

First snow on Ben Nevis

Photo: Bill Cameron

Merry Christmas



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

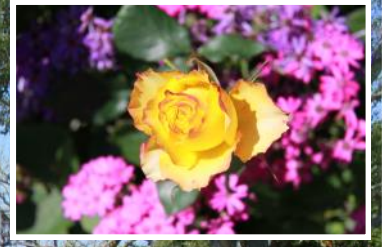
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Autumn colours in the Lochiel Vineyard, Mangawhai, NZ

Photo: Gary Cameron

Taranaki Fringe Garden Festival



Pictures are from the garden of Clan Cameron members Clive and Joan Robinson (shown with Shona Wallace), one of 50 on display Photos: Neville Wallace



"Cameron"

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(This has links to other Clan Cameron sites)

A message from our President.....

Dear Clan members and friends,

Neil is again requesting attention to the December newsletter, which will bring the year to a close. Family activities will take precedence during the days of December.

Elaine and I attended the Annual Meeting of the Gisborne branch following our visit to Manawatu in September. It was my pleasure to add my membership to the Gisborne branch. The branch, while not as active as it should be, is maintaining membership support. It would be a pleasure to see some activity, but numbers limit this. We enjoyed the lunch. The branch committee remains the same for another year.

The summer weather is starting to be felt in most areas of the country - with promises of some extra hot weather to come. Our present consideration, in early November, must ask us all to think about the devastation to many overseas areas following typhoons and earthquakes. Shelter is a very necessary item - plus fresh water and food.

Now to Clan matters. It was a pleasure to be hosted by the Manawatu branch for our council meeting and luncheon - but I must express disappointment that Wellington/Wairarapa members were not able to be present. On my part, it was not a well controlled meeting, but we did enjoy the resulting discussion from the website report of Warren Cameron and progress report from secretary Tanya, as well as the possible costs involved. The decisions have been left in their care for now.

The other important matter was the full discussion and reports from Warren Cameron and Bryan Haggitt with regard to the First Light Programme following their visits to Scotland. This resulted in the formation of a sub committee, consisting of Warren, Bryan and Russell Cameron of Manawatu, to deal with the future of the scheme. A report has been received since this meeting from Scotland President Duncan Cameron, which outlined the wish to get the scheme underway covering all of Scotland and making an appointment to liaise with New Zealand to solve any problems. With regard to this, it was a pity that Yvette Morrissey's report outlining the problems experienced on her intended visit to Scotland, had not been received. This showed details of her immigration problems and treatment received. This has now been received and is printed in this magazine.

The meeting also confirmed unanimously that future mid-year council meetings will be held in Turangi.

Now to close the year with thanks to one and all for your support, and thanks to Neil for our wonderful newsletter. I will wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year but take care wherever you may be. Remember the Waipu and Turakina Games - big days in the New Year and support if at all possible.

Regards to all from Fraser and Elaine for the festive season.



Coming Events: Dec-Jan

Friday 6th December 2014

Auckland Branch Christmas Barbecue

7pm. At the home of Bryan and Jenny Haggitt, 96A Lucerne Road Remuera.

Please let Jenny know if you are coming, and provide a sweet or a salad plus beverage of your choice. Meat provided. No charge.
Jenny: 09 524 5254 bchecho@xtra.co.nz

Friday 13 December 2013

Hawkes Bay Branch Christmas Get-together

The Clansman Motor Lodge, 907 Railway Road, Hastings. Commencing 6p.m
Members are asked to provide a small plate of nibbles.

Saturday 14th December 2013

Palmerston North Square Day

Help wanted. This is our main annual fundraiser. We sell sausages and our famous haggis sandwiches. We need some help, especially with setting up first thing in the morning, manning the tent and barbecue, selling raffle tickets, talking to people and just being sociable. If you can spare an hour or two please ring Jessie 06 355 2705 or email: jannabell@xtra.co.nz

Wednesday 1 January 2014

Waipu Highland Games

Events open with the formal Clan March at 9.30am. Come and visit the Cameron tent and give us your support.

Info: www.waipugames.co.nz

Saturday 25 January 2014

150th Turakina Highland Games.

The Games will be held on the Turakina Domain, Cameron Road, Turakina. These games are the longest running annual highland games in New Zealand. To mark this special occasion the games weekend will begin on Friday afternoon with a ceremony "Pipes of Remembrance" at the Turakina Cemetery. The New Zealand Solo Piping Championship will be held at this year's games. The games will conclude with a Church Service at the Marquee on the grounds on the Sunday.

Three lots of Camerons were among early settler families and played a large part in the early history of Turakina. Our clan tent will be at the Games as usual with space to sit and talk. This year we are hoping for an especially good turnout for the honour of the clan.

Info: www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Bay of Plenty Branch
Blair and Lee Gardiner

Welcome Bay

Canterbury Branch
Gordon Cameron

Ashburton

Auckland Branch
Heather Cameron
Margaret Pilkington
Greg Cameron

Auckland
Papakura
Glendowie

Ceud Mìle Fàilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes

History Corner *by Fiona Cameron*

1. The knife in the stocking

Ever wondered, when you're getting kitted out for your next Highland outing, why you put a knife in your kilt hose?

Wherever did the **Sgian-dubh** come from and what is it for?

A straight translation for Sgian-dubh is 'black knife or dagger'. Is it called this because the handles were traditionally made from a black or dark wood? Some writers say the 'black' part of the description is because this was a hidden (so dark or black) knife, rather than a direct description of the colour of the blade or handle. This theory holds that the Sgian dubh evolved from the 17th and 18th century armpit or sleeve dagger *sgian achlais* which was carried in the upper sleeve or in the jacket under the left arm. This indeed was a hidden dagger. In the day, concealed weapons were frowned upon when entering a friend's house, so it may have been convenient to slip your *sgian achlais* into a convenient sock or stocking top for safe keeping. Not concealed, and handy enough if your visit turned unfriendly perhaps?

The problem with this theory is that the *sgain achlais* was definitely a dagger ie. a double edged stabbing knife used for close combat. A knife, on the other hand, is generally a single edged tool

for more utilitarian (and less deadly) pursuits such as eating, preparing food, skinning game, etc

So the Sgian dubh *may* have originated from the skinning knife used in the 18th and 19th century for dressing game. This knife had a blade 3 to 4 inches long and often had a handle of stag antler or dark bog wood. The average ghillie or servant may have found his sock an expedient spot for his knife while he dressed and skinned the laird's game.

