



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



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Preparing for the Street March in Waipu. Rob, Sarah, Dale, Morea and Allan. Allan holds the Culloden flag.



**A History of Drambuie
Page 8 and 9.**



The Farmers Christmas Parade. City of Sails Pipe Band on left, with Auckland members Gina Cameron and Rob Cameron playing.

“Cameron”

is the magazine of the
Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand Inc.

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A Message from our Commissioner....



Naumai haere mai, Failte, Welcome
Bliadhna Mhath Ùr, Happy New Year

Our Highland Games season continues apace, despite some mixed weather we had a lot of visitors at the Clan Cameron Tent at the Waipu Highland Games. It was the first time in over 150 years that the event was not held on New Years Day but New Years Eve. It was great to talk with people about their Scottish heritage, our highland dress and also about the activities of the Clan Cameron Association. Our First Light Exchange certainly attracts a lot of interest. Special thanks to members who helped staff the tent during the day and of course to Neil Cameron who has developed some great displays.

2025 marks the 90th anniversary of the founding of Clan Cameron New Zealand. On the 29th December 1935 on board the Orient Liner SS Orama, which was anchored in Wellington Harbour, a meeting was convened by Captain Evan P Cameron as a representative of Lochiel. A year later the association formally convened after what must have been a lot of hard work generating interest across New Zealand.

The original objects have served us well across the years. To promote interest in the clan, to cultivate social intercourse among members, to give assistance to deserving clansmen and clanswomen, to encourage education, and to collect and preserve the records and traditions of the clan. I for one think we can be proud of our record since that time and confident in the future.

Our next First Lighter Lochiel Nielsen departs for Scotland in May. It is great to see another young Cameron journey to make connections to her family history and connections.

Thank you very much for your kind messages of congratulations around my New Year's Honour of a MNZM. I was very humbled to receive it for my work in education.

Wishing you all the very best for 2025

Aonaibh ri Cheile Dale



Dale at the Hororata Highland Games

Photo by Kathryn Taylor Photography

**Heartiest
Congratulations to our
President and Lochiel's
Commissioner**

**Dale Cameron Bailey
on being made a Member
of the New Zealand
Order of Merit (MNZM)
for services to education.**

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Mar. 2025

Printed By

Tracing Your Ancestors

By David Weston. Clan Cameron New Zealand Genealogist

New Year is a time for reflection about the past year and plans for the year ahead. This can lead to people wanting to know more about who they are and how they got to the present situation. With this in mind it may be useful to give a brief introduction on how to find more about your ancestors, where they lived and where they came from. This is an introduction only and for those who want more detail. I suggest they link up with the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, <https://genealogy.org.nz/>. They also have a number of local groups where you could find someone to assist.

The first step I suggest is to talk with other members of your family, particularly older members who often will have heard stories that have been passed down. While not always accurate these stories frequently contain some elements of truth. For example I have been able to confirm my great-grandmother did travel to China to obtain goods to sell in her shop.

The other information older family members should be able to give you are full names, dates of birth, marriage and death of ancestors and where family members lived. While it is best to confirm these through getting certificates it will give you a good starting point.

For certificates go to Births, Deaths and Marriages Online, <https://www.bdmonline.dia.govt.nz/>, If you are looking for historical records you can search on their web site and then order any you want. Historical records are:

- Birth of a living person who was born 100 years ago or more
- Birth of a deceased person who died 50 years ago or more or who was born 80 years ago or more
- A stillbirth that occurred 50 years ago or more
- Deaths that occurred at least 50 years ago, or the deceased's date of birth was at least 80 years ago
- Marriages that occurred 75 years ago or more

If you are looking for more recent records you need to provide specific information so staff at Births, Deaths and Marriages can identify what certificate you are after.

Another useful site for obtaining information on New Zealand ancestors is Papers Past, <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>, where you can search newspapers and other sources for mention of your ancestors. Certainly in the 19th century and early 20th century it appears newspapers gave detailed reports on local events such as school prize giving, marriages and who was visiting from other places. Be aware though you can also find information on offending and divorce cases.

A search on New Zealand Archives, <https://collections.archives.govt.nz/en/web/arena/home#/> can tell you

if there are wills, war records, or other records of your ancestor. War records are largely digitalized and available on line via NZ Archives. Wills have also been digitalized and are available for free on the LDS Family Search web site, <https://familysearch.org>.

Wills can be useful in identifying other family members who have been left a legacy and war records can give you an idea of where your ancestor served in the wars New Zealand has been involved in.

It can be worthwhile looking at family history sites such as Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com.au/> or Find My Past, <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/home>, as it can be possible to access the indexes without having a subscription and this can give you clues about your family. Unfortunately their subscriptions can be expensive.

