



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

*Vol 46 No 2
April 2012*



Looking down Loch Arkaig near Murlaggan in February

photo: Bill Cameron



The massed bands at the NZ National Pipe Band Championships 2012

Photo: Jean McQueen

A message from our President



To all Clan members where ever you may be; welcome to another year, that brings the Annual General Meeting to the fore. April will see a trusty number of you in attendance at Ashburton for the various matters that need your attention.

The editor is calling but the cat requires attention on the table before I can start this urgent matter. At last the amended constitution has been mailed to

all Presidents and committees to check before the A.G.M, also the copy of the First Light details as set out earlier and request for any amendments from members. Included in my accompanying letter was a request for details of your travel to Christchurch and on to Ashburton so that consideration for joining together for the last leg of the journey can be made.

A report from the Gisborne district with regards to the gravestones at the Markaraka cemetery, where the gravestones were affected by river erosion sometime earlier, has been received by families. These headstones had been buried awaiting a decision where to restore them and it was decided to have a memorial wall erected at the entrance to the Cemetery. This is what will happen shortly. The descendants have been contacted and some two hundred dollars has been requested.

Among others are the graves of Ewen, Martha and R.J. Cameron, Ewen of course was my Grandfather and his wife Martha. R.J. was a brother to Ewen who never married.

As this year of office is drawing to a close it is with reserve I reflect on the achievements, small as they are. The pleasures are the reward of the resurgence of the Wanganui branch thanks to Alan and Donald. Gisborne branch was my major concern but time has not to date allowed for the input required. Now we have travel restriction through the Waioweka Gorge for sometime to come. Last weekend 10th March was enjoyed with the company of Denis, Joy, Rex and Patricia at the Pipe Band Championships in Tauranga, Denis reported a very successful Clan display along with a few new members to the Clan. The day resulted in at least 53 pipe bands being present for the two day event ending in the mass bands parade and final tunes by all for the ending with 100 pipers.

Another main feature of the day was Denis being able to present an aged photo of the Wellington Pipe Band to one of the members present. On receiving the photo this person was able to relate to us who was deceased, as well as some that were present on the day. It was certainly rewarding to see how this photo was received by the members of the Wellington Pipe Band present for the gathering.

By the time this has gone to press the Tauranga musketeers will have gathered, along with family and friends, to celebrate another year in the life of past President Harold. I am sure it will be a well rewarded occasion, as we wish him well for the coming years.

Regards to all

Fraser

“Cameron”

The magazine of the
Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc)
published on or near the 1st day of every even month
of the year.

Deadlines for articles are on the 15th of the month
before publication. Items of urgency or importance
may be accepted up to 10 days later.

Articles about Camerons, branch activities with
photographs, and advice of coming events are
especially welcome.

Deadline for the June issue:

15 May 2012

Please send to:

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

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

Printed by

Contact Details

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 Fraser Cameron

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

Secretary

Catherine Cameron
114D Willow Park Drive, Masterton
Ph. (06) 377 0377 sedgemere@gmail.com

Treasurer

Alison Jordan
80 16th Avenue, Tauranga 3112
Ph. (07) 577 9061 thejordanfamily@clear.net.nz

Genealogist and Historian

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

First Light Exchange Convenor

Heather Cameron
PO Box 29232, Greenwoods Corner Auckland 1061
Phone: (09) 630 5549. heath_piglet@yahoo.co.nz

Branch Presidents

Auckland

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

Bay of Plenty

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

Gisborne

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

Hawke's Bay

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

Taranaki/Wanganui

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

Manawatu

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

Wellington/Wairarapa

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

Canterbury

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

Webmaster:

Warren Cameron
w.lcameron@xtra.co.nz

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

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Manawatu Branch

Glen Mitchell

Bay of Plenty Branch

Susan Pini

Tangimoana

Tauranga

Canterbury Branch

Alythia Larsen

Christchurch

Ceud Mile Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes

Continuing the story of:

