



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

*Vol 47 No 1
February
2013*

Loch Eil and Ben Nevis, as seen from alongside the West Highland Line.

Photo: Bill Cameron (Lochaber)

and on the other side of the World.....

*First Lighter David Cameron
and his New Zealand wife Karen
on holiday near Queenstown N Z*



A message from our President



To all Clan members

We have now entered the New Year and the world's atmosphere has changed our thoughts for the holiday season activities. The northern hemisphere has experienced floods and heavy snow conditions, while in the southern area we have hot, dry fire conditions. Then, just for a change, we had tornadoes with heavy rain and flooding just to show a difference.

I must apologise for not attending the Highland Games at Turakina this year, but have been made aware that 2014 will be the Games 150th anniversary year. This will be a big event for Camerons one and all. This could also be a good opportunity for our Scots to visit down under before we re-visit them later in the year.

The next matter of interest is the task taken on by Trish and Mike Topham to complete the Vivienne McConnell Memorial project with a banner which we will approve shortly. I would also like to see a reprint of Vivienne's song book as used for the 1989 gathering in Scotland given some consideration for attention.

The New Year has brought its moments for me, but it has been enjoyable having all the family visit for Christmas. We enjoyed getting the old 9.5 mm projector out to scan the memories of time, also videos of the various Christmas days of years gone by when we were all a little younger. This has also caused me to consider

going over the many Clan Cameron AGM records I have - it could be that some of the past president's messages need consideration or attention.

I now have to hand the official copy of the amended constitution as registered. This brings to mind the new details for First Light applicants. We need Scotland to attend to this First Light matter urgently, so that the gap can be filled as soon as possible.

We must once again thank our editor for a very good newsletter. We all appreciate reading it and we know overseas readers enjoy it.

Will see you all at the Paeroa Games in February, and then Hawke's Bay at the end of March.

Fraser

By Editor:

2013 AGM & Gathering - Visit to the Naval Base.

We have arranged a church service in the historic Naval Chapel at 10am on 21 April for members attending the Gathering, followed by a walk around the Naval Base, and then a visit to the Navy Museum for lunch. To enable liaison with the Navy, I would be grateful if you would give me early notice, separate to the registration, if you might wish to participate. This is not a firm commitment but will give me an idea of numbers. A quick e-mail would be fine.

"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 April issue:

15 March 2013

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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:



Wellington / Wairarapa Branch

Gordon and Chery Cameron

Porirua

Manawatu Branch

David Moore

Otaki

Auckland Branch

William Alexander Clark

Pakuranga

Ceud Mile Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes

Coming Events

Saturday 9 February 2013

Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo

Paeroa Domain from 9am. Join us for the Clans March to the town centre at 11am. Cameron tent will be there. Tattoo at 6.30pm.

Details: www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

Sunday 24 February 2013

Manawatu Branch AGM

1pm at Sonia Cameron's home, Hunterville.

Enquiries to John Cameron. 06 358 0417

Friday 1 March 2013

Auckland Branch AGM and Barbecue.

Parnell Cricket Club, Shore Road, Remuera. 6.30pm.

Clan will supply the meats. Please bring a salad or a sweet and contact Jenny Haggitt if you are coming, saying which you will bring.

Ph. 5245254. Email : bcecho@xtra.co.nz

Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 March 2013

The 63rd Hawke's Bay Easter Highland Games

Lindisfarne College, Pakowai Rd, Hastings. Come and soak up the Scottish atmosphere at this annual event.