Sooner or later you will want to find out about where your family lived before they came to New Zealand. Given I am providing information to Clan Cameron New Zealand members, this is likely to be Scotland, although many people would have come via North America or Australia, or lived in England, before migrating.

Hopefully by then you will have obtained New Zealand certificates telling you where in Scotland your family came from and their age when they arrived. So once again you will be looking at records of births and marriages in Scotland. For these you will need to go to <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>. This is the Scottish Government site for obtaining not only statutory certificates and census records but also many parish records. While it is free to search you do need to pay to view the actual record which is normally necessary to confirm you have the correct record.

Lastly many of you will know about using DNA testing from the articles placed in our magazine by Jo Cameron from the Manawatu branch who is one of the organisers of the Clan Cameron DNA project. This project is more focused on the wider Cameron history and connections but DNA testing is also useful in linking you to cousins and other family you may need be aware of.

You do need to test via one of the family history sites and upload your family tree to that site to ascertain if there are matches and this generally means a subscription. The advantage is if you do get a match you may be able to contact unknown cousins and from this trace your family further back. If this is something you are interested in I suggest further reading, https://isogg.org/wiki/Beginners%27_guides_to_genetic_genealogy

So this is a brief introduction to tracing your ancestors, a search which can occupy some people for years. I wish you all the best in any search you undertake and remind you that Clan Cameron New Zealand welcomes information on your family to add to our data base of Cameron descendants in New Zealand.

I am also happy to be contacted by email, clancameronhistory@gmail.com, if you have questions.

David Weston

Coming Events

Saturday 8 February 2025
32nd Paeroa Highland Games
Join us in our tent. Enjoy the piping and Tattoo.
<https://paeroahighlandgames.co.nz>

Sunday 23 February 2025
Auckland Provincials Pipe Band Contest
Waikaraka Park.
Cameron tent will be there.

Friday / Saturday 7/8 March 2025
NZ Pipe Band Championships
Queens Park Cricket Grounds, Invercargill.

Join us in the Clan Alley, where Clan Cameron will have a tent. Organised by Clan Matheson. Contact Wayne Matheson, clanalleynz@gmail.com

Sunday 16 March 2025
Auckland Branch AGM
Junior Pavilion, Thomas Bloodworth Park, 2 Shore Road, Parnell.
AGM at 4pm, followed by Barbeque.

Details will be emailed to Auckland members.

Saturday 17 May 2025
Clan Cameron NZ Gathering and AGM.
Hawkes Bay Club, Napier
Further details at a later date.

Saturday 16 August 2025
Auckland Branch Annual Dinner
The Parnell, Gladstone Rd, Parnell.
Further details at a later date.

From the Branches....

Auckland by Rob Cameron

Firstly, on behalf of the Auckland branch I want to wish everyone a happy start to 2025. We have had a big 2024, from participating in the Pipe band Nationals, supporting Sarah while she was taking part in the First Light exchange and welcoming her home, to the Clan Gathering in Achnacarry. I would like to thank the committee for their hard work during the last year while we prepare for these extra events.



Since the last newsletter our branch took part in Celebrating Scotland, a Scottish Clans Association event held on November 30th, or better known as St Andrew's Day. The event took place at John Kinder House in Parnell, after the success of Dale's Scots Wha Hae exhibit he held last year. Although the day was wet, there was Highland dancing from the Fraser Dancing School, Haggis address, Burns poetry, plus performances from the Auckland City Pipe Band and the Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club. We had Neil's newly minted Achnacarry Gathering tent boards, plus the Blenheim Pipes on display.

We also took part in the Waipu Highland Games which was held on New Years Eve instead of New Years Day. It is usually a coin flip when it comes to what the weather is going to do, and there were several short but heavy downpours during the day. The wind also picked up and a lot of the clans decided to leave a bit early.

Despite the weather I was able to have a look at the junior piping competition. City of Auckland had a couple of their new members attempting the novice and D grades which is great to see for the bands development. It was also great to be able to support Sarah McQueen in her first solo competition, and see her get a couple of firsts in novice grade. I hope she continues to compete when she heads back to Dunedin.

Unfortunately there was no drumming competition this year, I believe this was due to lack of applicants.

A few members will be making their way to Turakina for the Highland Games on January 25th, hopefully a bit dryer than the last couple of years, however it great catching up with everyone who will be attending.

We will also be at the Paeroa Highland Games this year. City of Sails Pipe Band will be competing so it will be another busy day for me.

I will also be competing at the Central North Island Pipe Band Competition in Tauranga on February 22nd, then at the Auckland Provincials Pipe Band Contest the next day on the 23rd at Waikaraka Park. Clans will have an opportunity to attend and put up their tents and hopefully we will have our Tent at the competition.

The height of the Pipe Band Season will come to an end with the Pipe Band Nationals in Invercargill over March 7th and 8th. Similar to last year, the Clans will be attending the Nationals and Clan Cameron will be attending. The weather was amazing last time the Nationals were held in Invercargill, and hopefully we will get a repeat of this.