John Cameron and family of Gollans Valley

*by Norman Cameron,
Waiheke.*

The Cameron brothers, taking after their father, had a whisky still in Butter Fly creek and were shipping the bottles in the full milk cans. In 1894 the secret came out when the scow hit the wharf, a can fell over and out shot the bottles of whisky. As in 1868 the police searched the farm and found a still. The four brothers were served warrants and the trial started on the 16th of June 1894. Their mother Catherine Cameron testified she was the mother of the four defendants, only Charles lived at home, while the other three live in houses at Muritai, Eastbourne. They all helped on the farm but were not partners. The charges were dismissed by the judge because of lack of evidence. So ended the saga of a whisky still in Gollans Valley as the brothers decided it would be foolish to continue.

In 1892 Charles Gridland sold his Muritai block of 119 acres to Hugh, John and Charles Cameron. This was followed with John and Hugh forming a partnership with the Russo brothers to purchase 380 acres from George Hart. By 1894 the Cameron's and Russo's owned a major proportion of the modern Eastbourne and they started selling sections from 1895 onwards.

The Eastbourne Borough Act was introduced into Parliament and John Cameron made a submission in support of the Act. He stated that his property was 2600 acres running 3,000 sheep, 100 head of cattle and with an income of 500 pounds. He owned two thirds share of the farm, Allan & Jessie a sixth and the family lawyer Frank Wills a sixth. The Act came into force on April the 1st 1906

Charles, Hugh and Catherine are not mentioned in John's statement.

Charles Cameron was about in 1892 as he was a partner with Hugh and John in the purchase of the Charles Gridland 119 acres. Like his uncle Hugh before him he has disappeared.

Hugh Cameron with one of the Russo boys was arrested in 1896 for stealing candles, powder and butter from the wrecked ship the "Halcione". Hugh died on the 3rd of July 1903 after a horse accident aged 34.

Catherine Cameron married Daniel Francis O'Sullivan in Blenheim and their family composed of Eric, Herbert and Veronica. Catherine and her husband, both died in 1943,



Catherine on the 7th of January 1943 at Otaki aged 70.

Jessie Cameron never married and in her later life lived with her sister and when she died Jessie moved to a home for the elderly in Brooklyn, Wellington. Jessie died in Wellington on the 16th of November 1953 aged 92.

Allan Cameron married Adonia Taylor on the 25th of March 1891 and on the 29th of March 1892 their daughter Salvadora Violet Cameron was born. When Salvadora was two her mother asked her Aunt Mrs M'Killop to look after her daughter as she was leaving for Brisbane where she subsequently died. The aunt later adopted Salvadora and her father had to pay 20 to 30 pounds a year maintenance.

On September the 7th the "Duco" (an ex harbour ferry) with a crew of fifteen set sail for the Chatham Islands and the ship sailed into a southerly storm. The ship was never seen again, possibly foundered on the first night. On board was Allan Cameron who was described as a fisherman aged 45 who had previously been employed on the Day's Bay fishing grounds. The subsequent Court of Inquiry deemed the "Duco" unseaworthy and placed responsibility for the loss on the Company.

In March the following year a claim for compensation was made by Salvador's adopted mother Mrs M'Killop, the girl was now eighteen years old. A witness at the trial said he knew that Allan owned fifty acres in Muritai, a twelfth share in the Gollans Valley farm and owned four cottages in Rona Bay.

John Cameron the sole surviving brother sold Gollan's Valley farm to George Burdan in 1915 and carried on living presumably with his sister Jessie at Muritai. John died from the influenza epidemic on the 27th of March 1919 aged 54.

So the only survivors of the Gollans Valley Camerons were the two sisters Jessie and Catherine. Catherine is the only member of the family who has known descendants to the present day.

(I wish to acknowledge all the help in compiling this journal from A.G.Bagnall's "Okivi",

'Papers Past' from the National Library and my own family notes)

Norman Cameron.

