



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

*Vol 46 No 3
June 2012*



A sunny view of Ben Nevis on 16th April. In the foreground is Eilean na Craoibhe, Island of the Trees, one of the earliest recorded settlements of the Camerons in Lochaber - (c1335)

Photo: Bill Cameron



Clan members pose after the AGM at the Ashburton Gathering on 28th April

Photo: Editor

A message from our President

colonies time to consider such an event although we have always supported the five year cycle of events.

To close these notes my thanks go to the councillors and branch delegates for support of another year in office as your President.

Regards to all,

Fraser

Coming Events

Sunday 17 June 2012 Bay of Plenty Branch AGM

1.15 pm at 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa, Tauranga
Preceded by a Pot Luck Finger Food Luncheon at 12 noon.
Contact: Denis Cameron (07) 575 4659

Sunday 17 June 2012. Wanganui/Taranaki Branch Winterfest Meeting

12 noon. Hawera Club. A few surprises so hope members support us.
Contact: Neville Wallace (06) 278 6005

Saturday 7 July 2012. Manawatu Branch Ceilidh

6pm. At Palmerston North RSA.
\$35 per head. All Welcome. Enquiries to John Cameron (06) 358 0417

Wednesday 11 July 2012 Gisborne Branch AGM

10.30am at Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club, Gisborne Harbour Basin.
Agenda: Election of Officers
Contact: David Cameron (06) 862 7803

Saturday 11 August 2012 Auckland Branch Annual Dinner

7pm. Fairway Lodge, Glenfield. Cost \$55, discounted to \$50 for financial members and for early payment. Enquiries to Bryan Haggitt. (09) 520 5240 Flyer enclosed for Auckland members.



To all Clan members.

The newsletter is calling again so we must take the opportunity to express a hearty vote of thanks to Canterbury branch for a very successful gathering.

For myself it was a pleasure to attend although on Thursday night there was some doubt. As I completed my bath a red stream was seen flowing along. Well, it was my luck to have

broken a varicose vein so out to telephone 111 ambulance and a ride to Whakatane where they patched me and all was well. Thanks to Denis for meeting me at the Airport and transporting me to Ashburton, thanks also to the hosts for Tanya's visit.

The evening council meeting as well as the Annual General Meeting was a pleasure to preside over and all persons helped by keeping to time enabling us all to enjoy lunch, then the visits of the afternoon. The Address to the Haggis by Bryan put the evening into the right light, though I did wonder about the extra shout of whisky. It was our pleasure to enjoy his address.

As the Lochaber 2014 programme has come to hand one feels homesick again, but the Bawbees are not stacking at present so a major contingent from New Zealand is not envisaged should the programme go ahead. A delay of two years might give the

"Cameron"

The magazine of the
Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc)
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 August issue:

15 July 2012

Please send to:

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

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

Printed by

Contact Directory

Hereditary Chief and Captain of Clan Cameron

Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel,
Lord Lieutenant of Inverness,
Achnacarry, Spean Bridge,
Inverness-shire, Scotland. PH34 4ES

New Zealand President and Commissioner Fraser Cameron

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

Secretary

Tanya Cameron
97E McGarvey Road, Whakatane 3120
Ph. (07) 308 5286 tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Treasurer

Alison Jordan
53 Scantlebury St, Tauranga South, Tauranga 3112
Ph. (07) 577 9061 thejordanfamily@clear.net.nz

Genealogist and Historian

Fiona Cameron
56 Alford St, Waterview, Auckland 1026
Ph. (09) 828 2097
clancameronhistory@gmail.com

First Light Exchange Convenor

Heather Cameron
PO Box 29232, Greenwoods Corner Auckland 1061
Phone: (09) 630 5549. hthcameron@gmail.com

Branch Presidents

Auckland

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

Bay of Plenty

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

Gisborne

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

Hawke's Bay

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

Taranaki/Wanganui

Neville Wallace
275 Turuturu Road, RD 14, Hawera 4674
Ph.(06)278 6005. neville.wallace@xtra.co.nz