Finally, our next committee meeting will be our branch AGM on 16th of March at the Thomas Bloodworth Junior Pavilion for the Parnell Cricket Club. Like previous years we will be having a Barbeque and social get-together, please come along if you are able.

Manawatu by Anne Walker Long

Members of Clan Cameron Manawatu extend our best wishes to all for a happy and successful 2025 and like many others are enjoying the break, albeit with some variable summer weather across the country. I am writing this from beautiful Waiheke Island where the wind has



finally abated and the sun is shining.

We look forward to seeing Clan Cameron members and supporters at the Turakina Highland Games on Saturday 25th January 2025 where we will host a Clan tent where everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy Clan hospitality. The Turakina Highland Games are always a highlight of our calendar, and this year are celebrating their 160th anniversary with a few special events. Quite a milestone of achievement in this modern age.

Another milestone to be celebrated this year is the centenary of the Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band, one of New Zealand's best bands. We have always had an association with the band and are looking to celebrate with them at our mid-winter dinner. More information will be available once the date is confirmed.

Branch Members are advised that the annual meeting of Clan Cameron Manawatu Branch will be on Sunday 2nd March 2025. All members, family and friends are welcome to attend the short annual meeting, which will be followed by a shared afternoon tea. The venue and arrangements will be finalized shortly and emailed to our local branch members, and posted on our Clan Cameron Manawatu Facebook page. This year we are hoping to schedule the gathering closer to Wanganui to enable members in that area to join us a little more easily.

We have been following Lochiel Neilson's preparation for her First Light Exchange, and a few of the Manawatu members recently visited her family home in Masterton at the invitation of her parents, Garry and Malissa. Clan Cameron Manawatu are planning an informal farewell event for Lochiel in early April. All Branch members are welcome and invitations will be sent once details are confirmed.

We were very pleased to see Dale Cameron Bailey receive a New Year Honour, for services to education. Dale's family came from the Manawatu, and he originally joined Clan Cameron here. We consider him very much 'one of our own' and extend our warmest congratulations.

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

In the last newsletter, H.B. acknowledged the passing of a clan stalwart in Leigh Cameron.

Unfortunately this issue has to record the passing of another clan member in Helen Shaw who was our inaugural Branch President. Helen reluctantly stepped away from all clan involvement some years back after being diagnosed with advancing Parkinson's Disease.



She died peacefully on the 5th. Of December at Atawhai Village in Taradale aged 85 years.

Since Cyclone Gabrielle, the past 20 odd months have generated that sort of feeling where you almost find yourself holding your breath - - waiting for something suspected to finally arrive - - and when it does it is still unsettling. Not an easy way to live!

However, 2025 has started in a more positive fashion, courtesy of the King's New Years Honours List. - - N.Z. Clan Cameron Commissioner, Dale Bailey, was awarded the N.Z. Order of Merit for his services to education.

Congratulations Dale from all of us here in H.B.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

We were saddened by the death of Brian Cameron. He has been a loyal member of Clan Cameron Canterbury for many years.

Sympathy is extended to wife Norma, and his family. His funeral in Ashburton was attended by many people, and Nick was the piper at the ceremony. Speakers were Professor Bruce McKenzie (Lincoln University), Phil McKendry (Cooperative Business NZ), Reese Hart (PPCS) and Michael Kingsbury (Rotary) as well as members of Brian's family.



First Light News

by Bryan Haggitt—First Light Convenor



I trust you all welcomed in the new year and celebrated Hogmanay in appropriate fashion.

Momentous news just received - not only are we to send off Lochiel Nielsen to Scotland in May but, on 1 March, Finlay's elder brother, Sandy Cameron, and his partner Eireann arrive here. Both are to pipe for Manawatu Scottish in the National Pipe Band Championships being held in Invercargill, 7 and 8 March.

I am not sure how long Sandy and Eireann will be in New Zealand but I hope that many NZ Cameron's are able to meet with them. They are both exceedingly personable and exceptional pipers. Sandy, with Finlay, piped with the Field Marshall Montgomery PB (FMM) when it won the World Championship in 2022 and was runner-up in 2023. Sandy was again a member of FMM last August when, having won the European Championship the week before, was runner-up to Inverary in the World's. All this under renowned Pipe Major Richard Parkes.

Sandy, 26, is an engineer with BAS installing air conditioning units in the new British frigates. Eireann is an architect - both work in Glasgow where they own an apartment.

News of Finlay - he has a job assisting piping tutors at Stewart's Melville College, a private school in Edinburgh, 1 day a week at this stage but a possibility of it being extended to 3 days. I believe he is still very keen to return to NZ if the opportunity arises.

