



Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



Vol 54 No 2
April
2020

The Merging of Two Cultures

See Page 8

- photo: Editor

"Cameron"

is the magazine of the
Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc)

Directory

Hereditary Chief and Captain of Clan Cameron
Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel,
Lord Lieutenant of Inverness,
Achnacarry, Spean Bridge,
Imverness-shire, Scotland. PH34 4ES

New Zealand President and Commissioner
Nick Cameron
322 Auchenflower Road, RD 1 Darfield 7571
Ph. 027 232 6664
nick.cameron@cropmark.co.nz

Secretary
Tanya Cameron
97B McGarvey Rd, Whakatane 3120
Ph. 027 293 5603 Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Treasurer
Alison Thompson
8 Mana Street, Otumoetai, Tauranga 3110
Ph. 027 525 4766 alison.th59@gmail.com

Genealogist and Historian
David Weston
14 Tanguru Street, Wanganui 4500
Ph. (06) 343 2539 westmor@yahoo.com

First Light Exchange Convenor
Bryan Haggitt
96A Lucerne Road, Remuera, Auckland 1050
Ph. (09) 524 5254 bchecho@xtra.co.nz

Branch Presidents

Auckland
Rob Cameron
15B Gavin Street, Ellerslie, Auckland 1060
Ph. 022 525 3151 robcameronnz@gmail.com

Bay of Plenty
Tanya Cameron
97B McGarvey Rd, Whakatane 3120
Ph. 027 293 5603 Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Gisborne
David Cameron,
885 Wharekopae Rd, RD2 Gisborne. 4072
Ph. (06) 862 7803 cameronndvd@xtra.co.nz

Hawke's Bay
Hamish Cameron
76 Jarvis Road, RD 5, Hastings 4175
Ph. (06) 876 7509 h.jcameron@nowmail.co.nz

Iar (Taranaki / Wanganui)
Neville Wallace
275 Turuturu Road, RD 14, Hawera 4674
Ph.(06)278 6005. neville.wallace@talk2me.co.nz

Manawatu
Russell Cameron,
6 Woodland Grove, Feilding. 4702
Ph. (06) 323 7432 russellcam@gmail.com

Wellington / Wairarapa
Graeme Cameron
4 Karamu Street, Ngaio, Wellington 6035
Ph. (04) 977 6250 glcameron@outlook.com

Canterbury
Nick Cameron
322 Auchenflower Road, RD 1 Darfield 7571
Ph. 027 232 6664
nick.cameron@cropmark.co.nz

Magazine Editor
Neil Cameron,
28 Oxford Terrace, Devonport, Auckland 0624
Ph: (09) 446 1177 kncam@xtra.co.nz

Web Co-ordinator
Tanya Cameron Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Facebook
<https://m.facebook.com/ClanCameronNZ>

A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

The last 2 months have been a busy time for pipe band members with the Nationals in Invercargill last weekend. It was great to catch up with various Cameron pipers and drummers during this time. I guess we were lucky to complete this competition in wonderful weather before the gathering restrictions imposed at government level because of the Covid 19 virus concerns. For the same reasons we have had to make the very hard decision to cancel our National AGM in Tauranga. I have also just learnt that the Easter Contest at Hastings is also now cancelled – so hopefully we can meet up again at the "Clan Tent" in 2021.

With the Covid 19 concerns about "self-isolation" it has led people to think about communication in other ways besides travel – how lucky we are these days to have cell phones with texting and messaging and the internet with the use of Skype, Zoom and FaceTime etc for communication – compared with the 1918 H1N1 Pandemic (known to originate from genes of avian origin) – where communication was extremely difficult.

With self-isolation it is worth considering activities that can be done while in this state – perhaps if possible you could go back to basics like cooking, home preserving of food, gardening, spinning, weaving, knitting, or even learning to play an instrument such as the drums or pipes using skype lessons from experienced tutors. I understand some universities are offering internet based courses in some subjects – a way for the international students particularly to carry on with their courses.

I challenge our Clan members to provide our newsletter editor with the best "positive" advice to "self-isolate" if required to do so.

Keep safe.

Cheers, Nick



Message from Lochiel

It is with a heavy heart that I now declare that the proposed Gathering in July/August will be cancelled.

Obviously, we would like to rearrange but I think we should not, at this stage, try and set a date as no-one knows what the situation will be in the months or indeed years to come. It is, of course, very sad and disappointing and I hope that people who have booked travel and accommodation do not lose out financially.

I should be grateful if you would tell all those who need to know (e.g. those who have booked ceilidh tickets, Visit Scotland, those giving talks, etc.) of this decision.

The ramifications of the virus will be enormous and unprecedented and I would ask you all to look after yourselves.

