



A Happy Christmas and New Year to you all



Clan Cameron New Zealand; founded 1935, incorporated 2000

Cameron

Volume 45, Issue 5

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Executive Council Meeting at Turangi



Some of the Camerons at the Auckland Highland Games gather in front of the clan tent

From the Branches

Auckland

by Don (DJ) Cameron

The Auckland Highland Games have been an annual attraction at the Three Kings Domain, and look likely to become like having more crowd-pulling appeal in the future. A week before the recent national election the usual attractions were all there -- the pipe bands, the dancers, the stalls selling all manner of Scottish food or ornaments.

This time there were two improvements which added to the attraction, especially of Cameron folk. The first was the growing numbers of people with Cameron heritage strolling in and examining the charts of Scottish and Cameron history produced each year by Neil and Ruth Cameron. The Clan has recently added a box-trailer and new, larger tent which attracted many old and new faces.

There was a time not so long ago that there were almost as many Highland cattle as Camerons in the big parade which is the mid-day centre-piece of the whole occasion. This time the Camerons and kin were there in remarkably large numbers, headed the parade, and were given a warm ovation from the crowd as they led the clans away from the opening ceremony.

Most of the Cameron kin are in the photograph on the front page.

The second sign of new Highland growth came with the birth of the Auckland junior Highland Games. Some time ago the Auckland combined clans association toyed with the idea of forming a junior competition to go with the senior events each year. Plans were made, one of them detailed enough for a D-Day landing in Normandy, but the combined clans decided not to proceed. However, Tom Hyde, a backer

of the junior scheme, kept working, gathered support and led the way in producing this fledgling junior section at the Auckland Games.

The Braemar junior games in Scotland are well-known. The Aucklanders estimated that their new event may be the first away from the homelands.

There were three age groups 9-12, 13-15 and under 17 competing in scaled-down competition for throwing the weight, tossing the caber and putting the stone. They had expert advice from Pat Hellier, the outstanding New Zealander in highland games skills.

The organisers predict many more entries in the coming years. Perhaps the Games organisers could return to the traditional layout of having the tents spread side-by-side on the perimeter of the ground. This time several tents were inside the ring of tents -- thus blocking some tents from seeing the spectacular widespread view the Games produce.



Some of the Camerons in the Parade of the Clans

An account of the Auckland Annual Dinner is on page 9

Bay of Plenty

By Denis Cameron

A year in Retrospect

The 18th Annual Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo was held on Saturday 12 February 2011, and we had a good contingent from our region. The day before was rather nasty, but the Saturday turned out to be hot and most of us got a little too much sun. The day started with Solo Piping, but the Highland Dancing was transferred to a hall close by. There was the axemen's carnival, heavyweight field events, pipe bands contest and clan march.

BOP Clan member, Eliot Fenton was successful in his first Novice Solo Piping contest. Well done Eliot. There was a good mix of about 15 pipe bands, which came from as far away as Taranaki, Hamilton, Rotorua, Tauranga and Auckland, so this made a great spectacle, especially for the Tattoo later that night.

We had our first BOP luncheon at the RSA Building [formerly Fahy's] and were delighted to say there were about 34 members present. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting up with fellow Clan members and having a good chat -- reminiscing over the past and looking forward to future events.. This went off well and was thoroughly enjoyed.

On 2nd July, Waikato/Bay of Plenty had their annual Tartan Day at Frankton. The Clans had their march down Kent Street and it was disappointing that only 5 Clans were

present. Prior to the luncheon, we had the Address to the Haggis by Alex Calderwood. This was performed out in the main street and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. After lunch the pupils of Hillcrest High School Drama Group and friends performed the tragic event commemorating 'The MacDonald's of Glen Coe'. They were ably supported by the Hamilton Celtic Choir. This was narrated by Alex with his strong Scottish brogue. Those present certainly enjoyed this historical and sorrowful story.

Our social committee of Ray Crafts, Janet Crafts and Helen Renner organized another luncheon -- this time on the 10th July. Once again held in the RSA buildings on Cameron Road. We were delighted to say that on this occasion we had 38 members from near and far. Our thanks to two of our committee members; Hazel Cameron and Helen Renner who rallied our members by making contact with them by phone.

Both Ray Crafts and Rex Cameron played us some pipe tunes. We had our usual Address to the Haggis, ably performed by Ray Crafts, followed by a nip of that wonderful liquid amber.

During the year we had our Annual AGM at which there was a change of Presidents. Fraser Cameron retired and Denis Cameron took over the reins. There was a good turnout and the afternoon tea was a great success and enjoyed by all.

Shirley and John Baillie came over from Te Aroha to entertain us; Shirley was on the harp and John accompanied her on his fiddle. Our sincere thanks to them both.