To cap all of this, Sandy and Finlay's parents, Ken and Rhona, may well come out here to give support to these pipers - fantastic if they do come!

And here at home Lochiel Nielsen, with her Dad and Garry, both drummers, are attending the Summer Piping School in Wellington. Lochiel's home is at Masterton but the family has a holiday home at Omori on the southern shore of Lake Taupo and whilst there a week or so back Lochiel, Malissa (her mother) and Garry visited me at Kakahi, 50 minutes away over the hill, at the confluence of the Whakapapa and Whanganui Rivers.

Here at Kakahi the sun is out but the wind is cold. However, in Scotland there is snow and we must all feel for those poor folk in Los Angeles who are suffering terribly from the devastating fires.

From the past

Piping honours for Sandy and Finlay

From 'The Braes of Lochaber' newsletter, October 2014

Two brothers from Roy Bridge have enjoyed a splendid summer of piping success. Sandy and Finlay Cameron of Inverlair are pupils at Dollar Academy. They have played with the school's Juvenile Pipe Band in all the Major competitions throughout the summer season, winning Scottish, European and World Championship titles as well as Champion of Champions.

The final event of the season was the World Championship, held on Glasgow Green on 16th August. Having arrived at the competition early in the morning to prepare for their performance just after 9am, they had a long, nail-biting wait until they were announced as winners late that evening.

Not just as World Champions, but as Champion of Champions from the points gained through the season; a tremendous achievement for the Dollar Academy Pipe Band.

Sandy then had another major engagement to fulfil. He was given the honour of being invited to play at the Highland Military Tattoo in early



Lone Piper Sandy Cameron at the Highland Military Tattoo

September by Major Bruce Hitchings, organiser of the event. Sandy's father, Kenny said: "They wanted a Highland youth to perform as the Lone Piper to close the show on its three-night run and Sandy was proud to be asked."

In the dramatic setting of Fort George, 17 year old Sandy played "Flowers of the Forest" to a full house of around 2,000 on each night, in remembrance of the fallen in all conflicts.

Sandy has a long list of piping achievements, including the MacGregor Memorial Piobaireachd Competition title from the 2013 Argyllshire Gathering but he said "I've never done anything like this before." A great honour indeed for the outstanding young piper from the Braes.

Pipers in the news

From 'The Braes of Lochaber' newsletter, September 2013



Finlay, Ben and Sandy at Arisaig Games

The summer is always a busy time for pipers with Highland Games often high on the agenda. At Arisaig Games the Braes was well represented, with the Cameron brothers Sandy and Finlay and Ben Fulford all playing in the Junior Piping Class. The winner was 16 years old Sandy. Competing in the senior piping section was Bidwell's surveyor Finlay Clark from Spean Bridge.

Sandy has since won the prestigious MacGregor Memorial Competition for Piobaireachd at Oban in an annual competition as part of the Argyllshire Gathering.

The event is for under 22 year olds and attracts players from all over the world. This is a quite outstanding achievement for the young Roy Bridge piper.



New First Lighter, Lochiel Nielsen, with her parents Garry and Malissa, meet up with First Light Convenor, Bryan Haggitt, at Kakahi.

St. Andrew's Day event at John Kinder House, Auckland. Photos by Dale Bailey and Rob Cameron



Supporters of the St Andrew's Day event enjoying the Christmas carols on the pipes



Noel and Paul lead the rendition of Flower of Scotland to close the St Andrew's Day event



City of Auckland Pipe band playing Christmas carols in the grounds of John Kinder House



Blenheim Pipes with Photo of Donald the Piper on display



Graham Foggin giving a talk on Highland Dress.

Some of Bill Cameron's great pictures.



Sunday morning light up on Meall an t-Suidhe, looking across to the Ben



Lovely aurora display above Dornie



Ben Resipole from Shiel bridge.



Nicely icy, Glen Coe



Loch Linnhe and Fort William from Banavie Hill.



*Morning lights in the square,
Inverlochy.*



R: Moonlight over the West Highland Line, Inverlochy.



Neil's Hotel bathroom in Glasgow - Cameron tartan tiles !

A History of Drambuie

By Andy Fairgrieve

With thanks to the West Highland Museum.

Objects from the Drambuie Collection have been on loan to West Highland Museum since 2018 and can be viewed in our Jacobite Gallery.

Andy Fairgrieve from William Grant and Sons Ltd has written a blog for us focusing on the history of Drambuie liqueur.

As part of the loan of objects from the Drambuie Collection, there is currently on display at the West Highland Museum a small, framed piece containing to be what purports to be part of the mast of the boat in which Charles Edward Stuart was taken to safety from the Isle of Skye to the Scottish mainland on the 4th of July 1746.



A sketch of the boat carrying Charles Edward Stuart from the Isle of Skye to the Scottish mainland on the 4th of July 1746.

