bright sunny day and drew a crowd of 5000, many of whom showed an interest in what we had on display in the Cameron tent. The piping, drumming, Scottish dancing, and Highland dancing were popular with the crowds. Clan Cameron members Glenis Cameron, Matthew McQueen and Sarah McQueen took part in these events. Also drawing large crowds were the NZ Highland Heavyweight Championships, won again, for the 14th time, by Patrick Hellier, who is the world champion caber tosser.

It was a pity that only a few Camerons were able to visit us or give us their support. We were delighted and grateful that John Cameron, the Manawatu president, was able to be there and spend so much time helping in the tent. Also the McQueen family, who helped in many ways when not competing. Other NZ Camerons to visit included Dorothy Cameron-Gavin, Glenis Cameron, Heather Laird and Heather and Andrew Lowes. Waipu is unique in that it is a holiday venue and that visitors from around the world and New Zealand come to enjoy the day. We talked to Camerons from Scotland and Australia who were not previously aware of the clan association world wide.

The sign writing on our trailer drew a lot of attention and helped to promote the clan. When on the way home afterwards, towing the trailer, we burnt out the car's clutch some 50kms from home. Ruth went home in the cab of the tow truck with the car on the back ("wonderful view of the country from there") while I waited by the roadside with the trailer for my son to arrive to tow it back. More promotion for the clan while it was on view at the side of the road!

Paeroa is the next outing on Feb 12th. We hope to see a few more Camerons there.

## A Year of Anniversaries

### 120 Years.

The Clan Cameron Association in Scotland was founded in Glasgow on 29 January 1891, largely through the exertions of Mrs Mary McKellar (nee Cameron). The name was originally 'Clan Cameron' but was changed in 1904 to 'Clan Cameron Association'. An anniversary dinner at the Blythswood Square Hotel in Glasgow on 30th January this year once again welcomed Camerons from near and far, along with the 27th chief of the clan, Donald Cameron of Lochiel.

### 75 Years.

The Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand was founded on 29 December 1935 on board the *SS Orama* in Wellington Harbour and formed during the following year. Founding members were: Dr Percy Cameron, Ian D Cameron, PM Cameron and DC Cameron. John Stewart's 'The Camerons' records that 1700 Camerons and their dependents had joined by the end of 1936.

### 25 Years.

The Auckland Branch of the Clan Cameron Assn. of NZ was re-established by Neil Cameron at a meeting in Takapuna on 18 November 1986. This followed on from a very successful visit to Auckland by Lochiel earlier in the year.

*Editor*

## A message from our President



### Dear Clan Cameron Members

**N**ew Year Greetings; Joy and I hope you had an enjoyable Festive Season with your family and friends.

To our newly found members of our Clan, I would like to personally welcome you and your families and sincerely hope that you will enjoy our friendship, the social occasions and join with other people who have the same immense feeling of wanting to get to know the Cameron's. We are all very proud to be part of the great Cameron family here in New Zealand.

It's easy to see why Kiwis love New Zealand as a country. With our great lifestyle and positive attitude, we find something new every single day. There is something about living in New Zealand that makes us think a little harder.

There are many people who are doing great things in their fields of endeavour and we salute these hard working individuals. There's just so much to do out there and so many people to meet; it's sometimes hard to fit this all into your day.

The Clan Cameron members of New Zealand were devastated with the terrible news about the West Coast miners. I know that we were very sad when we heard about the tragedy, and just how much it will affect such a small community. Memories may fade, but the scars will be raw for a long time and the community will be changed forever. The Coasters, especially those of coal-mining stock, are tough and resilient and will look after their own. Our thoughts are with them in their time of need and especially those who may have Cameron connections.

There is a quote from **Ernest Rutherford** that goes like this. "We don't have the money or the resources so we've got to think faster and better than those who do. We haven't got the money, so we have got to think".

Now, is a great time being at the start of the New Year to plan for an increase in our branch membership. We have noticed a slight downturn in our Clan Cameron members. This is of course great concern to the Executive Council members.

Just like the other branches throughout the world, I too would like to express the same desire to keep our membership steadily growing; and to attract more younger Camerons to eventually take positions of responsibility and to encourage the members we have to be more active in various clan activities.