Manawatu

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

Wellington /Wairarapa

Ken Cameron
24 Kauri St, Eastbourne, Lower Hutt 5013
Ph. (04) 562 7335 kenmau@vodafone.co.nz

Canterbury

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

Webmaster:

Warren Cameron
w.lcameron@xtra.co.nz

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

(This has links to other Clan Cameron sites)

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Canterbury Branch

Anthony Jordan

Auckland Branch

Christchurch

Lindy Esslemont

Auckland



Ceud Mile Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Photo: Editor

Introducing our new National Secretary—Tanya Cameron

The female strength of the New Zealand Cameron executive is likely to continue with the appointment of Tanya Cameron from Whakatane as the replacement for Catherine Cameron of Wairarapa, who has had to step down for family and business reasons. Alison Jordan has already brought new expertise to the post of treasurer and Tanya Cameron has the background to be an expert clan secretary.

Tanya is a niece of Fraser Cameron, in his first term as President of Clan Cameron NZ. She is very much an all-rounder in business matters, making an early start in Fraser's electrician business, but has spread her interests in many other fields.. These have included dress designing, and draughting as well as secretarial work.

"I suppose you could call me an all-rounder," says Tanya. "If I described myself it would probably that I have been 'flexible'."

- Don Cameron

From the AGM and other matters By the Editor

It was suggested that the EC meeting, instead of being held on the Friday evening, could be held early on the Saturday, giving clansfolk the opportunity to observe. However some consideration must be given to the time factor as this would need an early start, and it was pointed out that the purpose of this EC meeting is to consider controversial items and make recommendations to the AGM. Elaboration can be made during the AGM, if needed.

Fraser has asked that Branches consider this suggestion prior to full discussion at the Turangi EC meeting.

As Auckland is hosting the next Gathering in 2013, they have suggested the following two scenarios:

- 1. Friday evening.** Meet and greet at the Poenamo Hotel. Pub meal and social evening for all.
Saturday. 9am. EC meeting at Fairway Lodge, followed by morning tea at 10.30am and the AGM at 11am. Lunch on completion. Based on previous gatherings, this time frame can be met. Registration either Friday evening or during EC meeting.
- 2. Friday evening** 6pm onwards. Meet and greet at the Poenamo Hotel. Pub meal and social evening for all. 7.30pm. EC meeting in the Hotel while social evening continues.
Saturday. At Fairway Lodge. 9.30am Registration and morning tea. 10.30am. AGM followed by lunch.

Please let your branch president have any feedback.

Constitution

The amended Constitution and First Light Programme were approved. The First Light Programme may be viewed on our web site.

Web Site

Warren Cameron has indicated that he will be giving up his position as website organiser at the end of the year. A volunteer is needed to take over this important task from 1 January 2013. Details of what is entailed from Warren w.lcameron@xtra.co.nz

Brochure

The publicity brochure was approved and a print run of 1000

copies was authorised. These will be printed and copies sent to branches in the next few weeks.

The Homecoming 2014

2014 will be the year of the second Homecoming to Scotland. The programme is still being worked on and will include:
23—29 June 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn
11—13 July International Gathering of the Clans in Stirling

An Tilleadh 2014

The Homecoming in Lochaber 2014

Arisaig Highland Games (near Mallaig) 25 July

An Tilleadh 2014 The Return

This is a series of events aimed at helping those who visit the area to see what it's all about in terms of the current culture as well as the heritage that we all share to some extent or other.

An Diasporran A sporrán of resources, to help the diaspora, or anybody else, trace family histories in west Lochaber. This aims to be a rich database which will be the single authority on our family histories.

The above are still being worked on but you can keep up to date by googling 'Arisaig Highland Games 2014'

Other Events

Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 23 July—3 August
Ryder Cup Gleneagles—date not yet known.

As you can see, there will be plenty going on in the summer of 2014. Unfortunately, Lochiel has indicated that there will be no Clan Cameron Gathering that year. However it would be very interesting to cover all of the above and still be able to visit the Clan Cameron Museum and other areas dear to the clan.