Canterbury *by Rae Magson*

The Annual General Meeting of the Clan Cameron Canterbury was held recently at the home of Julie and Nick Cameron, near Darfield. There was a good attendance, one person even coming from Cromwell to attend, and another new member from Ashburton as well. Nick who was re-elected as President read his Annual Report. It had not been a very busy year due mainly to the earthquakes in Christchurch, but plans are being made for the Annual Gathering in Ashburton in April. After the meeting we shared a lunch of salads and barbecued meat.

Mark it on your calendar now. Visit the beautiful South Island next 27/28/29 April for the

Clan Cameron Annual Gathering. A registration form will be in the February Cameron Magazine.

The **Hotel Ashburton** has been booked, and there is also accommodation available at motels nearby. The Clan Cameron Canterbury is busy thinking up some ideas of entertaining you, so make sure you are there.

The Annual Gathering is booked into the **Hotel Ashburton**, they have a room rate of \$119 for a studio unit. The hotel recommends you call 0800 427428 to receive personal attention. For more information go to - <http://www.hotelash.co.nz/>

There are several motels nearby, the closest being -

Ashburton Motor Lodge, phone number 03 3070399
Go to <http://www.ashburtonmotorlodge.co.nz/>
Their rates are studio \$119, 1 bedroom unit with separate lounge \$139.

Bella Vista Motel, phone number 03 3077505,
Go to <http://www.bellavistamotelashburton.co.nz/>

Manawatu *by John Cameron*

Hi Folks. A couple of events were held after our previously reported dinner. We had a ceilidh for Maisie on a Sunday afternoon which was well attended by members. There was lots of talking, watching a DVD of the 2009 Gathering and march up the Royal Mile, listening to Scottish music and enjoying a wonderful afternoon tea. A nice afternoon.

It was enjoyed by all, especially by Maisie, who is not in the best of health these days so it helped to lift her spirits. Thanks to Dick Earles and Roz and Ewen Grant for organising the afternoon.

On Sunday 13 November, Roz and Ewen, for the first time in the Manawatu, organised a "Kirkin' O' The Tartan" at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Turakina. This was a fantastic first time effort, with the church full. Tartan sashes and kilts were much in evidence, though I did notice there

were more ladies in tartan than men - which was great. The service was conducted by the Rev. John Peill, who has Scottish heritage.

And also there was the usual fantastic afternoon tea - with the added bonus of a group from the Turakina Maori Girls High School Choir singing a few songs. Very much enjoyed by all, very talented young women they are. Another interesting and enjoyable Sunday afternoon which will be repeated next year. A great effort again in organizing by Roz and Ewen Grant. Thanks.

Our next event is the annual sausage sizzle and haggis sandwich stall on Square Day 10th Dec and the no2 Premier pipe band competition. That's it till our AGM in January.

I wish all NZ CC members a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. *John.*

Wellington *by Ken Cameron*

We had our Christmas Gathering and committee meeting at the home of Sonja Cameron last Sunday 13 November in glorious sunshine and although small it was a very enjoyable event.

Don Cameron was pleased to have had a successful eye operation and Graeme Cameron was fully recovered from a hip operation.

We were entertained by the Elphick family - son Liam and daughter Shannon being very accomplished dancers and they were supported by dad Craig on the Pipes.



Rob Cameron, Sonja Cameron (our hostess for the day) with Catherine Cameron survey the lunch at the Gathering.

(More pictures on the Back Page Ed)

Just a Thought

By Denis Cameron

The Christchurch earthquake will dominate our nation for a long time. An earthquake – prone country like New Zealand that has seemingly survived countless geological upheavals, with frequently a minimum loss of life, but that Tuesday their luck simply ran out.

In the middle of the day, when much of the population of the city was at work, the disaster struck with a vengeance. The city, after its miraculous escape last September, knew it was coming, but didn't know when or where, or what new danger was just around the corner.

Day in and day out we have seen the horrendous images. We have learned of the dramatic fight for life and loss of life. We have witnessed destruction on a scale that is difficult to comprehend. It has left many wondering how could Mother Nature be so cruel. How can we help and what is the future of one of the countries most beautiful cities.

We were all shocked and saddened by the first quake in September, but took comfort that miraculously there was no loss of life and slowly but surely Christchurch would recover.

Of late, New Zealand has had a truly bad time. First there was the earthquake in September last year, then the tragedy at Pike River and now this. Hopefully we have approached the end of a most tumultuous period that has dominated the news and many people's lives since that awful moment. It has been said that this is New Zealand's darkest day and it will be etched forever in our memories.

It is easy to feel helpless when something like this happens. We live in one of the most gorgeous parts of the country, with pristine beaches and fabulous outdoor living. It is difficult to believe that such a thing could happen here.

But it did happen; New Zealand sits on a fault line and has a history of earthquakes. Take for instance Edgumbe and Matata in the Bay of Plenty are just two examples.

In the wake of Christchurch, there is no greater example of the need to ensure we are all prepared for the worst and are able, if humanly possible, to look after our families and loved ones.

