



2013

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La Gazette

Issue #37

February 2014

Presidents' Greeting

New Year Greetings to you all!

I hope Christmas has been enjoyable, whether it was a well-deserved rest or frenetic as you caught up with family and friends over the festive season. I must admit that our family life was pretty hectic with child minding and pet caring to the fore.

New Year's Eve was spent with grandchildren, followed the next day with a 5 year old birthday. Looking ahead the social calendar for 2014 is going to continue in much the same way!

For those of you with children, the beginning of the school year will be a busy time with new uniforms and stationery to organize and those of us with grand/great grandchildren will be amazed at how quickly the flock has grown and spread their wings!

The excitement of the first day, meeting the new teacher, forming new friendships and renewing old ones and in many cases it will be the first steps to secondary school. Regardless of the years and 'life at the time' the atmosphere does not seem to have changed as we reflect on bygone years.

However enough of reflection, let's look to the year ahead for the Libeau family.

May is the Annual General Meeting and this year will be held at Cambridge on the weekend of 17/18 May. The last event held here was very successful and enabled easier access for North Island family members to attend. The emphasis will be on the social side with venue and accommodation bookings presently underway.

Contact information and Interest to Attend contacts are included in La Gazette and on the website.

I extend invite younger family members become involved and encourage you to access the website/facebook.

Kind regards

Patricia

Births, Passings, Marriages and New Members

Births: Sadie Isabella Rose Clark. To Daniel & Sarah Clark on 9th January 2014.
(Granddaughter to Graeme Andrew Clark and great granddaughter of
Neville James Clark.)

Luke Alexander Isaiah Jaeger. To Stephen & Debbie Jaeger on 5th November



2013. A brother for Matthew.

Esther Ana McGowan. To Michael and Miriam McGowan (London) on 2nd

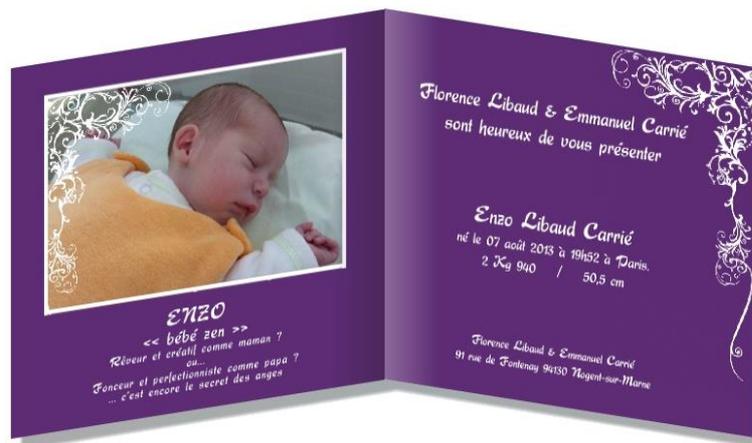


February 2014. A sister for Rosalie.

Both Luke and Esther are grandchildren to Alastair and Annette McGowan.

Isla Jenice Masters. To Blair and Fiona Masters on 2nd May 2013. A
granddaughter for Joy and John Masters.

Michele and Michel (France) have advised they are grandparents to Enzo Libaud Carrie, born 7th August 2013 to Florence and Emmanuel in Paris.



New Members: Stephen Philip Le Beau
Judith Ann Margaret Armour (nee Le Beau)

Deaths: Guy Gautronneau- husband of Marie-Claire Gautronneau (Charon, France)
4th October 2013

Dorothy Middleton- Wife of Lucien on 11th September 2013.

Obituary

Neville James Clark
9 Dec 1923 -20 Aug 2013

Neville was born at Auchenbrae Farm and spent the first 10 years of his life living on the dairy farm where he and his brothers were expected to help with the cows and chop the wood. In 1933 the family moved to Whataroa where Andrew, his Dad took over the local store. By the time he was 13 he left school and helped with deliveries down through Okarito to Fox Glacier supplying the Public Works Camps and locals. He eventually worked in the Post Office annex of the shop before enlisting in the Army aged 18. He loved playing sport as they all did, especially cricket, golf, tennis and rugby.

