

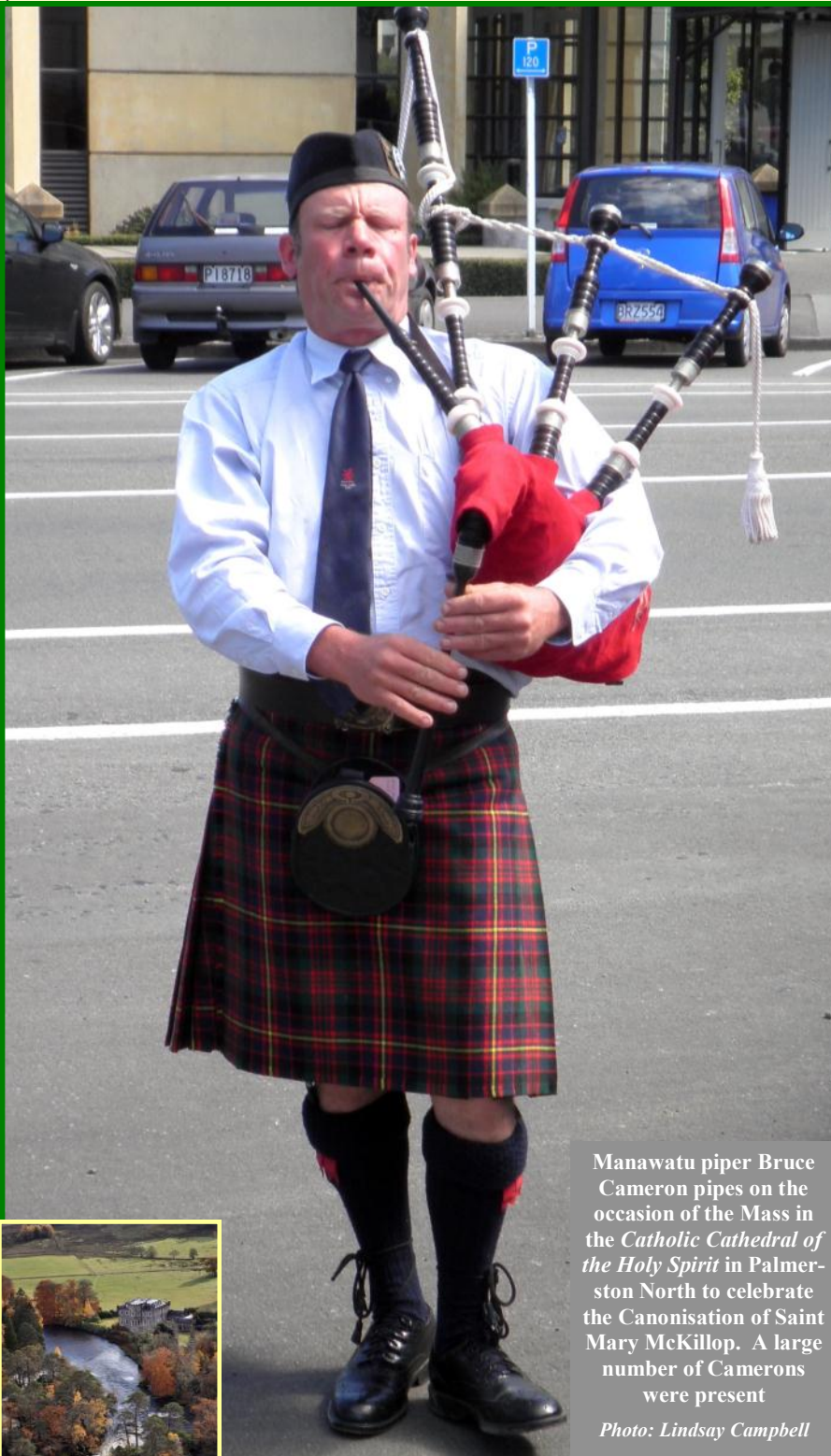


Clan Cameron New Zealand; founded 1935, incorporated 2000

# Cameron

Volume 45, Issue 2

April 2011



Manawatu piper Bruce Cameron pipes on the occasion of the Mass in the Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Palmerston North to celebrate the Canonisation of Saint Mary McKillop. A large number of Camerons were present