As the days progressed, it was great to see how ordinary people have

been quick to help and show their Kiwi spirit. As rescuers and experts desperately work to save lives to free people from the rubble and help ordinary people to cope. Like so many New Zealanders, I sat stunned that this tragic natural disaster occurred on our doorstep.

You can't describe the relief of hearing that your loved ones are safe. Already there have been some remarkable survival stories and you desperately hoped that there would be more. You sat glued to the television watching the same footage over and over again – all the time having to convince yourself that it was really happening here in New Zealand and not in some foreign land.

And you pray for a miracle. Already there have been some remarkable survival stories and you hold out that there will be more. As time went on, that did not happen, but the rescuers never gave up hope and that is all you have to cling to and thank them.

We take our hats off to those with disaster skills – such as search and rescue, police, the fire-fighters and ambulance officers. These people are doing such extraordinary things and will emerge among the heroes; and it will be something that changes them, to varying degrees, no doubt forever.

Countless others rose to the occasion by donating food and money or organising aid. There are many people who are opening their homes to those who fled the disaster zone.

Then we come to the drivers of the giant diggers, who ever so gently swept the rubble with their giant buckets and massive teeth - to and fro with so much care and attention – with much dignity and candour. Random acts of kindness have been common of late in the country's second – biggest city.

Next, there was the report of a car dealer who opened his yard to let the people of Christchurch take his cars out of the city to get away from the turmoil. Then there were the farmers from the North Island who arrived and knocked on the doors offering a hand with the digging the liquefaction. But, we must not forget the local farmers who turned out in large numbers to be of great assistance to those who were in dire straits. Well done the reds and blacks and well done Canterbury.

The squadron of volunteer student's who came in their thousands, have literally shovelled thousands of tonnes of rubble from some unfortunate person's back yards and roads – an incredible effort. The world is looking on in awe at the response to our unfortunate

people. They are amazed just how we have responded to their plight. But here again - we are New Zealanders.

In some cases they would be family and friends, but there are examples of locals prepared to take in strangers. The disaster has brought out the best in people – and unfortunately, occasionally the worst.

There have been reports of low-life looting - pretending to be officials going door to door to seek out potential houses to burgle and again there have been online scams. It is hard to understand why these people would want to fleece their neighbours. What is going on in the heads of these scum-bags?

We are indebted to the Fire Rescue teams from all over the world. They have put their lives in jeopardy to rescue our loved ones from the rubble. What dedication and thoroughness. Isn't it just wonderful at the way the rest of the world has responded and got behind our country? I saw on TV that one of the leaders of the NSW Fire Rescue team was a Bruce Cameron. How appropriate.

Then, there was the Power Company who pulled out all stops to get an overhead power line to places like Bromley and Brighton. This in usual time would take some months to put up – but they did it in 2 ½ days. Powerful stuff!! No need for 'red tape' here – it was approved in just 30 minutes!

How wonderful it was to see the sign language interpreters and how important they were for the news media summaries. They must have been such a comfort to the people who were hard of hearing. What tremendous support for these people. The list just goes on and on.

Every morning at seven, Geoff Horesburgh played the bagpipes to raise the spirits of the rescue workers in Christchurch. As the sun rises on the broken city of Christchurch – this 17 year Christ College student would play the bagpipes to welcome the beginning of a new day at earthquake headquarters. It is very comforting to hear and I am sure the rescue workers thought so too.

At our worst moment, we're seeing many people who rise to the occasion. No doubt over that weekend, many people spared some thoughts and prayed for the victims and look at ways to be of help. But we should also look to celebrate life; what is good about it and praise all the good people among us. Christchurch - you are in our hearts, our thoughts and prayers.

Kia Kaha – Be Strong. I am glad to be a Cantabrian.

Welcome to the following members who have recently joined us:



Auckland Branch:

Cameron Russell Auckland
Kimberley Cameron Henderson

Gisborne Branch:

Barry Hovell Gisborne

Ceud Mile Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes

More from the Branches

Wanganui / Taranaki by Shona Wallace

Wanganui/Taranaki Branch held an early Xmas lunch at the Hawera Club on Sunday 13th November. It was well attended by members plus some potential members. We are trying hard to interest relatives in joining the Clan. Alan Drake prepared a very enjoyable lunch and joined us for the lunch and meeting after (some photos on the back page).