He went to the NZ Centennial Exhibition with brother Andy in 1940 and travelled further north as far as Waipukurau to visit family. He met Margaret in Trentham and after the war re-enlisted and trained as a motor mechanic. He was posted to Burnham where he stayed until 1963 when he gained a commission and was posted to Waiouru. During this time we were able to keep in touch with the Hawke and Adams families in Sheffield.

Neville was a very good gardener and enjoyed supplying the family with vegetables along with taking pride in his flower garden. By 1954 Andrew Frank was killed in a horse accident

and Grandma Isa came over to live in Kainga. As a family we would travel to visit her most weekends and Neville would help keep the garden in good shape.

The big flood in 1957 made changes here. While at Lancaster Park Neville heard the word that the 'Waimak' had broken its banks. He and his father-in-law had to drive via Brooklands to reach Grandma and son John who was staying there. After placing furniture as high as they could they headed back to Burnham. Nearly a metre of water flowed through the house.

Neville continued his interest in sport. He was in the NZ Army team for both Badminton and Golf, and was a founding member of both the Burnham and Harewood Golf Clubs.

In 1963 when he was granted a Quartermaster's Commission he was posted to Waiouru RNZEME Army School for three years. From here he was posted back to Burnham where he was 2IC of Southern District Workshop. He was subsequently promoted to Major and became Officer Commanding.

He retired from the Army in 1963.

Highlights of his retirement included working for the DSIR-Antarctic Division where he was involved with stores and mechanical engineering. During this time he made 13 trips to the ice. He was waiting on a flight to return to New Zealand when the Erebus Disaster occurred. He really enjoyed his involvement with Antarctic support, meeting the scientists and dignitaries who travelled South.

However he was now 60 and Retirement was ahead.

He and Margaret enjoyed travelling and keeping up with family and friends and enjoyed reminiscing about the places they had been and people they had met.

He kept up with his golf until it was a challenge! Over the years he did succeed in hitting two 'Hole in One's. Neville became a member and was actively involved with the Masonic Lodge where he became a Master.

Throughout his life Neville was a tireless worker who was always available when people needed assistance or support. When there was a need he was very much a pioneer and was involved in establishing and developing organisations such as the Burnham and Harewood Golf Clubs.

In 1990 he was responsible for organizing the transport for the World Games for the Deaf and at the same time was involved in the planning and organization for the Libeau Family Reunion which eventually became the Libeau Descendants Society.

The dawning of the new millennium saw the sudden death of Margaret. This was a complete change of lifestyle as he missed her dreadfully. However, the Burnham Camp Residents Association had been in existence for 50 years and he was involved in researching and assisting in the Gathering and providing information for a book called 'Short Back and Sides' written by Colin Amodeo.

Neville was universally popular with everyone. Like his mother and siblings, the family group was fundamental to the way he lived. He was a tireless worker in achieving things in life, had strong values, honesty and loyalty, a good sense of fun. In all- a great role model.

However, after nearly reaching 90 his health began to fail and Father Time caught up with him at Rannerdale Veterans' Home.

It was 'Nev' the man who endeared him to all – 'one of life's gentlemen'

Neville is survived by his four children, 10 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Clarke Family Reunion

Article by Patricia Stoneman

Re living times gone by...

Descendants of Andrew Frank Clark gathered at the old Waddington School on 11 November 2012.

This is now the St John's Training Centre nr Sheffield.

It began with a Meet and Greet, followed by a welcome by Alister Adams who is now the senior member of the family, followed by a Cake Cutting by the eldest member, Neville Clark 88 before Generation and Family group photos.

Andrew had four children from his first marriage to Elsie Norrish, who died in 1913, Evelyn, Hector, Geoffrey and Winifred.



Photo of Andrew Frank Clark family taken about Christmas of 1910

From left to right

Andrew Frank Clark Born 21 January 1881 Died 11 May 1952
Married: 11 January 1906 to Elsie May Norrish at Little River.
4 July 1917 to Isabella Hawkins at Whataroa.

Geoffrey William Andrew Clark Born 26 January 1909 Died 16 January 2005
Married: 26 August 1939 to Gertrude May Phillips at Greymouth.