The boat was crewed by members of Clan MacKinnon including their Chieftain Iain Dhu MacKinnon and Captain John MacKinnon of Elgol. The MacKinnon's had crossed from Sleat to Loch Nevis undercover of night. However, on landing they discovered an encampment of redcoats and local government militia. The prince and his party were forced to hide in the heather by the foreshore for three days before setting off to sea once again. At this point they were spotted by the government troops who gave chase, yet the MacKinnon's were the stronger rowers and soon gave them the slip.

When they landed again The prince hoped that old Clanranald would assist him but was refused. A follower of Clanranald, MacDonald of Morar however did offer shelter and even went to speak to Young Clanranald, who sadly was of the same opinion as his father and no assistance would be given.

With this news the prince, was distraught – **‘O God Almighty, look down on my circumstances and pity me; for I am in a most melancholy situation. Some of those who joined me at first, and appeared to be fast friends, now turn their backs on me in my greatest need. I hope, Mr MacKinnon, that you will not desert me too, and leave me in the lurch, but that you'll do all for my preservation you can.’**

‘Well then,’ replied John MacKinnon, **‘with the help of God, I will go through the wide world with your Royal Highness, if you desire me.’** As Good as his word Captain MacKinnon safely escorted the Prince to Borrodale where he discharged his duty into the safe hands of Angus Macdonald.

Perhaps it was at this point the gift from the prince was made to Captain John?

The gift in question being the recipe of the prince's own personal elixir, handed over as a mark of gratitude.

This is the origin story behind Scotland's best known and oldest whisky liqueur: Drambuie.

But what exactly did the prince gift to Captain John? The historical record tells us that in late April 1746, some two months before he met John MacKinnon, Prince Charles was in the Outer Hebrides under the protection of the Skye boatman, Donald MacLeod of Gualtergill. When MacLeod was later questioned about the state of the prince's health at the time he replied:

‘He had a little bottle in his poutch out of which he used to take so many drops every morning and throughout the day, saying if anything should ail him he hoped he should cure himself, for that he was something of a doctor. And faith...he was indeed a bit of a doctor, for Ned Bourk happening ance to be unco ill of a cholick, the Prince said ‘Let him alane, I hope to cure him of that’ and accordingly he did so, for he gae him so many drops out o’ the little bottlie and Ned soon was as well as ever he had been’

So, this little bottle likely contained a highly concentrated eau-de-vie, concocted from a mixture of herbs spices and other flavourings, a few drops of which might be added to distilled spirit, such as brandy or whisky and sweetened with honey to make a cordial or punch. The popularity of such liqueurs was not just fashionable in the high courts of 18th Century Europe but also a known practice in the highlands and islands of Scotland. Of course, following in the best oral tradition of the highlands as he handed over the bottle the prince likely intimated to Captain John the ingredients it contained as well as the proportions in which they should be used. There may well be a degree of myth in this origin story it can not be denied that the MacKinnons of Skye were famed for the quality and potency of their cordials.

When James Boswell and Doctor Samuel Johnson visited Skye during their tour of the Western Isles in 1773, they were entertained by Lachlan MacKinnon of Corry. Boswell notes in his diary that he sat up with MacKinnon until five in the morning drinking what he described as a whisky ‘punch’.

While we can't tell for certain which cordial Boswell received that night, the MacKinnons' of Corry were known for one in particular which they called ‘The Yellow Drink’ – *‘dram buidhe’*.



The Broadford Inn, Isle of Skye

Then in the 1870s John Ross the proprietor of the Broadford Inn convinced a MacKinnon (said to be Alexander Kenneth Mackinnon of Corryie Lodge) to share the recipe of their famed liqueur so he might make it up for sale as a ‘house speciality’ in his bar. It is said that a tasting of the resulting drink was held one evening at which one of the drinkers proclaimed that it was *‘an dram buidheach’* – ‘the drink that satisfies.’

So just as the true origins of the drink are lost in the mists of time the precise origins of the name are equally unclear. ‘Buie’ is a phonetic spelling of ‘buidhe’, meaning ‘yellow’, but could also be an abbreviation of ‘buidheach’ (pronounced ‘booyuch’)

However, whichever version is preferred the name Drambuie stuck and it soon became popular with visitors to the Broadford Inn. So much so that in 1893 the son of John Ross, James, applied for a patent to trademark the name Drambuie. In doing so James might have been seeking to protect the name against a poor local imitation or indeed he could have had longer term plans to try and market the drink to a wider audience. Unfortunately, if this was his intention James never made it a reality as he passed away 1902. Eleanor tried to keep the family business going, bringing in a manager from Tongue but in 1908 The Broadford was sold to new owners and James' widow Eleanor moved the family to Edinburgh, taking the Drambuie recipe with her.

That might have been the end of the Drambuie story had it not been for the intervention of another MacKinnon, Malcom (commonly known as Calum) who's branch of the clan were to be found in Glenmore.