Coming in future Issues of 'Cameron'

'Achnacarry at War' In an article in Braes newsletter Lochiel talks about life in Achnacarry 70 years ago during the Commando Occupation.

'The Knights of the Thistle' by Bill Cameron

From the Branches....

Wellington / Wairarapa by Lorraine Cameron



Above: A photo of Warren on snare drum, along with John Frater and William Rogerson on bagpipes. They were entertaining the 15 Wellington/Wairarapa Branch Committee members at a BBQ lunch after a meeting at our home on 25th March. The weather was nice and everyone seemed to enjoy our new property.

Hawke's Bay by Helen Shaw



Photo: Helen Shaw

Shane East and Helen Shaw at the H. B. Highland Games

This year owing to very wet weather the Easter Highland Games were held in-doors. The Clan Displays were at the back of the Gymnasium where the dancing was being held. Clans represented were Clan Ross, Donald, Keith, Johnstone, McKenzie and Clan Cameron. Owing to our situation we were nowhere near the passing public and so there was not much chance of new members showing up. However due to the valiant efforts of Mike Topham we did sell all the tickets in our Annual Whisky raffle which was won by the Clan Keith Chief. By Sunday lunch time with dwindling crowds and following a sausage sizzle lunch we called it a day. Heres hoping the weather will be more co-operative next year.

Taranaki / Wanganui by Neville Wallace

The annual General meeting of the W/T clan Cameron took place on the 25th March 2012 at the Hawera Club. Clan Chef Alan Drake had prepared a light midday meal where fourteen clan members gathered prior to the AGM. Clan Chairman Neville Wallace presented his annual report. It covered issues associated with restoring clan monetary policy and member confidence. Treasurer Don Cameron presented the balance sheet which shows that we are making fiscal headway. Officers Elected; Chairman Neville Wallace, Secretary Shona Wallace and Treasurer Don Cameron.

At the meeting a branch life membership was awarded for the sterling work and dedication that John Grant had put into the club over the previous years, ensuring the clan's survival.

This clan is having a midyear Winter Fest meeting on the 17th of June at the Hawera club. Your executive had a quick meeting to go to Scotty's Gifts & Collectibles at Turakina. When we arrived we found the place closed for the day but a trip to the rear of the building found the proprietor having a cup of tea. We asked if it were possible to have a look at his clan memorabilia. Not a problem Don and Shona bought some items including a Haggis to put on the tables when we have our Midwinter fest. Before we came home our host Neil and Christina Boyd asked us to have afternoon tea with them.

We were ably entertained by Neil Boyd and his Scottish knowledge and enunciation that we asked them to our Midwinter fest. Neil said he would entertain us with his ode to the haggis. I went back this week to pick up a kilt I had bought and make some final arrangements for the 17th so expect the unexpected. So if you want to purchase Scottish articles support Scotty's Gifts and Collectibles at Turakina.



John Grant receives his branch Life Membership Certificate from Neville Wallace. (photos: Shona Wallace)

Manawatu by John Cameron

Another CC AGM has come and gone, the year is sure flying by! Well done Christchurch, a very enjoyable weekend.

Our branch has been busy since Xmas, starting with the annual trip to the Turakina Highland games late January to assist the Wanganui - Taranaki branch with the clan tent and display. A good turnout of Manawatu members.

It was a nice day, warm and sunny with a good turnout of pipers and drummers for their solo competitions. The clan tents were down this year, but there was a first time clan tent and they pitched their tent next to us - the Grant clan. A very enjoyable day with visitors from all over NZ, including Neil and Ruth from Auckland, Helen from Hawkes Bay, and Graeme, Hazel and Erina from Wellington/Wairarapa. A few enquires were made with hopefully two interested in joining.