In Scotland, it is legal under the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 Sec. 49, Sub-sec. 5(c) to wear a sgian-dubh, or other weapon, as part of any national costume. Similar laws cover wearing the Sgian dubh in England and Wales, although the blade must be less than 4 inches long.

And here in New Zealand?

The Sgian dubh would be covered by the Crimes Act 1961 Section 202A Possession of offensive weapons or disabling substances, clause 4. This makes knife carrying illegal if you are "without lawful authority or reasonable excuse".



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2. Christmas in Scotland

Most of us know the words to at least a couple of the verses of *Auld Lang Syne* and may also be hoping for our first footer to be a tall dark male. So we're all set for our New Year Hogmanay festivities. But how do we celebrate a Scottish Christmas?

With difficulty! Christmas did not become an official public holiday in Scotland until 1958, and Boxing Day didn't come in until 1974. Before this, people worked, mail was delivered and children went to school on Christmas Day – unless it fell on a Sunday. This all started in the mid 16th century. The Reformation abolished many church festivals and holidays across England as trappings of the despised papal-based Catholic religion. By 1583, Bakers who made the traditional Yulebreads were fined; their punishment could be lessened if they gave the names of their customers. In 1647, the Puritan-led English Parliament banned the celebration of Christmas, replacing it with a day of fasting and considering it "a popish festival with no biblical justification", and a time of wasteful and immoral behavior. In Scotland, a 1640 Act of Parliament abolished "the Yule vacation and all observation thereof in time coming." Christmas returned to England as part of the Restoration, but the Scottish Church still frowned upon Christmas celebration, so it stayed underground.

Perhaps this is why Hogmanay became so important in Scotland. With Christmas taken up with church services, fasting and work, New Year became the opportunity for celebrations. Hogmanay is believed to have been introduced to Scotland by the Vikings –

which may explain the tradition of a dark male First Footer bringing good luck to the house. In the times of Viking invasions, a tall blond man (possibly carrying a large axe) might not have been so felicitous.

Hogmanay - Footnote by the Editor

It was and still is the custom for a stranger to enter the house after midnight on New Years Eve/Day. There were taboos about the luck such a stranger would bring, especially in the days of hospitality to travelling strangers. A fair haired visitor was considered bad luck in most areas, partly due to the in-fighting between the dark scots and the fair Norse invaders. However, in Christian times, a fair haired man was considered very lucky providing his name was Andrew! Because St Andrew is the Patron Saint of Scotland. A woman is considered taboo still in many areas!

The First Footer must make an offering, a *Handsel*. This can be food, drink or fuel for the fire. The rituals which have grown up around this custom are many. An offering of food or drink must be accepted by sharing it with everyone present, including the visitor. Fuel, must be placed onto the fire by the visitor with the words 'A Good New Year to one and all and many may you see'. In todays often fireless society the fuel is usually presented as a polished piece of coal, or wood which can be preserved for the year as an ornament.

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Alison North (nee Cameron)

Life Member of Clan Cameron Auckland

5 June 1928 to 26 September 2013

By Sue Wright (Alison's daughter)

“To Alison North – a gracious wife and mother – and a true Scot – on the occasion of her election as Life Member of Clan Cameron, Auckland Branch” - 22nd August 2009.



Photo: Val Cameron

Alison spoke to Auckland branch members after the award of Life Membership

These words written by the President Donald Cameron as she accepted the honour of being a Life Member of Clan Cameron, Auckland.

One of the last events Alison attended was the Clan Cameron dinner at Hotel Barry Court, Auckland, in August. She was joined by three generations of her family and her husband Derek. The family really enjoyed the evening, including seeing the haggis piped in and joining the large circle to sing Auld Lang Syne at the end of the evening. It was a joy to see the twinkle in her eyes.

This fine lady was born into a family that was steeped in Scottish tradition and very proud to be

Camerons from Achnacarry, Scotland. The Scottish traditions continued in New Zealand through her parents Ian and Frances Cameron. Together they were involved in forming the Piping & Dancing Association and the NZ Academy of National Dancing and later they were significant contributors to the formation of the Clan Association. Alison's father (Ian) and brother (Donald) were both Presidents of Clan Cameron, New Zealand.

Born the youngest of four children, Alison grew up on a farm in Mauriceville - a small township north of Masterton in the Wairarapa.

Living on a farm, her love of animals flourished as she would care for the domestic animals, feed the hens, ride the horses and hand feed the frail lambs, feed the calves and care for the orphaned baby rabbits and birds. One of her most treasured pets was an ex-race horse called Cassie. In her early teens she would saddle up and go riding for days to visit friends in the lower Wairarapa. The day her horse died, she lay down beside him and kept his ears warm in her red mittens until someone found her.

Alison went to the local primary school, where there were two children in her year, then on to Solway College where her mischievousness emerged; partaking in midnight feasts baking apples on the heaters, chatting over the fence to the US soldiers preparing to go the Islands. She revelled in her last year of school at Wairarapa College, which was a freer environment that fitted with Ali's spirit.

She then went to the University of Otago. She had applied to do medicine but accepted, without question, when the Dean stated that the places were being held for returned servicemen. So she studied Home Science. She met Derek North at a dance and began a love affair lasting 67 years...married for 61. When he headed to Oxford as a Rhode Scholar, she became a dietician in Auckland and after only a year, much to the chagrin of her parents, Alison set sail to join Derek in Oxford.

In Oxford, Alison and Derek met and made friends with a diverse and interesting group of people, several of whom became important contributors to world events over the coming decades. Alison worked as a dietician in some grim NHS establishments. When Derek broke his collarbone playing rugby for Oxford, Alison was allowed to enter the hallowed male halls of Magdalen College to help Derek write up his D.Phil. They married in 1952, and their first two daughters, Susan and Robyn, were born in England.

They moved back to New Zealand where their last three daughters were born - Fiona and the twins, Helen and Diana. Alison was a wonderful mother, she gave her daughters a carefree childhood, adventuring in the half acre garden with a fruit orchard and telling

stories that fired everyone's imagination. It was chaotic, full of laughter and chatter. Holidays were particularly special with many holidays at Taupo and camping all over New Zealand.