Evelyn Mabel Clark (Adams) Born 11 October 1906 Died 4 July 1967
Married: 30 September 1930 to Leslie Douglas Adams at Sheffield.

Hector Leslie Clark Born 5 December 1907 Died 23 January 1988
Married: 29 May 1935 to Dora Agnes Wright at Christchurch.

Elsie May Clark (Norrish) Born 2 October 1885 Died 16 November 1913
Married: As above.

Winifred Annie Clark (Hawke) Born 24 April 1910 Died 11 July 1977
Married: 20 October 1931 to Ernest Everett Hawke at Waddington.

Andrew and his wife Isabel (Isa) came to live at Auchenbrae from Ladbrooks in 1923 with their first born son Andrew William. They were to have two more sons, Neville and Malcolm.



Isabel, Neville, Malcolm, Andrew born at Ladbrooks, Neville and Malcolm born at Auchenbrae, birth registered at Coalgate, Andrew Frank.

After a picnic lunch some of the older family members who remembered the holidays of old, participated in the Tiki Tour to Auchenbrae the old homestead, family farms of the Hawke and Adams families and Russell Flat School.

A display of photos resulted in much discussion, a DVD has been made of photos taken back in the 1950s. This could be ordered. Unfortunately due to the earthquakes the old Waddington School was 'red-stickered' could not be entered!



Neville cutting the cake with Shirley Clark
20 of the 28 grandchildren of Andrew Frank Clark. 27 are still surviving.



In the background is the old Waddington School. Neville rode to school on horseback with his elder brother Andy.

It was a great day with an opportunity to meet the younger cousins, catch up with older ones and recall old times plus some lovely generation photos to remember the day.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

FROGS IN AOTEAROA 2013

By Gilles and Micheline Fournat

Auckland Airport, February 1st 2013, 2:35 pm : arriving from Paris via Singapore and Brisbane, the first things we see in the crowd are the blue eyes of the “Nordic girl”, Phyllis and the bright smiles of Merv and her. Hugs and kisses and the conversation begins with mixed questions and answers. In English, of course, but we have had a whole week of training in Singapore and we must be prepared to use Shakespeare’s language for 2 months.

February 2 : warm welcome in Malcolm’s house in Takanini ? the word is slight as all the family Smith gathered to meet the French cousins : Malcolm and Stephanie, Tania and Pen; Carl and Paula and Jenny. Everybody gives us advices, help and addresses. The meals are great and so are the wines. We notice that since our former trip in 2003 the quality of wines have improved, the whites, yes, but the reds also and that’s really impressive. That friendly mood will accompany us in Auckland, Pahia, Rotorua, Wellington, Chistchurch, Dunedin and Waimate. Nice meeting also with Bethel (nee Clark), her mother and Paul McDivitt.

February 3 and 4 : visit of Auckland, bumps and hollows, volcanos and craters, Queen Street and Mount Eden and of course Eden Park Stadium. We meet Anne West from Palmy, chief genealogist of the Libeaus. Anne and her brother Brian take us for a ride in Auckland . Lunch in a restaurant in front of Rangitoto Island, where Anne and the Smiths meet for the first time.

February 5 : the Frogs head to Pahia to meet Barbara (nee Hunt) and Paul Linton in their beautiful “Morepork Riverside Lodge” and we actually hear the call of the morepork in the

evening and even record a video of it in a tree. We meet Fay Bernadette Hunt great grand daughter of Joseph Lucien Libeau at her home. She is a great specialist of French cuisine.

February 6 : we attend the National Day in Waitangi, wandering among the crowd and taking pictures of the soldiers in full dress, flags and sturdy Maoris carrying a heavy “waka”. We record “God of Nations” played by a military band and watch a jet parade. Among the soldiers there is Lieutenant Jarrod Bayly nephew of Barbara.

February 7 and 8 : in New Zealand, we also have friends and we drive North to meet the Neesons, Hubert and Jan who live in Coopers Beach. On Feb. 8, they take us to Cape Reinga and we are lucky : the weather is splendid and we have a nice tour along the dunes and on Ninety Mile Beach at low tide. For the first time in our life we eat “Fish and Chips”...