Next it was AGM time held at Colin and Joy Camerons' residence. A good attendance of members with no change of office holders. We watched a documentary of a Scottish nature, then afternoon tea, lots of chat and clanship etc—a great afternoon. Then a week or three later a few of us went steam boating up and down the Wanganui river on the restored river steamer—different styles of music, finger food, BYO drinks and getting covered in soot going upstream. The night was warm, the river calm and peaceful. A great night out for all in support of the Wanganui Caledonian Society.

Since then we have had a series of committee meetings to organize our film afternoon showing (The Stone of Destiny) which was screened on the 20th May, all proceeds going to the First light fund, and putting the final touches to our Spark Competition. We were also organizing our ceilidh to be held on the 7th July at the Palmerston North RSA.

My best Wishes to our clan members all over NZ.

A Cameron teaching in Africa

Celia Haggitt is the great-great granddaughter of John Cameron (of Callart) who came to NZ in 1840 on the *Blenheim* to farm at Marangai near Wanganui.

Her family is involved with Clan Cameron in NZ in that her father Bryan is treasurer for the Auckland branch and her brother Bryan is a member of the Canterbury branch.

Celia was educated at Diocesan School for Girls and Auckland and Victoria Universities where she gained a BA (Classics) and BMus, and her Diploma of Teaching.

During her University summer holidays in 2006-7 she went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, as Teacher Assistant/Choir Director (Volunteer with NZCMS) at Hope International School where she created and implemented programmes for a 15 year old male student with Down Syndrome, was Musical Director for the Christmas Production and Conductor of the School Choir. Also during her University years she gained experience working with special needs students at Sommerville Special School, Panmure, Auckland

After three years teaching at Glendowie College in Auckland, Celia embarked on her OE, spending 16 months in England teaching in a Primary School at Hayes Park, West London, and travelling extensively within Britain and Europe.

She is now teaching in Tanzania.

"I'm into my fourth week now in Dodoma and feeling settled and more able to put down my thoughts about my time in this beautiful country so far.

On April 17th I flew into Dar es Salam from London, where I had been working

for the last 16 months, the first and only impression of Dar was traffic chaos. We stayed one night before the seven hour journey north-west to Dodoma, the capital of Tanzania, and most of that was sitting in congestion. The trip was memorable, the main highway a mostly patchily tar-sealed road with judder bars every time a village was approached and farewelled. No passing lanes but basically you would pass whenever, especially if you are a bus or truck!

The school I am teaching at is Canon Andrea Mwaka School, which belongs to the Anglican Diocese of Tanganyika, which primarily caters for Tanzanian families and a small percentage of expat families. The school is over 50 years old. It has grown from being Primary only to now being from nursery through to High School, and we have over 250 students. My classroom is in the original block. Classes are all taught in English, except for Kiswahili, however 95% of students don't speak English as their first language which is a challenge.

My classes are Year 7 to 10 History, Year 8 English and Year 5 Music, I have had to get to grips with new content to teach within the British system. However it has been interesting and I am really enjoying getting to know the students and their interests and backgrounds. The school and teachers are dedicated and committed to the education and care of these students and the country itself which is truly humbling and inspiring. It is a close community and I have been taken care of in so many ways by the teachers and staff, such as being invited for dinner, shown walks and bike rides, and vegetables and bread left at my door. I have been blessed as I settle into my new life here.

Recently I went to a remote village called Haubi. It was an amazing experience to drive up on roads which were unsealed (even though it is part of the Cape to Cairo journey and the main road to Arusha!) and we stayed in a small town called Kondoa. This is about an hour away from the Kolo cave paintings, a UNESCO world heritage site with hundreds of sites with paintings dating back tens of thousands of years. Incredible!"

(thanks to Jenny Haggitt)



Celia Haggitt

"Their Wedding Day was So Good they did it Twice"

First Lighter David Cameron's wedding(s) to Karen.



Outside old Inverlochy Castle on 12 May 2012

Like many Scots David Cameron left his hometown of Fort William to travel round Australia

He expected to find fun and adventure... but he didn't expect to find true love!

It was a glorious sunny day when he first clapped eyes on a dark-haired beauty.

