



Volume 42, Issue 4 August 2008



"The Cameron Newsletter enjoyed over a nice coffee with a chocolate biscuit is the ultimate!"



- from a member in Hawke's Bay





Clan Cameron New Zealand August 2008

First Lighter Robert Nairn

Our latest First Light exchangee, Robert Nairn, arrived in New Zealand on 6th July to be met by a group of Auckland Camerons, including First Lighter Heather. Robert is from Kentra, on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula, west of Fort William, and only a mile or two from Loch Moidart, where Prince Charlie set up camp after landing in 1745 and from where he left to sail up Loch Shiel to raise his standard at Glenfinnan.

Robert is 19 years old and has just completed the first of four years study of Traditional Music at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. This is his summer break. He is a talented musician and has formed his own band which plays at weddings and ceilidhs. Robert plays the button accordion, the pipes and the fiddle. Being brought up on a croft, he has a farming background, and is looking forward to farm work in New Zealand.

After two nights to recover from jet lag and a look around Auckland, Robert was driven to the farm of Roz and Ewen Grant, in Turakina, where he spent a few days before going to a farm near Ohakea for a few weeks. Robert will fly out on 3rd September and it is hoped he will be able to visit more of the branches before then.

Robert has an interesting link with Wanganui and this

was headline news in the *Wanganui Chronicle* the day after he arrived in Turakina. His grandfather was at one time master of the Port Line steamer *Port Bowen*, a refrigerated cargo vessel of 8,267 gross tonnage, built in 1919. In July 1939 that ship arrived in the Wanganui roadstead at 1am to load frozen meat for the UK (In those days several of the smaller ports loaded cargo into overseas ships from lighters outside the port.) Misjudging the anchorage position, she grounded on the sand off Castlecliff and despite attempts to pull the ship off, storms pushed her further up the beach, and she was eventually unloaded and broken up on the spot.

Editor



Donald and Valmar Cameron, with Heather Cameron meet Robert at Auckland Airport

photo: Editor

Mount Cameron (2)

Wellington

Napier member Janice Willson is the great granddaughter of John Cameron (B 1821) who came to New Zealand on the Blenheim in December 1840 with his parents Allan and Janet Cameron, together with two younger brothers, Hugh and Allan (Jnr). John and his father were engaged in the construction of the Hutt Road. The family then settled in the Brooklyn area of Wellington until John purchased 511 acres in Gollan's Valley in the area between Eastbourne and Pencarrow Head (Wellington.)

His brother Allan purchased nearby land at Pencarrow. John's farm contained a peak at 252 metres above sea level which John named **Mount Cameron**. John's other claim to fame was that in December 1867, police searched his property and found an illicit whisky still. He was convicted and fined 100 pounds.

John Cameron died in 1888. His widow and their family continued farming at Gollan's Valley until they sold the property in 1915.

This is the second in a series by Mike Topham

Piping and Dancing Certificates

The Piping & Dancing Association of NZ have chosen to have the Cameron Tartan as a border for their centennial certificates, as Ian Cameron 1941-1950 and Kenneth Cameron 1918-1941 are two previous P&D Presidents. This is one echo of the past.

Roz Grant

See photo back page

Vivienne's Memorial Service

On Saturday, 12th July, a large number of family and friends gathered at Hinerupe Marae, Te Araroa for the Memorial Service and burial of Vivienne McConnell's ashes.

Though it was a chilly, windy day, the warmth of the tributes and waiata given by Gisborne District Mayor Meng Foon, local residents, friends and family were befitting the memory of a loved, vital and treasured friend. Clan Cameron members in attendance were Betty and Harold Cameron, Helen and Phil Renner, Elaine and Fraser Cameron and Trish and Mike Topham. On behalf of Clan Cameron, Fraser spoke of the immense contribution Vivienne had made, not only to the Clan, but to Te Araroa and the East Coast in general.

As our waiata, Clan members joined Fraser in singing "Flower Of Scotland". Readings from Proverbs and The Corinthians were given by Vivienne's daughters Jean and Peggy.