We do ask that our members go out and approach every Cameron you meet and invite them to become a member. Offer them one of our famous newsletters? Neil will only be too happy to send one out to them. Become our salespeople; be genuine and be proud of **your** ancestry. I [Denis] will even write to anyone showing interest. Just let me know who they are. Let us hit the **500th** membership this year and let us all be positive by taking on this **most** important challenge. The Camerons always like to have challenges! And this is one of them!

Whether, they are your family members, your cousins, uncles, aunties or anyone who has the surname of Cameron. If you know of a **lady** who was a Cameron before she was married, please do take the time to ask her to become a member of our famous Clan. We need each branch to make a concerted effort and approach the Camerons throughout

New Zealand.

Just remember how the Canterbury Branch, sat down and wrote to approximately 130 Camerons in their phone book; they then invited them to a social event in the Canterbury Caledonian Hall, Christchurch. This turned out to be a very successful afternoon, even with the most shocking weather one could imagine; the branch was delighted to find several new members from this membership drive.

What a magnificent **Clan Motto** we have; Unite and united we are. Then let us **unite**.

I would like to put out a challenge to each of our eight branches go out and bring in – say 3 new members. This will give us an immediate increase of 24 new members and at the same time, our branches will enjoy having a successful membership drive. Please don't forget to ask their partners to become involved. As the say – nothing ventured – nothing gained.

**"If everyone is moving forward together - then success takes care of itself" [Henry Ford]**

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

**Denis Cameron**

### Can you help Rae?

Recently I went to an exhibition at the Ashburton Art Gallery, it was paintings that had been in storage at the Ashburton Museum. One in particular caught my eye, it was a painting by H Cameron. When I asked about it they said they did not know anything further, but would like to know if anyone has heard of this artist. The following information was beside the painting -

#### **SHEEP IN SNOW**

By H Cameron  
Oil on Canvas.

*"There is uncertainty surrounding the location of this rural scene but H Cameron's subject is really a study of light, atmosphere and colour. The sheep are just features of landscape, like the snow, large trees or icy stream.*

*The artist used a modified form of French Impressionism, more subdued in colour and with more regulated brush strokes, but which still sought to capture the immediacy of outdoor light and particularly the effect of strong sunlight on outdoor forms. The artist has succeeded in transforming an unremarkable scene into a tranquil scene infused with a sense of nostalgia.*

*Sheep in Snow was gifted to the Museum as part of the W S Peter Collection by I C (Jack) Graham in the 1970's. The artist's signature in the bottom left corner indicates the painting was completed by H Cameron and there is much debate as to whether this is a British or New Zealand scene."*



(In colour on back page)

**If anyone knows about H Cameron please let me know.**

Rae Magson (Canterbury) [raejohn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:raejohn@xtra.co.nz)



*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 2011**

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## Coming events

**Saturday 12 February 2011**

**18th Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo**

Paeroa Domain. 9am - 9pm. Join us for the Clan march to the town centre at 11am. Cameron tent will be there. Tattoo at 6.15pm. This is a 2 ½ hour family spectacular of massed bands, music and displays. Details: [www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz](http://www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz)

**Sunday 27 February 2011.**

**Manawatu Branch AGM.**

At 'Kenprace', home of Joy and Colin Cameron. BYO barbecue lunch from 11.30. All welcome. Enquiries to John Cameron 06 358 0417

**Sunday 6 March 2011**

**Auckland Branch AGM and Barbecue**

Parnell Cricket Club, Shore Road, Remuera. Short AGM at 5pm, followed by the barbecue. Auckland members see enclosed flyer. All welcome. Come and help the Auckland Branch celebrate it's 25th Birthday. Enquiries to Don Cameron 09 520 0716.