They struck up a conversation and the silver-tongued Scot quickly had the Aussie lovely under his spell.

Her name was Karen Gear— and the pair hit it off immediately.

Love blossomed and it became clear to the lovebirds that they wanted to spend the rest of their lives together.

When David proposed, there was only one answer....

But the couple's excitement at planning their wedding soon turned to concern.

They really wanted all their friends and family to share their big day with them. The only problem was that Fort William and Bunbury, where Karen comes from, are 9000 miles apart!

There was no way everyone could be in the same place at the same time. Wherever it was, some relatives and friends from both sides would miss out on the special occasion.

David is an only child and his mum Florence always looked forward to the day her son would take a bride. He couldn't bear the thought of her missing out.

There was only one answer— two weddings!

The first tying of the knot was held overlooking the magnificent Indian Ocean which laps the shores of Australia's west coast, near Bunbury.

The second was in the slightly less exotic climes of Fort William, at Duncansburgh and MacIntosh Memorial Church, where David was christened and his parents, Florence and Alistair, were married.

Sadly, Alistair didn't live to see his boy marry, but in the end Florence didn't miss out on the wedding... in fact she went to both!

More than 120 guests packed the picturesque Fort William church as the couple walked up the aisle for the second time and another Cameron family milestone was marked in the church records.

And while some people have to deal with rain or wind when they marry, fortune shone on David and Karen, and so did the sun— they got glorious weather both days.

The couple plan to spend their time exploring the Far East as part of their honeymoon journey back to Australia.

All in all, the trip to Scotland and their winding way back Down Under will cover more than 28,000 miles.

It's amazing the lengths some folk will go to for a good party...

By Janet Doyle

Reprinted from an article in the 'Sunday Post' with thanks. Ed.

The Gathering in Ashburton

(by Ed: I apologise for any repetition but thought you would like to read three different views of a wonderful weekend)

By Rae Magson (Canterbury)-

Over the last few months the Clan Cameron Canterbury members have concentrated on organising the Annual Gathering in Ashburton late in April. We were delighted with how the plans fell into place, it all seemed to flow very well. The members arrived, attended the Annual General Meeting in the morning and then gathered for lunch. There appeared to be a happy atmosphere and people mixed well. In the afternoon members were able to visit the Plains Museum for a ride on the steam train, then go to the Airport Museum. If they had time left they were able to visit our man made lake, Lake Hood. In the evening the haggis ceremony, ably performed by Bryan Haggitt started the dinner. After the main course our guest from Timaru, Margaret Dockrill thrilled us with some Scottish stories. As well during the evening the raffle prizes were drawn, many people were fortunate enough to win prizes. The next morning a colourful Church service was held at St David's Union Church, the parishioners were very welcoming, even wearing tartan in honour of the occasion. We hope that the North Island members now know what our town of Ashburton has to offer. The local media were very cooperative and printed some excellent articles. We intend to have a committee meeting in July, so will probably start thinking about having another luncheon after that.

By Don Cameron (Auckland) -

The Clan Cameron of New Zealand staged their 47th annual gathering at Ashburton on April 27-29, seldom could everything have worked so splendidly.

The feel-good factor -- encouraged by the ample pre-meeting publicity going as far as to give the bus timetables from Christchurch airport to Ashburton -- was followed by a pleasant line of gifts in the visitors' hotel rooms.

The Hotel Ashburton was a revelation. Over the years visiting rugby teams and accompanying reporters used the hotel as a convenient base, with the rugby ground a few 100 metres away. Very convenient, but with a solid old country feel about it up to the modest standards of country hotels 30 or 40 years ago.

The Hotel Ashburton is now one of the finest well-equipped hotels you would find in any city or town in the country. The interior contains the remodelled look of the past, and the big gaunt car park is still there. But away from sight are the gardens and lawns that have been developed at the rear of the hotel which give it special appeal. And inside the various dining rooms gave splendid food, and the bar prices were agreeably set much lower than we sometimes find in hotels of higher reputation.