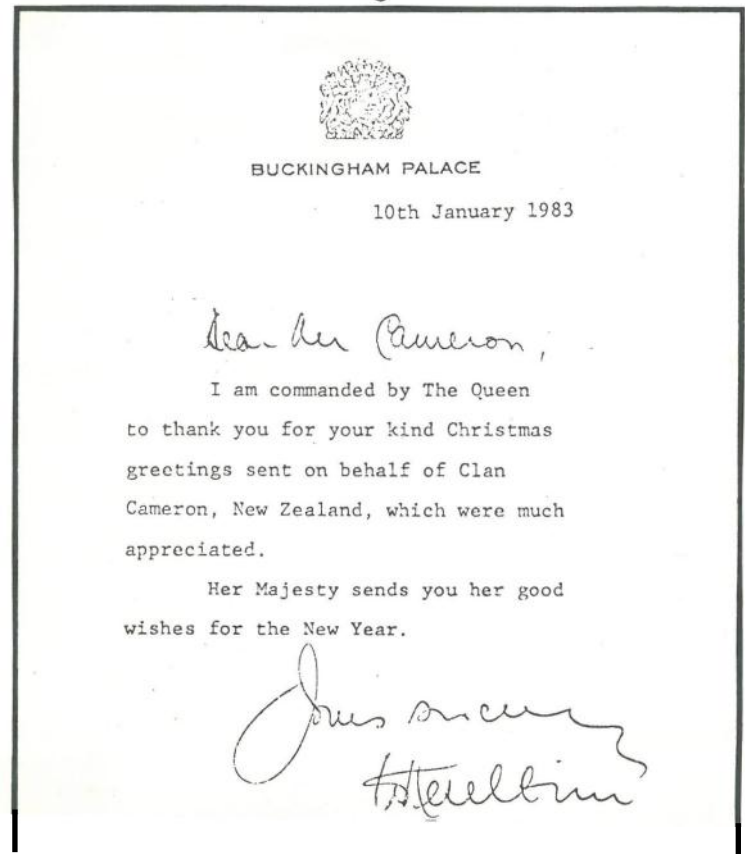
You will be sure of a great welcome in the Cameron tent.

Enquiries to Mike Topham 06 879 8215

Friday 19 - Sunday 21 April 2013

Clan Cameron NZ AGM and Gathering

Auckland. See separate registration form enclosed.



History Corner by Fiona Cameron

Found in the Clan archives

The year was 1982. Robert Muldoon was Prime Minister. The Warehouse opened its first store in Takapuna, *Country Calendar* won the award for Best Information Programme at the Feltex Television Awards. The All Whites reached the Football World Cup Finals in Barcelona, but lost all three games. And Clan Cameron New Zealand sent a Christmas card to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

I found a copy of this splendid thank you letter in the Clan history archives. While not signed personally by the Queen, it was sent at her 'command'. (see above right)

Can you help (1) ?

I would like to make contact with Kristina Cameron who had undertaken quite a bit of research on a number of Cameron families and then a bit on the Paterson family (my interest) from Dundee. This was all done a number of years ago 2006. She mentioned my direct ancestors in one of her forum requests and I have since tried to make contact with her through her email candoit@xtra.co.nz but this address is no longer operative.

The only information I have is Kristina Cameron is or was from

the Auckland area, born in 1964, and is a 1st generation New Zealander - and she may have two children - she mentions her father John Cameron and he was from a family of eight. There is a possibility she is no longer living in New Zealand as at one stage she mentioned being in Dundee.

Contact : Phil Patterson (Masterton) <biggles@infofenet.net.nz>

Can you help (2) ?

We are trying to track down a John and Anne Cameron who went to NZ in the 70s from London, where we knew them. John is an Architect and he is English/Scottish (bit like me!). Annie is a New Zealander. We have lost touch with them and as we are going to visit NZ in March/April, we were hoping that we might be able to track them down and get to see them when we are out there. Coming across your website, when I was doing a google search, made me wonder whether the Clan Cameron Association might be able to put us in touch again.

Any assistance you can render here would be much appreciated

Colin MacRae <colinmacrae@btinternet.com>

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From the Branches....

Gisborne by Mike Topham

Vivienne May McConnell

6 March 1928 - 16 January 2008

Gisborne Branch strongly supports the introduction of the Vivienne McConnell Memorial Banner. Without doubt, Vivienne was this Branch's most influential and dedicated member.

Born at Te Araroa, East Cape, Vivienne was the third of nine children born to Thomas Hovell and Eva Rose Trafford. Her maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Trafford 1862 – 1937 was the youngest daughter of Donald Gabriel McPherson Cameron, 1818-1883 who emigrated to New Zealand in 1859, settling first in Southland then moving to Poverty Bay in 1879. Donald was the eldest son of John Cameron of Corriechoillie, 1781 -1856, who in his time was reputed to be the largest dealer/owner of livestock in Scotland.

Vivienne was fiercely proud of her Cameron heritage and could trace her family line back fourteen generations to Duncan of Letterfinlay and Mucomir, who was mentioned in Scottish records in 1513 and 1533.