Photo: Lindsay Campbell



President Denis Cameron and wife Joy  
Photo: Patricia Cameron



The President's Plaque, which has the names of all presidents inscribed Ph: Ed



Another plaque, at Fort William - See page 7 Photo: Bill Cameron

**W**e have been asked the name of the river depicted in last issue's great photo. It is the River Arkaig (Abhainn Airceig), a fast flowing river about one mile in length which flows from Loch Arkaig, past Achnacarry, into Loch Lochy at Bun Arkaig. Thanks to "The Lochaber Geographic Compendium"

## Wellington Wairarapa News by Rob Cameron



On 29th January 2011 Christina - our youngest daughter - married Tim Buckland at our home here in Masterton. They will be living in Sydney where Christina is a Human Resource manager for a Hearing Aid company and Tim is in banking.

Christina arrived at the wedding in a golf cart following the Fern and Thistle Pipe Band from Masterton. The wedding was held at our home. The family

Scottish heritage was to the fore with the pipe band, tartan ribbon - and the cake was cut using one of our dirks.

Also our son Ewen became engaged to Kerryn Thompson of Auckland. Ewen is the technical brewer at Lion Nathan's brewery in Auckland and Kerryn runs a bottling plant for Lion Nathan in Auckland.

## Auckland Branch by Don Cameron

The Clan Cameron Auckland branch were so delighted by the impact that Angus Fletcher, principal of the famous construction firm had at the annual dinner last August, they decided to seek a guest speaker for their annual general meeting/barbeque early in March.

The meeting was already notable, celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> birthday of the re-formation of the clan's Auckland branch, and also the birthday of Neil Cameron, one of the "original" founders and later president of both the Auckland and New Zealand clan associations.

As the Parnell Cricket Club was kind enough to allow us to use their club-rooms, the idea was we should have a guest speaker with a cricketing background. Parnell also had the right man, Ian Trott, the club's senior coach, father of Jonathan Trott, one of the batting stars of the England Ashes-winning side and with wide experience in English and South African cricket.

The AGM/barbeque was on the same day as the England v South Africa match in the Cricket World Cup tournament on the sub-continent, and the usual 10 pm start would fit in nicely after the Clan celebrations.

However, no-one had realized that the England-South African match was a rare day match, not an afternoon-evening show, and would start at 4 pm Auckland time -- just before the start of the Clan festivities.

Being an extra-keen cricket man and with his son engaged, Ian Trott really wanted to watch the live telecast.

The Camerons saw his point, and suggested a compromise. If England fielded first Ian would do the guest-speaking honours. If England batted first Ian would be honourably excused from the speaking engagement. England did bat first, Ian headed for the television set -- and promised he would give his

talk when he returned to his coaching duties with Parnell next year.

However, Neil Cameron's birthday was greeted with songs and a toast. Alison North, another "Original" member, was also present, but another, Brian Cameron, had to tender an apology.

## Canterbury News by Rae Magson

On Sunday 13 February, several members attended a Scottish Cultural Festival at Riccarton Bush in Christchurch.

The weather was pleasantly warm, and the surroundings beautiful. Our President, Nick Cameron put up a tent, but was only able to be with us sometimes as he was playing in his Pipe Band. We put up our displays - Cameron information, plus some family trees, and also had leaflets, membership forms and bookmarks. Lots of people came to look at what we had displayed, they seemed particularly interested in a map that shows where the clans came from in Scotland. Many people signed the visitors book and took membership forms, so we hope to have some new members, but we have not pushed this due to events on 22 February. The Scottish Cultural Festival was a successful day. It was also pleasant to walk around and look at other stalls, but we thought ours was the best! There were vintage cars, haggis ceremony, bicycles, pipe bands, highland dancing and then the grand parade.

However since then we have heard that the beautiful old house at Riccarton Bush suffered damage in the earthquake.