Following the service the ashes were carried from the Marae to the skirl of the bagpipes, the lament "The Flowers of the Forest". At the graveside of the immaculately kept Te Arawapia cemetery piper Bram van Melle played "When the Battle's O'er" and "Flower of Scotland."

Vivienne's cousin Doug spoke of her devotion to her family and extended family and the great encouragement she gave to all. As a tribute to her immense love of horses and country music, Doug played his guitar, while all who were there joined in robust voice and sang her particular favourite "There's a bridle hanging on the wall ".

Following the burial of ashes we returned to Hinerupe Marae for a meal and more wiata, and had the opportunity to spend time with Bob and his children, Andrew, Jean and Peggy.

Sunday was a magnificent, sunny, East Coast day and Mike and Trish re-visited the cemetery to attach a length of Cameron of Erracht tartan ribbon to the white cross adorned with a horse shoe.

{Bob is now back home at "Four Winds", Te Araroa and making steady and positive progress in his recovery.}

by Trish Topham

August 2008 Clan Cameron New Zealand

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Bay of Plenty Branch

Douglas Clark (Tokoroa) Can Moina Garland (Mount Maunganui) Bar

Jean Carter (Te Kuiti)



Canterbury Branch

Barbara Banwell (Ashburton)

Tartan Day - 5 July 2008 - A Scottish Celebration

On 1st August 1747, following the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie's army at Culloden in 1745, the English Parliament passed the Proscription Act banning the wearing of the tartan, the carrying of weapons and playing the bagpipes. But on 1st July, 1782, the Proscription Act was repealed. To this day around the world the Scottish community celebrates Tartan Day commemorating the repeal of the Act.

A group of eight Clan Cameron BOP members took off in rainy conditions, not sure what we would find in deep Waikato. Things did not look at all promising with heavy rain over the Kaimais and showers most of the way through the Waikato region. By the time we had reached Otorohanga things were looking more promising. Maybe we were feeling sorry for our beloved Scotland that was the reason that we had that "Scottish Mist" following us to Te Kuiti.

Our hosts for the day were Glenyss O'Halloran of House of Gordon and Sue Tregoweth from Clan MacRae, who put on a wonderful day of fellowship and entertainment for the visitors from the Bay of Plenty and Waikato regions. There were some Auckland visitors present.

After we arrived rain started to come down again and there was some concern that we may have to cancel the Clan March – but at the appropriate time, the rain stopped and the

sun came out and we had a great march along the main street of Te Kuiti behind the colourful Te Kuiti Pipe Band.

There was a great number of clans present with all their colourful banners making a wonderful splash of colour mixed with the tartans of the kilts, skirts and sashes. Our new Bay of Plenty banner really stood out and made a real impact on the march. Ray Crafts was our carrier and the rest of us followed along proudly with straight backs.

After the introduction of the clan representatives, the haggis was piped in with due ceremony. The Address to the Haggis was performed with dignity and all were able to toast the haggis with liquid amber. This was something new for us here in the Waikato which went down very well - literally.

A fabulous pot luck luncheon was placed in front of us and everyone was well satisfied. Next on the programme was the ceilidh, where we were entertained with a great selection of pipers, drummers, fiddlers, a harpist, Highland Dancing, Scottish Country Dancers, singers, a guitarist and two very well

performed and colourful Irish Dancers from Papakura made the day one to remember.

The BOP Branch has been asked to put on next year's Tartan Day in Tauranga around the end of June. During the day, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Jean Carter to the

BOP Branch and hope that she enjoys reading our newsletters and her continued association with us.

Like all good things the day finally came to an end and we said our farewells to the other clans, saying we will meet again in June next year in Tauranga. We certainly look forward to being able to host all the clans who were here in Te Kuiti, where hopefully we will have some more clans and members from our region.

Coming home over the Kaimais we encountered snow on the ground with 3 police cars and 2 fire engines parked near the summit. From the look of it I would say that there had been several accidents. Once this obstacle was past we moved slowly along in Indian file for several kilometres, before leaving the snow and we could speed up. This is most unusual to have snow on the top of the Kaimais. The hills looked resplendent. Glad I wasn't coming through later that night as the road was closed and all traffic had been diverted. We must have only got through before the road was closed at 5.30 p.m. Comments from the locals said it looked like you could go down the road on skis. Cars skidded on the ice and motorists reported the road was barely visible. Heavy rain, sleet and hail added to hazardous driving conditions.