February 9, 10 and 11 : after a stop in Whangarei, we drive along the West coast of the Coromandel, via Te Kouma (hearing the call of some kiwis) and Waihi Beach. Among a friendly crowd, we put our feet in the pools of Hot Water Beach.

February 12 : what a pleasure to meet again our dear cousin Sheryl Baker. We talk with her (in French) of her husband Dennis who passed away in 2011 and we meet her son Chris, a champion of NZ for sheep-dog training. We have an impressive show of the dog’s authority !

February 13 and 14 : we make acquaintance with our cousins, the Browns in Rotorua. Scott Brown was born in England and welcomes us with the Union Jack ! Wendy Hawke descends from Marie Magdaline Libeau. Her children, Kelly and Tony and his wife Rebecca are very nice people too. There are lots of natural wonders to visit near Rotorua.

February 15 : White Island ! The weather is gorgeous and the volcano seems angry as the Pee Jay Company boat drops anchor. We spend 2 hours with helmets and masks in sulfur white smoke, walking on a yellow soil and watching the might and splendour of nature, the never ending spurts of boiling mud. What a relief when the boat heads back towards Whakatane and more peaceful areas. But we are so happy and astonished by this grandiose show. The day after, there’s a big white cloud above the monster : impossible to land there !

February 16 and 17 : Cape Runaway, Hicks Bay and the wild beauty of East Cape. Nobody on the rocky or sandy beaches, only cows, ewes and horses having a bath in the Pacific Ocean! Big reminding in Tolaga Bay Inn : as we talk to teenager Maori girls, they ask us : “So you are French ? And you can really speak French ?” “Oui, bien sûr ; il fait très beau aujourd’hui ; comment vous appelez-vous ?»They laugh and say “Sounds very nice, does it ?”

February 18 and 19 : Gisborne and Napier : beautiful towns with trendy architecture. Then it’s Castlepoint and its magnificent panoramic view. Likeable people in Whakataki Hôtel and they give us enough food to satisfy the whole ABs team ! Hidden marvel : Sandy Bay.

February 20, 21 and 22 : Kevin Clark and Marion Quinn accommodate the Frogs for 2 nights and Vaughan McEwen for one. They take us for several tours in Wellington and the suburbs. We are glad to meet Angela Pyke, 31, Kevin’s niece. We talked with her about the future and the links with the following generation(s) as we did with the young Smiths in Auckland. Kevin is writing a book on the family story and we talked a lot of it.

February 23 to 25 : the ferry carries us towards South Island and, in Picton, Christine and Peter Tremewan are waiting for us and drive to Blenheim. We have a long road along Queen Charlotte Sound, Manau Sound and Kenepuru Sound and arrive at last at Waitaria Bay Homestay. There, friendly Danish inn keepers, Hans and Maree Gerritsen take us in their boat to visit the numerous capes and inlets with mussels farms and oysters farms and even an old French hotel in the middle of nowhere. Wekas come in the garden...to see the French ?

February 26 : the road again to Havelock and Nelson where we meet relatives of the Tremewans. Mapua, (where we meet young French people coming from La Rochelle and Surgères !), Motueka, Kaiteriteri and the way through the hills towards Takaka. Finally, in the evening, we arrive in Tukurua Point.

February 27 to March 1 : we enjoy a lovely “bach”, 20 meters from the sea. We go to Collingwood, Fossil Point, Te Waikoropupu Springs, all these places are unforgettable and Takaka is a sort of remaining of the Sixties, for us “Mai 68”! and good restaurants in addition.

March 2 : “It’s a long way to...Christchurch” through the mountains. In Maruia Springs, we find old acquaintances, usually living on the West Coast : sandflies!

March 3 : John Coleman takes us to severely damaged places in the center of Christchurch. It’s frightening and we can only admire the strength and courage of the Kiwis. Then it’s another moment of solemnity on the grave of Mary Ann Hedgman in Sydenham cemetery. She is my great great grandmother and I feel grateful to John and my cousins to have found that place of the family memory.

March 4 : today, it’s a train travel. We take the Tranzalpine Train to Greymouth, via Arthur’s Pass. A very relaxing trip with wonderful sightseeings through the mountain. Then the way back to Christchurch and we notice the contrast between the green West side and the dry East.