Our President, Nick has been in contact with members to find out if they were okay after the earthquake. The damage in Christchurch is unbelievable and heart breaking. The photo shows the Caledonian Hall, where we held our successful Membership Drive last June. Apparently they got the museum collection out safely, and all the photos of the Pipe Majors through the years. (see photo page 4)

## Gisborne Branch by David Cameron

The AGM of the Gisborne Branch Clan Cameron New Zealand was held at the Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club. David Cameron was returned as President and Georgina Cameron was returned as Secretary/Treasurer.

Members enjoyed the lunch menu available at the club's restaurant. Good friendly conversation was shared and enjoyed before settling down to the formalities of the afternoon.

Fraser and Eileen Cameron attended from Opotiki, with Fraser informing the meeting of the developments concerning the First Light Exchange program.

Also visiting were Graeme and Eve Clark who enjoyed lunch and shared their Family tree with Branch members. As we have close family connections we reminisced of people and events past. A warm welcome was extended to Barry Hovell, a nephew of Branch stalwart Vivienne McConnell. He also shared lunch with us but was unable to be present at our meeting due to prior commitments.

Lunch and an afternoon of genealogy was promoted for a later get together as a result of this gathering, as before long the day had progressed and family and work commitments had to be attended to. So it was till the next time....



## Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



### Manawatu Branch

Claire Macdonald

Marton

## Manawatu Branch *by John Cameron*

The year started with our annual trip to Turakina to man the clan tent on behalf of Wanganui - which we have been doing for a number of years. It rained during the night and was wet and windy in the morning so public and clan tent numbers were down. On the up side there were good numbers of solo pipers and drummers playing the whole morning - "great". A good turn out of our members. Visiting us were Graeme and Hazel Cameron from Wellington. Raymond Cameron, Wanganui president, and I had a chat about his branch of the clan taking over the clan tent next year with our help. Erina Wood joined us to have a chat. An enjoyable day although no new members were signed up - same with most clans.

Late last month we had our AGM, hosting us were Coljn and Joy Cameron and was attended by the committed members. All enjoyed a BBQ lunch and a catch up gossip before our meeting. Only one change, Jessie Annabell is our new secretary with all members present on the committee. Keep July 30<sup>th</sup> free for our annual ceilidh - details later.

## Clan Cameron Association Scotland

*By Mike Topham (Gisborne and Hawke's Bay)*

Dear Editor,

It was interesting to read of the establishment of the Clan Cameron Association in Scotland in 1891.

One of Mary McKellar's strongest supporters in setting up the Clan movement was Patrick "Corrychoillie" Cameron (1846-1915) a son of John "Corrychoillie" Cameron (1781 - 1856).

Patrick Cameron chaired the initial meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1889 at the Clarendon Hotel, Edinburgh, when the proposal to establish a Clan Association was first discussed. He also attended the meeting at Glasgow in 1891 where he was appointed to the first Committee of the Clan Association.

Four of Patrick's brothers settled in New Zealand between 1855 and 1860 and many of their descendants have been members of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc. Those who today hold executive positions within the Clan are David Cameron, President of Gisborne Branch, Fraser Cameron, President of Bay Of Plenty Branch, Alison Jordan, National Treasurer and Tristan Sanders our 2011 First Light representative.

Another descendant of Corrychoillie who was prominent in Clan affairs was the late Vivienne McConnell. It was Vivienne's enthusiasm and drive, together with her fellow "Corrychoillie" descendants Alec and John Cameron and Marion Lewes which led to the establishment of Gisborne Branch in 1987. Since that time the majority of Gisborne members have been "Corrychoillie" Cameron's. Over the years there have been five Gisborne Branch Presidents, and all five descended from John Cameron of Corrychoillie.

*Mike Topham*

## The Gathering of the Clans in Paeroa

*by Denis Cameron*

The 18th Annual Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo was held on Saturday 12th February 2011. The day before here in Tauranga was real nasty with very heavy rain showers most of the day and we were wondering just what the next day would turn out to be. The day turned out to be very hot and Denis got sunburnt quite badly. This is always guaranteed to happen when one has ancestors from Scotland.

