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La Gazette

Issue # 29

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President's Greetings

Bonjour la famille,

What a day to be sitting here writing the first greetings since the Annual General Meeting held at the Cashmere Club on 15th May and the 2011-12 year.

Thank you to the members who are happy to remain on the committee and a very special 'thankyou' to Rita Jenkins and Joy Masters who have resigned after many years on the committee.

'Captured' is the most appropriate word to describe today, as the snow blankets the ground after awaking to a chilly polar blast!

'Essential traffic only' put paid to driving as snow blocked many of the roads and advice was to stay at home. This also prevented me driving to help Jenny care for the twins, born early in June. Lars and Max arrived a little early but with a 'robust cry', according to proud father, Damien.

A third descendent, William, Andrew arrived later in June to Elizabeth, daughter of Bruce and Diana Clark.

Viva la France!

Bastille Day was held on 14 July. The Comte de Paris group organized a dinner at the Bordeaux Restaurant in Rangiora. This was a really lovely evening at a very French-style venue, the food and service were fantastic. Mid-week did mean we were conscious of work the next day.

We had the pleasure of catching up with Peter and Christine Tremewen and hearing the news about their recent trip to France and the cousins in the Charente region.

The Libeau Family gatherings have joined with Comte de Paris for Landing Day as well as Bastille Day over the past few years.

La Reunion! 10 Weeks to go!

The Reunion is nearly here! It is still not too late to register if you have found you are able to come.

A change has been made to registering for the Saturday Events. As several of the families have indicated their interest but with small families find the evening functions difficult, or cannot come on Friday because of work commitments we have made available Saturday registrations. This will be \$15 dollars. You will receive the programme, maps etc by mail to enable you to arrive and join in at the events of your choice.

Because of the changes in the World Cup venues Gisele and Francois will now be travelling directly from the South Island Tour to Auckland and departing from Auckland Airport on Tuesday 11th October.

Those travelling to Wainui are disappointed we will not be able to meet them as we need to be leaving Christchurch by 2:00.

However, some family in Christchurch may be able to greet and meet them at the airport for a short time, like wise family members in Auckland.

I know we have experienced earthquakes, floods, tornadoes and illnesses and new babies over the year. Take care and enjoy the small joys each day brings.

Kind regards to you all
Patricia

Births, Passings, Marriages and New Members

BIRTHS:

Jenkins, Kate Mary-Ann. Jan 2

- . Daughter of Mary-Ann and Glenn
- Grand daughter of Patricia and Carl
- Great granddaughter of Neville Clark

Bimler, Lars Hayden and Maximus Levi. June 8 2011

- Twins born to Jenny & Damien
- Grandsons for Carl & Patricia Stoneman
- Great grandsons for Neville Clark

Moncrief, William Andrew. June 20 2011-07-25

- Son of Elizabeth and Taron
- Grandson of Bruce and Diana Clark
- Great grandson of Geoff (deceased) and Gert Clark



PASSINGS:

Nicholls, Valmai Kathleen, May 24 2011 - aged 90 years

McKeown, Joyce May, 27 2011 wife of the late Trevor McKeown

Clark, Frederick John, March 4 2011 - just short of his 92nd birthday

Morrisett, Madeleine, June 21 2011

Adams, MiriamAnne June 12 2011. Loved wife of Doug

NEW MEMBERS:

Ursula Willis



Fred Clark

24 March 1919 – 4 March 2011

(Profile of John Frederick Clark, supplied by his daughter Alison Hannah.)

Fred was born in Mangamaire, near Pahiatua, on the 24th of

March, 1919. His father, Fred senior, was born in Akaroa in Canterbury, and had worked on farms around Akaroa and Oamaru before moving to Mangamaire in 1916 with his wife, Minnie. They were working on farms in the district when Fred junior was born.

Fred left school at 14, and over the next three years took up work on the family farm and around the district. In 1936, he spent a season apple-picking at Motueka, just out of Nelson. Back on the family farm in 1937, they had a visit from his older cousin, Eve Adams and her husband Les, who had a pedigree farm in Sheffield in Canterbury, and they suggested he work for them on their 300 acre farm. So he spent the next four years working for them in Canterbury. He had stories of moving pedigree cattle by train, of working in long dry summers and big frosts in the winter.