Alison went back to teaching science and biology as soon as the twins went to school... initially at Corran and then Diocesan. This was no mean feat, given she had 5 daughters aged 5-12 years of age, and society frowned, rather than supported, working mothers. Alison was always a great thinker and actively engaged in discussion on social and environmental issues. The 60s and 70s were filled with 'girls can do anything', ecology, Save Manapouri, population explosion, the silent spring and other social and ecological causes long before they became mainstream concerns. In the 1980s, she converted Derek from centre right to centre left, playing a key role in Physicians against Nuclear War.

In her 40s, Alison developed Rheumatoid Arthritis, which she managed stoically and many never realised the extent of her problems. She lived life to the full, taking interest in everything and joy in all. She travelled widely with Derek, and sometimes with an entourage of children when on sabbatical. Friendships were all important to Ali and enriched her life...her teaching friends, her Clan Cameron friends, her bible study friends, her book club friends, her painting friends, her helpers and carers, and her wide extended family.

After retiring from teaching, Ali began the next stage of her life... filled with 14 grandchildren who adored her as she was so interesting and interested in their lives, giving unconditional love and understanding. She became involved in the establishment of University of the Third Age in Auckland and received enormous pleasure sharing ideas and friendship with people in U3A. She gave her last presentation, printed in 60 point font because of her recent blindness, only 3 months ago. Her courage and determination to live was an example to us all. She rarely complained when her body gave her endless challenges and always lived by the philosophy of "Lang may yer lum reek", which translates to "Long may your chimney smoke" - meaning 'May you live long and keep well'.

Alison's wish was to have a Scottish flavour to her funeral. We were privileged to have Andrew McQueen provide the haunting sound of the bagpipes as he piped her out of the church following the words of the Gaelic Blessing.

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your fields
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*



By the Editor:

Alison and Derek were founding members of the Auckland branch when I sought to re-establish it in 1986. Alison's support and encouragement then and since has ensured that we had a sound foundation to build on. We will miss her.



Left: Some of the Cameron clan who came out in force to say good-bye at the funeral – note the Cameron ties and scarves being worn.

Below: Alison's mother, Frances and her aunts – Ophir and Alma.



Alison and Derek with their five daughters – Sue, Robyn, Fiona, Helen and Diana



Feedback from the Executive Council Meeting:-

First Light Exchange Scheme *by Bryan Haggitt*

Early this year we learned with dismay that those Lochaber stalwarts Astie and Bill Cameron wished to step down from administering future First Light exchanges. First Lighters themselves, they had borne the brunt of the admin work over a good many years and Astie and his wife also had to host NZ students from time to time.

The Scheme has been a wonderful one, the envy of other clans, and, at our NZ AGM last April, Warren Cameron was charged with taking the matter up with Lochiel when he and Lorraine travelled to Scotland in August. The message being that the Exchanges must not be allowed to cease!

Warren and Lorraine received an excellent hearing from Lochiel as well as getting in contact with Astie and Bill. All were most positive but felt that it was time that the Scheme was extended to greater Scotland, not just Lochaber. The upshot has been that the present Commissioner, Duncan Cameron of Aberdeen, has been contacted.

Duncan, too, has been most positive. The matter was raised at their Gathering on 26 October and previous Commissioners, David and Alan Cameron, have been charged with reviewing the Exchange Scheme and extending it to the whole of Scotland. Hopefully, the Scheme will be back running again very soon and with wider opportunities.

Website and Facebook *by Secretary Tanya Cameron*

The Executive Council has decided to set up a Facebook page for Clan Cameron NZ in the hope of encouraging the younger members and their families to share stories or question who these other members are and how they are related.

We are continuing to add newsletter links to the website and all other functions are still working and being maintained by Warren. Thanks Warren.

As I find events that have been posted on Facebook (or I can create one on the website directly), I create an event for people to join.

If you are part of the Facebook community, please like our page and I will try and add any relevant information I find, including piping and highland games post.

Feel free to send these through also.

We are revisiting the website at the Executive meeting of the AGM and would like feedback to help us with this decision.

(and by Warren Cameron) Tanya has the Clan Cameron facebook page up and running <https://www.facebook.com/ClanCameronNZ> and I've put a link to it on the Clan Cameron NZ website.

Yvette Morrissey

The problems that faced Yvette were discussed and noted. We will make sure that future First Lighters will be fully prepared so that this does not happen to them.

The Auckland Highland Games

By Don Cameron

The annual Auckland Highland Games at Three Kings Reserve has built a steady crowd over the last 30-or-so celebrations, and found a new attraction in the popular event on November 23 --a braw band of Australians connected to the McLeod clan.

In the past there have been occasional new features in the mid-day parade, such as Highland Cattle but the McLeods brought a new element with them -- they brought their own pipe band from Bendigo with their full gold-and-black uniforms in stirring array. They give the ritual march past of the clans a new look, and perhaps the need to plan for such occasions in the future. The usual march-past of perhaps 150-250 Aucklanders usually form up quickly, listen to the opening speeches and then re-trace their path to their clan tents. With perhaps 100 extra visitors the march to the centre of the field worked tidily, everyone listened to the speeches, sweltered in the hot sun, but tended to make own way back to their canvas homes.

Some of the spectators were loud in their praise of the set-up -- "my family love going to the Highland Games," said one father of four, "and they were thrilled when they got close to McLeod band when everyone was making such stirring music. The four reckon they will be pipers and drummers when they grow up. But in Auckland, not Bendigo."

Neil Cameron, a life member of his clan and designer of their splendid tent headquarters, happily greeted two new members of the clan -- Margaret Pilkington and Greg Cameron.



The Bendigo Pipe Band at the Auckland Highland Games

Lake Wakatipu

by Mike Topham



It was great to see a photo of Lake Wakatipu on the cover of the August Cameron Newsletter.

According to Herries Beattie --the Southland Historian and author of "Pioneer Recollections" and

"Early Runholders in Otago",

several Cameron's were among the first pioneer settlers to reach Lake Wakatipu.

William Cameron arrived at Port Chalmers, 3rd September, 1855 on the 'Gil Blas'. In February 1856 he leased Southland Run 133 "Waicola" which is situated between Otautau and Nightcaps.