Profile of the Branch President

Neville James Wallace DOB 14 June 1939

Lived down Tangahoe Valley, east of Hawera, for the first 14 years of life. Schooling: lived mostly with relations and friends. One year was on correspondence. Attended Hawera Technical High School for 3 years, was always a keen Agriculturist. Had my own dog from the age of 10, could muster a paddock of sheep, catch, and lamb a ewe. Shearing became a skill which I used to finance our first farming venture. Share milked for one season, that didn't work out so we leased a farm for 5 seasons till we had saved sufficient money to purchase our first dairy farm at Eltham. Bought the family farm early 80's and farmed there for approximately 20 years. We farmed both Dairy, Sheep, Forestry, and to a lesser involvement Deer Farming

I was always a keen hunter, shooting small game such as rabbits, possums (trapped opossums while there was a bounty on them - sold a few skins too). Bought a heavy caliber rifle and headed for the South Island high country, shooting many deer. Acquired enough skills to climb higher and shot a number of Thar and Chamois. Venison recovery by helicopter was in its infancy in those days. Most venison was packed out by horse or by jet boat and there was the odd landing airstrip where a Piper Super Cub roosted. I was one of the group of keen hunters who founded the Taranaki Deerstalkers Assn. which is still going strong today

I was always interested in politics and started my career with the Young Farmers Club movement. In the early 70's I was local Chairman of Federated Farmers at Whakamara. When we bought the family farm at Ararata I was chairman of local Federated Farmers. I was successful in gaining a seat on the South Taranaki District Council for 3 years and was on the Board of Governors of the Hawera High School.

Photography was always a vocation I enjoyed and it has been an interesting hobby as we have seen so many technological advances over the years. At the moment I am Chairman of the local Camera Club (Shona is Secretary) I am



Neville and Shona at Turangi Photo: Neil Cameron

a believer in succession and we both look forward to encouraging a younger member to step up into the role of responsibility.

When we sold most of the farm in 2003 I found myself as a semi retired farmer with time on my hands. I covered much of Taranaki working for a local spraying contractor spraying gorse and other unwanted weeds. My involvement with Federated Farmers took another step up the ladder as I became provincial Chairman for the Meat and Fibre section of Taranaki Federated Farmers. This was a position I held for 2 years before stepping aside to let some of the younger members have a go! But during that time I had the responsibility of organising the Federated Farmers open day down here in Hawera on a local farm where we had the distinction of managing to get author Christine Fernyhough (Road to Castle Hill and Ben and Mark, books she had written) come and speak to the locals and signed books they bought.

My final involvement for Federated Farmers was organising the Meat and Fibre Conference down here in Hawera. This was largely sponsored by Silver Fern Farms (Meat Processors) we had Chief Coroner Neil McLean and the Minister of Agriculture were among our lineup of speakers.

I got to know many people during my involvement with Federated Farmers, to the extent that I'm now hosting a Farming Session on local radio where I get farming related people to participate.

Married Shona Cameron RN of Te Awamutu and we have four daughters;

Kelly	Undertaker, Celebrant, Councilor
Sloane	Health, Employment, & Safety Officer; Fonterra
Taryn	Highly accredited school teacher
Andrea	Political Scientist, Librarian

A message from our President



To the members of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.,

It was a pleasure to note that, apart from the apologies received, the attendance at the executive meeting in Turangi was very good. A welcome to our new President and Secretary from Wanganui branch who I trust enjoyed their day with us.

Thanks to Ruth, Elaine and the other kitchen ladies for the lunch duties, also thanks to the members for their lunch contributions.

Also, thanks to Alison for her duties as stand in Secretary for Catherine who was unable to attend due to other commitments on the day.

I have given consideration to branch reports and would appreciate in future we return to written reports with copies for all executive members in attendance, with verbal comments to be received.

The morning session went well with branch reports as well as the financial report from Treasurer Alison. The funds are in good health and special thanks for the donations received. Branches should receive copies of the minutes and financial reports shortly. After lunch we discussed the constitution alterations and First Light criteria as set out at last Annual General Meeting. Some errors and wording were noted in both cases. An apology from our Solicitor whose sudden health problem prevented us from receiving the official draft as hoped. Best wishes for an early recovery has been extended to Bruce Brown.

Branches will receive the draft copies of the constitution and First Light data in the very near future, also copies of the Insurance once we have cleared the points raised at the Executive meeting.

You all should take notice of the offer to assist Scotland with a financial grant for First Light as suggested by Maisie Earle and approved by Council. We are very aware of the gap created in the Exchange programme and the efforts of Scotland in relation to the visit by Tristan.

It is my pleasure to wish you all a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year, drive carefully and enjoy the family gatherings.

Regards from *Fraser* President

Announcing the:

Clan Cameron Manawatu Spark Programme

This is a proposed programme for young Camerons in the Manawatu and Wanganui areas.

There will be three age groups:

- 12 - 14 years
- 14 - 16 years
- 16 - 18 years

Each "**Spark**" young Cameron is to find or take a photograph of their Cameron parents, grand-parents or earlier ancestors, then write a short story about the person(s) shown in the photograph.

Maximum length of story:

- 12 - 14 years: 200 words
- 14 - 16 years: 400 words
- 16 - 18 years: 800 words

Prizes:

- 12 - 14 years: \$50
- 14 - 16 years: \$75
- 16 - 18 years: \$125 plus visit to the Annual Gathering

Further details will be published in the February magazine. Enquiries should be addressed to John Cameron, President of the Manawatu Branch. (contact details on page 7)

By the Editor

Clan Cameron Promotional Material

At the Executive Council meeting in Turangi some discussion took place about promoting the Clan at various events in which the clan took part, such as Highland Games, functions and outdoor events. It was noted that there were very few items with our name on them which could be taken away.