Vivienne, together with her Corriechoillie cousins, Marion Lewes, Edgar White, Alec, John and Fraser Cameron were the



driving force behind the establishment of the Gisborne Branch of Clan Cameron in 1987. The previous year the group hosted Sir Donald and Lady Margaret Cameron of Lochiel, the 26th Chief of Clan Cameron, during their New Zealand visit. For

22 years from 1986 to 2008, Vivienne, was on our Branch's Committee, filling such portfolios as: Branch President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Convenor, Historian and Delegate to the National Executive. There were several times during those years when the branch might have gone into recess, but Vivienne's enthusiasm, drive and strong leadership kept the branch active.

Vivienne was educated at Te Araroa and trained for Nursing at Cook Hospital, Gisborne. Her nursing career included appointments at Whangarei, Te Puia, Hastings, Auckland, Samoa, Fiji and Brisbane.

At Te Araroa on 11th January 1958, Vivienne married Robert Neil McConnell of Fairlie, South Canterbury. They resided in Auckland before returning to Te Araroa in 1960 where Bob taught until retiring as Principal of Te Waha o Rerekohu area school in 1985. Bob has been a J.P. since 1967 and was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in the year 2000 for his contribution to the community.

The proud parents of Jean, Peggy, Andrew, and six grandchildren, Bob and Vivienne, through their interest in genealogy, have been involved in historical research and writing. Among those works published are:-

1980 "Olive Branches"

An account of Vivienne's Spanish ancestor Manual Jose' – a whaler who became a prominent trader on the East Coast in the 1830's.

1986 "Trafford's"

A genealogy and history of the Trafford's from 17th Century Lincolnshire who settled on the East Coast of New Zealand. This

history includes the family of Vivienne's grandparents, Elizabeth Cameron and Arthur Trafford.

1993 "Te Araroa" – A history of the East Coast community.

1996 "The History of the Hinerupe Marae."

1999 "He Taonga Tuku Iho" – Ngati Porou stories from the East Coast

2011 "Out of the Ashes" – The Hinerupe Story.

Hawke's Bay by Trish Topham

On Friday 14th December, several of our members gathered at The Clansman Motor Lodge for nibbles, drinks and chatter prior to Christmas.

Once again our hosts Leigh and Maree treated us like royalty and a happy time was spent by all. Leigh and Maree lead such busy lives that we cannot thank them enough for their hospitality. For us the bonus is that they can share the time with us. It is always good to be in their company. We must also thank them for the most delicious Christmas fruit mince tarts and brandy snaps!

Hamish and Joan were looking forward to their visit to Australia and spending time with their son and his wife - not to mention their very special only grandchild. The brag book will be bulging with photos on their return I'm sure...

Helen was unable to join us due to being unwell, but we are pleased to report she was able to join in Christmas celebrations with members of her family in Christchurch.

We wish Robyn and Pat Vuleta the very best on their relocation to Sri Lanka and to thank them for their membership of Hawke's Bay Branch. They have been valued members and we have enjoyed Robyn's expertise as a piper and their company very much.

We all hope that 2013 brings good health to all our Clan Cameron friends and members and that we manage to "snare" some new members along the way!

Auckland by D J Cameron

Waipu Games

One of the legendary heroes of the heavyweight events of the annual Waipu Highland Games has made up his mind that he will not be in action next New Years Day --- but he will join the thousands who make the pilgrimage to one of the star attractions in the New Zealand summer.

Patrick Hellier is in his late 30's, he has won the all-round heavyweight title for 18 years. He was world champion in 2009 and now he feels "it is time to stop thrashing my body about." The talk is that a young Aucklander, Jono MacFarlane may be the next Hellier.

Scottish heavyweight sport is another name for putting the body through all manner of bone-bending activities. These include throwing a hefty stone as far as possible, tossing a sheaf over a lofty crossbar, swinging around a heavy weight attached to a handle and seeing how far it can be hurled.

Perhaps the most notable is the tossing the caber, when a long, heavy post about 18 feet long is hoisted from hands joined about belt-level and, after a short sprint, the monster is propelled in a special end-over-end way. Distance is immaterial, the thrower lets the top of the sway forward and then he gives the bottom a huge heave. The caber must complete a circle that has the pole as near as possible straight in front of the tosser.

Some caber-tossers are giants, but Hellier, slightly under two metres and a little over 110kg has a special spring to his tossing action that gives him the winning toss more often than not.

New Years Day produced splendid weather and a crowd of about 5500 watching all the action on the expansive Waipu Domain.