In August 1858, he leased Southland Runs 214 and 352. His brother Robert was put in charge of these runs assisted by his cousin Archibald Cameron. Robert named Run 214, Glenquoich and Run 352 Bucurochi (both names from his homeland, Scotland). Glenquoich was near Athol and about 30km south of Lake Wakatipu, whilst Bucurochi was on it's northern boundary. Robert Cameron's christian name is preserved in "Robert Creek" a tributary of the upper Mataura River which flows through that area.

Donald Angus Cameron and his cousin Archibald Alphonse MacDonald arrived at Port Chalmers on the 'Pirate' on 25th January 1859. They met their kinsman William Cameron and journeyed to Glenquoich, then north searching for good grazing country suitable for sheep runs. In February 1859 Donald Angus Cameron, William Cameron and A.A.MacDonald reached Lake Wakatipu at the southern end (near where Kingston now stands) Nathaniel Bates and William Saunders had arrived in the same area the day before them.

D.A.Cameron and A.A.MacDonald penetrated a fair distance up the east side of the southern part of the Lake and named many of the prominent features which they encountered. This included a rocky, precipitous bluff which they named "The Devil's Staircase" due to the strenuous effort needed to reach it's top. Other names they gave during their exploration of the Lake country were Nevis River, Roy Creek, Lochy River and Mount Cameron.

To be continued in the next issue - Ed

Cameron December 2013

This story is about Neville Wallace, president of the Taranaki/Wanganui Branch. I am indebted to Laura Richards and to the editor of 'Straight Furrow' for permission to reprint this article. - Editor

Neville's Mission: Educating Townies.

By Laura Richards

Neville Wallace, a former dairy farmer, has a new passion in life - communicating farm news to urbanites.

Straight Furrow met with Neville before and after his radio programme, the *Neville Wallace Agricultural Show*, at the Coast's radio station in Hawera.

His show engineer and friend Bryan Vickery spoke of how Mr Wallace approached him with the idea of a new farm show to educate the townies.

"Neville has a vision - a passion to build bridges between farmers and townies. He has no training as a broadcaster, but he's willing to learn and adapt and I am really proud of his ability to adjust and keep improving. I think that's just fantastic."

Mr Wallace's journey into broadcasting began with a workshop which dealt with the local media given by a journalist with Federated Farmers a few years ago.

He went to Coast Radio in Hawera where Bryan worked to do a show with the journalist.

"I went back a couple of weeks later to ask Bryan for the recording. He told me 'I've got bad news and I've got good news' The bad news was the recording had been deleted. "The good news he said 'I want you to start talking next week about farming,'" Neville said.

Mr Vickery said Mr Wallace's programme went beyond some of the more nationally known programmes on air.

Mr Wallace put it down to doing his homework, researching topics of interest and listening to his radio mentor.

"I learned how to shear a sheep and I don't see this as being any different," he said. "Bryan's a ringer. He told me how to pen sheep up first, how to dag, how to pull the wool out as a rousie and I did all the jobs I had to do, then organise the interviews.

Following the programmes the two would then have a debrief session where they would talk about how to improve.

"He's put me up as No 2 now," Mr Wallace said. "Second cuts - it's been a great learning curve.

"I am passionate about getting the farming message out too. After all, 89 per cent of us are urban and the rest of us are rural - and not all rural residents are farming."

He has interviewed many people from Christine Fernyhough from Castle Hill Station, to the chief coroner to Prime Minister John Key.

Mr Vickery said Mr Wallace refuses to be refused. "He just gets in the queue. He won't be fobbed off and he has landed the people interviews. Mr Wallace comes up with topics and the experts who would give the hard answers. Success in landing those interviews has



Talking farming: Coast AM radio host Bryan Vickery at the console with Neville Wallace of the *Neville Wallace Agricultural Show*

been gained by persistence and politeness.

"Sometimes Neville will have a 10 minute interview on a specific topic and the onus is on him to make it really interesting," said Mr Vickery. Mr Wallace tells interview subjects that it's not about him, it's about them communicating with others.

Mr Vickery said he was unsure when Mr Wallace first approached him about the show. "I thought he had a good heart but I had grave concerns. Neville had one of the most boring voices I had ever, ever, ever heard. And I thought that if there was a guy who was not going to cut it - it was Neville. However, over the years, he has shown his humour and warmth. People love him. He's real.

"The Neville on the radio is the Neville you meet down the street. He has a wicked sense of humour."

Mr Wallace said that while he has left farming days behind him, he will always have a passion for communicating with people. And he always has an opinion steeped in his many years farming, first on his father's farm, then shearing and finally dairy farming with his wife Shona.

"We've always been members of Federated Farmers but it wasn't until we semi-retired that I became actively involved. I was on the executive of Taranaki Provincial Federated Farmers for five years and was chairman of the Meat and Fibre section for two years.

There are several issues in the New Zealand farming sector that get him angry, including border security, especially the person who introduced the rabbit calicivirus disease. The varroa mite is another. He is also concerned about the number of off-shore workers being used in farming sector jobs that New Zealanders could be doing.

Over his time at the microphone of Coast Mr Wallace said: "The number of interviews must be close to 300. Since the beginning of this year, I do two interviews a week and during the Fonterra mishap I did four, so Bryan had relevant information to call on."

Coming Events: Feb- Mar

Saturday 8 February 2014

21st Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo

Paeroa Domain

Again this year we invite you to participate in a "Clan Colour Party Parade". The parade will commence at **11am** with a short march (approx. 500 metres) from the Domain to the Town Square lead by the Pipes and Drums of Thames Valley.

Info: www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

Sunday 23rd February 2014

Manawatu Branch AGM & potluck lunch

Mount Lees 12 midday. If you would like to come but have no transport please ring Jessie 06 355 2705 or email jannabell@xtra.co.nz

Weekend 28-30 March 2014

National Annual Gathering and AGM

At Daniels in the Park, 11th Avenue, Tauranga.

A copy of the Registration Form may be down loaded from the Clan Cameron NZ website.

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 January

Printed By



LOCHIEL
ESTATE

Gary and Liz
Cameron's
Lochiel Estate
Winery and Vineyard

By Gary Cameron

Lochiel Estate, a vineyard and winery in Mangawhai, Northland, was born from a desire of my wife Elizabeth and

I to do something together in our retirement which would keep both our minds and bodies active. We now sometimes wonder whether we really wanted to be this active!