Having **not** learned, from my time in the Navy, **never** to volunteer for anything, I have been tasked with organising this. Some ground-work has been done by Treasurer Alison.

It was suggested that promotional items could include pens (which could also be given to each new member), badges, key-rings, glasses, mugs, coasters, caps, playing cards etc. All items to carry the Cameron name, crest or tartan. Do you have any other ideas?

I would welcome your thoughts and ideas on this. Also if each branch would be prepared to buy a supply of suggested items for sale, or the whether the initial cost should be carried by Clan Cameron NZ. Perhaps we could start off in a small way with pens and key-rings.

If you know of a recommended firm which provides such items please let me know. I will try to have prices available for the next EC meeting, but I need your input first. Please e-mail me.

Neil.

The next Clan Gathering is in Ashburton on 27/ 28/29 April 2012

Mark your 2012 calendars now and make your hotel booking early- see

Canterbury news on page 3



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 issue:

15 January 2012

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Coming events

Sunday 4 December 2011 12.30 p.m.
Hawke's Bay Branch Christmas Lunch
The Speight's Alehouse
64 West Quay, Ahuriri, Napier.
Enquiries To Helen Shaw. 06 844 8398

Saturday 10 December 2011
Manawatu Square Day, Palmerston North
Manawatu Clan Cameron will have a stall selling sizzled sausages and haggis sandwiches, always very popular.
Enquiries to John Cameron. 06 358 0417

Monday 2 January 2012
Waipu Highland Games
Events open with the Clan March at 9.30am.
Come and visit the Cameron tent and give us your support.
Details: www.waipugames.co.nz

Saturday 28th January 2012
148th Turakina Highland Games
Public Domain, Cameron Road, Turakina
Come and support the Clan. Cameron tent will be there.
Details: www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz

Saturday 11 February 2012
19th 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

Useful Websites

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

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

Achnacarry Sporting and Country Pursuits
<http://www.achnacarrycountry.co.uk/>

Clan Cameron Scotland
<http://www.clanclan.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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w.lcameron@xtra.co.nz

With Tristan in Scotland

A final report from First Lighter Tristan Sanders

As you all have read in my last letter the last weekend I was in Lochaber we had a wonderful farewell dinner. I said my goodbyes to all the friends and family I had made in my time over there who had made my stay so welcoming as though I was home away from home.

From there I had a long trip home catching a train from Fort William to Glasgow where I then had to spend the night. Lucky for me, the guy who I was working with, happened to be in Glasgow the same weekend. This made the few hours I had to pass the time more enjoyable before I settled into the hotel for my early start the next morning.

When I heard my horrid alarm going off at 3.30am in the morning, I had to drag myself out of bed to catch my flight which didn't depart till 4.30am.

Next stop was Heathrow London where I had seven hours to kill before my flight departed to Vancouver. To pass time I walked around, had a couple of quiet ones (orange juice) with some of the people waiting for the same flight.

After a long 9 hour flight I was pleased to arrive at my destination where I would be staying for two weeks. Looking around at the wonderful sights Vancouver had to offer.

Onto a train trip I had pre booked through the Rocky Mountains which was an experience in itself. It was a magnificent view.

When I was in Banff I had the privilege to experience dog sledding, which I never thought I would. Although I am glad I did. It was very relaxing and an enjoyable experience. At the same time the dogs thrived with the exercise - it was a good way to spend a day in the snow.

Making my way to see more family such as poppa's sister Great Aunt Alison Collis, with whom I would be staying for the remaining time in Canada.

A couple of days after I arrived was taken out by my second cousin Tim to enjoy my first experience of ice fishing where I caught my first pike fish which was something new and exciting.

The next day I was asked if I would like to go ice-skating. I jumped at the opportunity to try something new. Ice skating was a lot of fun not as easy as what I first thought it would be. As soon as I thought I got the hang of it and doing well, that's until primary kids were skating circles around me. I realized I was still skating around with two left feet.

I couldn't go to Canada and not experience watching a live ice hockey game. The atmosphere was not like anything I had ever experienced before. The whole crowd was getting into the game and could tell all were having a good time.

Another outing I did was going to the historic site of the Buffalo Jump Head Smashed In.

If you're wondering how it got the name. This was where a young boy decided to stand at the base of the cliff while the other Indians chased the buffalo off the edge. They had done this for centuries which they would use for food. The young boy wanted to watch this event. Although it did not have a happy ending for him as like the name of the cliff his head was smashed in as he was at the bottom of a pile of buffalos.

I was really enjoying my time in Canada meeting family members I have not met before or had a lot to do with growing up. It was well worth the extra miles to spend time with them.

I have so many good memories I can keep forever.