New Zealand Pipe Band Championships

By Denis Cameron

The 2012 New Zealand Pipe Band Championships were held on the 9th and 10th March, at the Tauranga Domain.

Both days turned out fine and gloriously sunny which was appreciated by all the competitors, supporters, visitors and general public who turned out in large numbers.

The host bands were the Bay of Plenty Pipes and Drums with City of Tauranga Pipe Band. They should be very pleased the way the two days progressed and I am sure that everybody would go away with fond memories of their stay in Tauranga. The last time that Tauranga City hosted the National Pipe Band Championship was in 1994.

The championship attracted 1500 competitors from 58 bands. There were bands from Auckland to Invercargill and a number of pipe bands that had come over from Australia. This was a great sight when the Massed Bands played and the drums reverberated all around the Domain to end the two days on a very high note.

The BOP Clan Members were involved in many fields; Heather Lowes, in charge of Sponsorship and Ray Crafts as a Volunteer Contest Assistant.

We were very proud of all the Cameron's who were involved with the Pipe Bands; Tony Graham - City of Auckland - Nick Cameron - Canterbury Caledonian Balmoral Pipe Band - Andrew Lowes - City of Tauranga - Bryan Haggitt - Riccarton & Scottish Society Pipe Band - Sarah McQueen - The Pipes & Drums of Saint Kentigern College - Eliot Fenton - City of Rotorua Highland Pipe Band - Andrew & Matthew McQueen - Saint Kentigern Old Collegians Pipe Band - Callum Cameron - Manawatu Scottish. Some of the above unfortunately, were not able to be present. I do hope that I have not missed anybody.

One of the championship highlights included the street march with all the bands making their way along Durham Street, starting at 9.00 am and not finishing until 11.30 am on the Saturday morning.

We used our motor camper as headquarters for Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty - with a gazebo set up in the front with a number of placards that Neil Cameron so kindly loaned to us, together with BOP scrap books on display, Scottish books of interest together with Clan Cameron Jig Saws for sale. This certainly made a great sight and was enjoyed by the many visitors to our "tent".

The BOP Clan Banner stood out and was an immediate attraction to the many Camerons on the ground to come and visit us. We had some visitors from Canada, Scotland and Australia call in to make themselves known. We signed up 2 new members - one for the Manawatu Branch and one for the BOP Branch. One Australian lady went away full of interest and said she was going to join the NSW Branch. The name of Dr Robert Cameron - the Commissioner for Clan Cameron Australia was given to her to make contact with. A couple of jigsaws were purchased and some of the history books were bought - so all this helped to make our presence well worth while.

Joy and Denis had a photograph of the City of Wellington Highland Pipe Band, dated circa 1973, for many years and we decided to seek out their band to ask if they would like to have this for their records. This was gratefully received and it was

noted how it was shown to many people on the Domain, before being safely put into one of their vehicles. They said it would be reframed and put in pride of place at their rooms.

Congratulations to the winners of the various categories and to all those who took part in this very busy week-end.

Our thanks to Clan members who assisted over the two days and to our Cameron visitors - Mike and Trish Topham from Hastings.

So ended two very full days of answering many questions from people who were very interested in their ancestry and what we had to show about the Camerons.



Young Talent! Saint Kentigern Pipe Band in the street march. Cameron member Sarah McQueen piping in centre.



New Zealand Police Pipe Band in the street march



The massed bands parade to complete the National Pipe Band Cha

Strathan School, Loch Arkaig.

By Bill Cameron (Lochaber)

Back in 2005, I wrote a piece for the newsletter called 'Life along the Arkaig', in which I shared some of the memories of the late Bella MacIntyre who was brought up at the head of Loch Arkaig where her father was a shepherd on the Lochiel estate.

Bella, her brother and two sisters, along with a handful of other children at the remotest part of Loch Arkaig attended the charming little school in the corrugated building at Strathan.