March 5 to 8 : comfortably housed at Fullers. Leone and Bruce, how fun the numerous jokes, the discussions about the family or even the cats and dog : Sanouk, Chai and Tina.

On **Wednesday 6** afternoon, we have a tour in a bus in the damaged center of the town. In the evening, John Coleman takes us at Linda’s to a great meeting of “Le Comte de Paris Group”. Warm mood, gifts and speeches with the Breitmeyers, the Malmanches, the Le Lièvres and the Libeaus. A very nice, relaxed, informal and typically Kiwi evening.

A special mention to Patricia Stoneman with whom we had a fantastic day in Hanmer Springs, a place we couldn’t miss. Tricia is a teacher and it’s a pleasure to listen to her explanations on topics like people, geography, education, family and so.

Terrible hardship on the TV : the Crusaders are defeated by the Hurricanes 29 to 28. Fortunately, we are present to support Leone and Bruce ! Have we found the words ?

March 9 : Heather and Rob welcome us in their home for one night. Our bedroom is in the newly built house near Wairakei Road : the former building has been severely damaged.

In the evening, another important meeting takes place : the “Libeau Society” reunion at Heather’s. We find again people we had already met in 2003 : the Clarks, Stonemans, Fullers, Wilsons, Sunderlands, Tremewans, Heather’s children and grand children and Desiree McKenzie, Angela Pyke. Friendly and joyful evening again.

March 10 and 11 : we leave Christchurch and head to South. We briefly visit Timaru and Oamaru. Near the railway station, strange show of people dressed in XIXth century clothes.

In Dunedin, Richard, Sally, Alexandre and Amélie Rose Warlow warmly welcome us. The kids laugh and jump cheerfully as they have long waited for the French cousins. Sally who is a very good cook teaches educational gym and drives her minivan “Jumping Beans” and Richard, our very clever webmaster (who knows a lot about computers), takes us to Port Chalmers. Amélie Rose and Alexandre want to know everything about France, the Earth, the hemispheres, “our” Jumbo Jet, the A380 Airbus and its 560 tons, (yes, it can fly!). Sally taught them some French words and they are proud to say bonjour, bonne nuit and aurevoir la France. We also have the opportunity to visit their school, “the Maori Hill School” and to talk to the teachers : a moving experience for us to rediscover the atmosphere of a class room on the antipodes...

March 12 : the kids go to school and we take our leave of the Warlows. Coastal road towards Owaka after a stop at Cannibal Bay where we greet the sealions but, as 10 years ago, they are still scowling, not really friendly. In Bluff, it’s our worst (and even only) disappointment : it’s impossible to find oysters, I mean *real oysters in their real shells* ! So we drive north at once, cross Invercargill, then along the huge dairy in Edendale and reach the quiet Gore.

March 13 : back to Dunedin, via Clinton (after Gore, yes!) where we have an appointment with Mrs Daphne Lee, a senior lecturer in geology in the Otago University. We are impressed to visit the splendid museum of geology and to enjoy the explanations of madame Lee, a high level

scientist and a very friendly person. After lunch with her husband and her, we wander amongst the students and admire the magnificent buildings of the University.

We briefly stop in Palmerston (South) then go to Moeraki, not to see the famous boulders, but to rent a motel in the village, in front of the fisher's port.

March 14 : along the shore, we find many pauas and talk to a fisherman whose family lives in Brest, France. Good to speak French for a while ! If you didn't visit the Moeraki lighthouse, do it and meet the penguins, the seals, and thousands of birds living on the (dangerous) cliffs !

In the afternoon, we arrive in Waimate. Ailsa and Ewan McKenzie receive us in their beautiful house decorated with the French flag...and the fragrance of a delicious "daube de boeuf".

March 15 : a long and unforgettable tour to Mount Cook with Ailsa, Ewan and Desiree. Back home, as everywhere with the Libeaus, we feel well, relaxed in a family atmosphere.