The clans have their avenue near the entry gate, and interested spectators can wander over the big park, with Highland dancing in one corner, drumming and piping in other spots and youngsters having their races on the running track in mid-field. The heavyweights operate in midfield, and you expect that throwing big stones and junior lamp-posts around would do a lot of damage to the turf.

Not while Malcolm Sandford is busily at work as the groundsman and caretaker of the expansive fair-ground! The Caledonian Society emphasised the work and fine appearance of the domain by awarding the Assynt Quaich to Malcolm.

A quaich is a traditional Scottish drinking vessel, usually of fine silver and the size of a pudding plate. It sounds like something modest, but Scots are sparing when making awards and a presentation quaich ranks up there with Oscars.

Fine planning by Neil Cameron, life member and former national and Auckland president has resulted in Clan Cameron



Claris Cameron and Hazel Cameron at the Wellington / Wairarapa Christmas function. Photo: Rob Cameron

Manawatu

by John Cameron

A small report as we have had only one event since the Christmas newsletter - our Square Day fundraising day. We had a bit of publicity in our local newspaper, reported and written by Yvette Morrissey, a little about Jenny Mair Square Day and Clan Cameron Manawatu's 25 years participation, selling roast spuds in the early days and then BBQ sausages and haggis sandwiches. We had a really successful day, selling all of the sausages and most of our haggis.

We also had a christmas cake to raffle, cooked and decorated by Bev Morrissey, for which we sold all the tickets. Roz and Ewen Grant had picked and bagged lemons which also sold out. Yes, a very successful event with a profit of over \$700.00. It was a really nice day helped by a good crowd throughout the day. I believe it was the publicity written by Yvette in the paper that may have helped

Thanks to all our clan who contributed haggis, their time etc. to a successful day

We presented our 25 year novice tenor drumming cup to George Smith playing in the Scots Collage pipe band

A reminder to our members: The AGM will be held at Sonia Cameron's home, Hunterville on 24th February at 1pm.



The cup presented to the winner of the Novice Tenor Drummer class to commemorate 25 years of Clan Cameron Manawatu

Canterbury

by Rae Magson

Several members had a pleasant Sunday afternoon at the home of Colin and Isabel Cameron in Ashburton just before the New Year. The purpose was to meet their daughter, Shona, who lives in Scotland now, but was home visiting her parents in Ashburton and grandmother in Auckland. Shona was a First Lighter a few years ago, so had lots to tell us of her experiences since then, and of the many countries she has visited and the jobs she has had. Shona is considering coming back to New Zealand to live, she would be an asset to this country. The day was warm, lots of conversation in Colin and Isabel's beautiful home, then we had afternoon tea. All very friendly and we hope to see more of Shona in the future.



Don Cameron, John Cameron, Matthew McQueen, Neil Cameron, Glenis Cameron and Val Cameron at Waipu

having a fine and large tent, as well as a trailer for transport. Inside the tent has two areas -- the first and larger containing yards of Material and maps plus jigsaws and cards for sale and membership brochures. The smaller section contains seats for clan members who are not required for dealing with public inquiries in the large section.

The back of the smaller section can be removed, and when Waipu cooked up a really hot day the off-duty people could relax in the smaller area which had a cool breeze drifting through.

A pity, then, that only five clan members attended --- the Waipu Games are the biggest and best in New Zealand, and deserve more Clan Cameron patronage.

Wellington/Wairarapa

by Rob Cameron

On Saturday 8th December 2012 Clan Cameron Wellington/Wairarapa held their annual Christmas function at the home of Sonja Cameron, Heretaunga, Upper Hutt.

We had a get together followed by lunch and time to socialise. The gathering was attended by our stalwart members and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The usual tall and interesting stories were told by unnamed members before we thanked Sonja for the use of her home, and dispersed to the various areas our branch covers.

Plans are afoot for next years activities and members will be informed of these as soon as we can confirm venues, dates etc.

Clan Cameron Wellington/Wairarapa wishes all other members from around the country a prosperous New Year and we look forward to meeting you at a function somewhere during the year.

What our First Lighters are doing

David Cameron (Lochaber) 2003

Shona Cameron (Auckland) 2001

Shona Cameron was the first New Zealander to take part in the First Light Exchange Programme, spending three months living in and working in Fort William in 2001. Following her exchange she was offered a post reporting for a news agency in Edinburgh and she returned to Scotland in January 2002. She has been living in Edinburgh since then, and has been fortunate to see her career progress during that time.

