



Clan Chisholm Society NZ



Newsletter #61 Christmas 2017



Christmas Greetings to the Clan, and a card From Susan Chisholm of Chisholm wishing you All best wishes from our Clan cousins in Britain.

Inside this issue:

This issue reports on the passing of three esteemed members of the Clan Chisholm Society; Ruari Lambert Chisholm co-founded the society with his Aunt Mairi, and Douglas Chisholm was a co-founder of the New Zealand Branch. More detailed obituaries are likely to appear in the next issue of the Clan Journal.

In 2017 we also lost Brian, younger brother of Douglas, a pioneer in the Clan Chisholm DNA Project.

John Ross has provided an article on two famed Chisholm women, and there are accounts of a number of other Chisholms for your reading interest.



and NZ Chisholms
wishing you all a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year
all best wishes from
UK Chisholms,

Susan

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Acknowledgements: Thanks to the following for contributing to this newsletter: John Ross, Ash Chisholm.

Christmas Greetings

Some Christmas Greetings from the recent Clan Council meeting., which I pass on to the wider membership of the NZ Branch. I can report that there will be an effort made to archive all the older Clan Journals, and make them accessible to members of the Clan Chisholm Society. I have included a snippet from the 1992 journal as part of this newsletter.

President Clan Chisholm Society:

Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield, Beaulieu, Highland Scotland.

*On behalf of the UK Branch and myself we wish you all
A Peaceful , Happy Christmas and Every Good Wish for 2018.*



Christmas in the City

The big Christmas tree in Martin Place, Sydney.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

AND A

**HEALTHY AND SUCCESSFUL
2018**

With best wishes,

**CAROLYN
AND THE AUSTRALIAN BRANCH**



Merry Christmas to all:

Here is a very enjoyable Christmas video performed by Natalie MacMaster, the Rankin family and Johnny Reid, all well known Nova Scotia/Canadian Celtic artists. Very impressive!!

NOTE: [There is a 15 second ad before the actual video.](#) Our apologies.

http://player.theplatform.com/p/yT_qKC/CMTPlayer/select/njNR14Evya9J



We wish all a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Best regards: **Benni & Merritt Chisholm**



Fronds of the Fern

Ruari Chisholm DFC (UK)

Co-founder of Clan Chisholm Society

Brother of Late Chief Alistair

Nephew of Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm

Uncle of Chief Hamish



"It is with deep regret that I have to report that Ruari Chisholm, nephew of the late Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm, has sadly passed away on December 2nd.

Ruari was a long stalwart Member of our aims and always supported the Members at home and abroad. We send our Deepest Sympathy to the family at this moment and time."

Regards,

Juliette, President of Clan Chisholm Society

"All sympathy to the family from New Zealand branch. He counted as a friend for some older members Best wishes, " John C. Ross, Chair NZ Branch.

Full Obituary for Ruari is to follow in the next edition of the Clan Chisholm Journal.

Humb. 35976



1681

SECOND SUPPLEMENT
TO

The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY, the 9th of APRIL, 1943

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

TUESDAY, 13 APRIL, 1943

Flying Officer Ruari Ian Lambert CHISHOLM
(117694), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve,
No. 142 Squadron.

This officer is a gallant and determined captain of aircraft. One day in August, 1942, while flying on an anti-submarine patrol in the Bay of Biscay, his aircraft was attacked by a Junkers 88. Flying Officer Chisholm inflicted considerable damage on the attacker and drove it off. In October, 1942, he was detailed to bomb Kiel and whilst over the target area was attacked by a Focke Wulf 190. Flying Officer Chisholm displayed masterly evasive tactics which enabled him to avoid the enemy and complete his mission. On all occasions this officer's steadiness and resolution have been an inspiration to his crew.





From the President NZ Branch Clan Chisholm Society

President: John Ross,
8 York Place,
Palmerston North
(06) 357 4614.
email: j.c.ross@massey.ac.nz

Dear Chisholm people

Greetings, and all best wishes for the Christmas - New Year season.

Clearly, the most noteworthy events this year were the deaths of two of our founding members, Brian, on 27 April 2017, in Wellington, and of his elder brother Douglas, on 6 November, in New Plymouth. Douglas was 99, just 7 weeks off scoring a century, and Brian was 95, so they both lasted well; and very warm eulogies and tributes were delivered at their funerals.

Douglas of course played a key role in the establishment of the New Zealand branch of the international Clan Chisholm Society, with its other identity as the Clan Chisholm Society of New Zealand, as Fay writes.

Otherwise, as Ashley writes, we had our annual gathering on Saturday 28 May, at the Uniting Church Hall in Wellington, which went well.

On behalf of the clan, I attended the Highland Games at Turakina on 28 January, and the Upper Hutt Highland Games at Harcourt Park on 4 November.

I've just about finished work on the book on New Zealand Chisholms in the armed forces in World War Two, so that should be out next year. Thanks to those who've contributed to it.

All best wishes for 2018, John C. Ross, President.