The seed was planted by our son Robert whilst he was completing his degree in Viticulture and Oenology at Lincoln University- "Why don't you buy a little land, get away from the city, plant a few grapes and I'll help you make some wine for yourselves" Well the dream developed a life of its own and now with 20 acres of land, 4500 vines, a small but modern winery and 11 years and 8 vintages under our belt, it continues.

Whilst some may call this a "lifestyle" and others a "life sentence", what we can say is that there is never a dull moment and vintage time seem to pop up like Groundhog Day each year. We grow Chardonnay, Pinot Gris, Merlot, Malbec and Syrah and all wines labelled Lochiel Estate are made on site from fruit grown on the property.

The key to having a successful operation (which does not equate to being highly profitable since small vineyards/wineries have a very high unit cost structure) is firstly to produce good fruit and thence wine and secondly to ensure it is sold and not just sit in the cellar. Good planning is essential but implementation of the



plan is the measure of success. Our efforts have been well assisted by the quality of our wine - our Chardonnay has consistently done well in shows with 3 Gold Medals 3 Silver whilst we have picked up Bronze for our Reds, Rosé' and fortified wine (The Laird).

Most recently, we have made our first export sale into Australia - no coincidence it was our Gold Medal winning 2012 Chardonnay. This has been on our planning horizon for some time and we hope to continue to export a proportion of our production each year.

The beautiful clutch of 5 arrows is synonymous with the clan and is not as many people believe a symbol of warring prowess and aggression but actually symbolises the uniting of the 5 families of the clan that were historically separated by the geography of the highlands. The arrows represent unity and strength and the belief that family always works better as one. The crest appears on the label and is used with Lochiel's blessing.

By the Editor: Gary and Liz are members and supporters of the Auckland Branch. Further details on www.lochielestate.co.nz

A Pen Portrait of a Long Standing Branch Member

Alistair Cameron (Manawatu) *(abridged - Ed)*

Alistair was born in New Plymouth in 1943 to Mark (Buster) and Theresa Cameron, one of five children. He was educated at Brooklands Catholic Convent and then at New Plymouth Boys High School. Alistair worked in the Post Office and later transferred to Wellington, working around the clock.

His ancestors were Thomas Ross Cameron of Ardoch and Anne McDowell of Auchaluachrach who married in Boleskine on 25 July 1848. Then there were Duncan Cameron and Elizabeth Patrick. Their son, Alexander, married Elizabeth Cameron, who later was well known as 'Ma'. Elizabeth married again to Harry



Marion and Alistair Cameron

Bailey. In 1953, during the Royal Visit, Elizabeth met Queen Elizabeth on the Marton Railway Station - they both had a chuckle over the fact that both ladies had the same name! Alexander and Elizabeth had a daughter named Alexis Cameron. Her son, Mark, is Alistair's father.

"In 1978 I married

Marion Buchanan of Mt. Biggs, near Feilding. My daughter Fiona arrived in May 1981, and my grand- daughter Kaitlin is now 9 years old and a joy to us all."

Alistair has travelled by bus from Melbourne through Alice

Springs, then by a VW car to Perth. He joined the I.O.O.F Lodge on his 16th birthday and is still a member. He has made compost by turning unwanted vegetation into a useful garden commodity. A submission to the council on Municipal composting has resulted in a viable business for the city. Since the mid 1980s he has been a Neighbourhood Support Co-ordinator. His other interests are the Diabetes Society, Council Ward Meetings, and Indoor Bowls.

Alistair has been a member of Clan Cameron since the mid 1980s and helped to sell haggis and sausages on Square Day - a big day to raise funds.



Her Majesty the Queen meets Mrs Elizabeth (Ma) Bailey (nee Cameron) aged 90 at Marton Railway Stn in 1953/4. Elizabeth was escorted by Mrs Chlosis Marsh, her great niece. Photo by Jim Richards (father of Lyn Lumsden of Whanganui)

From the Branches....

Turakina - Kirkin' O' the Tartan

by Ewen Grant (Manawatu)

Turakina's St. Andrews Presbyterian Church celebrated its third Kirkin' O' the Tartan service on Oct. 13th. 2013. 130 -140 attended with the parading of Banners of Clan Cameron, Grant and Gordon.

Seven loyal members of the ex Wellington West Coast Regimental Pipe Band, now the Pipe Band Society, provided stirring highland music with the wonderful organ accompaniment from Eoin & Heather Cameron of Waikanae and led by the Rev. John Peill. The Church was decorated with flags, lengths of Tartan and Jessie Annabell's collection of tartan scarves. Isaac Grant aged nine, 6th generation descendant of Donald [Bane] and Mary Cameron read Psalm 23.

Professor Brad Patterson from Victoria & Massey Universities spoke of the origins of the Kirkin 'o' the Tartan. Following the Act of Proscription in Scotland, when the wearing of tartan was banned, small pieces were taken to be secretly blessed by their minister and lives rededicated to God.

The Kirkin service is of modern American origins. Developed by the Rev. Peter Marshall of the New York Ave, Presbyterian church during the 2nd. World war to raise funds in America for the British War relief and also to encourage Scottish Americans to enlist.

The service has grown in popularity in recent years in both Australia & New Zealand Presbyterian churches and other denominations also. It is now an important ceremony of Scottish diaspora. An occasion to be proud of ones heritage.

The service was followed by the Piping in of the Haggis in the church hall with John Hanna reciting the ode and a Scottish afternoon tea of black bun, oat biscuits, broonie, scones, pikelets & shortbread was enjoyed.

Next year St Andrews church on the 14th of Oct is planning a service to commemorate 150 years of worship in the present church. So for those who have a connection with Turakina keep this date free.

Wellington/Wairarapa by Rob Cameron

Ian Cameron from the Wairarapa passed away recently - very young aged 67 He and his wife Maureen were on our committee when we held the most recent NZ AGM here in Masterton. Ian was also the driver on a number of the activities offered to attendees He will be sadly missed by Clan Cameron Wellington/Wairarapa.

Today we had a tent at the Upper Hutt Highland Gathering. Lovely day with lots of dancers, pipers, drummers etc. No new members but seven of our members manned the tents so it was a useful social occasion

Canterbury by Rae Magson

The weather was cold, it was not raining, but nothing stopped the huge crowd of people from attending the Hororata Highland Games held on Saturday 9 November. It was fun and so much to see. Several members helped on the Clan Cameron Canterbury Stall. This was very popular as we were giving away free haggis, also a raffle which covered expenses. Lots of Cameron information and membership forms were taken away so we are hoping there are some results from that.