Malcom had moved to Edinburgh a few years before

Eleanor and found employment at W. MacBeth's and Son, a whisky merchant based in the New Town. By 1907 Malcom was a partner in the company and was looking on ways in which he might expand the business.

Like many of the Island community in the city Malcom attended St Orans Highland Church and it was here that he first came in to contact with Eleanor Ross and her family. The friendship between Malcom and Eleanor's children grew and in 1908 an agreement was signed with Eleanor manufacturing and selling the drink out of Macbeths Union Street premises with MacBeths' supplying the whisky and owning the trademark for the brand.

The first advert for Drambuie appeared in the Scots Pictorial Magazine in July 1908, interestingly it does not claim the recipe had come direct from Prince Charles but rather that it was handed over by a 'follower' of the Prince. Subsequent adverts however did state the drink had come directly from the Prince and reinforced the origins of the brand emphasising the link to the '45 and proclaiming it as the Isle of Skye Liqueur.

Trade was initially slow with only 12 cases of the drink being sold in the first year, but Malcom still believed in the brand and so in 1912 MacBeths bought Eleanor out, giving them full ownership. However, Macbeths were themselves in trouble and so in 1914 Malcom made the bold move of buying out his partner to become the sole owner of the company and the Drambuie Liqueur Company Limited separating it fully from MacBeths'

It was not just Drambuie that Malcom was introduced to by Eleanor's family, one of her daughters, Meg had a close friend from Wick but now working as a schoolteacher in Edinburgh, Gina Davidson.

Romance blossomed between Gina and Malcom and the couple married in 1915. Straight away Gina became involved in the business, taking on responsibility for the purchase and mixing of the herbs and spices used in the drinks production. It is said she would often buy ingredients that were not actually part of the recipe to throw any potential imitators off the scent.

The outbreak of war in 1914 proved to have mixed fortunes for the whisky trade but the restriction of imports made Drambuie one of the only liqueurs available in the UK and by exploiting his connections and existing customers for Macbeths blended whisky brands (John o Groats and Fulstrenght) was able to grow the business. In 1917 orders started to come in to supply Drambuie to the House of Lords and the following year the cellars of Buckingham place. It also became a firm favourite in officers messes after the war, giving the brand international exposure and helping build its export trade value.

Of course, as prohibition gripped the North American

market through the 1920s and 30s export trade was hit but one unexpected benefit came with the exodus of professional bartenders such as Harry Craddock who left America to work in UK bars where they discovered Drambuie which they continued to champion in America once Prohibition ended in 1933.

In fact, one of the most famous Drambuie serves 'The Rusty Nail' is said to have gained its name from the prohibition practice of smugglers often dropping crates of their contraband overboard offshore of their intended market with a small floating bladder to act as marker so that they might be retrieved at a later date. Of course, the salt water corroded the nails that held the crate together, hence The Rusty Nail !

With Malcom passing in 1945, Gina's brother William Davidson took over the running of the company. By the 1960s Gina had become chair of the company with her brother William as vice Chair and her eldest son Norman looking after day to day running of the business.

Gina travelled extensively promoting the brand, often accompanied not by one but two personal pipers, in America where the brand enjoyed great popularity following the end of Prohibition, she became to be known as 'The Canny Scots Granny with the \$2 million secret'. Gina used to continue to prepare the concentrate used in Drambuie (with only 4 small vials containing enough to make 1200 gallons of Drambuie) until her death in 1977.

As the brand became more popular it quickly outgrew its first home in the New Town's Union Street and in 1940 production moved to Dubin Street with a further move in 1955 to Easter Road. In 1959 it moved once again to Kirkliston where it remained until production and bottling was contracted out in 2001, initially to the Glenmorangie plant in Broxburn then in 2010 to Morrison Bowmore Distillers Ltd.

In 2014 the brand was sold for a reported £100 million to another family-owned firm, William Grant and Sons Ltd. The new owners took a long hard look at the brand and quickly moved from the redesigned bottle and brand imagery introduced in 2005, returning to a design more in keeping with its established heritage of a squat brown glass bottle with its gold label famous red top and Bonnie Prince Charlie embossed on the shoulder of the bottle.

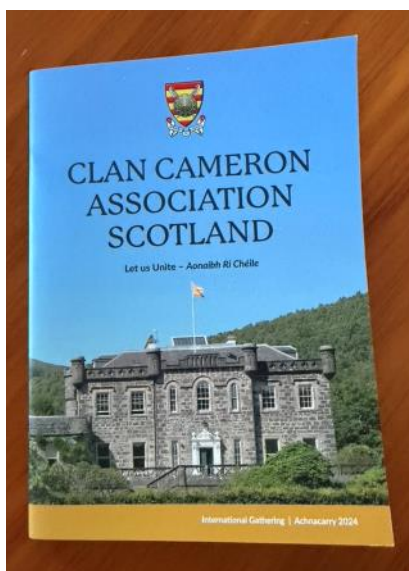
Also, a new signature serve has been created, the Drambuie iced coffee, a simple mix of equal measures of strong cold press coffee and Drambuie over ice to make a luxurious indulgent after dinner treat.