Fronds of the Fern



A Tribute to Douglas from Fay Chisholm of Gisborne, NZ delegate to Clan Council
Douglas William Chisholm, 1917-2017

Douglas was one of the driving forces to form Clan Chisholm's New Zealand Branch.

Having been to the United Kingdom in 1992-93, to see his daughter Christine, who was living in Scotland with her husband John Edwards and children Alastair and Katryn, he attended the Clan Gathering in early 1993, and it was here he was encouraged to contact myself and Michael, on return, and start the ball rolling to form a New Zealand branch.

Douglas spent many hours writing letters to the editors of newspapers advertising our intentions. As the numbers of responses increased, it became obvious that there was sufficient interest to call an inaugural meeting in Wellington to form a branch, with a committee.

Before that happened, with the help of Lester Chisholm, who was at that time a solicitor in Napier, Douglas had a constitution drawn up, and the suggestion arose that he should be the first Secretary and myself the first President.

By the time the inaugural meeting was held in Wellington, in 1994, deeds from England/Scotland had arrived accepting New Zealand as a branch. About thirty people attended that meeting, and Douglas was confirmed as Secretary/Treasurer, and myself as President. Audrey Barney accepted the role of Historian, collating the histories of all New Zealand Chisholm families.

Douglas served as Secretary for some years, while living in Napier, and he continued to be a loyal member up to the time of his passing..



Message from the chief of Clan Chisholm in memory of a great clansman - Douglas Chisholm

Douglas was a proud member of clan Chisholm and was instrumental in setting up the New Zealand Branch of the Clan Chisholm Society. For many years I have been delighted to send wishes to Douglas for his milestone birthdays. It would have been my great pleasure to send him my best wishes for his 100th birthday in a few weeks - it was not to be however.

Douglas completed his autobiography in 2012 and very kindly donated a copy to the United Kingdom Chisholm's. It makes for interesting reading and we expect future generations to enjoy and refer to it. This Chisholm family are indeed remarkable in keeping alive their Scottish Heritage and of course for their notable longevity.

I send my very best wishes to all the family and friends of Douglas - a man we can all be proud of having known.

Yours in Clanship

Hamish

Hamish Chisholm of Chisholm. 9th November 2017

The Chisholm.

Tribute from Ben & Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield

It has been for both Juliette and I a privilege to have met Douglas and then to have known him, for many years, by occasionally seeing Douglas at both Care Homes in New Plymouth, and by correspondence. (Letter writing was both Juliette's and Douglas's forte).

Douglas's stories and poems plus the wee booklets he published will be fond memories of him and New Zealand.

It was always a pleasure, when I came to New Zealand to visit my brother in Christchurch, for me to call on Douglas in New Plymouth to spend time talking and joking with each other.

It was so easy to jump on a plane and within a short time to be in New Plymouth either from Christchurch or Dunedin. It seemed so pleasant that I was able to meet Douglas with no bother at all.

Both Juliette and I remember meeting with Clansfolk in Auckland and Wellington where the spirits of friendship and clanship were so close. It felt as though we were at home together.

My last memory of being with Douglas was, when saying goodbye to each other, he said,

"You are most welcome to call at any time, but you never know, I may be able to call and see you instead!"

Well, old pal, it is time to say Goodbye, but our memories will linger forever in our thoughts.....not forgetting our first meeting, many years ago, in Edinburgh, with Barbara Chisholm, then the Secretary for the Society. And on that occasion I (Juliette) asked Douglas, when he was back home, to kindly take up an office-bearing position to help the NEW ZEALAND BRANCH get going.

Our Deepest Sympathy to all Douglas's family, and we are sorry that due to distance we cannot attend the services arranged.

Ben and Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield. U.K. Branch Chairman and President for the Clan Chisholm Society.

Fronds of the Fern

Brian Chisholm (Wellington)



Husband of the late Elsie Chisholm nee Shannon & the late Mollie Chisholm formerly Wishart nee Turner. Loved father of Barry Chisholm & partner Carol Scholfied (ALK), also Fay & Malcolm White (Tawa). Step-father of Alan Wishart (USA) & Sue and Tim Smart (QLD AUS). Grandfather to Faith Chisholm & partner Matt Densley (SYD AUS), Shannon & Robert Digby (Lower Hutt), Vanessa & Jonathan Franks (Tawa). Great grandfather of Maximus Digby, Olivia, Isaac & Aiden Digby & Justin & Aya Franks. Brian was survived by his older brother Douglas Chisholm (New Plymouth), since deceased .

Through Brian's close connections with the Mirimar Uniting Church, many a Clan Chisholm Society meeting was held in their facilities.

Brian was one of the foundation members of the Clan Chisholm DNA project, and his DNA result was one of the early indicators that the currently accepted Clan Chisholm origin story, based on circumstantial and hearsay type of evidence only, could be scientifically supported. His result showed a Viking type, and later results enabled a path to be established from Scandinavia, though Normandy and England, into Scottish Lowlands and thence to the Highlands.