The Clan Cameron was well represented with 14 members from as far away as Rotorua to Auckland. The Special Guest was Laura Simpson, from Dunedin who was the "Queen of the Heather". The Otago Heritage Council has held this event for 25 years. Laura is a 21 year old student studying at Otago University, working towards a BA in Mathematics and a BCom in Accounting. Her interests are in swimming, synchronised swimming, running and reading and is the secretary of the Dunedin Rotoact Club. Her other interest is Highland Dancing where she has been involved since she was aged 5. Today was her birthday. It was delightful to see Murdock McDonald had a birthday cake for Laura to cut and for the other clans to be able to toast her birthday.

The day started with Solo Piping, but alas the Highland Dancing was transferred to a hall close-by. Naturally there was an Axemen's Carnival, Heavyweight Field Events, Pipe Band Contests, and the picturesque Clans March to the Town Hall and back again.

A BOP Clan member Eliot Fenton was successful in winning the Novice Solo Piping award. Well done Eliot - and do keep up the good work.

Later that night there was the Street March of 15 Pipe Bands along the Main Street of Paeroa that would have made a wonderful sight. The most distant bands came from Taranaki, Hamilton and Rotorua with plenty coming from Auckland and surrounding districts. At 6.15 pm came the Opening Ceremony for the Evening Tattoo and Lone Piper at the end closed the night's entertainment.

We would like to congratulate the organising committee for a very well run day in which I am sure all those in attendance enjoyed it to the fullest. The show of tartan was always a pleasure to see and the pipe bands make the hairs tingle on the back of ones neck.

I was very intrigued with the calibre of the photographic competition that was open to all members of the public. One of the themes was the best photo to capture the spirit of the games - and this was surely done.

## Wanganui Clan Member makes Junior Worlds selection for Moscow *by Raymond Cameron*

After returning from the recent track cycling Nationals in Invercargill, with four medals won over six events, Cassie Cameron is now taking on the rest of the world after being selected with five other under 19 girls to represent her country in the Junior Worlds track event to be held in Moscow in August, with another world event following that in Invercargill next year.

## *A message from our President*



### Dear Clan Cameron Members

The year 2010 has become a year of progress for the Clan Cameron and 2011 looks set to continue that trend, with a number of exciting initiatives already under way. The Council is united in our quest to increase members and we will continue to work hard to focus on this goal in the coming year.

The Founding of Clan Cameron Association arose during the era of Colonel Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, the 25th Chief of Clan Cameron. It was from correspondence between Sir Donald and Ian Cameron of Mauriceville, Wairarapa that a founding meeting was held in Wellington. The date for the Founding of Clan Cameron NZ was the 29th December 1935, on board the Orient Liner S.S. 'Orama' which was anchored in the Wellington Harbour. Captain Evan P Cameron, RD, RNR, London was the representative of Lochiel. The four Founders of Clan Cameron NZ were Dr Percy Cameron, Ian D Cameron, P M Cameron and D C Cameron. A second meeting with Captain Cameron was on 22nd December 1937 aboard the S.S. 'Orford' berthed at Wellington.

Most of the Cameron's present at that first meeting, came from the Wellington area. This was the start of an interest that is still going strongly today, and the present Council members are ever mindful of what had happened so many years ago.

Apart from the desire to keep alive the sentimental associations, the clan has a very definite and ambitious programme of practical work. Its aim is to encourage Scottish culture and research into Highland folk lore. With this object in mind it was hoped to encourage a thorough knowledge of the modern efforts of the Camerons by the establishment of a clan newsletter in each country.

Annual rallies are being held throughout the world and national gatherings at the same time. We in New Zealand have been using our clan gathering such as the AGM in various regions and it is here that we come together to celebrate our clan sentiments and culture.

The big thing about these gatherings is that they are being held throughout New Zealand, thereby ensuring that all our branches have the opportunity to expose their region and enabling their members to participate in them. All for the good of the Clan without a doubt.

This year will be the 46th Clan Gathering in New Zealand. I am delighted to say that the only time that the Clan went in to recess was during the period of World War II.