With very best wishes to you all,

Lochiel

Due to the Current Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), we have decided NOT to hold the Clan Cameron NZ Annual Gathering this year on the 4th of April 2020.

Although there is a relatively small number of people attending, the age and general wellbeing of our group encourages us to put your welfare first.

Nick and Tanya

**Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website**

www.clancameronnz.co.nz

**The Clan Cameron Interactive
Network**

<http://clancameron.ning.com/>

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 May 2020

Printed By

Return to the 'Rock'

By the Editor

In February, a reunion was held of those Navy personnel who served or did their basic training on the island of Motuihe, in the Hauraki Gulf. The editor and Graeme Cameron were privileged, along with Graeme's wife Hazel, to join about 160 others who renewed their acquaintance with the island.

First, something about the island - very topical in this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. In 1872 the Health Department set up a human quarantine station there to serve the Port of Auckland where emigrants and others who arrived by ship with infectious diseases, such as scarlet fever, or smallpox, were isolated and treated. One death is recorded, Mary Long, a passenger on the emigrant ship *Hydaspes*, who is buried in the island cemetery.

During the First World War, the quarantine station was taken over as an internment camp for German prisoners of war - this included the infamous Count von Luckner, who managed to escape.

In 1918, the island ceased being an internment camp and reverted to being a quarantine station again to deal with the influenza epidemic, allegedly brought back to New Zealand by returning servicemen. Five further graves were added to the cemetery in this period.

Were any of your emigrant forebears quarantined here or on any other quarantine station in New Zealand? Please tell me about it.

After a period when the buildings were used as a health camp and as accommodation for children evacuees from the Napier earthquake, HMNZS Tamaki on Motuihe became the Navy's training establishment, and remained as such for the next 22 years.

The editor, and Graeme Cameron, current Wellington/Wairarapa president, both did their Naval training on the island in the 1950s. Graeme later returned to the island on the staff.

It was a perfect day when we sailed from Half Moon Bay by landing barge to make a beach landing on Motuihe and slowly walk up the hill to the site of the establishment



Motuihe now (above) and in the 1950s (right)



The 17 year old editor, rear rank on left, learning rifle drill

- a hill we had always doubled up in our training days. About 160 veterans were there, well supported by the Navy, who provided shelter, chairs and cold water.

The site is bare now, apart from a crumbling water tower, and is under control of the department of Conservation.

There was much reminiscing about the life we experienced. Harsh punishments for minor misdemeanours, early rising with a long run or boat pulling before breakfast, learning how to sleep in a hammock, and being shouted at by instructors. All a big change from the sheltered life we had led at home.

We learned how to keep ourselves and our clothes clean, to do our washing (or dhobying) in a bucket and to dry and iron our clothes, but above all, we learnt to look after each other and work as a team.

A plaque was laid to commemorate the site of HMNZS Tamaki, set in the position of the old flagpole, in a simple ceremony.

A full weekend of events followed, culminating in a church service in the Naval Base Chapel. At this the chaplain remarked that we came from a culture that helped each other in times of adversity, rather than the 'me, me' attitude rather prevalent today.

I believe we will all show that quality of helping others in this troubled time.



Coming Events:

At this stage the annual dinners planned

by the Auckland Branch for August 22nd and by the Manawatu Branch for August 29 are still in place. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic these will

probably be cancelled.

We hope that a decision will be made in time for inclusion in the next newsletter.

From the Branches....

The views expressed in these reports are those of the writers. Some have been lightly edited.

Auckland by Rob Cameron

Well, the first major change you may notice is that there is different thumbnail photo and name at the top of this branch review, that is due to Norman Cameron standing down as Auckland Branch President after 6 years at the branch AGM this year, and myself being elected to take over.



As a quick introduction, I was born and raised in Blenheim, however I have spent the last 17 years living in Auckland. Some of you may have known my Grandfather, Rodney Cameron, who was active in the Clan during the 80s and early 90s. After his passing in 2014, I took on some of his hobbies, including bagpiping, family history research, and of course an interest in Clan Cameron.

I have been Vice President over the last 2 years, helping out with the Clan tent at most Highland games events, and organising the entertainment for the annual dinners. I also plan to help the committee to generate more social events that the Auckland members can take part in, as well as the continual task of generating new Clan members.

Since the last newsletter, the Clan had presence at the Paeroa Highland Games. A big thanks to Neil Cameron and his son in law Duncan McQueen, who brought the tent to the event and manned it during the day. A big thanks also to Tanya Cameron who came out and helped man the tent during the day, and Rex Garland who helped put the tent up in the morning. I was there to help put the tent up and bring it down, however during the day I was busy competing with the City of Auckland Pipe Band. The band also participated in the Tattoo making it a long day for me, finally getting home around midnight.