The Governor-General Sir Jerry Mataparae was in attendance and looked around the Clan Lane where the Clan tents were. Tartan everywhere, lots of kilts to be seen. There was the pipe band competitions, highland dancing, tug o' war competition, strongmen, cooking demonstrations, archery, sheep shearing, scurry racing, pie

eating competition, stones challenge and the mass march of pipe bands, competitors and clans celebrating the end of the competitions and prize giving. As well there was the kilted mile (a mile running race including challenges along the route), where we were represented by our member, Rowan who did very well against the males.

We are looking forward to attending this event again on 8 November 2014. We especially enjoyed the company of 8 year old Angus Wallace (son of member Sharon Wallace), who enthusiastically welcomed people to our tent and offered them haggis. Also we were visited by Andrea, the young granddaughter of our President, Nick Cameron, and daughter of Rowan.

The Annual General Meeting of the Clan Cameron Canterbury was held at the home of Pat and Rex Tarbotton, they have a beautiful garden that was admired by members. Colin and Isabel Cameron were wished well on their visit to daughter, Shona in Scotland, they plan to be away for a couple of months. President Nick read his Annual Report and Treasurer Pat gave the Financial Report, then the Election of Officers was held. All Officers were re-elected, another successful year completed. Afterwards members went to Robbies for lunch, this was an enjoyable social time. Nick was wished well on his planned week's vacation to Norfolk Island. He is always so busy, we tried to tell him it was time to relax!

We were pleased to welcome Denis and Joy Cameron to our AGM and Luncheon, Denis was brought up in this area.

Bay of Plenty by Denis Cameron

We extend greetings for Christmas and the New Year to all members of the Clan Cameron - New Zealand and overseas branches.

A Committee meeting was held at the home of Denis and Joy Cameron on 20th October 2013 preceded by a pot-luck luncheon.

Progress on organisation for the AGM and Clan Gathering at Tauranga 28th -30th March 2014 was discussed and all going smoothly..

Scenic jewels abound in our region - Te Puna Quarry Park, Minden Lookout, The Elms, The Tauranga Waterfront, Mt Maunganui and Pilot Bay, Papamoa Hills, Classic Flyers, Museum and Art Gallery, to name just a few of our attractions.

We were pleased to have Tanya Cameron, NZCC Secretarys present to update us on the Executive Council Meeting which was held at Palmerston North a short time ago.

We have since received a report from Yvette Morrissey with details of her unfortunate experiences with Customs and Immigration in the United Kingdom.

There was a discussion on First Light and a report from Warren and Lorraine Cameron on their visit to Scotland and meeting with Lochiel.

Please make your bookings early for the AGM to get the discounted rate for Clan Cameron members. Rooms are reserved until early December.

So come one, come all. Do join us for a wonderful weekend - this is what it's all about!

A traditional Cameron weekend will greet you all!

The Clan Cameron - New Zealand will be Seventy-nine years of age in 2014

Hawke's Bay by Trish Topham

Hawke's Bay Branch will be holding their Christmas Get-Together on Friday 13 December (see *Coming Events*) Also the Clan Donald Dinner (Hawke's Bay) which was to have been held on Friday 6th December has been postponed. We will advise when a new date has been set.

A Cautionary Tale -

Yvette Morrissey's UK Adventure

Sorry this has taken so long to write- job hunting, moving down south, and keeping up with study has kept me busy! I will try and keep this as short and simple as possible, as a lot has happened since I was detained and it is still quite a hard subject for me to talk about.

When I was going through customs in London, the woman I encountered was rather grouchy, and asked lots of questions which I politely responded to. She asked me where I was staying. I told her I was staying at two different hostels in Scotland and gave her the addresses. She then asked how much money I had with me. "Around 2000 pounds," I responded, to which she asked how I would survive on that. I said I had more money coming, work was yet to pay me out, and that I was staying at these hostels for free. "Why for free?" she asked; "I'll just help them out around the house to say thanks I guess. Is there a problem?"

She made me take a seat while she found her supervisor. I told her my domestic flight to Edinburgh was leaving in less than an hour, and she said I would probably be missing it. I guess I didn't realise the seriousness of the situation at that time due to the jetlag and the fact my intentions were honest; I had nothing to hide and wasn't doing anything wrong. I think I sat there for about an hour before a chubby man who had an uncanny resemblance to Henry the Eighth, led me to a room where my fingerprints and photograph was taken. I was informed I would be taken for an interview shortly and to wait in a room I later learned was for detainees. At this point I didn't realise I was being detained. Very little information was given to me, and I now understand this was one of the Customs Officers techniques.

The room looked like a smoko-room for employees. I was offered a choice of an apple, a bag of crisps, or a biscuit. I was also yet to realise this would be the majority of my diet for the next two days. Four hours later, the official took me into a room where I wasn't allowed to touch the walls, as they had emergency sensors in them. I answered all his questions, not elaborating because he had to write my answers down. I thought I was doing him a favour, looking back I should have made him write more. He asked me what I was doing in the UK, where I worked in NZ and what my address was.. I said I left my job because they wouldn't allow me to take 3 months leave, and I wasn't paying rent in NZ because I wasn't planning on working in the UK- so it would be pointless throwing money away. This information was enough to deem I had "unsubstantial reasons to leave the UK, therefore my intentions to enter weren't genuine." I was handed the report which also said that I needed a visa for "voluntary work". It turns out helping tend a house is considered voluntary work. My travel agent hadn't mentioned this (I later found out he should have done a visa checker form for me). I hadn't seen this on the embassy website.

I told the official I had family in Scotland I could stay with, and that my family in NZ were currently trying to get hold of them. I also said I could stay in hostels; I'm sure my parents would help me out with the finances if it came down to it. He ignored me and said I would be sent home that evening. I asked for my suitcase so I could change my clothes. He said he would organise someone to bring it to me. Looking back I was a bit ignorant and trusting; I thought 'surely they wouldn't send me home?' I was here to promote their country; I had no intention on staying longer than my ticket stated. There must be something I can do?