It was then time to say my farewells once again and make my way home which comprised of a 13 hour flight.

Coming out of the customs I was greeted by my Aunty Shona and my dear mother Vivienne. It was good to be home and seeing all the familiar faces I had grown up around.

All and all I must say it was a trip of a life time. Thank you to everyone who organised and did their part to make it happen.

A big shout out to Astie and Tracey for having a good mattress ready for me and making my stay so enjoyable.

I strongly advise people to get behind the First Light Exchange Programme as I have grown as a person from it.
Tristan



Tristan preparing the Hangi at Achmacarry, the day before he left Lochaber. In the background are Astie's wife Tracy and children Allan, Nina and Alex.



History Corner *by Fiona Cameron*

All in a name?

My first trip across Haast Pass was made in a elderly Railways bus from Fox Glacier to Wanaka and was most probably punctuated with a certain amount of "are we there yet" directed at my long-suffering mother.

Perhaps I might have paid more attention or been more interested if it had been called Cameron Pass?

Haast Pass had long been a Maori route and was first reached by a European surveyor in 1861. The first European to cross the pass was Charles Cameron, an explorer and prospector, in January 1863. However the following month, Julius Haast, another explorer and Provincial Geologist for the Canterbury provincial government led a party across the pass to the West Coast, and they hotly disputed Cameron's claim. Needless to say, Haast gained naming rights.



*Charles Cameron's powder flask, found on Mount Cameron
Photo: Editor*

In a letter Cameron wrote to the Daily Telegraph in October 1863, he states "I discovered the Northern route throughout Canterbury in January, 1863, being in advance of Dr Haast. This gentleman "was startled by meeting my horse near the head of the Awarora River, a West Coast watershed. He has omitted mention of this incident in the narrative of his travels yet he ought to have reflected that if he committed an injustice, that the old horse, like Caesar's ghost, might meet Brutus at Philippi."

However, Cameron had buried his powder flask inscribed with the month and year at the summit of Mt Cameron, west of the pass. This was not found until 1881 though – so while his claim to be the first European to cross the pass might be settled, it remained Haast Pass.

Cameron is credited with being the first to traverse the pass on Historic Places Trust plaques at Haast.

The plaques read:

'The Haast Pass: an old Maori route used by Charles Cameron in January 1863 and by Julius Haast who followed it from Wanaka to the West Coast.'

'The monument bearing these plaques was erected in honour of those who planned and constructed the road linking the provinces of Westland and Otago.'

Auckland Dinner *by Don (D J) Cameron*

Auckland Clan Cameron members had an annual dinner of unusual appeal early in September when they were entertained by a talk from two Cameron wine experts, and then had the chance to sample one of their special wines at the end of the dinner.

Gary and Liz Cameron came to wine-making at middle age -- Liz after a long career in nursing, Gary after 40 years in the paint and industrial chemical business. They were joined by their son Rob after he studied engineering in his younger years..

They all shared a passion for wine-making and told the dinner-goers how they searched about for what they considered an ideal site. This is in Northland, tucked into rolling hills just inland from Mangawhai

Working from their Cameron heritage they decided on "Lochiel" as their trade-mark label.

It took a lot of hard work, and hard cash, before they were ready, a few years ago, to move into the competitive wine market. As part of the package they also developed a bed-and breakfast business and Liz, whose love of plants was developed into wide knowledge of viticulture, also is evidently a dab hand in the kitchen.

Rob has rejoined the business after going overseas, and divides his work between Mangawhai and Auckland.

The Lochiel production line is growing, the latest being a special type of red wine, akin to a very good port. They had developed a very drinkable Malbec Merlot and have moved into a more refined use of the Malbec.

This high-quality wine has already joined the medal winners.

The Camerons decided this special wine should have a suitably high-ranking name. The first choice was "The Laird," and after gaining the approval of Lochiel himself the wine was launched.

The Camerons have figured in several prize lists in their short history and The Laird has won a gold medal -- but they found they were rated as g half-gold as there was some input from a South Island winery.

Liz and Gary rounded off the Clan dinner by opening several bottles of The Laird for sampling, and a lot of diners finished with an even bigger smile on their faces.

There will be smiles in other part of the Clan as well. With several committee members ill or with their families overseas, the

home-based workers struggled to attract folk to the dinner. The Davidson Clan produced their usual large number of visitors, but visions of reaching the usual mark of 70 plus diners faded when miserable weather and ill health caused seven people to drop out on the day of the meeting.

However, those who came had a highly interesting evening, and deeper pockets than usual.

Last year raffles at the dinner raised \$320 or so for the First Light appeal. This year, from perhaps a dozen fewer people, the First Light appeal still received a \$309 boost.

I can only hope that the recent renovations of our Clan home at Achnacarry have not included a cell deep in the bowels of the building reserved for Clan members who have erred, seriously. While members of the Auckland branch were preparing for their annual dinner in early September, Denis Cameron asked Lochiel for a letter of greetings befitting the occasion.