For more information on the Drambuie story and the ways it may be enjoyed please visit

[Drambuie. A Blend Of Scotch Whisky, Heather Honey, Herbs & Spices](https://www.drambuie.co.uk/)



An early advert for Drambuie



For Sale...

At the International Gathering Clan Cameron on Scotland published this wonderful booklet as a souvenir bulletin. It is a high quality design product and covers many of the important topics of Clan Cameron. It has essays on the Clan Cameron Association, the Gentle Lochiel, some Cameron place names, the Cameron tartans, localities around Achnacarry. It features an essay by our Clan Cameron Manawatu member Joanne Cameron on the y-DNA project. This 38 page full colour A5 booklet is a great read. We have a limited supply for any members that would like to purchase a copy. Cost is \$30 plus postage \$7.50 or \$10 for rural delivery. If you would like a copy please contact Dale

Dale.bailey@xtra.co.nz



Obituary. Brian Kennedy Cameron

By Rae Magson

Brian passed away on 4 December 2024 at the age of 93 years.

In his life story book, he wrote that his generation was like it is because of the lifetime of experiences that are very different to present-day circumstances. There had been remarkable changes over his lifetime.



Brian circa 1964.

He was proud of his scientific and academic background, which, combined with his practical experience, served him well throughout his life. His ideas were always grounded in science, credible and thoroughly developed. Of his student life at Lincoln, he said: "As students we all matured significantly and developed close bonds as a group. The staff, campus environment and agriculture all became important parts of our lives and have remained so forever."



Compulsory military training 1954

and the high jump and was awarded a New Zealand Universities Blue in Athletics. Due to his numerous commitments, Brian required an additional year to graduate with his Bachelor of Agricultural Science in 1956. Four years were spent travelling in Australia, trying his hand at many jobs, from pineapple harvesting, fencing, shearing, drilling, selling chemicals and horticulture. However, he thought he had found an ideal job – selling encyclopedias! Flexible working hours, new places, and meeting new people every day. Everything seemed right, but there was just one problem – he failed to sell even one encyclopedia! One job he particularly enjoyed was working for an irrigation company, selling and installing irrigation systems. Brian returned to Ashburton and when his parents retired in 1963, they sold half of the farm each to John and Brian. During his time in Australia, Brian met a young nurse named Norma. About one year later she moved to New Zealand, where they got married

and established a farming partnership together.

Brian was a pioneering figure in farming, irrigation and agribusiness, leaving an enduring legacy to New Zealand's agriculture. He played a significant role in advancing Lincoln University. He served on the executive of the University Alumni Association for ten years, with two years as Alumni President. He was a member of the University Council representing graduate and diploma holders, for twenty years through to 2000. For 25 years he hosted student class visits on his farm properties and was a farm tutor for four years. The University awarded him the Bledisloe Medal in 2001 for advancing New Zealand's interests in agriculture and enhancing the university's reputation.

Brian farmed at Pendarves and was the first farmer to drill a deep irrigation bore in Canterbury (possibly in New Zealand) and to use underground pressurized water systems



Winner of the Outstanding Contribution to Co-operatives Award 2017

and overhead sprinklers. According to Brian, "this was a response to seeing first-hand, over many years, the devastating effects of drought on people, stock and balance sheets". He discovered water at 70 meters, a breakthrough that sparked significant agricultural development in Canterbury.

Brian was elected the inaugural Chairman of the NZ Irrigation Association (now Irrigation NZ Inc.) in 1978, worked on the Lower Rakaia Irrigation Association for 26 years, and was awarded the Ron Cocks Memorial Award in 2012 for his lifetime contribution to irrigation promotion. Brian, together with Phil McKendry, developed the Barrhill Chertsey Irrigation project which is a modern and world-class application of irrigated agriculture. Mid Canterbury now has three irrigation schemes, comprising over 220,000 ha irrigated area, and is a powerhouse of food production in New Zealand. Brian wrote a book called Liquid Gold in 2009. It was described as –



Hand-shift irrigation pipes, daughters Helen and Lynette, Akeringa farm Pendarves; circa 1970

Liquid Gold is a history of irrigation in the Ashburton County with particular reference to the Pendarves, Dorie, Chertsey and Barrhill areas. It is the story of the author's experiences in developing his own scheme and involvement in the promotion of community schemes. Irrigation development is a slow process and this story describes its trials, disappointments and successes. It backgrounds the astonishing progress the area has experienced with the advent of irrigation. The previous, almost forgotten, dry land area has become a world class farming paradise involving dairying, crop production and specialised seed reproduction.