While Fred's life was spent mainly around Pahiatua, connections with Canterbury were a big feature in his life. His father's family was descended from Akaroa's early French settlers. He remembered his "Frenchy" grandmother, Marie Magdaline Libeau who married James Dick Clark, as she used to visit the Sheffield farm where he worked.

War broke out in 1939, and Fred joined up with the Army Territorials. Training took him occasionally down to Wingatui, near Dunedin, and while down there in 1939, Fred attended a Bible Class camp at Pounawea out on the coast, where he met Margaret MacMillan. After that, she would come up to Sheffield a few times to see him and they eventually married in 1942, before he did his tour of duty overseas.

Fred served in the Red Cross Medical Corps No 2 General Hospital, first in Egypt for three months, then to Italy, where he served for about two-and-a-half years.

After the war, the farmer next to their old farm on Gardiners Road asked Fred to buy him out, so he managed the farm in 1946 then bought it out in 1947 with a Resettlement loan. The farm was 170 acres and, supported 48 cows and by 1963, 330 ewes.

At Nikau, Fred and Margaret raised their four children, Alan, Merle, Alison and Derrick. Margaret died in 1972 and later Fred married Maida. Fred retired from the farm in 1978, and he and Maida moved to Christian Place in Palmerston North. For many years, Fred was associated with the Senior Citizens Club. Fred and Maida were both on the Senior Citizens Committee and very much enjoyed this time of their lives. Fred took charge of the indoor bowls games and he really looked forward to his bowls days. He was putting out the mats until he was 88, about year before he went into an apartment at Olive Tree. He still had a keen eye for a good shot and would often win the prize when they played bowls at Olive Tree until he had his last fall.

Madeleine Morrisett

We were very sad to be notified by our dear cousins in France that Madeleine had passed away. She had been quite unwell over the last few years and had been in care for quite some time.

In the past few months Madeleine's health had deteriorated markedly, and she grew very thin and tired and sadly died after being admitted to hospital the previous day.

Madeleine was a strong and independent woman who worked very hard all her life, beginning on the family farm helping her mother after her father died. After her mother's death in 1944 and her only sibling's death (her brother Georges) in 1945 aged only 25, Madeleine was forced to make a living for herself.

What then followed was home helping in many parts of France. With further training, she eventually began to work with the physically and mentally handicapped, for many years.

After retirement she returned to the family home in Cramchaban, of which she had retained ownership. Madeleine was on the Municipal Council for many years and did much voluntary social work as long as she was able.

Rest in peace Madeleine.

Leone Fuller

Reunion

We have just been advised that because of change in ownership, the restaurant at French Farm is now only available as a total hire booking with meals separately catered for at additional cost by a contracted caterer. Because of the smaller number attending the evening, the cost is considered prohibitive and we have therefore made our booking for the dinner at the popular BULLY HAYES restaurant in Akaroa village.

A revised proposed timetable for the reunion is attached below.

Libeau Descendants Inc Programme of Events 2011

Fri 7 Oct 2011

For those staying at Wainui Heights – registrations from 4.00pm.
For all those staying privately, - register at Bully Hayes before dinner.
Saturday only attendees will receive registration pack by post.

6:30 - Pre dinner drinks and official welcome.

Dinner 7:30 All costs to be paid on the night by attendees

Sat 8 Oct 2011

Breakfast for those at Wainui Site only

9:30 Assemble at Onuku Marae

12:00 Tree Planting at Akaroa Heritage Reserve:

French Picnic –

Timings will depend on Marae visit

Activities for the remainder of the day.

1:30-4:00 Access to Joseph Libeau's Heritage Cottage

Robin and Steve Matheson own 54 Rue Grehan and are happy to have the house open on that day. Joseph Lucien and Clemence Gendrot's house until they moved to Duvauchelle

Explore Rue Grehan
Museum
Cemetery Visits-maps