**Friday 11 March 2011**

**Gisborne Branch Lunch and AGM**

Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club  
12.00 Optional lunch  
1pm AGM. All members are invited to attend. Enquiries to David Cameron 06 862 7803

**April 22-24 2011**

**Clan Cameron NZ Annual Gathering and AGM**

Lindisfarne College, Hastings.  
Friday evening: EC Meeting.  
Saturday morning: Registration and AGM.  
Saturday evening: Ceilidh and Dinner.  
Saturday and Sunday: participate in the Highland Games and visit the Cameron tent.  
Detailed programme in the next magazine.  
Copies of the registration form from Editor (e-mail) or Helen Shaw (see left)

**Something to look forward to!**

### 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.clanccameron.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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## A Cameron Mission to St. Kilda

### Part 2

By Bill Cameron

Norman Gillies and Rachel Johnston are the last two surviving St. Kildans left - the only direct link with the remote island community that was evacuated eighty years ago. The Cameron family would no doubt have known them and their families before they left the island in 1926, and after the last remaining St. Kildans settled on the mainland in 1930.

When Donald Cameron and his family arrived on St. Kilda in 1919, there were seventy-two people living on the island, when they left seven years later there were only forty-nine - most of whom were elderly.

Looking back, it's clear to see that the lifeblood of the St. Kildan community was rapidly decreasing as families moved to the larger Hebridean islands, or to the main land where they could access better services and opportunities. Alongside this, regular contact was being made with the outside world and so the younger generation were able to see that there were easier ways of making a living elsewhere and so many left, finding a new way of life far from the remote and stormy shores of their close-knit island community.

As the islanders survival was so heavily dependant on the supply of birds harvested during the summer months, the lack of a younger generation to carry out the physically demanding task of bird fowling on the high cliffs and sea stacks would eventually bring an end to the distinctive St. Kildan way of life.

However, it seems that migration and a search for an easier way of life was nothing new to the St. Kildan community. In October 1852, thirty-six islanders decided to leave the island in order to seek a better way of life on the other side of the world. Travelling on board the Priscilla from Liverpool, the party of St. Kildans endured an arduous four-month journey to Melbourne which would see many of the passengers die en route. By the time the ship finally docked in Melbourne, twenty of the St. Kildans had died of fever on their journey to find a better way of life - leaving the remaining sixteen to settle on farmland on the outskirts of Melbourne.

As all the Cameron family have long since passed away, and with no direct descendants to speak to - I sent a letter to the local papers asking for information on the Cameron family after they left St. Kilda. Fortunately, this provided a good number of responses from people who either knew the Cameron daughters, Mary and Christina in their later years, or were able to provide new information on Donald and his wife Mary after they left St. Kilda.

It maybe worth remembering that the main reason the Cameron family moved to St. Kilda, centred on religion, with Donald tending to the spiritual welfare of the strict Presbyterian community who observed the word of God in all aspects of their daily lives.

In accounts left by St. Kildans, we read that that the normal day began with family worship and prayer before work, and again at the end of the day - all of which would have been spoken in Gaelic. The St. Kildans strictly adhered to the Lords day and the Sabbath was always observed with great reverence with a church service in the morning, and one in the evening. Sunday was very much a day of rest and reflection with no work, nor water drawn between dawn and dusk.

In the book St. Kilda Portraits, we are left a descriptive account of Donald's daughter, the late Mary Cameron, as she recalls her childhood memories of St. Kilda.

*"The church was connected with the schoolroom by a door, and sometimes my father took a class by themselves in the church. When we arrived, part of it was in ruins as a result of bombardment by a German submarine shortly before the end of*

*the First World War. The church was a very simple place, rather austere, which matched the simple, robust faith of the folk who filled it each Sunday. There was no heating, but I don't remember that we complained of the cold. The St. Kilda folk were grand churchgoers. Even babies of a few weeks old were taken to church; nobody stayed away unless they were ill.*

*The manse pew was at the side of the pulpit, at right angles to the other pews, and from it we could see everyone who was there. The men and boys sat at the inner end of the pews, and the female members of the family on the outside; and when the service was over, the menfolk remained seated until the women and girls had left the church.*



The Cameron Family

*In the winter, each family was lighted to church by a hurricane lantern, or a ship's lantern; and these were carefully placed on the floor, with the flame turned down, until the service was over, when they were turned up for the homeward journey. There was something very comforting about the string of twinkling lights which pierced the darkness as the congregation walked home."*

The young Cameron sister's daily lives

were intertwined with the heart of the St. Kildan community, with their parents serving important roles within the community. However, they did not live in isolation on the island as they worked, prayed and played alongside the other St Kildans as is illustrated in another account left by Mary Cameron.