With these assets the organisers, led by Nick Cameron as president and Rae Magson handling the accommodation details, made sure that the clanspeople were well looked after.

Then after the executive and general meetings, signed off with a most delightful lunch, came what might be known as the special effects. Three trips were arranged -- a visit to Lake Hood, a ride on the train from Plains museum, and a tour of the airport museum.

Unfortunately I was so intrigued by the airport display and the train ride from the old Tinwald station a few miles south of Ashburton, that there was not enough time to visit Lake Hood.

Like many townships on the Christchurch-Timaru-Dunedin main highway, the smaller villages en route tend to be neglected. Tinwald deserved a stop, for it is the starting point of the old railway to the Mt Somers mines. The mines are dead, but not the train and the quaint village that has been built around the station at Tinwald. There is even a lovely little chapel amid the routine supply of station rooms and other facilities. The train of three or four carriages is pulled by an 1877 engine small of size but with a steam whistle of considerable power. The train ride covers maybe four to five kilometres and to mark



Photo: Jenny Leishman
The Clan Cameron Canterbury Committee - from left: Rex and Pat Tarbotton, John Atkinson, Rae Magson, Sharon Wallace, Nick Cameron, Ngairé Power, Brian Cameron, Rebecca and Bryan Haggitt

the occasion the organiser Michael Ross, 40 years on the job, gave us a free second ride.

The aircraft museum is a kilometre or two to the east of Ashburton, based on two huge hangars which contained all manner of aircraft, even one of the RNZAF Skyhawks

A gracious old DC3 took off while we were there, and while club members steadied a parked small plane that might have been whisked away by the Dakota's prop draught.

Several club members were present, all amiable folk and quick with a cup of rousing coffee.

Then back to the hotel for a very fine dinner, Bryan Haggitt jnr rattling the rafters with his toast to the haggis ,

The next morning came the church service, and the guests delighted by the dancing of some young lasses.

Auckland will have to work hard next year to match this with the next Clan Cameron AGM.

By Denis Cameron (Bay of Plenty) - (abridged -ed)

On the Friday night we had the Executive Council meeting in the Erewhon Gallery Room, Hotel Ashburton. This was a very successful meeting and delegates were able to make their points well. It was interesting to listen to their thoughts and hopes for the future of the Clan Cameron -- New Zealand. All were trying to make our Clan more prominent and a successful association for all the Clan members.

Saturday morning we arrived to a welcome morning tea and registrations in the Clearwater Room followed by the Annual General Meeting which had approximately 48 members present. The meeting went smoothly and Fraser Cameron was returned to the Presidency. We have one new Executive member who was voted in as our new Secretary and she is Tanya Cameron of Whakatane. We welcome Tanya to the Clan Cameron Executive Council.

A delicious lunch followed in the Pool Side Restaurant and there was a lot of chatter as members renewed their friendships.

The Canterbury Branch arranged a variety of trips around the sites of Ashburton. One was to The Plains Vintage & Historical Museum, situated in the picturesque Tinwald Domain an ideal family picnic location. The museum is home to a vintage railway, featuring 3 operational steam locomotives and a vintage railcar, as well as a vast array of vintage machinery displays and recreated pioneer village. We were able to take a ride in renovated New Zealand rail carriages pulled by a rather ancient steam locomotive [K88] dated 1877, that had been procured from the USA with its rather over-sized funnel. Another stationary locomotives was a 1952 Ja1260, a massive engine which was on the run from Christchurch to Dunedin daily and could be seen and heard by Denis and his brothers John and Brian from their home at Dundas. The Plains Museum was founded in 1971 and began carrying passengers in 1973 on 2.5km of the former Mt Somers Branch line.

A number of members travelled to the Ashburton Aviation Museum, situated at the Ashburton Airport. We were amazed with the array of aircraft held in the museum which included a Skyhawk A4K; a

Harrier GR3 Jet; Gloster Meteor; Harvard; Tiger Moth; a Devon; 2 Vampires; an Airtruk; a Canberra B2 Bomber Cockpit along with a Hunter T7 Cockpit and much more. It was very worthwhile and we came away well satisfied.