The Clan Cameron, which is non-sectarian and non-political, hoped to develop a high sense of service to the community through the Clan. It is a long term programme which has in view to keep on calling our members together somewhere in New Zealand each year and I am pleased to announce that next year the Canterbury Branch has been asked to be the host for the 2012 meeting. Already they are asking what is required for them to make the occasion successful. (Thanks to Ian Cameron—Mauriceville)

Some good news has been received from Duncan Cameron – Commissioner for Clan Cameron UK. He has told us that the Archives being held in the Lochaber College have been saved – meaning that all our efforts in writing letters and the emails have not been in vain - we have been successful in

saving the Archives from being sent to some other part of Scotland. I thank all of our members who wrote or sent emails to the newspapers of Lochaber and people in high places – you have succeeded.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our neighbours in Australia, as they continue to do battle with Mother Nature over the next few months, where they have to re-settle in the aftermath of all the cyclones and flooding. We in New Zealand are thinking of you all in your time of need. God bless you all.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with all our Clan Cameron Canterbury members, their families and friends as they are suffering from the dreadful earthquake of February 22nd and the constant after-shocks.

The devastation of our Garden City is immense – but the resilience of the people of this fine city and province will prevail. We do know what you are going through as our three children, are living at Diamond Harbour, Little River and the inner city – and we have kept in constant touch with them during this terrible time.

Do stand strong and be rest assured - we are thinking of you all in your time of need.

Looking forward in seeing many members at the Clan Gathering over Easter Weekend.

*You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face.*

*You must do the thing you think you cannot do!*

*[Eleanor Roosevelt]*

“Leis gach deagh dhurachd and Slainte mhath”

[With every good wish and good health]

*Denis Cameron*

## Messages from Lochiel

### The Christchurch Earthquake

*“What an awful tragedy in Christchurch - the whole of New Zealand must be in a state of shock and grief. We are all thinking of you and hoping that the worst is over although the scars will, I know, last forever. Please accept my heartfelt condolences and be assured that you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

*Very best wishes Donald”*

### And on a happy note ...

*“My daughter, Catherine Trotter, gave birth to a 7 pound 9 ounce baby boy (Alexander Donald) on March 7th and mother and baby doing well - A brother for Alice and very happy news*

*Best wishes Lochiel”*



The Caledonian Hall, Christchurch, after the earthquake. See Canterbury news on page 2



*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 June issue:**

**15 May 2011**

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## Coming events

**April 22-24 2011**

**Clan Cameron NZ Annual Gathering and AGM**  
Lindisfarne College, Hastings.

The Hawke's Bay members look forward to hosting the 2011 A.G.M. at Lindisfarne .

Those who have registered will have received a map of the College Grounds and buildings to guide them to the Dining Hall where our activities take place. The map has a compass marked on the top right corner.

Enter Lindisfarne by the main gates at 600 Pakowhai Road , Hastings, that is the south-east corner on the map. Proceed to the parking areas near and beyond the office/kitchen/dining Hall buildings (the south-west area of the map ) then take the walkway between the office block and the chapel/gym building and enter the Dining Hall from the area where the lawn is shown on your map.

**Friday 7.00 pm : EC Meeting.**

Hawke's Bay members will be at Lindisfarne early Friday afternoon to greet you.

**Saturday 23 April**

10.15 am : Registration

10.30 am : Morning Tea

11.00 am : AGM, followed by lunch

6.00 pm : Pre Dinner drinks (cash bar)

7.00 pm : Haggis Ceremony and Dinner

Saturday and Sunday: participate in the Highland Games and visit the Cameron tent.

Copies of the registration form from Editor (e-mail) or Helen Shaw (see left)

***Don't forget to bring your name badges***

**Saturday May 28**

**Clan McPhee Society Dinner**

Hokowhitu Bowling Club, cnr Albert St. and Wallace Place, Palmerston North.

An invitation is extended to all Clan Cameron members to attend and further the strong bond between our two clans. Cost will be \$30 and is intended to be a BYO affair.