*"We were sometimes taken of an evening, with our parents when they went visiting in the village. There were no electric torches, so we took a paraffin lantern, which cast the most exciting shadows as we walked along. The dogs at each house hailed us with loud barking, and when we were ushered inside, there would be quite a scene of industry round the fire. There would be the purr of the spinning wheel, operated by the woman of the house. The men and boys might be teasing the wool (cireadh)."*

During their seven years on St. Kilda, the Camerons would have no doubt built up close friendships with all the families on St. Kilda, many of which would be resumed when both the Camerons, and the last remaining St. Kildans, resettled on the mainland.

The expected term of office for a missionary was three years when the Camerons moved to St. Kilda, after which time they were usually moved on to another church or parish. Reading old church records, it seems Donald and his family were very happy with their life on St. Kilda - so much so that he stayed for almost three terms of office before leaving - and even then they were loathed to leave. During his time on St Kilda, Donald was well thought of as a genuine preacher and inspired other St. Kildans to follow a religious path. As a side note, Donald designed and made the precentors table and chair next to the pulpit - a replica of which can be seen in the church today.

After leaving the island, Donald and his family moved to Glenelg, where he became an ordained minister. They then moved to serve the parish of Easdale near Lochaline, where they were once again reunited with their old St. Kildan friends after

the community resettled to near by Larachbeg in 1930. Donald finished his ministry in the parish of Shawbost on the Isle of Lewis, retiring in 1944 with his family to the Kyle of Lochalsh.

The Cameron daughters both followed in their mother footsteps into teaching, Mary teaching piano, and Christina as a primary teacher. The sisters lived out their days in Kyle of Lochalsh. Mary and Christina never married and remained devoted to the church until their deaths in the 1980's. Both ladies were very highly regarded in the local community. In concluding the story of the Cameron family on St. Kilda, I think it appropriate to share a quote from Donald Cameron himself - The Missionary to St. Kilda.

*"A Sabbath well spent brings a week of content, and strength for the toils of tomorrow."*

Maybe there's something to glean from his words. Could we in 2011 do without our TV's, computers and phones for one day a week? There are still possibly things we can learn from the simplicity and sincerity of the St. Kildans now extinct way of life.

I would like to thank Alasdair MacEachen and Ian Abernethy for sharing their time, research and assistance with this article.

Bill

## With Tristan in Scotland

A third report from First Lighter Tristan Sanders

### TOS Story (part 3)

It was a cold, dark and "dreich" (*dismal, overcast, rainy*) morning in sun baked Lochaber, the temperature dropping to a mere -16°C overnight – who's idea was it to head off to work in shorts and jandals? Only a tourist could think that was a good idea, but thankfully Tracy put me right and gave me Astie's thermals and suggested a pair of jeans might be better than shorts.

Lochaber has been hit by yet another very cold winter and as a result many people were struggling to get to work, even those that were properly dressed! We had our 4x4 ute so no problems getting to the work site down near Duror about 40 minutes drive south of Fort William. Although we could get there, the ground conditions didn't really lend themselves to fencing and as it turned out the Forestry Commission requested that we didn't work until the frost lifted... about 4 weeks later...

So not to be left sitting around doing nothing, Astie had me out there working like a beast, clearing the rhododendrons from the back of their section. Thanks Foster Dad...! So it's true wood keeps you warm 3 times, cutting the bushes/trees down, splitting them and then on the fire, or any case 4 times as when I had cleared a good bit, I had a bonfire with the brash. All of a sudden the log store was filling up, so I was allowed back into the house for a brew and a slice of bread before being sent back to it. Luckily my foster mum saved me and called me in for dinner. It's amazing the heat you get from burning rhododendrons!

With all the snow lying on the ground Astie and I took the opportunity to go for a bit of a tiki tour round the estate and to take a few photos – everywhere was silent and stunning!