Others made their way to Lake Hood, which is located only 6 km from Ashburton. In excess of 80 hectares in area, 2,300 metres in length and over 1 kilometre wide – the lake comprising an 8 lane international rowing course, a separate water skiing course, as well as a separate jet skiing area, plus sailing and kayaking. They have also developed a quality residential subdivision at Lake Hood, named Huntingdon Park

Sunday morning we assembled outside the St David's Union Church, and Clan members paraded into the Church at the beginning of the service. We were led into the Church by Piper Nick Cameron. The

Minister, Rachael Judge had given a lot of thought and had asked the parishioners to wear tartan or something Scottish. Fraser Cameron, Rae Magson, Nick and Denis Cameron read the lessons during the service. After the Service there was morning tea and Denis met up with 4 of his fellow students from the Ashburton High School – an unexpected reunion which was much appreciated.

Our sincere thanks to Rae Magson, Pat Tarbotton, Nick Cameron; and all the Canterbury Committee members for a job well done. The whole weekend was well organised and the hospitality thoroughly enjoyed. Ashburton has changed a lot since I was a young lad.

(I'm sure we all endorse Denis's comments -

Well Done Canterbury - Ed)

Brian Cameron receives award

With kind permission from the editor of "Irrigation NZ"

Retired Ashburton farmer, author and inaugural irrigation association chairman Brian Cameron knows full well the trials and tribulations of irrigation development having spent more than four decades working tirelessly to transform the arid Mid Canterbury plains into the diverse food bowl of agriculture it is today.

Cameron's leadership, passion, drive and determination to tackle the challenges in securing water for irrigation has not gone unnoticed. IrrigationNZ honoured him with the organisation's Ron Cocks Memorial Award for outstanding leadership in irrigation as part of the IrrigationNZ 2012 conference.

"I am honoured and delighted to receive the award, yet very humbled. I believe that it's an award for all irrigation pioneers of the time," he said.

He remains modest about his achievements, but acknowledged he gained much satisfaction from his time and effort pioneering irrigation.

"It was a long hard 40-year slog. We took one step forward and two backwards. There was a tremendous amount of work going on behind the scenes."

Perhaps his greatest highlights were striking water on the farm at Pendarves despite hydrology experts strongly advising against the idea, and receiving the water-right for the Barrhill Chertsey Scheme virtually unopposed by employing techniques (meetings, consultation and mediation) used with success by ECNZ to gain renewal for its use of the Lake Coleridge Power Station.

Initially community water management schemes were instigated by central government and largely treated as engineering projects with little or no recognition, or understanding of the on-farm requirements associated with irrigation.

Cameron farmed through such times. An expert dryland farmer he had the vision that with water he could do much more. And he did, when in 1968 water turned his Pendarves farm into an oasis.

In 1968 the risks of not getting water were high, but the budgets were robust so Cameron forged ahead. That 150mm diameter six-inch bore was the start of Canterbury's dramatic transformation, and put Cameron in the history books as the first person in Canterbury to sink a deep bore.

For Cameron, the eventual sound of irrigation sprinklers clicking away and the sight of water disappearing into the parched ground remain vivid.

As do the days he spent pioneering the New Zealand Irrigation Association (NZIA). "It certainly took up time. My family can tell you that."

Cameron said a small group of passionate people, including close friend, Bob Engelbrecht, had a vision of the potential of

irrigation in Canterbury. They prepared a constitution for a national organisation and organised a two day conference in Ashburton in 1978.

"The conference was highly successful and adopted the suggested constitution. A committee was elected. Some of the key members were Government employees or had very busy jobs and declined the chairman's job. Almost by default I became chairman."

Cameron left the conference not so sure he was excited to be the inaugural chairman of the NZIA. "All of sudden we had something



Brian with President Fraser at the Cameron Gathering dinner

new, we had nothing to go by, we had a new organisation that needed drive and direction. There was a lot of soul searching."