Please let James McPhee, NZ Commissioner to Clan Macfie know if you wish to attend at least 14 days prior. He will also provide any further details.

His e-mail address is [<jmemphee@xtra.co.nz>](mailto:jmemphee@xtra.co.nz)

Ph: 03 317 8111

### Useful Websites

**Clan Cameron New Zealand website**  
<http://www.camclan.orconhosting.net.nz>

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

**Clan Cameron NZ Webmaster:**  
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## We Remember on Anzac Day

### Aotea Convalescent Home. Heliopolis. Egypt. 1915-1919.

“Aotea!” “What does it mean?”

“There is no need to ask that question because even the old Sphinx knows the answer.

“A Home Away From Home” - “A Panacea For All Ills”  
(Patients, Aotea Home. Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1916).

This abridged excerpt taken from the magazine **The Aotean**. Vol.1-No1., published in Cairo, is but a small indication of what the name Aotea meant to the many thousands of wounded and sick New Zealand soldiers who were fortunate to have been ‘guests’ (patients) at the home.

The idea of establishing the convalescent home in Egypt was first thought of by the two Macdonald sisters, Elizabeth, (Betty) M.A., B.Com. F.I.A.N.Z. and Wilhelmina (Mina). Mina was nursing in Wanganui hospital and Betty had spent many years travelling the world prior to the outbreak of WW1. They, along with Mysie McDonnell, Ruth Cameron (a niece of Mysie) and Lena McLaren (from Masterton) began to formulate the idea of the home and it was very quickly taken up and committees were formed.

The committee consisted of Messrs. Jas. M. McIntosh (sec & treasurer) Wgtn; A. Macdonald and Guy Williams, Masterton; Hope Gibbons, Wanganui and L. Elliot, Feilding. Negotiations were entered into with the New Zealand Government and permission was granted. Fundraising started, balls were held, sponsorship was given by Speights & Co Brewery of Dunedin, beds were donated and knitting began in earnest by the ladies of the Wanganui district.

Within 6 weeks the ‘Home’ became a reality. The New Zealand Government terms were as follows:

The home and all concerned therewith to be under absolute control of the New Zealand Military Authorities.

The Government to find accommodation either in marquees, tents or a suitable building for 25 beds and for the matron, nurses and other attendants as well as all necessary food, medicines, etc.

The promoters (being the committee) to find the necessary staff which will consist of a matron and two nurses-the three being duly qualified-and other assistants that may be considered necessary.

The promoters to provide all necessary beds and bedding for the patients and staff as well as anything in the way of comforts etc. over and above what is specified in clause 2.

The staff of the new home consisting of, Sister M.A. Early (Wgtn), Matron; Sisters, K.Booth and N.L.Hughes (Wgtn); Nurses M Macdonald (Mangamahu), R. Cameron (Wanganui), M. McDonnell (Wanganui), L.McLaren (Masterton); Secretary & Treasurer E. Macdonald (Mangamahu) and Sergt. G.H. Sleight (Wanganui), sailed out of Wellington on the Manuka on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1915. They arrived in Egypt on the 20<sup>th</sup> October and on the 25<sup>th</sup> November were ensconced in the private residence of Turkish- Prince Ibrahim Halim in Heliopolis. The home had been loaned to the British Army at the outbreak of the war by the Prince. Before long the home was over filled with convalescing soldiers who were too well for hospital but not fit enough for combat. The home offered the boys everything from hot scones to tennis.

It has been said ‘that within its four walls the trenches are forgotten, there is no parade ground, no bully beef and biscuits and no red tape’. “Aotea” is a home in every sense of the word, and the only unhappy moment a patient knows is when the word discharge appears after his name in the roll book. A day could consist of, reading from a well stocked library, playing tennis, cards, attending camp concerts, motor drives and so on.

Over the 4 years of the home being an almost compulsorily stop off for sick and injured soldiers, many thousands were given the same ‘home away from home’ treatment. Those who had the privilege of spending time there were the envy of Kiwi soldiers and their compatriots from all over the vast battle fields of the 1st WW.