One of Brian's passions was his long involvement in the New Zealand Co-op Association (now Cooperative Business NZ). He was elected inaugural chairman in the early 1980s, and it was as chair of CBNZ in the early 1990s that Brian made an enduring legacy to all of NZ. Together with lawyer David Stock, he drafted a world-class piece of legislation, and the Co-operative Companies Act 1996 was passed. Later, under Brian's leadership, CBNZ expanded to include cooperatives outside of its initial agricultural focus – these businesses now contribute nearly 20% of NZ's GDP. In 2017, CBNZ awarded Brian the Outstanding Cooperative Contribution Award. Brian was also interested in advancing the NZ Meat industry and was on the board of PPCS (Silver Fern Farms) during the transformative years between 1978 and 1998 when the company expanded from a marketing to a large processing company.

Brian has also contributed to Federated Farmers and the Ashburton Trading Society (Ruralco). He was a very busy man in his own right, developing and running two farms, yet he found time for all of these "off-farm" activities. Brian once commented, "I did not go looking for these positions, they just seemed to find me!" In addition, most of his work was unpaid or with a low stipend.

Brian and Norma were benefactors to many, including Hospice New Zealand, St Johns, The Salvation Army, Life Education and EA Networks Centre. They also donated a sculpture to the Ashburton Domain.

After selling the farms, Brian found fulfilment in nursery plant production, grape growing, and winemaking. Finally! after retiring from farming, he spent twenty years as an active and enthusiastic member of the Ashburton Rotary Club. For more than ten years he took responsibility for organising and sorting the magazines that came in for Bookarama, this was not a small job! With Norma, he attended many Rotary Conferences, and received the Paul Harris Fellowship Award, the highest Award in Rotary, for his work and generosity to Rotary projects. He had a wonderful sense of humour, and entertained members on many occasions, particularly his hilarious impersonation of Donald Trump. Brian and Norma have also established student scholarships with Lincoln University and the Advance Ashburton Community Foundation.

Brian was very proud of his family – wife Norma and children Helen, Lynette and Joanne. The family found joy in simple but treasured activities. Sometimes they went to nearby Kyle Beach to collect agates - beautiful semi-precious stones. Brian and Norma were not keen on camping, probably because



Grape-growing Banks Peninsula circa 1990

they spent so much time outdoors. The family enjoyed memorable trips to Australia and Fiji. There were family picnics, and sometimes Norma had to coax Brian out of the tractor. His presence at these family activities made them even more special.

Brian was fortunate to have Norma's unwavering support and strength, without which many of his achievements would not have come to fruition. Together they focused on building efficient, productive and profitable farms, while supporting their children and grandchildren. Their dedication meant making significant sacrifices and taking large financial risks, but always with a prudent approach. Brian taught his three daughters all farming practices and how to operate equipment, even though this was uncommon at the time. He was a trusted sounding board for his daughters and grandchildren. He had an awesome (but sometimes annoying!) way of encouraging his family to think critically and be prepared. He would often start his sentences with 'I'm being the devil's advocate, what would you do if this happens?' He taught his family the importance of forward-thinking and how to write budgets and financial projections for everything.



*Brian and Norma 2011
(Brian's 80th)*

Brian was a man who truly understood the value of a hard day's work and his sandpaper rough hands worn from farm work were a testament to that. Brian was a member of Clan Cameron Canterbury for many years and with Norma, attended many of their events. He had been on the committee and will be missed.

Brian was a remarkable man of immense character and endless generosity, who led a remarkable life. He was highly influential in farming, governance, agribusiness and the community, yet he carried this influence with utmost humility.

Brian was the brother of Denis Cameron and the late John Cameron.

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Auckland Branch:

Deidre Cameron

Hillsborough, Auckland

Sheena Cameron

Green Bay, Auckland

***Ceud Mìle Fáilte One
Hundred Thousand
Welcomes***



Aonaibh ri Cheile

The Back Page



And the rain came!



Dale, Rob, Allan and Neil ready to greet visitors.



Raindrops keep fallin'



Congratulations to First Lighter Sarah McQueen for completing at the Waipu Highland Games. 1st in novice Piobaireachd and March



Elaine Bailey with Allan and Morea Cameron



Shout out to McLeods Brewery. A free beer for those of us in kilts!



Folding a very wet Cameron tent. Duncan had a very busy time drying it all out next day.



Pictures from the 2024 Hororata Highland Games. On right 19 Pipe Bands with nearly 500 pipers and drummers joined together in a Massed Bands march. As part of their performance, Piper Iona Lawson led the bands in a moving rendition of Amazing Grace that didn't leave a dry eye on the Hororata Domain.

Photos: Dale.