Lochiel replied quickly and pleasantly, and as president of the Auckland branch it was my duty to open the meeting by reading the message. I had re-typed the letter in large type, and went to the meeting with a small bundle of papers including menu plans and such like. On reaching the lectern I pulled out one page, then another, then another, but my copy of Lochiel's letter was missing.

So I had to ask the audience's patience while I dredged the memory and came up with most of the salient points. Although not in their original order. Fortunately, the 60-odd diners had a sense of humour. I was not pelted with bread rolls nor earmarked for the Lochaber lock-up.

The letter read:

"On the occasion of your branch dinner I send you my warmest greetings from Achnacarry. We are all well here and although the house is not yet decorated we hope to start in the New Year (we have slight cash flow problems at the moment). My family is in fine form, although my wife is about to have an operation on her ankle, and my three grand-children are a great joy.

I became an old-age pensioner in August which gives one food for thought, but you will be glad to know that I am still feeling young at heart. I hope you have a very happy evening and I am so glad the clan is thriving in Auckland. It takes a lot of hard work to keep the flag flying and I am very grateful to all of you for the effort you put into keeping the Cameron Clan in such good shape.

Best Wishes, Lochiel"

From the Records:

These Records have been passed to us by Duncan Cameron, President of Clan Cameron Scotland.

The gathering was to celebrate the formation of the Clan Cameron Association in Scotland.

Clan Cameron Assembly - from the CCAS AGM Minutes 13th February 1891

“Our recent social gathering in the city presided over by our beloved and esteemed Chief must be fresh in the minds of all present. The arrangements, excellent in their design, were carried out with the most complete success and the proceedings of the gathering were characterised by the utmost enthusiasm. As was appropriately expressed by Lochiel such a gathering of the clan had not been held since the fateful day of Culloden and it was with unalloyed pleasure and surprise that our hereditary chief met face to face with such an array of warm hearted and devoted Camerons. One gratifying result of our gathering is a most encouraging rush of new members to our ranks; but nothing short of the enrolment of every true Cameron in the country, not to speak of our Camerons beyond the seas should satisfy our aim and ambition.”

*from the
Glasgow Herald 30 January 1891*

Gathering of the Clan Cameron, - A Social gathering of the Clan Cameron and friends took place last night in The Queen’s Rooms, Glasgow. Lochiel (The chief of the Clan) occupied the chair, and there was also on the platform – Rev. Dr John Cameron, Dunoon; Mr Allan Cameron (Lundavra), Elmwood, Belfast; Mr John Cameron

“but nothing short of the enrolment of every true Cameron in the country, not to speak of our Camerons beyond the seas should satisfy our aim and ambition.”

S.S.C. Edinburgh seccy; Mr W. Keith Cameron, San Carlos, Falkland Islands; Dr Hector C. Cameron, ex Provost. Niel Cameron, Pollockshaws; Mr P. Cameron (Corrychoillie); Mr John Cameron, Pollockshields; Mr Alex. Cameron, Elgin; ex Provost John Cameron, Kirkintilloch; Dr James A. Cameron, Edinburgh, &c. After tea, the Chairman addressed the meeting. He was glad, he said, to preside over the gathering – such a gathering as had not taken place since the gathering of the clan before the fatal field of Culloden. (Applause.) He referred to the several things connected with the clan, among others the clan regiment, the 79th, which performed many gallant deeds. A more gallant record than that of the regiment was not found in the annals of the British Army. (Applause.) The members of the clan had distinguished themselves in other professions. Not only in arms, but in travel, in science, and in literature the members of the clan had distinguished themselves especially that branch, if he might call it a branch, which belonged to the profession of reporting in the field – a profession which required the exercise of energy, courage, foresight, and prudence. Referring to the birthplace of the clan, Lochaber, the chairman said the condition of the people there was much better than it was 25 or 30 yrs ago. (Applause.) there was no place within the four corners of Great Britain where the conditions of those who had to work for their daily living was more satisfactory than in Lochaber. (Applause.) Famine and destitution were absolutely unknown. Money was plentiful wages were high and labour was abundant. The people were much better housed than in former times and he was proud to say that on the Lochiel estate almost all of the comfortable houses were built by the crofters themselves at their own expense. (Applause.) It was a melancholy thing in some parts of the Highlands to see the ruins of houses in spots which were formerly inhabited but it was an equally melancholy thing to see people placed where there was no work for them and where the houses stood too thickly together. In Lochaber, he ventured to say they had arrived at the happy medium. The chairman next referred with satisfaction to the progress being made with the construction of the West Highland railway, and expressed the hope that the Skye extension would yet be proceeded with. Other gentlemen subsequently addressed the gathering.



These photographs were taken by Bill Cameron at the Remembrance Day Service at the Commando Memorial this year.

It was attended by many in the Armed Services and also by Lochiel as Lord Lieutenant.