On behalf of the Clan Cameron, I would like to congratulate Glenyss and Sue for all their hard work in the organising of the day, which was very successful and appreciated by all.

by Denis Cameron



A scarf was found in the hall at Opotiki after the Gathering dinner on May 17

Owner please ring Fraser Cameron 07 315 7105

Clan Cameron New Zealand August 2008

A message from our President



Dear Clan Cameron Members

With the euphoria of the Clan Gathering now passed, it is appropriate to reflect on how things went at Opotiki. There is probably

only one word that fits all and that is "perfect". What more could we have asked for? Fun, camaraderie, new friends, old friends, magnificent entertainment and all those little things "behind the scenes".

My sincere thanks to Fraser, for his dedication and selfless time spent for the Cameron's to ensure that we had a really good time in Opotiki. Thank you Fraser – this was real dedication and that whatever men dare, they can do! What a saying.

Naturally there were plenty of others who came forward to help and they were many and it would take a whole page to name them all. You all know who they were and on behalf of Clan Cameron, we salute you all for making it such a wonderful occasion.

Our Clan members come from all walks of life, but we are all in agreement that education is pivotal to the success of young people and their outgoing contribution to society. It is also an investment in the future of our Clan Cameron. For us in Clan Cameron, to give is to receive. May today be the catalyst for tomorrow's success and may your efforts in the future be of benefit to all mankind.

"-with nearly 75 years of experience under our belt, we must be doing something right"

I begin with the premise that with nearly 75 years of experience under our belt, we must be doing something right, so why should Clan Cameron in say another twenty-five years be any different from the model we have today. Having said that, I know an enormous amount of effort has been invested in our future. Many of our members are working hard to recruit, retrieve and retain our members with various schemes designed for that purpose; but the overall picture is not **entirely** satisfactory.

I believe that in order to plan for the future we must first look back to our roots and examine the reasons we are formed and have survived. We spend far too much time worrying about 'when' rather than 'why' we were created.

What was in the minds of those men who started the Clan here in 1935 and what was the purpose behind it? When the S.S. Orama was in New Zealand waters, Captain Evan Cameron, her commander met some very influential Camerons in Wellington. They were Mr P M Cameron, Dr Percy Cameron, Mr Ian Cameron and Mr D Cameron. This was to be the foundation meeting of the movement in New Zealand. Mr H Y Cameron, public accountant was appointed organiser and representative for the Auckland district. It is estimated that there are over 1,000,000 members of the clan in various parts of the world at this time.

These fine gentlemen took up the challenge from Lochiel by using the 'fiery-cross' and began the hard task of promoting the Clan to people who carried the name of Cameron. Your ancestors who in turn took up the challenge;

carrying it on with vigour and penance to where we are today. We are all very proud of what has been achieved; but now the future is begging and we have to ensure that we survive well into the future. Will our descendants feel the same way? Let us not let them down, but make them very proud with our achievements to the stage where they would want to carry on with the 'fiery-cross.'

As your President, I am very conscious that one of my responsibilities during my tenure of office is to try and steer the Clan in a direction, which I hope will be beneficial for its future. There's nothing so good as can't be improved.

The BOP Rugby Union has just named its new Chairman in Bruce Cameron of Pukehina. Bruce and his family are members of the BOP Branch and we were delighted to hear that Bruce had been approached by the NZRF Union to come to the rescue of the **union** here in this region. With his no nonsense approach as a rugby player, a leader from the front row, we have much confidence in his ability to turn the monetary loss into a plus; thereby providing for the betterment of the rugby fraternity of this fine region. Well done Bruce and we are all behind you and know that with you at the helm we are on the upward spiral.

"Leis gach dhurach and Slainte mhath"
[With every good wish and good health]

Denis Cameron

The 2009 Gatherings Tour:

To date twenty New Zealand Camerons have booked for the tour so the trip is viable and 'full steam ahead.' Also six Australians have joined in with us. There is space for more people to join the tour but because of the requirement for advance bookings and payments to secure space, time is getting short and there is a need for you to make a commitment as soon as possible.