She spent a year working on contract in the press office with Lothian and Borders Police following her post with the news agency, which saw her managing the media relations for some high profile criminal cases and police initiatives. She then spent five years working in Corporate Communications with the City of Edinburgh Council. Within this job she was involved in managing the public and media relations on huge range of projects and initiatives. Highlights including Edinburgh's Christmas and Hogmanay celebrations - including a cancellation of the Hogmanay event at the 11th hour in 2007; G8 events and protests in the city in 2005; and many major cultural and sporting events in Edinburgh. She went on to take a short term contact within the



A recent Photo of Shona

Scottish Parliament in 2009 to

develop communication strategies to promote the business and committee work of the Parliament. Currently she is leading the communications team at NHS Borders, dealing with all internal and external communications to promote the business and services of the health board.

Living in Edinburgh has allowed her to enjoy the opportunities that this historic European capital city offers with its many festivals and events; and stunning architecture and scenery. In her spare time she continues to enjoy sport and is also a qualified fitness instructor, taking aerobics classes in a local gym.

Being in Edinburgh has also allowed her to explore much of Scotland as well as maintain the links she made with Cameron's during her exchange. She has also had the opportunity to travel extensively through the rest of the UK, Europe, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

She was recently in NZ for Christmas and New Year with her family and enjoyed meeting up with members of Clan Cameron in Ashburton, where her parents are now living. Finally feeling that she's ready to come back to New Zealand, Shona is planning to move back to New Zealand later this year.



Shona meets Lochiel in 2001

With a background in Leisure management, David worked with an International leisure group whilst in New Zealand. During his exchange David travelled extensively throughout New Zealand enjoying many extreme outdoor pursuits on the way.

Today from Bunbury WA. Life has been very busy recently as in March I got married in Bunbury to my beautiful Kiwi bride Karen Gear who is originally from Invercargill. We celebrated our wedding in front of 60 guests including my mum Florence who came over from Fort William. One of our friends Rob piped Karen down the aisle which the guests loved & my best men all wore the traditional Scottish kilt which they loved. We then went on a month long honeymoon travelling on a round the World ticket and repeating the Wedding back in Scotland to 130 guests. We travelled to Hawaii, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Toronto, New York over to Scotland and second wedding in Fort William where we had a traditional Scottish wedding with almost all the guests wearing the kilt, again Karen was piped in and out of the church and then onto the hotel that I used to work in a long time ago - the Ben Nevis Hotel. After that a traditional ceilidh then home to Australia via Kuala Lumpur, I hasten to say we were needing a holiday when we came back.



David samples NZ ice cream in 2003

Karen & I are still living in Bunbury WA where we have been for the past 5 years. Karen works for a mining company doing safety and I have been working for Bartercard trading organisation for the past 4 years dealing with 125 local businesses. Bunbury is a nice little city with a population of around 60,000 and generally has a good climate which is one of the draw cards and why I came to live in Australia. However, we may be looking to move soon, because of Karen's work, to Queensland - however nothing has been decided yet.

For our Christmas Karen & I have just been back to New Zealand where we went to visit Karen's family who live on Stewart island at the very bottom of the South Island, where we stayed for 9 days, it was fantastic and then had 3 days at Queenstown doing all the fun activities - even having champagne on Cecil Peak (see front page), then our last 2 in Invercargill catching up with more of Karen's family.

I wish you all a very happy 2013. - David



The first four First Lighters - Bill, David, Shona and Astie

The Cameron Mausoleum

By Bill Cameron (Lochaber)

When we think of mausoleums or tombs, we might consider India's Taj Mahal or the pyramids of ancient Egypt. Such well known architectural masterpieces stand out as exclusive memorials to the celebrated deceased interred within them.



The Cameron Mausoleum

Although built on a much smaller scale than other well known mausoleums, the Cameron mausoleum stands almost hidden from view amidst the ever encroaching trees that surround it.

Located on an elevated knoll high above Loch Leven, a couple of miles west of Callart House, the building commands some of the finest views in west Lochaber as you look out over Loch Leven to Ballachulish and Glencoe.

Down on the loch below lies a much earlier Cameron resting place in the form of Eilean Munda

- St. Munda's Island. A burial isle where previous generations of Camerons and MacDonalDs lie buried at either end of the island.