Instead I was told I had no rights and couldn't protest it until I got back to NZ. The guard left, but later I requested that he come back to convince him of my innocence. Again, he didn't listen to



me. a while later I overheard a conversation between two guards: one was telling the other what questions to ask another detainee, and to make sure he "pin her in a corner." There was no objectivity or thought that this person was innocent (I am fairly sure she was- her situation was similar to mine, she left her job and wanted to travel around for a few months before returning home to find another job). I realised that Border Control's job was to prove the subjects guilt no matter what the circumstances. Well, that was how they did it in England anyway.

I was then taken to a security unit, strip searched and escorted the entire way- an experience I thoroughly enjoyed. The security guards were nicer, there was one woman in particular who let me have a shower. I didn't have a spare change of clothes, however, as my suitcase still hadn't shown up.. When it came time to be escorted to the airport, the nice security lady took me, but when she was checking me in, the airstaff said I hadn't been booked on the plane. It was written on a piece of paper the security guard was holding that I had been booked on the flight to leave at 10.00pm. The airline refused to let me on, and so I was taken to another room filled with foreigners, some who were emotionally disturbed. I asked to take my antibiotics and I was refused- there was no record of medication on my file. Security said the Custom's Officer should have asked me if I was on any medication, but they had failed to. I was told I would be taken to a detention centre where there would be a bed I could sleep in. I was taken back to the original room in which I had been detained, and promised someone would take me shortly. I slept on some plastic chairs with a towel for a blanket and a pillow thinner than my hand, and over 12 hours later, someone finally entered the room and asked me why I was still in there. I told them I had clearly been forgotten about, and 2 hours later I was taken to a detention centre.

The staff at the detention centre were extremely rude; I witnessed one of the guards yelling at an Indian woman that she was not legally married to her husband, to which the woman broke down in tears, and the other guard laughed at her colleague's callousness. The centre was dirty; the toilet wouldn't flush and looked as though it hadn't been cleaned in a year, and the women's cubicle was overflowing with womanly "items". The "bed" was a thin mattress on a block of wood, and I was told off when I lay down on the couch.

I asked for my belongings, and they said my suitcase wasn't with them. No one really wanted to find my suitcase, and if it wasn't for Mum and the lady at the NZ embassy I wouldn't have seen it again. Luckily I was only there for six hours, and by that time I couldn't wait to get on that plane. I was escorted through to Sydney, where I was reunited with my bag. I was so desperate for a shower and a change of clothes that it was the first thing I did at the airport!

It was quite a scary experience coming home with no job and diminishing funds, and I'm only just starting to catch up financially. Luckily I had only booked accommodation to stay in Edinburgh for a week and a bus ticket, so I only lost a couple hundred dollars. I'm still waiting to be paid that back from insurance.. I laid a complaint with the British embassy regarding my treatment whilst detained, but they won't uphold it. I didn't lay a complaint about the travel agent for not telling me I needed a visa because ironically, I applied for a job with the same company as a travel agent. Thankfully, I got the job, which means that after a year of working for the company I get huge discounts so I will be able to travel in the future. I can only really blame what happened on myself, and put all this down to experience.

I do want to return to Scotland eventually. Next time I won't fly via London though! First I need to sort myself out financially, apply for a visa and get permission from the embassy to enter. I would like to thank Clan Cameron for all the support I have received, especially the Manawatu and Auckland branches. I hope my unfortunate experience will fire up the First Light Exchange programme and help to get other enthusiastic Cameron's to Scotland.

-Yvette

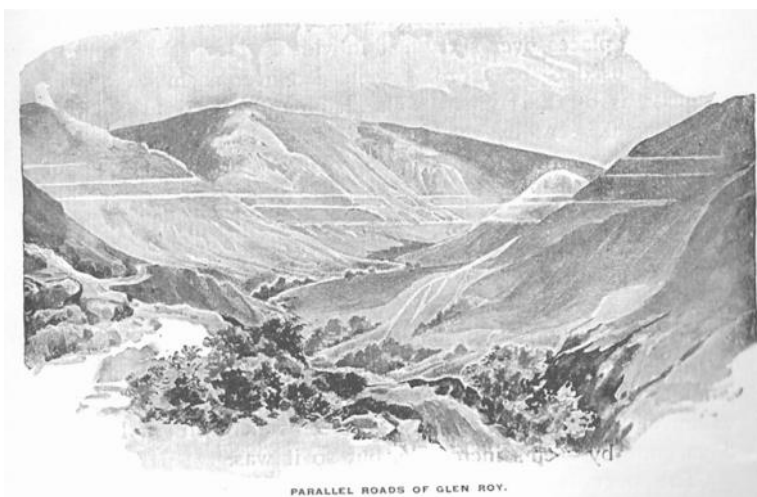
Mountain, Moor and Loch

'The Braes' newspaper takes a look at how Victorian travellers viewed Lochaber

Before the West Highland Railway opened on 7th August 1894, Lochaber was virtually inaccessible to all but the most determined visitors. The arrival of the railway revolutionised tourism to the Highlands. Here we take a look at one of the first guide books. "**Mountain Moor and Loch - On the route of the West Highland Railway**" was published in 1895, less than a year after the railway brought its first passengers to the Braes.

The book describes in fascinating detail what outsiders thought about the wild landscapes and unique culture of the West Highlands. In a chapter titled "In Far Lochaber" the guide describes points of interest to the tourist where the West Highland Railway passes through the Braes of Lochaber.

"Now the railway turns due west, crossing the Spean and following its course along the Glen and on the northern bank, penetrating the famous Braes of Lochaber. The mention of the name at once brings to mind memories of that wailing Highland lament, "Farewell to Lochaber," which sounded so eerily on the pipes that it had to be forbidden during the Peninsular War on account of its depressing effect on the spirits of the



troops."

"A little beyond Monessie, the train stops at Roy Bridge station, about five miles and a half from Tulloch. Here the railway crosses the River Roy, which comes down from Glen Roy, where the Parallel Roads are to be seen. No one should visit the district without inspecting these geological wonders, either by making a trip to the Glen ... On a clear day a glimpse of the Roads may



be had from the train; but to study these natural phenomena it is necessary to walk or drive a few miles up the Glen. These Parallel Roads have caused one of the keenest scientific controversies of the century, and although their mystery is now solved, they are still regarded as one of the most unique features in the geological aspect of the country.... How these terraces were cut used to be a problem puzzled over as much by the scientist as the layman. The Highlanders said they were hunting-walks cut by the Picts for their kings, who used to hold court at Inverlochy Castle, beside Fort William; but this was obviously absurd. The pseudo-scientific visitor said the Roads must have been cut by glaciers at different periods, although they do not show the slightest evidence of glacial action. The truth, as at last discovered, is, that the terraces mark the successive levels of a great loch ... that this wide

mouthing glen, opening into another glen, the valley of the Spean, should have been filled with a lake in days gone by seems incredible, but so it was." "Near Roy Bridge a number of little cairns are seen on the heath to the right. These are 'resting-cairns' - memorials of

the dead - and the importance of the deceased may be gauged by their size.