#### Some Gifts.

“Aotea” is rich in friendships. We appear to have friends in all parts of the Globe and tangible mementoes of these friendships are now being received in the shape of cases containing diverse gifts of comforts, smokes etc. Today a large case containing presents from the Wanganui donors of beds came to hand, there being a parcel for the lucky occupiers of all the gift beds. And only a few days ago Padre Green passed on to us a case of gifts for distribution among New Zealand wounded and sick soldiers. The case, which was forwarded by the Wanganui Military Hospital Guild, contained shirts, pyjamas etc.” (Patients, Aotea Home)

Also amongst the shipment were;

1 case of hospital comforts from Red Cross Guild, Bulls.

3 cases of comforts from Sanson and Ohakea Guilds

1 case of smokes from Wanganui friends and £20 from a Wanganui friend to be expended in “smokes”

5 cases of sheep’s tongues from Wellington Meat Export Co.

1 case of cakes and puddings from Mrs. McLaren, Masterton.

(No need to tell how we enjoyed those puddings)

The New Zealand smokes were greatly appreciated by the boys, because in Cairo Green Three Castles, Clarence and other good brands are extremely difficult to obtain. (Patients, Aotea Home)  
Sir,

*Having been attached to the Staff of AOTEA for two years, I would crave space in your columns to pay a slight tribute to the nursing staff of AOTEA. Were I of a literary turn I could recount the many ecstatic commentaries made to me by inmates upon their stay in the Home. Comments most men would experience difficulty in expressing to those to whom encomiums were directed. Their panegyrics are delivered in the expressive language one soldier uses to another. I see them debilitated by months of desert life, laid low by sickness or wounds and see them depart fitted to take their places back with their regiments. The homely atmosphere, the multitude of sports and pastimes to hand all do their part in the great work. May the good people of Wanganui, Wairarapa., and Rangitikei who are primarily responsible for AOTEA be assured of the great success that has attended their Home*

#### The Gunner. (Te Korero. Aotea).

*When you’re marching ‘oer the desert with your eye all full of sand.*

*When the sergeant major’s growlin’ just fit to beat the band.*

*When the C.B you are enduring with pack drill every hour.*

*When “Jack Johnsons” are roarin as in shallow trench you cower.*

*When pay day doesn’t happen, and there is no beer for you.*

*When the cheese is nonexistent, and ten flies are in your stew.*

*When the picket comes a marching, with orders sharp to*

*clear. Don’t grouse or swear, but simply smile, just think of Aotea*

(Patient, Aotea Home)

The “Aotea” home was privately funded during its entire duration and was considered the –‘Best convalescent home in the British Empire’.

The two Macdonald sisters had adventures that sent them into the field hospitals, being amidst the fighting during a malaria outbreak in Ismalia. They did all the cooking in the 300 bed camp, organised beds, medicine, care and orderlies as the Turks and Germans were shooting around them.



Mina Macdonald was seen daringly clad in split riding pants, galloping through the desert with the legendary Australian Icon 'Banjo Patterson', who penned 'The Man from Snowy River'

These women who put their lives on the line to establish and run the home were remarkable women; they went on an adventure into the unknown and enriched the lives of many. They were the daughters and granddaughters of New Zealand early pioneers and as such still kept up the indomitable spirit associated with their forbears.

Mina Macdonald, Elizabeth Macdonald, Mysie McDonnell and Sister Early received citations from Winston Churchill. They received OBE's and medals in recognition of their bravery and their contribution to the War. Mina went on and married Captain Leslie McFarlane of Canterbury. Elizabeth never married but became very involved in Women's' affairs and was the organiser of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Women's' conference in Sydney, she is buried in the RSA section of the Wanganui Cemetery. Mysie McDonnell also never married; she became an Army Nurse and is buried in the Catholic cemetery in

Turakina. Ruth Cameron went on to marry Captain Upham. These four women all have Cameron heritage.

*Contributed By Claire Macdonald, 2011*

(Great Niece of the Misses Macdonald's and Mysie McDonnell and distant cousin of Ruth Cameron).