The AGM was held on 8th of March which went very well. This was of course the last meeting chaired by Norman Cameron as president who stood down after 6 years as president. The meeting was attended by a lot of members and I am glad to say, as the new president, that we have a healthy number of members on the committee. I look forward to working with them over the next few months to get the ball rolling on a few projects. After the AGM we had a BBQ which was a great social event for the people who attended. I must thank Jenny and Bryan Haggitt, for organising and allowing us to use the Parnell Cricket Club for the event, and also for organising the food for the occasion, they tirelessly do this every year, and we all appreciate them for doing it.

As I write this review, I am also preparing for the NZ Pipe Band National which is being held in Invercargill, however this will be completed by the time you are reading this. For any other clan member competing at this event, I hope you have a good time and good luck for your competitions. There is some discussion around COVID-19 and I am hoping this will not affect the competition.

With regards to upcoming events, a small group of us will travel to Tauranga to attend the Executive AGM and lunch put on by the Bay of Plenty Branch. We have also started planning for our own Annual Dinner for August 22nd at the "Parnell" (Quality Inn) with performances from invited returning guests Originz.

Manawatu by Anne Walker

The AGM of Clan Manawatu was held in the Summerhouse at Mt Lees Reserve, near Feilding on Sunday 16th February. It was a beautiful summers day and members, family and friends who attended enjoyed a brief and



informative AGM, followed by a shared potluck luncheon and opportunity to enjoy the surroundings at the Mt Lees Reserve. The President, Russell Cameron, provided a good overview of our busy year of activity, and all current committee members were re-elected. Clan Cameron Manawatu will be represented at the April AGM in Tauranga by Clan Cameron Manawatu President Russell Cameron, and Vice-President, John Cameron. 2020 will be a challenging year for us all, as we deal with the Covid-19 virus pandemic taking hold throughout the world. We will all be affected in some way, and we need to be mindful that our family and friends will need our support over the coming months.

At this stage, we continue to plan for the Clan Cameron Manawatu annual dinner, which will be held once again at Wharerata Function Centre, Massey University, Palmerston North, on Saturday 29th August. More information will be available later.

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

As alluded to in our last newsletter, the last few weeks have been spent sorting out our plan of operation for the Hastings Highland Games at Easter. Putting together all the various objects, articles etc needed to make a display tent work doesn't seem like too bad a task -- until you try to do it!!



Its about then that you discover the diversity of interests your membership encompasses.

Recent major events here in Hawke's Bay include Napier's ART DECO WEEK (which actually spreads over about 12 days ---- and attracts a significant international following) and now as I write ---- in Hastings -- we are hosting the annual Horse of the Year Show. New Zealand's top equestrian event --- another week long affair.

So you get to understand the urgency of your requests may not always resonate with those already committed to other interests.

The very latest hurdle to overcome is if in fact the Games will actually go ahead at all !! The announcement of closed borders -- restricted gathering sizes etc due to Coronavirus has now become a very large factor effecting decisions.

Within the Branch committee itself there has been another reshuffle of responsibilities with the announcement from Shane East that her continued health recovery will allow her to manage her previous role as Treasurer -- the reinstatement of her Drivers Licence being a big factor. For the Branch this is good news as it maintains a continuity of procedure developed over time and this now allows Maree Cameron to take over the Secretarial duties.

Although the Branch hasn't been publicly visible, there has been quite a bit going on administratively and now the big question posed for us here is what effect the new rules around Coronavirus will have on the Highland Games come Easter.

However, just before Easter, there is the NZ Clan Cameron AGM with its attendant questions and suggestions to ponder over.

A busy time ahead I would say.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

I attended the Paeroa Highland Games and enjoyed manning the tent with Neil Cameron, Duncan McQueen and our wonderful branch representatives who also were in dancing events while they were there. We enjoyed the time shared with those that passed through. We saw the Topp Twins at our tent, stilt walkers and many other visitors.



The BOP Branch was busy organising for the Annual Gathering in April where we had planned a one day event. The National Gathering was planned to be held on Saturday the 4th of April 2020. Unfortunately, this has now been cancelled. Due to the Coronavirus event and general

health and welfare concerns, we felt this was our best option. We have been in contact with those who have let us know they were coming to the Gathering to let them know we have cancelled, but felt it was something that we needed to let all know about. So many events now are being cancelled or postponed this month. We will let you know more as the situation progresses. Please feel free to contact me if you would like a copy of the AGM papers that would have been supplied (tanya.cameron30@gmail.com). These will be sent to the executive by default also.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

Very little is happening for Clan Cameron Canterbury at the present time, however we are planning a meal for the middle of the year. Otherwise I have no news. We are just getting on with life but of course being concerned about the coronavirus that is causing such sadness and concern throughout the world.