A few weeks previous Astie took me up to Inverness to buy a kilt. After a bit of deliberation I decided on the Cameron Hunting Muted tartan, one of the older designs from the tartan selection, so the material had to be specially made by the mill and sent to Inverness for the kilt to be made. When we bought the kilt they promised that it would be ready before New Year, but as it turned out I had it the weekend before Christmas and of course had to try it on straight away. Immediately it felt really good, almost as though it was meant to be... Since it's arrived, any excuse to put it on.

Astie was back up to Inverness to pickup a new car, so I took the opportunity to go back to the kilt shop to buy a sporan and a belt, but I'd seen a buckle in the Cameron Museum I liked so didn't buy a buckle with the belt. For the buckle, Mrs Muir very kindly opened the museum for me, what a service!

And so Christmas was rapidly coming in. Every year the community of Achnacarry, Bunarkaig and Clunes come together for a Christmas

party. This year there was a problem with the venue. Normally the party is held in the village hall in Achnacarry, but due to the not so tropical temperatures, all the pipes in the hall had frozen with no sign of them

defrosting before the party. So, as Tracy was the main organiser this year, the decision on venue fell to her, the invitations went out with the new venue as The Old Kennels, Tracy and Astie's house.

The party turned out to be a good day for all. The kids played games that had been organised for them. While the adults had a good chin wag

I have now seen my first White Christmas, Lochaber had its fair share of snow this year, I think I prefer the sunshine to snow. Maybe that has more to do with losing the snowball fight or falling a few times when we decided to give snowboarding a try on Astie's neighbour's drive. The pictures of this will remain hidden... but Astie and the family got a good laugh at my expense.

Nina was going bananas on the lead up to Christmas Day, especially once we put the tree and the decorations up. On Christmas morning the kids were up really early, about five a.m.

On Christmas day, Astie's mum, dad and a good friend of his came round for a lovely dinner that we had been slaving over a hot stove for a good part of the day to make.

Hogmanay was next on the agenda. Most of the village and a load of Astie and Tracy's mates came round. After yet another lovely meal, this time more of a pot luck buffet, the dining table was moved to the side to make way for the dance floor. After this several heated games took place (in which nearly everyone cheated). In the run up to the bells, Ruaridh Edmond played his accordion for a strip the willow. Then at 12 o'clock, Astie played the New Year in with "Auld Lang Syne" and a few other sets of tunes that had the house rocking!

The "First Footer's" after the bells were Lochiel, Donald Andrew, and Lochiel's brother and his wife, so a few more drams and a yarn with them to finish off my first Scottish Hogmanay.

I'll have one more instalment of my story from Lochaber to come, covering my last few weeks before I fly out on the 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. We've got a few things planned including the Clan Cameron Association 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner in Glasgow, another excuse for me to get the kilt on, but for the rest you'll have to wait till next time...



Caig waterfall Photo by Tristan



# Aonaibh ri Cheile

'Cameron' February 2011

# The Back Page



Pictures of Camerons around the world  
(Pictures in short supply this issue -  
please keep them coming - Ed)



Photo: Duncan McQueen

John Cameron, Glenis Cameron, Neil Cameron and Matthew McQueen about to march in the Clan Parade at Waipu



Photo: Duncan McQueen

The Cameron tent awaits the public at Waipu. Inset: New trailer



Photo: Rhys Fenton and Mary-Anne Cameron. Bay of Plenty Branch

Eliot Fenton piping on top of Maungaroa Mountain with Te Kaha in the background. The significance of this location is that it is where Eliot's Grandmother, Elaine Cameron (nee Drake) grew up and climbed this mountain regularly over the years, hence Eliot piped in the New Year for his Nana from the Maungaroa Mountain and the local residents were also entertained with the sounds of the pipes.



First Lighter Astie and children Alan and Nina pose with Bob the Snowman at Christmas  
Photo Tristan Sanders



Astie and Tristan - the first and latest First Lighters. (note Tristan's new kilt)



Max Cameron shows his mother, Amy, the Highland Cattle at the Auckland Games



St.Kentigern P&D - 4th Grade Champions at the Auckland Highland Games. Photo: Ed



"Sheep in Snow" by H Cameron (see page 4)