As well as educating the local children, the well known Highland comedian, piper and author Norman Maclean attended the school when he was boarded out as an evacuee to stay with relatives at Strathan.

Bella portrayed an image of an idyllic childhood where a lump of peat would be brought to school by the children in the



Strathan School -
before and after the
winter storms

Photos: Bill Cameron



Championships at Tauranga.

Photo: Jean McQueen

winter months to keep the cold at bay. She had fond memories of her early education and believed it stood her in good stead for the rest of her life.

Norman attended the school from 1940 onwards. In his autobiography *The Lepers Bell*, the first chapter is called 'Strathan' in which he mentions being taught the alphabet by the neurotic teacher, Miss MacLean. The chapter gives an interesting insight into the strong oral traditions of history and knowledge which were passed down from the older generation within the solely Gaelic speaking community.

Sadly during some of the wildest winter storms to hit the area at the beginning of this year, the small school building was flattened by gale force winds running through this remote part of Lochaber. Although constructed of a timber frame and adjoining corrugated metal, the building had withstood the rigours of the west highland climate and was a unique example of simple Highland architecture.



The white bridge at Achnacarry where Loch Arkaig flows into the river Arkaig. Photo: Bill Cameron

Murlaggan

by the Editor

To accompany Bill's article above and the photo of Loch Arkaig on the front cover I quote from *The Lochaber Geographic Compendium* as follows

"Murlaggan, means "Hollow Moor", "Walled-in-Hollow", "Sea Bag" or "A Little Bay".

Located at the west end of Loch Arkaig, on the north shore (*the opposite end of the Loch from Achnacarry*). Residence of the Camerons of Inverailort, where on May 8, 1746, the Highland Chiefs met and entered into a bond of mutual defence, agreeing never to lay down their arms unless instructed to do so by their Prince.

Nearby is the burial place of the MacMillans. It is upon the Estate of Lochiel, circa 1745, with the MacMillans as tenants. In the 1772 report on the annexed Lochiel Estate, the farm of Murlaggan reached just past the head of Loch Arkaig, and included the army barracks at Strathan, a school master's house (built with stone and lime) and a public house (located at place called Tillycrochlan) that was cited as "a very necessary halting place or stage for travelling to and from Barrisdale and the West Highlands"

Farmland was of a "gravelly soil" and was cropped with oats and tathed (*manured*) by livestock, with houses built mostly with creel."

With thanks to *The Lochaber Geographic Compendium*.

Early in February the Scottish Cultural Festival was held at Riccarton Bush, Christchurch, it is a beautiful setting for an event such as this. Our President, Nick Cameron put up the tent with some assistance. For most of the day Nick was busy playing in the Pipe Band. This year the organisers put all the tents in the 'tent alley', which was a good idea, and we had an excellent position.

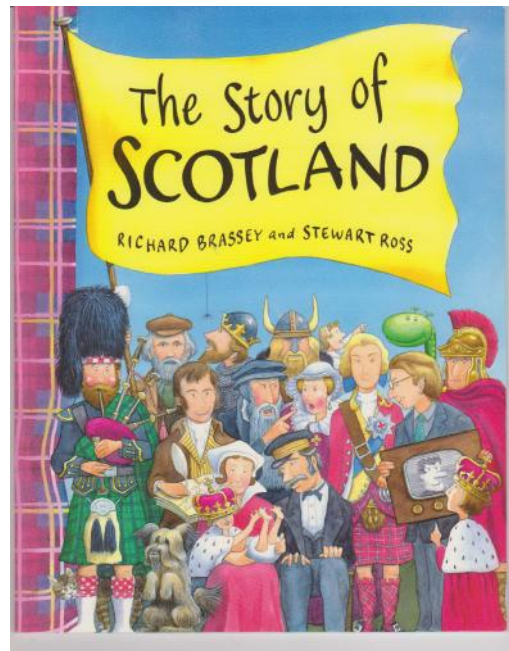
Several of our members arrived and we arranged our displays - Cameron information, plus some family trees, and also leaflets, membership forms and books. Our main attraction though was the haggis and shortbread that we gave away, most people seemed to enjoy that, although a few would not try the haggis. Many people took the membership forms, and so far we have had one new member. There was lots to look at - vintage cars, haggis ceremony, bicycles, pipe bands, highland dancing and then the grand parade.