Iar by Neville Wallace

Unfortunately, Clan Cameron Iar had to cancel our Haggis evening due to a poor response from CC members and also a lack of interest from the general public. Some of the costs involved are beyond the purse of a small branch such as CC Iar While I did use social media to a large extent, I also used a local newspaper who were very helpful. But with so many aged members who are reluctant to use social media it makes it very limiting as to how to attract support. Roadside signs are also a very costly advertising in terms getting signs printed let alone manpower to display such signs. When I look at branches in the bigger centres, they have the good fortune of having a critical mass of people to draw from. We in Clan Cameron Iar have been very fortunate to be able to call on people with whom I've had association doing my local rural radio programme. But people who reside further away cost more in sponsorship than is available to us from any local firms. For example, when I was involved with Federated Farmers executive, I was able to get a Jamie Fitzgerald (who rowed the Atlantic in 2003 with Kevin Biggar and later the same duo took a sledge from the Coast of Antarctica to the South Pole). I was able to get a National Insurance Company to cover that cost. Unfortunately, Clan Cameron doesn't have that capacity A local men's club that I'm a member of is able to get an annual grant from a local bank to take members on an annual bus trip to destinations of interest. There are other money sources that can be used if it's a group that wants to invite the wider public to display their culture, but we find that the local Cameron's are not very interested in their antecedent's or history which is very regrettable. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has made meeting to discuss these issues untenable.



Wellington/Wairarapa by Graeme Cameron

The Branch planned a "Sunday Dinner" at lunch time on Saturday 21 March at the Aston Norwood Café and Function Centre at Kaitoke (at the foot of the Rimutaka Hill). During the dinner Rob and Cath Cameron were going to give a presentation of their recent tour to Europe via the Trans Siberian express. After reviewing the responsible options we should be taking around gatherings in public places during the coronavirus outbreak we have decided to postpone the event and reschedule when the position becomes clearer.



First Light Update by Bryan Haggitt

The First Light Exchange commenced a good many years ago – young adults from Lochaber being assisted to visit New Zealand and enabling young New Zealanders to live and work briefly in Scotland.



Very successful for some time but times changed. Scotland has not been able to continue the Exchange and the Clan here has suggested, instead, a simple scholarship be awarded annually – this in the form of a return air fare, first to a Scot to travel to NZ and then to a Kiwi to visit Scotland.

At Turangi last September President Nick suggested that a piper could be a suitable awardee – he had noted that a couple of young Camerons were prominent in recent Scottish piping contests.

Time didn't allow further debate at Turangi and it was left to be taken further at the next AGM.

By remarkable coincidence David Knapman, recently retired Rector of Dollar Academy, was on holiday here in NZ from November through to January. He told me that Dollar's pipe band is very highly regarded and that, almost certainly, the pipers that President Nick had mentioned at Turangi would have been pupils of his. David, now back in Scotland, thinks such a scholarship an excellent idea and is happy to assist us in implementing it.

Obviously this isn't the time for overseas travel but, hopefully, when normality resumes, a Scholarship can be awarded to a young Scot who can come and compete in pipe band contests here. And then a reciprocal trip to Scotland by a Kiwi Cameron can take place.

Protocols are still to be drawn up but all should be in place by the time normality returns.

Note - Dollar Academy is a leading Scottish Independent School – it's pipe band is renowned:

Yvette Morrissey's Wedding by Bev Morrissey

Yvette was married to a very nice Scottish lad, Craig Webster, on 17th January 2020.

The wedding was held on the outskirts of Edinburgh, in a beautiful 16th century building, now a hotel (where Mary Queen of Scots once stayed), called McDonald's Houston House.

The wedding was amazing, very Scottish...with kilts, piper, haggis, even a Celidh during the evening. The cake, which I made and decorated for her, featured my late Mother's Clan Cameron badge on the front. The tartan ribbon matched the bridal party kilts (Flower of Scotland). the arrangements on the wedding cake featured Scotch thistles, Silver ferns and Heather....to represent the joining of their 2 cultures. I had them especially made over here.

Yvette is currently self employed, doing her travel blog, website designing, itinerary planning as a business. Her husband Craig is a drone pilot for a company called Cyberhawke, which takes him all over Scotland and occasionally overseas. It is mostly doing photography and reports for clients. At times Yvette can accompany him. She has taken a month out though, to complete her book she has been writing about her 2018 hike of the Scottish National Trail, which saw her walk and often wild camp, the entire length of Scotland. It took her 7 weeks, and she became the first woman to complete it, solo, in one continuous attempt. Most complete it in several stages, over time. It is very timely due to the Coronavirus outbreak, as people are having to halt travel. Let's hope it all is over soon, especially with a lot of us on tenderhooks re the Gathering in July. Fingers crossed!