The Gothic style Cameron mausoleum is about the size of a small church and contains the remains of the Camerons of Callart. Built from generously sized grey ashlar blocks, it stands as a solid rectangular building with a steep pitched fish scale patterned roof

made from Ballachulish slate and projecting buttresses from each of its four corners.

The building is believed to have been designed by the Highland architect Alexander Ross, a prominent architect working in the 19th century across the Highlands and Islands. Ross was responsible for many church buildings in Lochaber, as well as the celtic style memorial cross to the 24th Cameron of Lochiel at Achnacarry.

The entrance way to the mausoleum is guarded by a highly



Gothic entrance to mausoleum

decorated wrought iron gate and surrounded by ornate sandstone detailing. Above the doorway, an empty circular window frame now allows the elements to enter freely, where once a stained glass window would have stood. The interior walls are dressed in sandstone and are deceptively clean for its age. Three long adjoining coloured stained glass windows to the rear of the building allow coloured shafts of light in, the middle window of which is now missing.

The floor of the building is made up of black and white tiles with the inscribed tomb in the centre.

The surface is now covered with leaves and years of weathered sandstone grains piled up around the edges.

Perhaps the saddest sight looking in through the gates of the building is the fallen plaster cast soldier lying in bits on the floor. The other one of which remains fixed to the wall - both once made up the the family coat of arms.

Located only a few miles away from Callart House, the mausoleum contains the remains of

the Camerons of Fassifern and Callart, along with a number of celtic cross headstones outwith the mausoleum to the Cameron Fairfax Lucy family. The new Callart house is now under new ownership. (See The Clan Cameron New Zealand newsletter of October 2009 with the interesting article by Brian Haggitt on Callart House.)

There are a number of well known local and published stories associated with Callart House. The most notable relates to the plague that saw the old Callart house being intentionally burnt to the ground.

The Cameron mausoleum offers a unique architectural insight as to how the Camerons of Callart, (the oldest cadet family within the clan Cameron) intended to be commemorated in the afterlife. As a B listed building, the Cameron mausoleum stands out as an important part of our collective history and clan culture of yesteryear.



Interior of mausoleum



Part of the Cameron coat of arms

What Goes Around

sent in by Denis Cameron

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby swamp. He dropped his tools and ran to the swamp.

There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed gentleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

"I want to repay you," said the nobleman. "You saved my son's life". "No I can't accept payment for what I did" the Scottish farmer replied, waving off the offer.

At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. "Is that your son?" the nobleman asked. "Yes" the farmer replied proudly.

"I'll make you a deal. Let me take him and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to be a man you can be proud of."

And that he did.

In time Farmer Fleming's son graduated from St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become well known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discover of Penicillin.

Years afterwards, the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia.

What saved him? - Penicillin!

The name of the nobleman? - Lord Randolph Churchill.

His son's name? - Sir Winston Churchill.



Aonaibh ri Cheile The Back Page



An aerial view of the Turakina Highland Games - Photo: Neville Wallace



Photo: Shona Cameron

Meeting First Lighter Shona in Ashburton. From left: Nick Cameron, Rae Magson, Isabel Cameron, Brian Cameron, Bev Cameron, Norma Cameron, Shona Cameron, Pat Tarbotton, Sharon Wallace, Rex Tarbotton and Colin Cameron



The team at Waipu: Ruth, Valmar, Don and Neil.



Neil hoists the Clan flag at Waipu



Photo: John Annabell

Jessie Annabell and John Cameron look pleased with a good day's effort at the Palmerston North Square Day



Warren, Graeme and Sonja at the W/W Christmas function



"Where did you get that hat!" Norman Cameron at the Auckland Games.



A good turn out at the Turakina Highland Games. - "A very successful day" Quote and photo by Neville Wallace



All Waipu Photos: Duncan McQueen



John Cameron, John Annabell, Jessie Annabell, Val Grant, Shona Wallace in the Cameron tent at Turakina. Photo: Neville Wallace



Photo: John Annabell

The Canterbury Caledonian Pipe Band at Square Day



Don presents the Cameron Cup for C grade Drumming to Matthew Parkinson at Waipu



Ken and Marilyn Cameron enjoy the Wellington/Wairarapa Christmas function.

Photos: Rob Cameron