March 16 : another very special day. We stop in Geraldine, a lovely town where we have 2 strange and unpredictable encounters. First in a wool and knitwear shop, "The Giant Jersey", we admire the biggest jersey in the world and the Mosaic and it's finale section, a stunning reproduction made of tiny pieces of metal, of the Battle of Hastings, 1066, after the queen Mathilde's Tapestry in Bayeux, France. Michael Linton, born Zeilinski, in Poland and his daughter Rachael completed this masterpiece, unique in New Zealand after 25 years of work. Second, an incredible band of very peaceful musicians playing French melodies in a very slow and "peace and love" style ! The leader is a tall and steady man with a straight black skirt. Around them there is a market for organic vegetables. We were astonished.

Then back to Christchurch, at Heather's.

March 17 : after a stop at Kaitorete Spit, to pick up nice pebbles, Rob and Heather take us to Little River cemetery, then to Heather's grand parents farm. We have lunch at Linda's in Akaroa and all the family gathers in Joseph Lucien's House and other places of memory, but the weather is bad and after dinner in a restaurant, we are back to Chch.

March 18 : Cameron takes us for a tour in the worst areas of the earthquakes : broken and abandoned houses, uneven streets. Then we visit Cameron's store and meet his green parrot. Nice tour in Robert Dean's Park. This last day ends with a song recital by Heather's pupil Eloise. She has a beautiful voice, it's a real pleasure to listen her, accompanied by Heather on the piano. Rob takes us to the Tremewan's for dinner.

March 19 : too bad ! it's the departure day, Rob and Heather accompany us to Christchurch airport, with our suitcases (too heavy!), minds and computers full of reminders and pictures. High above the Alps, the pilot says "Ladies and gentlemen, we're lucky today, we can see Mount Cook and the big glaciers". Then, it's the dark blue of Tasman Sea...

Merci beaucoup to you all.

Surgères November 7th 2013

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After this marvellous voyage, we have been glad to receive **Barbara and Paul Linton** in July, then **Ailsa and Ewan McKenzie** in September at our home in Surgères.

PS : see the attached pictures

The editors regret that because of space, Gilles and Micheline's photo's will need to be deferred until our next edition. They will however, shortly be available on line at our family website.

Annual General Meeting

It is proposed to hold the annual general meeting of the society at Cambridge this year on Saturday 17th May commencing at 1.00pm. The meeting will be followed by a dinner in the evening with farewells on the Sunday. A form for indications of interest is attached to this newsletter.

French Summer Trip 2014

Heather Libeau-Dow and husband Rob are booked for a summer holiday in France this year. After arriving in Paris, May 28th they will spend 11 days on a bus tour of the WW1/WW2 battlefields. They have a week in a studio apartment in Paris (June 8-15) and then travel to Charente area to stay with family until June 24th. They are then booked in Verona 26-29 to see Aida opera in the Roman amphitheatre and return to France June 30th to mid July.

If you would like to catch up with them during this time, please e-mail heatherlibeaudow@xtra.co.nz

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Libeau Family Desc Inc

Annual General Meeting 2014

At the 2013 AGM discussion was held on holding the 2014 meeting in Cambridge to allow more North Island members to attend. There was a very successful meeting held in 2005 and followed the following format.

Saturday 1:00 Annual General Meeting

3:00 Afternoon Tea

social time/ sharing research

freetime to explore Cambridge

7:00 Pre dinner drinks

8:00 Dinner

Sunday 10:00 Coffee/Tea

Farewell

The co-ordinators from the Northern Zone, Jocelyn Benefield, Bethel Mc Davitt and Sheryl B have agreed to do some research on venue, meal and available accommodation. This will be sent out as soon as we have the relevant information.

What we need you to do is complete the attached form indicating your intention to attend and return by email or post.

Once this has been returned we will send out an enrolment form with details and include costs. There will be a registration Fee to cover the venue and afternoon tea but accommodation and evening meal will be personal responsibility.

Intention to/ interest in attending the Libeau Descendants Inc Annual General Meeting to be held in Cambridge on 17/18 May 2014 commencing at 1:00 on Saturday.

Name	Address	email/phone

I/We are interested in attending the Annual General Meeting to be held in Cambridge on May 17/18 and would like to receive further information regarding accommodation and costs.

Signed

Replies to Leonef@ihug.co.nz or post to Leone Fuller, 25 Hamel Lane, Kaiapoi 7630.