People can follow Yvette (Now Webster) on her blog FB page Wayfaring Kiwi, or www.wayfaringkiwi.com



A Very Scottish Wedding



Manawatu member Yvette Morrissey was married to Craig Webster in Edinburgh on 20th January 2020.

Yvette's mother Bev was there and made and decorated the cake on the left.

Bev is on the far left front of the photo, next to the man in the kilt (groom's cousin). Next to her in red coat is her cousin Jo Robinson from Thames. She too is a Cameron descendant. The right hand side of the bride and groom, are Craig's (groom) family...the Websters.

(See story on page 5)



"Corper" (detail) 2011. Woven corrugated iron (amongst trees and flax) - over 8000 strips of corrugated iron woven pieces!

Some of Jeff Thomson's great creations. See pages 10 and 11



"Rebecca" (detail) 2019 yacht sculpture



The Paeroa Highland Games



Rob Cameron, Duncan McQueen and Tanya Cameron ready for the march



Patricia Duncan, Hazel Cameron, Judith Bean and Tanya.



Tanya and Hazel Cameron have fun with the Topp Twins.



Duncan McQueen with John and Shirley Baillie



Tanya is with Rex Garland



Dancing on the Green



The City of Auckland Pipe Band marches on.



Neil Cameron with new member Alan Culhane



The long and the short and the tall!



Hazel Cameron enjoying a joke with a friend

The Merging of Two Cultures:

A Pen Portrait of Rob Cameron

New President of the Auckland Branch

(Pictured on front page)

Ko Parororangi te Maunga (Parororangi is the mountain)
Ko Anakoha te Kainga (Anakoha is the homeland)
Ko Okoha te Awa (Okoha is the river)
Ko Te Au-a-Kaikaiawaro te Moana (Te Au-a-Kaikaiawaro is the sea)
Ko Matuahautere te Tipuna (Matuahautere is the ancestor)
Ko Te Hoiere te waka (Te Hoiere is the ancestral canoe)
Ko Ngāti Kuia te iwi (Ngāti Kuia are the people)
Ko Ropata Kamerona Tōku Ingoa (My name is Rob Cameron)
Tēnā Kotua Katoa (Greetings everyone)

The above statement states my Whakapapa, which comes from my mother's side of the family. This is a strong cultural statement and explains my Maori ancestry. Another strong cultural statement is the name Cameron, this simple term has been passed down through every male descendant on my father's side of the family, for many many generations. Much like many of you reading this now, this name has a cultural significance. It is important for us to know where we came from and what makes each of us unique.

I am a descendant of Donald "The Weaver" Cameron, through his son Donald "The Piper" Cameron, who came out to New Zealand aboard "The Blenheim" in 1840. I am part of the 5th generation of this family born in New Zealand.

I was born and raised in Blenheim to Allan and Morea Cameron where I spent my childhood up to the end of my high school years. I played a few sports during my childhood, I settled on table tennis, playing at a national level representing both Marlborough and Nelson at a junior level during my teenage years.

Once out of home, I moved to Nelson, then Christchurch, where I studied IT getting a diploma in Advanced Business Systems majoring in Java Programming. I moved to Auckland at the end of my course where I did a lot of IT support and database management work before returning to Java programming where I am currently working as a web developer.

I have a lot of social activities, including wood carving which I have done over the last 15 years. I find this is a good stress reliever, even though sometimes it can take months to finish a carving. I have carved many wedding gifts, birthday keys, and raffle prizes over the years and can usually accommodate anyone wanting something carved.

My tutor, Denis Conway, who I have learned a great deal from, spent a decade with his team of carvers to produce all the intricate carving for the interior and exterior of the Oraki Marae during the 70s and 80s. Denis is very knowledgeable in cultural carvings, mainly to do with the north island Maori, but also with Celtic designs from his own Irish heritage. Up until recently he held a weekly class on a Tuesday night which I attended for many years. I find it quite funny that 2 other carvers from this class were also piping students of Willie Schultz who was my piping tutor when I started. This is yet another instance of a small world coincidence, in which I seem to find a lot in recent times.

I also have an interest in music, having studied this at high school and learning various instruments including Guitar, Keyboard, and the Clarinet. Having learned these, I didn't get into performing until I started learning the Bagpipes in my

early 30s. I found it easier to learn the pipes than other learners around my age, and I guess I have to put that down to my prior music knowledge. My tutor started pushing me to do solo competitions a few months after I started, and I did very well in the lower grades. I haven't competed in solos for a couple of years now however I intend to return to compete in C grade towards the end of this year.