To recap: The tour is run by John Cameron of Operatunity Travel Club and is a rare opportunity for NZ Camerons to travel together to Scotland to learn about our Cameron heritage, to visit sites of historical significance and to participate in two events: The International Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh and the International Clan Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry.

Cost for the full 20 day tour is \$11,970 per person and for a shortened version of 17 days which omits the Edinburgh Gathering is \$10,330 per person.

Both tours include stopovers in Dubai on the way over and Singapore on the way home.

Copies of the Tour Brochure, which includes a full itinerary and booking form, may be obtained from the editor

Please think about joining President Denis and wife Joy on this trip of a lifetime. Although costs seem high we must remember that accommodation will be difficult to obtain and at a high premium. This tour ensures you have a worry free and wonderful experience.

Editor



Aonaibh ri Cheile

Cameron

is the magazine of the Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc) and is 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 October issue:

15 September 2008

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Coming events

Saturday 30 August Auckland Branch Annual Dinner

Fairway Lodge, 7 Argus Place, Glenfield, North Shore. Enjoy good company, good food and a celebration of our Highland heritage. \$45 per head Enquiries to Neil Cameron 09 446 1177

Saturday 13 September Scottish Clans Assn-Auckland District Annual Dinner

Rutherford Room, Alexandra Park Raceway. Four Course meal plus live entertainment. All Clan Societies and Kinsfolk welcome. Enquiries to Murdock McDonald 09 298 4802

Saturday 11 October 2008 CCNZ Executive Council Meeting

Turangi RSA. Morning tea at 10.30am, followed by the meeting at 11am.

Saturday 22 November 2008 Auckland Highland Games

Three Kings Reserve, Mt Eden. Free entry and a wonderful day for all the family.

Sunday 30 November 2008 St Andrew's Night Ceilidh, Hastings

St Andrew's Hall, Market Street, Hastings at 7.30pm Cost: \$5.00 including supper.

Dancing, haggis ceremony, raffles

Contact Les Hewett ljhewett@ihug.co.nz

Useful Websites

Clan Cameron New Zealand website

http://www.camclan.orcon.net.nz/

Clan Cameron Online

http://www.clan-cameron.org/

Clan Cameron Scotland

http://www.clancameron.org.uk

Clan Cameron Australia

http://www.clan-cameron.org.au

Scottish Clans Association Auckland District

 $http:/\!/www.scottishclans.co..nz$

Clan Cameron DNA project

http://www.clan-cameron.org/dna/

Ordnance Survey site listing Gaelic place names and meanings

http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/freefun/didyouknow/placenames/gaelicglossary-a-b.html

Scottish Music for sale

http://www.musicscotland.com

Clan Cameron NZ Webmaster:

Warren Cameron

camcraft@orcon.net.nz

Clan Cameron New Zealand August 2008

Backwoodsman's Rangitikei

MORE than 100 years after the death of Louis McLachlan of Rangitikei a large crowd gathered at the Ben Nevis Tavern, Turakina yesterday to pay tribute to his poems, songs and music, which have just been published. Titled Backwoodsman's Rangitikei Poems and Songs, the book was edited by Emeritus Professor Mary "Maisie" Earle of Massey University.

In launching it Dr Brad Patterson of the Stout Research Centre, Victoria University, Wellington, said it was made possible because McLachlan's descendants and those of the families he worked for had carefully kept the handwritten manuscripts.

Dr Patterson commented on the strength of the Rangitikei community in preserving its history, a belief echoed by a cousin of Mclachlan's, Claire Angove of the Rangitikei. She said if it were not for the work done by Ewen and particularly Roz Grant of Turakina much of the local history would have been lost.

Among those who gave readings of McLachlan's poems were his granddaughter Barbara McPhail of Wanganui, Claire Angove, Hunterville GP Nick Thomson and Vicky Duncan of Otairi Station, who noted a number had been written when McLachlan worked at Otairi.

Music by McLachlan was played by Te Aroha harpist Shirley Baillie (a descendant of his sister). She was accompanied by her husband John on fiddle. Colin Caddick of Palmerston North sang McLachlan's song

of Bannockburn. Auld Lang Syne, lead by Johnny Whittle of Taihape concluded the launch.