One book in particular drew a lot of attention, even though it is not big. It is called *The Story of Scotland*, by Richard Brassey and Stewart Ross. Several people wished to buy it, but I had to tell them it was my copy, but I suggested they go to the Internet where it would be available. When I got home I looked it up, it is available for approximately \$10 from the Amazon site and Barnes and Noble, and here is a blurb from those sites.

The story of Scotland from the Ice Age to the Vikings, the Picts and the Romans, to Robert the Bruce, Mary Queen of Scots, Bonnie Prince Charlie, Flora Macdonald, Sir Walter

Scott, Logie Baird, Keir Hardie, and many more famous Scots up to the present day. Each page is packed with colourful pictures, witty captions and speech bubbles and a pithy text gives the facts and tells the story. *The Story of Scotland* won the Saltire Society/TES Award for Educational Publications and the Scottish Arts Council Children's Book Award.

It is a fun book, written for children, but suitable for adults as well, published in 1999.



And from Colin Cameron:—

The 3rd Scottish Heritage Festival was held in Christchurch at Riccarton bush reserve on 12 Feb. 2012. The day proved to be a big success with the good weather bringing out a large attendance.

The Cameron tent staffed with clan members was a great and popular draw card with it's haggis and shortbread, supplied by the ladies of the clan and free to taste. Of particular interest at the tent was our Scottish map showing clan crests and the locations of the clans in the country.

Local and busy Christchurch MP Lianne Dalziel, who is a clan member, popped in taking the time to support her clan. With pipe bands and highland dancers a grand day was had by all, and with Alec Cameron pouring the free samples of 13 year old single malt whisky who could ask for anything more.

You'll aye come back again.



Colin Cameron and John Atkinson

The 2012 Annual Gathering

Clan Cameron Annual Gathering and AGM is in Ashburton on April 27-29 2012.

The Annual Gathering is booked into the **Hotel Ashburton**. they have a special room rate of \$130. The hotel's freephone is 0800 330 880. For more information go to - <http://www.hotelash.co.nz/>

There are several motels nearby, the closest being -

Ashburton Motor Lodge, freephone 0800 427 428. Go to <http://www.ashburtonmotorlodge.co.nz/> Their rates are studio \$119, 1 bedroom unit with separate lounge \$139.

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

My apologies for giving you the wrong phone number for the Ashburton Hotel in previous magazines. That given was in fact for the Ashburton Motor Lodge, a few hundred meters down the road. The numbers above are correct. I am very sorry for the inconvenience

Editor

You will notice some changes in layout in this issue. I am experimenting to try and improve readability.

Please let me have your feedback.

Editor

Auckland News

by Don Cameron

There has been the changing of the secretarial guard at Clan Cameron Auckland. There was genuine regret when Dale Bailey told the Auckland Branch's annual meeting that his work commitments were such that he had to step aside as secretary. Not that he will be lost to the clan. Dale intends to remain a staunch member of Clan Cameron, and his expertise will be needed when Auckland stage the Clan Cameron New Zealand annual general meeting next year.

As well as looking after the Auckland secretariat, Dale also developed the production of the Clan Newsletter. When Neil Cameron took over the editorship of the Newsletter he followed the printing process designed by Dale.

Apart from his basic industry Dale is fondly remembered for at least one outstanding effort when Auckland hosted the International Cameron Clan gathering in Auckland in 2005. Each visiting branch



was asked to provide a display at the main night event at the gathering.