My Piping does not stop at solo level, I am currently members of 2 Pipe bands, City of Auckland Pipe Band and City of Sails Pipe Band. I started going along to both practices around the same time and somehow manage to perform for both bands. City of Sails has taught me a lot about leading a band, and City of Auckland has kept my playing to a high standard. I also perform with a traditional tribal drumming band called Clan Celtica run by Frankie MacCullaich, I am the second piper next to Michel Tent and the style of music is a lot different to pipe band music, but it is great fun to perform.

It is at this point I have to mention my Grandfather - Rodney Cameron, as it is only after his passing in 2014, that I started playing the Bagpipes. Also, after his passing, both my parents took an interest in the pipe band, where my Mother plays the side drum and my father plays the bass drum for the Blenheim and Districts Pipe Band. It is heart-breaking to know that my grandfather would have been very proud of us all, but he never got to see us play. We have competed and performed as a family unit many times and I am sure he would have loved to have seen it.

I also have a keen interest in Genealogy and family history research. This was also due to my Grandfather as he had already done a lot of work on his own and my Grandmother, Alison's family trees. I picked up where he left off and started to investigate my mother's side of the family. My research has allowed me to connect with cousins that I never would have known I had and share information. I have an extensive tree on Ancestry.com, I have taken a DNA test, and asked other family members to take DNA tests. This will always be an ongoing learning experience for me, there is always something new to learn when it comes to family history.

My interest in joining Clan Cameron was also due to my Grandfather, and having learned that he played a big part during the 80s and early 90s. He was newsletter editor from 1983 to 1992, he was Secretary/Treasurer for 9 terms and Secretary for 1, he travelled to Scotland with the clan in 1986, and he also piped for the Clan Chief when he came out from Scotland in 1986. He became a life member in 1992. As I start my term as Auckland Branch President, I have his reputation to uphold.

I joined the Clan just over 2 years ago and joined the committee for the Auckland branch at the same time. Up until now I have been able to help Neil Cameron with the Clan Tent at some Highland Games. I am usually competing, either with solo piping or a pipe band at these events. I have also been able to help out with the entertainment at our branch Annual Dinners. Taking over from Rex Garland, as well as being a member of the City of Auckland Pipe Band, I have been able to secure the pipe band's fusion band, Originz, as our main entertainment. The Origins performances has made our clan dinners very popular, and we have large numbers attend each year.

I have been a representative for Clan Cameron on the Scottish Clans Association Auckland Districts. I have been key in helping this committee set up an Endowment fund to support young people in Scottish arts by providing scholarships for selected courses. Currently the fund has been able to support 2 RNZPBA Summer school scholarships, and 1 Scottish Country Dancing Summer school scholarship. As a piper myself, I think this is a great initiative and hopefully this will support the youth for many years to come. I have found with a lot of communities (not just the Scottish based ones),

that numbers seem to be dwindling, it is important to get the younger generations interested in these or they may disappear forever.

Since my social activity has increased over the last few years I have been keeping a blog of any event that I feel people may be interested in. I try to keep this up to date and if you are interested in having a look you can go to pipesandchisels.com.

I am thankful to the Auckland Clan members, especially Norman Cameron, for electing me as branch president. This is a new experience for me, I never expected to be in a position like this, but I hope with my enthusiasm, I can make the Auckland branch members proud. I am open for discussion if you wish to contact me for any reason and will try my best to action any requests.



A bookplate fit for a Chief

by Bill Cameron

in the thirteenth century and later. The Supporters which are on record in 1730 are two Savages, wreathed with Oak about the head and middle, and bearing Lochaber Axes. Until about 1745 the Crest was an Arm holding a sword, with the motto 'Pro Rege et Patria'. By 1745 'the Gentle Lochiel' was using the Crest consisting of five arrows, proper, banded gules, with the Motto 'Unite', for his pistol and snuff mull bear that crest. The present Lochiel uses both mottoes in the Gaelic form; above the shield 'Aonaibh Ri Chéile' and below 'Air son Rìgh agus dùthcha'.

These arms are personal to the bearer, and no person is entitled to use another's arms."

Pro Rege et Patria translates from Latin as - For King and Fatherland. Air son Rìgh agus Dùthcha translates from the Gaelic as - For King and country.

Some subtle variations can be seen in the other examples below.



A number of years ago, I bought a second hand book in a local book store.

On opening the book I noticed the distinctive Cameron of Lochiel coat of arms glued on to the inside cover. This interesting bookplate belonged to the 26th chief of Clan Cameron, Donald Hamish Cameron of Lochiel (1910 -2004)

The symbols used in the book plate Incorporate a number of features associated with Lochaber and indeed the clan Cameron.

It's worth stating that the bookplate uses the personal Arms of the chief of clan Cameron.

In John Stewart of Ardvorlich's book, The History of Clan Cameron, he describes the background to the Cameron chiefs coat of arms.