Why be part of the Clan *by Bill Cameron*

Why be part of the clan?

Before undertaking the First Light exchange in 2003, my knowledge of Clan Cameron was minimal. Knowing that my family had lived in Lochaber for many years, and that the name Cameron was said to derive from the Gaelic 'Camshron', or twisted nose. A translation I now believe to be dubious.

So why be part of the clan?

In the twenty-first century, we no longer live in rural close-knit communities on the Lochiel Estate, where kinship and the invisible bonds of family unity were born out of a communal purpose for the greater good. Readers of the newsletter may be fifth, or sixth generation descendants of those intrepid Camerons who made the treacherous sea journey to the other end of the world - seeking a better way of life than the one they left behind in Scotland.

Just imagine for a moment, making that same four month journey by boat today - leaving all your friends, elderly relatives and the land you had only ever known as home, forever. Is it this sense of belonging that makes us interested in our shared heritage? Possibly.

In our hectic day-to-day lives, there are so many other things to take up our time when we are not at work. So where does the idea of being part of a clan association fit in to our busy lives, and what function does it serve?

Clan Cameron is now a global family, existing far beyond the quiet shores of Loch Arkaig. At this time in history, possibly more than at any other time, people want to know more about where they came from, what historical or genealogical factors influenced who they are as a person today, and what distinguishes them from being a part of any another Scottish clan.

It is I believe in connecting with other members of this global family, that the clan association offers an evolving sense of modern day kinship - enabling members to exchange and learn about their heritage, culture and shared experiences through contemporary means.

The author Sidney Mead offers an interesting definition of what history is.

"History, in brief, is an analysis of the past in order that we may understand the present and guide our conduct into the future".

Whether we make contact face-to-face, through the newsletter, by e mail or on facebook, the point is that Cameron connections are made. There are many ways in which the clan association can thrive in the 21st century

We need only refer to the Cameron motto

'Aonaibh Ri Chéile' - Let Us Unite.

Are you from West Lochaber? - by Fiona Cameron

Arisaig Games has recently started two projects as part of the **2014 Year of Homecoming**, a year long series of events promoted by the Scottish Government, which aims to welcome home émigrés and descendants of those who have left.

An Tilleadh 2014 - Taobh an Iar Lochabair The Boats and the Emigrants - Na Bataichean 's na h-Eilthirich

This project will focus on emigrant ship passengers on:

Alexander
British Queen
Derry Castle
Friends
Helen
Jane

Allison
Clifton
Dove
Hector
James Fernie
Lovely Nelly



Lucy

Nora

St. Lawrence

and their descendants in the diaspora.

Marmion

Sarah

Utopia

An Diasporran

This will be a new archive of information, based in west Lochaber which will seek to bring as much genealogical data together as possible for the diaspora.

We know the Scottish diaspora finds it difficult to obtain good quality information with any ease. And it is the same for finding people who know the information, or where to find it. So we aim to make that significantly better.

For more information, please contact Chas Mac Donald at antilleadh2014@arisaihighlandgames.co.uk

The suggestion for a Christmas theme was agreed by one and all
The tables dressed with serviettes and Christmas crackers et al
"But wait there's something missing (a Cameron stated loud)
We need some sprays of Holly to scatter all around".
"I have Holly in my garden - (said Joybelles Manawatu)
It doesn't have red berries yet, but I'll see what I can do...."
So with the help of Colin and some wooden beads with holes
These delightful sprays of holly cheered up our wintery souls.
Ro; Grants Haggis was delicious, her Christmas cake divine
Thanks to all at Manawatu - we had a super time !

- Trish Topham

As promised in the last magazine, the poem by Trish Topham penned to celebrate the Manawatu, Christmas themed, mid-winter dinner, is at left. A picture of the holly decoration made by Joy and Colin is below and on the top of the front page.





Sonja Cameron with Marilyn Cameron and Shirley-Ann Thomson relax in the sunshine at the Well/Wai Christmas gathering

Photo: Ken Cameron



A cuppa before the start of the EC meeting in Turangi

Photo: Editor

Rugby World Cup



Two well known Camerons show their allegiance



Janet and Lloyd Horn



Photos: Neville Wallace

Alan Drake and Shona Wallace



Young Camerons enjoy the Auckland Highland Games. Left: Max Cameron. Right: Amy and Ella, grand daughters of Auckland member Glenis Cameron

Photos: Editor



Liam & Shannon and father Craig Elphick at Well/Wai Christmas gathering. Photo: Ken Cameron



Denis and Joy Cameron, Miranda and Kevin Horrobin and June Prebble



Alastair Cameron, Wendy Aranga, Tom and Margaret Shiels



Dorothy Cameron-Gavin & Jenny Haggitt at the Auckland Dinner Photo: Editor



Gary & Liz Cameron with Denis



Malcolm & Shona Campbell



Ross and Lynette Maunder

Photo: Neville Wallace