Dale and his helpers stole the show by having five youngsters in turn moving down the darkened hall bearing a lighted arrow.

Then the five arrows were bound together, giving a spectacular display of the Clan Cameron crest.

Auckland are fortunate that another man steeped in Cameron history will take over as secretary. Norman Cameron can trace his New Zealand forebears back to the arrival of the Blenheim in Wellington in 1840.

More recently Norman completed the compilation of his family history in New Zealand, entitled "The Camerons of Spring Hill". He and his wife Jill sail to their clan meetings -- they live on Waiheke Island.



The arrows (one arrow has slipped)

History Corner by Fiona Cameron

Work is progressing slowly on indexing the Clan Cameron newsletters with almost ten years complete from 2000 up to the present day. It has been a fascinating process chronicling the news and activities of the clan over these years – highlights being the reports of the various First Light exchanges and the magnificent International Gathering in 2005. It can be a slow process as often I find myself sitting for an hour or two just reading every issue from cover to cover instead of actually just listing the articles!

This work has also shown me the transformation of the newsletter from a couple of typewritten gestetnered sheets (and I know I am showing my age here knowing the antiquated machinery used in the earlier editions) to the glossy colourful issues of today.

Thanks to the facilities at Auckland Libraries, the older newsletters are also gradually being scanned so we have digital copies available.

The Audrey Rosoman Collection also holds over 200 family trees submitted by clan members over the years and compiled by Audrey herself from a variety of sources. There is a wonderful card index to this material, so if you are looking for any stray Camerons in your own research, please drop me a line and I will see if there is any existing information on your particular twig of the overall New Zealand Cameron tree. And it's a very large tree it is indeed!

In the long term, it would be wonderful to have this information searchable via computer. I have been testing out a couple of different programs to see which suits best – so far the Legacy family tree program is looking promising to be able to cope with the huge amount of information involved. If anyone is interested in helping out with this project, please let me

know! The Legacy program is free to download and is very simple to use. All that is needed is a computer, some spare time and quite possibly a magnifying glass for some of the smaller writing on the charts.

If you are interested, drop me a line. There is a new email address which I am using for all Clan Cameron history and genealogy work <clancameronhistory@gmail.com>

Fiona has received the following request:

Can you help?

"I found your ClanCameron web site recently and hope you can help me locate Peter Cameron. He lived in Masterton as a child, his address was on Te OreOre Road. He would be in his late 60's now. My husband, Donald Hinkel, corresponded with Peter back in the 1950's, sharing what their lives were like, Don lived in Cleveland Ohio at the time. (I recently came across letters from Peter to Don which is how I have the address!)

The two lost touch at one point and Don has often wondered what happened to Peter.

We will be visiting New Zealand later this year, and I would love to be able to reunite my husband with his old pen pal.

I am hoping he is a member of your group. If he is, and if you are hesitant to send me contact information, would you please send mine to Peter with a request to get in touch."

Judith Hinkel jehinkel@gmail.com
Box 24510
St Croix VI 00824 (Virgin Islands)



Aonaibh ri Cheile The Back Page



At the Christchurch Scottish Cultural Festival Above: Colin Cameron and Lianne Dalziel Right: Nick Cameron and Rae Magson, and (below right) Rebecca Haggitt gives out haggis at the Cameron tent.



At Paeroa Highland Games From left: Denis, Patricia Duncan, Hazel Cameron, Merilyn McMillan, Murray and Jessie Scott, Joy Cameron



At the National Pipe Band Championships in Tauranga Left: Callum Cameron (Manawatu Scottish) and his mother Heather Right: Matthew McQueen from the Saint Kentigern Old Collegians Band Photos Left: Denis Cameron. Right: Jean McQueen



At the Auckland Branch AGM and Barbecue Above: Jenny Haggitt, Fiona Cameron, Don Cameron, Bryan Haggitt and Dorothy Cameron-Gavin Below: Group photo. Photos: Editor