"The Armorial Bearings of the Chief of Clan Cameron are: Gules (red) three Bars or (gold). The three Bars of Cameron are found displayed on the seals of the Camerons of Ballegarno



An article to cheer you all up.....

“Have tin snips, will travel”

By Jeff Thomson (member of the Auckland Branch)

Being an artist was what I wanted to be from an early age and I've never in the past 55 years wanted to be anything but. I was good at drawing and painting but struggled with the three R's. I'd been diagnosed as being dyslexic at Campbells Bay Primary School on Auckland's North shore which probably explains why I had a bent towards what I was good at.

Art was my most enjoyable subject through my five years at Westlake Boys and I still remember the excitement in 1977 on being accepted into the Elam School of Fine Arts at the University of Auckland. I completed a BFA, majoring in painting and printmaking and then spent one year doing a diploma in teaching (art) at Auckland's College of Education. A three-year stint teaching Secondary School art, including a year back at Westlake ended when I was offered the inaugural artist in residence at the Dowse Art Museum in 1986.

Unfortunately, at the last minute it fell through so no longer with paid employment, I took the plunge and started working as a full-time artist.

I'd done a lot of walking due to a lack of rides whilst hitch-hiking around the country in University holiday breaks. I enjoyed the walking so much that I set out on a series of long distant walks, often 2-3 weeks at a time. Dunedin to Christchurch, Bulls to New Plymouth, around the East Cape and so on.

During these walks I became fascinated by roadside paraphernalia such as road markers, roadside signs, mailboxes and so on.

I came up with the idea of making small advertisements using cut out and screen-printed plywood shapes that could be attached to the top of a mailbox. These cut-outs would denote the occupation, an interest or a hobby of the property occupiers – Turned out to be mainly livestock, fruit, vegetables, and on one occasion a Honda motorbike and on another, a foot shape for a chiropodist.

I made approximately 150 of these wooden shapes for lucky punters who'd responded to my letter drops whilst walking hundreds of kilometres of mainly rural roads.

On one walk near Eketahuna in 1981, I made my first corrugated iron artwork. Using tin snips, I cut by hand a small cow shape from a sheet of rusty red corrugated iron. Bolted to the mailbox on the road side, it was seen by all passers-by.

A few months later, a Wellington couple out for a drive saw it, stopped, went to the farm house and got my address. They then commissioned a tiger, penguin and the façade of an elephant for their Wadestown property, all to be made out of corrugated iron.

Sir James Wallace, the well-known Auckland arts patron, saw that elephant and commissioned several more corrugated iron pachyderms to act as a fence protecting his Auckland property. I'd made thirteen of them for him to choose from and installed them in Albert park for nine days so he and other members of the public could see and enjoy them. I ended up sleeping each night in the band rotunda to keep an eye on them thinking there may be attempts to steal them but the response was truly on the positive side.

My first biggish exhibition was when I was invited to do a large outdoor installation of corrugated iron elephants and other animals for the very first Wellington International Festival of the Arts in 1986.

Following this in 1987, I was invited as Artist in Residence for the Sydney and Canberra Festivals, followed by the Adelaide International Festival of the Arts. That year I was



picked up by the renowned Sydney Art dealer Ray Hughes whom I exhibited with regularly for 29 years.

People started commissioning me to make them things in corrugated iron, a variety of objects, the most popular being animals.

Two cows for Billy Connelly followed when he saw my work whilst filming in New Zealand. They were shipped to his Estate in Aberdeenshire where the tin bovines lived for many years until he sold the property and moved to Los Angeles. In 1995, I was awarded the Frances Hodgkins Fellowship at the University of Otago and it was here that I met Shona Cameron who was working for the North Campus photographic unit at the university. We married in 1999 and her wedding bouquet was of course made from corrugated iron. She didn't throw it and has still has it today.



To keep myself interested in the material, I've tried to use it in as many ways as possible.

I've cut it into strips and woven it, french knitted it, braided it, screen printed upon its surfaces and turned it into lace to name a few.

We moved to Helensville in 1996 and purchased a very large industrial building where we have lived and worked ever since.

I exhibited several times in Germany and France between 1997 – 2006 including a touring exhibition which

travelled to museums and public Art Galleries in several cities before cumulating in a show in Berlin.

This led to my being invited to make a public sculpture in Berlin (2006) which was unveiled by the then NZ Prime Minister Helen Clark. On all these trips, Shona was a huge support, especially in her ability to relate to almost everyone we met and make friends.

One of my more well-known works must be the Corrugated Iron clad HQ Holden station wagon (1991). I drove that car for three years on the roads of NZ and Australia. Eventually I got tired of the police and gangs regularly pulling me over to have a nosey and the constant attention from other road users. In 1996 I sold it to Te Papa in Wellington. Earlier in 1992, South Pacific Pictures had hired it from me to film a North American Television series based on the stories of Ray Bradbury. They paid me enough money to buy a Morris minor I'd seen parked up on the road side in Napier. I quickly went about cladding it with colourful corrugated iron, curving it on my roll former to hug the car body before riveting it on.