## News about Tristan *by Astie Cameron*

Just a quick note to let you know that Tristan has now left Lochaber and has safely arrived in Canada. He has organised a very interesting train trip through the Rockies to take him over to Calgary, for a no doubt exciting conclusion to his trip. We managed to give him a good send off with the first Achnacarry Hangi, details of which will no doubt appear in Tristan's final story for the next newsletter. Our kids have already been asking for Tristan wondering why he's not come home from work, but on the flip side get very excited when we told them that he was on a plane heading off to Canada before heading home to NZ.

*We hope to see Tristan at the Hastings Gathering and look forward to reading the final chapter of his adventures in our next newsletter.*  
- Ed

## Fort William *by Bill Cameron*

The town of Fort William takes its name from the military Fort of the same name - the remains of which still stand at the head of Loch Linnhe - although now in a much depleted state. It was from this remote government stronghold named after King William of Orange, that the Cameron clan were kept in check by government forces throughout the Jacobite risings. It was also from this military outpost that orders were given for the massacre of Glen Coe in February 1692, and where James Stewart (James of the Glen) was kept before standing trial for the Appin murder in 1752.

From an historical point of view, the Fort was very much a thorn in the side of Clan Cameron.

In the Jacobite rising of 1745, the Fort was besieged by a thousand of Prince

Charlie's Jacobite forces - many of whom would no doubt have been Camerons. The attack lasted a number of days and was eventually unsuccessful in taking the Fort.

In the 1860's, the Fort was dismantled and sold to a Mr. Alexander Campbell of Monzie who subsequently converted some of the barracks into dwelling houses which would be inhabited up until 1935.

The Fort was then sold by his widow in 1889 to the West Highland Railway Company who demolished most of the Fort to make way for railway sheds.

In 1896, one of the few remaining features of the Fort was saved from demolition and re-erected at the entrance to the Craigs burial ground on the outskirts of the town - thus preserving one of its distinctive architectural features, and commemorating the place where Sir. Allan Cameron of Erracht raised the Cameron Highlanders in 1793.

A local group of volunteers have recently gathered to form (FOOF) friends of the old fort - with the intention of enhancing the remains of the Fort, improving access and putting together interpretative boards to educate visitors on the rich history of Fort William.



Aerial view of the remains of Fort William. One of the only few remaining features is the Sally Port seen in the middle of the wall on the left hand side.

*Photo: Alex Gillespie*





# Aonaibh ri Cheile

'Cameron' April 2011

## The Back Page

Members of the wide Cameron family and their many activities -



At the Paeroa Highland Games. *Left:* Piper Eliot Fenton, winner of the novice piping award, and his mother Mary-Anne Cameron. *Ph: Ed*  
*Centre:* Denis Cameron and BOP member Peter Stevens. *Ph: Ed* *Right:* Camerons in the Clan March from the town centre. *Ph: Stuart & Judy Cleary*



*Photo: Rob Cameron*

Led by the Fern and Thistle Pipe Band, Christina arrives for her wedding. (see page 2)  
*Note Warren & Lorraine Cameron on the drums*



At the Mass to celebrate the Canonisation of St Mary McKillop in Palmerston North  
*Left:* Bob MacDonell, Gail Cawkwell and Shaun Cameron.  
*Right:* Colin Cameron and Ewen Grant.

*Photos: Lindsay Campbell*



*Photo: Jessie Annabell*

At the Manawatu AGM. *Above:* Dick & Maisie Earle with Mary Lampen-Smith. *Right: —*



*Photo: Jessie Annabell*

Harry Lampen-Smith gives culinary advice to the team of Colin Cameron, Dianne Burke, Alistair Cameron and Joy Cameron



Astie, Tristan and Bill at Tristan's farewell hangi.  
*Photo: Tracy Cameron*



The BOP Branch Ctte Mtg: *from left:* Helen Renner, Joy Cameron, Janette & Ray Crafts, Fraser & Elaine Cameron, Phil Renner, Pat & Rex Cameron



Cassie Cameron - see page 3



At the Auckland Branch AGM *Photo: Sarah McQueen*