The coffin is carried to the grave in these districts by relatives and friends, and as the burying-ground is frequently a long way off, the body has to be set down at intervals in order that the bearers may rest. Whenever one of these pauses takes place, each of the mourners gathers a stone, and these stones are all piled up in a 'resting-cairn.' ... Near these cairns, the line passes through Inver-roy, a

picturesque specimen of an old Highland clachan, unspoiled by modern improvements, the white shielings - low thatched huts - scattered at all angles, with blue peat smoke pouring from their wooden chimneys, while bare-footed and bare-headed bairns toddle about on the brae-side, shouting to each other in Gaelic. The line next crosses the Spean on a three-span bridge. It will interest the traveller who looks down from this bridge on the rapid Spean in summer, to know that in time of spate the water rises nearly twenty feet - to within a few feet of the girders"



In next issue the journey continues to Spean Bridge. Thank you to the Braes Newspaper of Lochaber for this story and the one below

Surviving the Yomp

A small band (35) of hardy and very fit civilians, took on the 30-mile yomp - the ultimate final test faced by every Royal Marine in order to complete their training-- at Achnacarry recently. They marched over 'Commando Country' as it is known from its days as the iconic training ground of elite commandos during World War II.

They raised funds for the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund which supports both serving and those who have left, wounded and injured as well as dependants.

Achnacarry offers some of the most arduous and rugged terrain in Scotland. They don't call it 'Commando Country' for nothing.

Sally-Anne Hunter, Founder and Director of the Commando Spirit Appeal, said "Commando Spirit is about showing you have the courage, grit and determination to put yourself through true to life Commando training whilst raising vital funds in the process. We firmly believe people have more in them than they often appreciate and we encourage people to step up to Survive The Yomp and take on this unique and iconic challenge."

Each civilian was 'buddied' and encouraged on by a commando. The fastest time was achieved by Zac, aged 16, who completed the course in 7 hours 3 mins. It is not a surprise to learn that it is his ambition to become a real Commando.

Love locked in Lochaber.

by Bill Cameron

In the upper reaches of Glen Nevis a narrow bridge spans the Lower Falls of the river Nevis. It has carried many a locals and visitors alike over the years, as they pause to look down over the impressive falls that run down through the glen.

In early July this year a number of multi-coloured padlocks appeared on this bridge, a sight you might commonly associate with Europe's most romantic cities.

Tourists regularly flock to the Pont des Arts in Paris – known as the lovers' bridge – to clip padlocks inscribed with their names on to the river crossing and throw away the keys.

Now these small but permanent symbols of devotion have started to appear in Lochaber – in picturesque Glen Nevis, Lochaber. At the start of July a single green padlock appeared on the bridge spanning the Lower Falls, where people in inflatables



usually throw themselves off into the gurgling falls below during the annual River Nevis race.

Since then, another eight padlocks have been locked on to the metal mesh on the sides of the bridge, some with ornate inscriptions of the couple's names and the date on which it was fixed.

Others have been attached anonymously, with only the owners knowing when they were locked in place.

The symbolism of an inscribed padlock clearly shows a couple's devotion towards each other. It establishes them to a certain time and place and will no doubt be of great significance to them alone – should they ever return to this bridge in Glen Nevis in the future?

However, such a permanent fixture does raise the question as to appropriateness of fixing many more padlocks to this bridge in an area of such outstanding natural beauty.

The sight of thousands of different shaped and coloured padlocks attached to a bridge may be in keeping within the context of urban Paris. Whether the bridge over the Lower Falls in Glen Nevis becomes locked in romantic fixation, only time and will tell.

Love locks are thought to have originated in the city of Pécs in Hungary, sometime during the early 1980s. Smitten students started hanging padlocks on an iron fence linking the main square to the medieval cathedral. Within a short time, the fence was completely covered with declarations of love and today, Pécs has gained a reputation as a major romantic destination.

In years to come we could possibly see the same in Lochaber?

By Editor: Bill has recently been to New York. One day he was looking at towering skyscrapers - the next he climbed Ben Nevis to get over the jet lag! (photo below - on top of the Ben)



A recent aerial view of Achnacarry taken by Iain Thorber. He was taking Lochiel up in a friend's helicopter



Aonaibh ri Cheile The Back Page



Ruth and the editor talk to John Cameron and Bev Morrissey in P. North



The Kirkin O' the Tartan service in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Turakina



Shona Wallace, Miriel Imber, Elaine Cameron, Mary Lampen-Smith and Ruth Cameron at Palmerston North



Ewen Grant and Neville Wallace at P.N



Upper Hutt Highland Gathering
Graeme, Rob and Don Cameron with Shirley-Anne Thomson



President Fraser with Jessie Annabell at P.N.



Glenis Cameron with two older members of the clan



Twins Hunter & Noah Wilson, 8th generation of Big John Cameron, at Turakina. Nancy Rhodes, Jessica Johnstone, Abbagail Wilson (mother), Debbie Wilson (grandmother), Tina Miller



Canterbury Luncheon: Back: Rex Tarbotton, Denis Cameron, Colin Cameron, Nick Cameron, Pat Tarbotton, Joy Cameron. Sitting: Rae Magson, John Atkinson, Isabel Cameron



Roz Grant and Russell Cameron at P.N.



The Hororata Games. Rae Magson, Pat Tarbotton, Ngaire Power and Sharon Wallace with Rex Tarbotton
Inset: Best Helper Angus Wallace



Three Birthdays. Florence Cameron, Val Cameron and Jenny Haggitt. Ages not given but they total 220 years.



Clan member Sarah McQueen receives the Clan Campbell Shield for the Sword Dance (open class) from Malcolm Campbell at the Auckland Highland Games



Karen and David Cameron with David's mother Florence, visiting from Fort William