A highlight in my career as a sculptor was a three-year nationwide touring exhibition of my work. Drawing large crowds at each venue, the Canterbury Museum, its final venue, averaged 4000 visitors a day which was quite phenomenal. The Museum also purchased the Morris Minor for their collection.

Another of my proudest achievements has been being selected for all nine 'Sculpture on the Gulf' biennial events on Waiheke Island. My last offering in 2019 was a seven-metre yacht sculpture that floated at high tide.

Along the way I've made 10 Sculptures for the Alan Gibbs Sculpture Park, most prominent being a larger than life giraffe, the giant tin Gumboot in Taihape and had all the wines at Tarawarra Estate Winery in the Yarra valley (Melbourne), named after some Swiss braunvieh cattle I made for them.

I also had my work on a set of Australian postage stamps when they mistook me for being Australian and 3 NZ lotto tickets have had images of my work on them and a

telephone card!.

The three Kangaroos 2015, tallest 3000mm high, were commissioned by the owner of Canberra Airport and are installed between two runways. Used by Qantas pilots as a marker when landing.

Also had a winery Tarawarra Estate in the Yarra valley (out of Melbourne) use three cattle I made for them as designer images of the cows on the labels of all their wine.



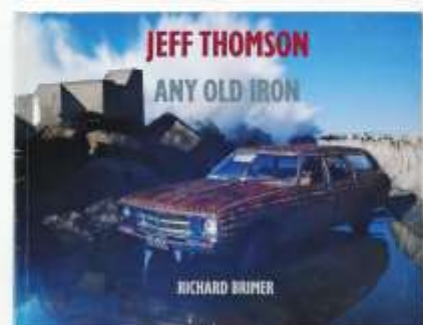
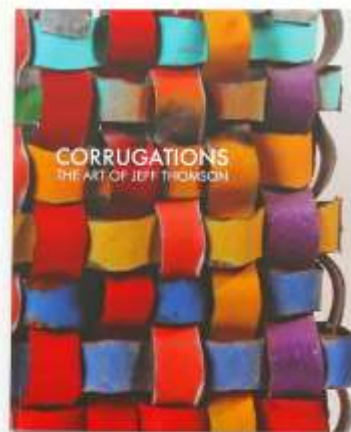
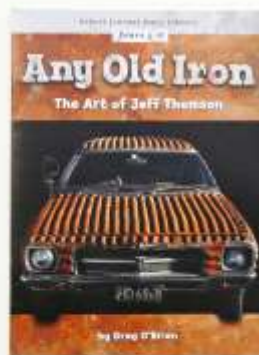
Books about Jeff Thomson's Art

Books are difficult to get but still out there. The Sergeant Gallery in Wanganui did have a big collection of the Corrugations- the Art Of Jeff Thomson (weaving detail on cover).

The smaller brown book with my HQ station wagon on the cover was a school journal written by renowned writer Gregory O'Brien which was a huge honour for me. Teachers have access to this publication.

The Jeff Thomson - Wellblech-spitz aus eisen was published to go with one of my German exhibitions.

Currently have another book being made on the building of "Rebecca" Is titled Ripples on the Water. No date set for publication.





Aonaibh ri Cheile

The Back Page



Auckland Branch Annual General Meeting

From Left: Neil Cameron, Jill and Norman Cameron, Elaine Ebbett, Jeff Thomson, Shona Cameron, Rob Cameron, Pam Cameron, Hillary and Cass Hakaraia, Barry and Mirren Stevens, Willa Cameron, Jenny and Bryan Haggitt, Jasper and Cleve Cameron.
In Front: Duncan McQueen, Ruth Cameron, Brian Cameron and Huia Cameron. Inset: Jean McQueen (photographer).



Branch President and Masterchef

*Rob Cameron, newly
elected president of the
Auckland Branch,
shows his skills at the
barbecue at the branch
AGM.*

Photo: Editor

*Right: Rob is with Sarah
McQueen at the Pipe
Band Nationals in
Invercargill*



*Inscribed Quaich presented to retiring Auckland
President, Norman Cameron at the Auck. AGM*

More of Jeff Thomson's great creations. See pages 10 and 11



*Above is a detail of "Contour" from Jeff's 2005 sculpture made for
"Sculpture on the Gulf" Waiheke - it is above Matiatia and ran for 50
metres down the hillside. Locals nicknamed it the toilet paper roll!*



*The large garden/bouquet of screen printed flowers and natives is in
the collection of St Kentigern College. Apparently Duncan
McQueen's favourite artwork of all time!*