Louis McLachlan was born in Kaiwharawhara, Wellington in 1849. The son of Highland Scots emigrants he grew up in Turakina and lived most of his life on various sheep stations throughout the Rangitikei.

with thanks to Wanganui Newspapers

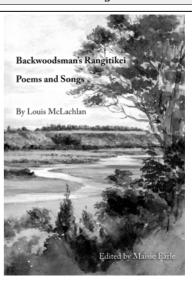
Copies of this book may be ordered from:

Hugh McPhail 7 Westland Road WELLINGTON 6021

04 970 9851

hugh.mcphail@paradise.net.nz

Price: \$22 plus postage \$3.80



"Thank you so much for inviting me to the book launch on Sunday last.

It was a lovely, lovely day. The whole atmosphere was welcoming. It was so remindful of gatherings in my grandmothers home. The Scot's accents got broader and broader as the music and singing increased.

So much of the afternoon reflected a sense of community and belonging.

My friend was a little over whelmed, she had not expected to be touched by the event to the extent that brought her close tears on several occasions."

Bebe Douglas

pictures on top of next page



The address given by Dr. Brad Patterson at the launch of the book is displayed in full on the Clan Cameron New Zealand website. www.camclan.orcon.net.nz

Ma Cameron's Pub, Aberdeen

BILL "Wishy" Cameron represented Lochaber at Saturday's Clan Cameron Association Council meeting in Aberdeen.

The proceedings took place in a small, panelled room in a pub.

No coincidence that its name is "Ma Cameron's", this hostelry being one of the oldest in the Granite City.

During the evening a few Aberdonians sought to gain entry to the wee panelled room, appealing to the better nature of the occupants.

But they were repelled goodnaturedly by the assembled clan company who didn't fall far short of explaining to them in the immortal Lochaber phrase: "Sorry, there are no Christians in here – only Camerons!" I attach a piece which appeared in the press about my own experience last weekend whilst in Aberdeen at the Clan Cameron Council meeting in MA Cameron's pub. Just to give you some background to the local tale. Many years ago there were old fashioned inn's in the High St, where people could get lodgings for the night whilst travelling through to Inverness or the like. One particularly wet and windy night in the High St, some travellers were trying to find a bed for the night and had been trying the various inn's along the street in the hope of finding shelter from the elements. After a number of attempts, the weary travellers knocked on a particular inn's door and having asked for lodging and being turned away, the travellers shouted "are there any Christians in there?" In reply came "No, only Cameron's."

by Bill Cameron



Ma Cameron's Pub in the Granite City Inset shows the Cameron Coat of Arms outside

August 2008 Clan Cameron New Zealand







The book launch at the Ben Nevis Tavern. Piper Bruce Cameron is visible in all three pictures. Barbara McPhail reads Louis McLachlan's poems with Ewen Grant looking on. Amanda Cox from Marton dances the Highland Fling to Bruce's piping.

Nikki Williams - Wanganui Chronicle

An Gearasdan Dubh

(The Black Garrison)

by Astie Cameron

We've been going through some old pics of the aluminium smelter here at Lochaber ("the B.A.") and found a newspaper cutting with a poem that may be of interest.... Having done a quick search I have found a bit of information on the kilmallie.com website - that the author of the poem is Johnny Wilson, the Bard of Bogmonie. He was born in Tomonie in 1892, one of six children and died in 1980. He worked in the railway signal box at Banavie and Mallaig. writing poetry and making toys in his spare time. Kilmallie Community Council have published a book of his poems called "Passing Glimpses" and is available from the Community Council email: Info@kilmallie.com priced £2.50

Bygone Days

This poem was written by the late, lamented Johnnie Wilson, the Bard of Bogmonie. Donald (Don) MacMillan, also known as "Lockan", mentioned in the last verse is pictured here. He was the last hand loom weaver in Lochaber and wove a Cameron tartan plaid that gained a diploma in 1909.



An Gearasdan Dubh

As MacJohnigall the Bold, I'll try now to unfold, A tale about a town that's seldom 'dry'; It has a narrow street, lies south of Achnapeat. 'Neath Ben Nevis towering to the sky.