Right from the beginning the NZIA's aim was not just to benefit Canterbury, but all of New Zealand. Interest was quickly forthcoming from Hawkes Bay and Otago.

"The mission was simple – to promote irrigation to farmers and lobby politicians." The early stages went well with conferences held biennially taking the association to Oamaru, Rangiora, Kerikeri and Alexandra until the rocky road set farmers back under "Rogernomics" in the late 1980's.

"A lot of farmers borrowed a lot of money to put in irrigation. Farmers were set back and that set back irrigation development for quite a few years and despite desperate attempts the association was forced into recess."

One of the biggest challenges of the early days was securing financial membership. "A lot of people saw the good in what we were doing but it was hard to commit them financially. There was a tremendous amount of voluntary work went on."

But Cameron has no regrets as he recalls the association's revitalisation in 1993, and progress to the launch of Irrigation New Zealand in 2004.

"The general direction hasn't changed, but everything has moved up a peg or two. The organisation now is far more professional and more financial, and that had to happen for irrigation development to progress for the benefit of all of New Zealand. That was the simple goal right from our start," Cameron said.

In 2009 he released "Liquid Gold" a history of irrigation in Mid Canterbury, which chronicles the value to the district and the challenges faced by those whose vision it was that one day water would turn Mid Canterbury into the agricultural powerhouse it is today.



Aonaibh ri Cheile The Back Page



Images from the Gathering in Ashburton



Photo: Editor

Reception Committee: John Atkinson, Rae Magson, Pat Tarbotton, Ngaire Power, Rex Tarbotton



Photo: Editor

Bryan Haggitt gives a spirited 'address to the haggis'. Bryan made the haggis himself, with sheep paunch and ingredients supplied by Sharon Wallace below.



Photo: Editor

3 generations: From right; Jean Barker, Treasurer Alison Jordan, and new Canterbury member Anthony Jordan



Photo: Editor

Jim Leishman and Jenny Leishman



Photo: Editor

Rebecca Haggitt and Sharon Wallace



Photo: Editor

Harry and Mary Lampen-Smith with daughter Catherine



Photo: Editor

Ruth Cameron and Garry Clarke



Photos: Jenny Leishman

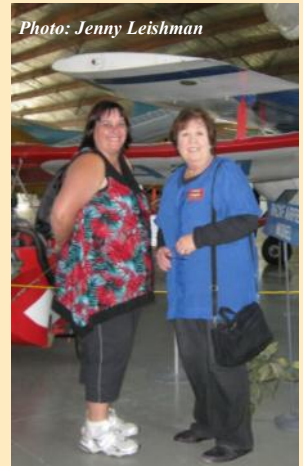
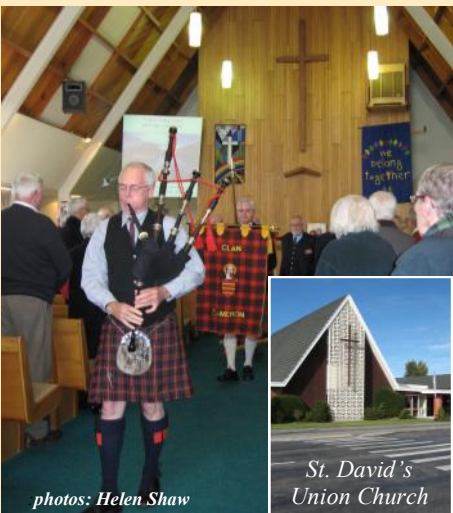


Photo: Jenny Leishman

Tanya Cameron and Jenny Haggitt

At the Tinwald Railway Museum.



photos: Helen Shaw

St. David's Union Church

Nick Cameron pipes the Camerons into church



Photo: Editor

above: Ngaire Power and Joy Cameron
below: Don Cameron and Denis Cameron



Photo: Editor



Photo: Jenny Leishman

Angus, Joe and Louis Wallace, sons of Sharon and John Wallace, in a railway carriage at the Tinwald Museum