Built by Sassenachs, oh heck! To hold Hielan' men in check Who roamed about in kilts and "Beetag Doos"; With fierce Lochaber Axe the made occasional attacks, And pinched the best of on another's coos.

But tempers soon cooled down and the Fort became a town, No longer Gearasdan Dubh with sodger men; Its roots now spreading far 'cross Lochy and the Blar, As industry arrived beneath the Ben.

I'll attempt now to review some characters I knew, In the Gearasdan of 70 years away; Some names I will not mention, for they're bound redemption,

But I'll tell you of some worthies of the day.

No slate so thin or fat as Bellman Donald "Fat", Who pushed a big wheel barra up the Ben; With Barber Willie Swan, Ben Nevis Race began, And 'Kilgour' wrote the records with his pen.

"Oss" could sole a leather boot for "Beetag" or "The Cute", "The Para" make a suit to fit you neat; At the reins was Bill MacRae - you'd see him once a day, Carting Hughag's coal along the street.

A cailleach from the Glen could out-drink the local men. She liked a good stiff gillag with her beer; One day she slumped in Town, "Your sign has fallen down!", Observed "Father Mac" to "John the Volunteer".

Peter Dubh, "Black Jeck", we knew him as "The Bleck" Fished Linnhe Loch so deep and blue; If some fannags got enmeshed instead of herring fresh, Bleck sold them, on the fly, to those who knew!

"The Butler", orra-man, with messages he ran, From shop to shop, and tried to dodge the rain; Or waited on the pier for steamer "Mountaineer", To catch the ropes for David Hope MacBrayne.

A mighty smith was John who cheered us with a song. at ceilidhs in the good old Gaelic tongue; I have seen his hammer swing and heard his anvil ring, In Corpach when I was very young.

From Tomonie Don MacMillan walked over to Fort William, To see if Balmoral Bonnet could be bought; For his 6' size head they found 71/8 instead, So he boiled and shrank the bonnet in a pot.

Astie Cameron, who sent this interesting article, was the first First Lighter, coming to New Zealand in 2000. He is the Environmental Co-ordinater for Alcan Aluminium, based at Rio Tino Alcan's smelter in Fort William.

An Gearasdan Dubh: Fort William was known as 'The Black Garrison' in the past. This probably comes from the name of the fort prior to 1690, when it was called *The* Garrison of Inverlochy, built to keep the turbulent marauding clans, especially Camerons, in check.



Aonaibh ri Cheile

'Cameron' August 2008

The Back Page

Photos of Cameron interest





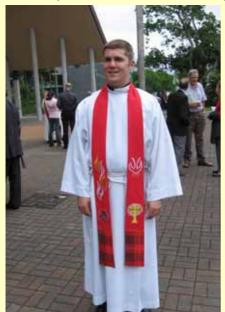
Hawkes Bay President Helen Shaw is escorted into dinner by her great nephew Henry Carr at the Annual Gathering. Henry was very keen to see the dancers and listen to the pipes



CC member Sarah McQueen holds one of the new Centennial Certificates of the NZ P and D Assn.



First Lighter Robert plays a tune on the button accordion at Turakina, watched by Roz Grant's granddaughter Abbey



The Rev. Bryan Haggitt (Jnr) after his ordination to the priesthood at the Auckland Cathedral. (Note the Cameron tartan on the stole) Bryan is a member of Clan Cameron and will 'Address the Haggis' at this year's Auckland dinner on 30th August



The granddaughter of the late Louis McLachlan, Barbara McPhail of Wanganui, reads a poem he wrote about her mother



Harold presents Joy her BOP life Membership Certificate



In the blood! Denis Cameron's grandson Tom Taylor with Daniel Carter at a Crusaders practice. Tom's parents are CC members Toni and Richard



Resplendent in the Kilt! Ray Crafts, Denis Cameron, Jim Kennedy, Andrew Lowes, Lindsay Cameron and Rex Cameron at the Gathering Dinner in Opotiki



Fund raising ceilidh in Killmallie Hall, Lochaber, for First Light. Angus's daughter Marion, Robert, Angus, Astie and Bill. Marion's children in front