TWO HIGHLY ENTERPRISING CHISHOLM LADIES

Sheila Chisholm, Sydney, Australia

By John Ross



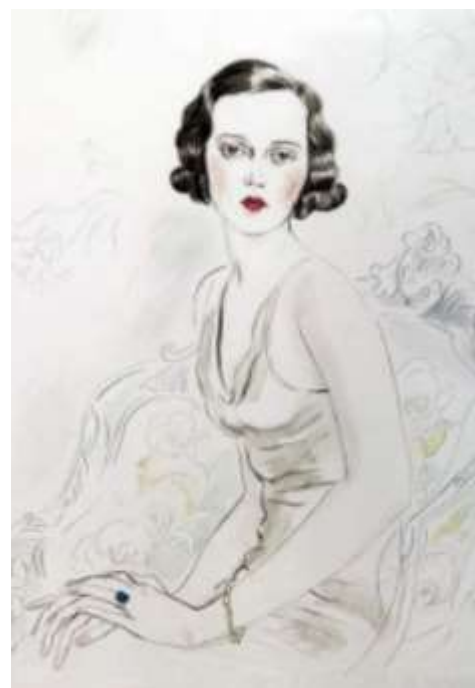
Round about 1925, Sheila from Sydney was dating Prince Albert, Duke of York, who would succeed his abdicating brother Edward in 1936 as King George VI, King of Britain and the Commonwealth and Emperor of India. Albert's dad, George V, had come down on this relationship like a ton of bricks, and demanded it stopped, which it did. She was at the time a married woman, but divorced a year later, and technically available, but, still, as a divorcee, not acceptable as a royal bride, back then.

Sheila Margaret McKellar Chisholm had been born in Sydney on 9 September 1898, a daughter of Harry Chisholm. In 1912, in Cairo, she married Francis Edward Scudamore St. Clair-Erskine, Lord Loughborough, and heir to the Earldom of Rosslyn. They had two sons, Anthony, born in 1917, and Peter, born in 1918. Francis divorced Sheila in 1926, because, apart from whatever had gone on with Albert, she was having an affair with a Russian called Oblonsky.

Francis died in 1929, at the age of 36. His father lived on till 1939, and Anthony succeeded his grandad as Sixth Earl of Rosslyn. Sadly, Peter joined the RAF and was killed in active service in September 1939. Also, lamentably, granddad had been an addictive gambler, and there was not much left of the family fortune.

Meanwhile, in 1928, Sheila married again, to Sir John Charles Peniston Milbanke, a baronet. After he died, she married a third time, in 1954, to Dimitri Alexandrovich Romanov, Prince of Russia. Most members of the Tsar of Russia's more immediate family had been killed by the Bolsheviks back in 1917, and subsequently, hence sundry titles passed down to more distant Romanovs, living in exile. Dimitri's dad had been a Grand Duke, and he went a stage further, as a Prince. Sheila died in London on 13 October 1969, at the age of 71, so, she had fifteen years as a Princess of Russia.

Never underestimate Aussie Sheilas! They get around!



Shirley Chisholm, NY, USA

Even more impressive was Shirley Anita Chisholm, an African-American woman in the USA, whom I had not previously heard of. Born in New York on 24 November 1924, as Shirley Anita St. Hill, she was a Chisholm by marriage, marrying Conrad Chisholm. She was the first black woman to become a Congresswoman, in 1968, and served seven terms in the House of Representatives, as the Representative for the Twelfth District in the State of New York. During this time, she stood as a candidate for the Democratic Party's nominee for the US Presidency. Although she did not win the nomination process, she won respect as a credible candidate, and doubtless helped prepare the way for Barack Obama's successful bid for the Presidency.

Her parents were both West Indians, and she had spent part of her childhood with one of her grandmothers in Barbados. She graduated for a bachelor's degree in Education at Brooklyn College, New York, in 1946, and worked as a teacher, going on to complete a master's degree in elementary education at Columbia University in 1951. Between 1953 and 1959 she was the Director of the Hamilton-Madison Child Care Centre, and from 1959 to 1963 an educational consultant for New York's Bureau of Child Education. In 1964 she was elected to the state legislature of New York State, campaigning as "Fighting Shirley Chisholm," serving through to 1968.

Elected to the House of Representatives in 1968, she objected strongly to being consigned to the Forestry Committee and in due course got herself assigned to the Education and Labour



Committee, where she could properly exercise her expertise. Throughout her time in the House she was a powerful and effective advocate for minority education, and for equal opportunities in employment, both for coloured people and for women. In 1969 she was one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, and from 1971 to 1981 was the Secretary for the House Democratic Caucus. In 1972 she stood for the Presidency. She was a vocal opponent of the US military draft, which disproportionately targeted black people, and of military expenditure generally, because it drained away funding that should be used to relieve poverty. She authored two books, *Unbought and Unbossed* (1970), the title echoing her campaigning slogan, and *The Good Fight* (1973).

After retiring from the Congress, from 1983 to 1987 she taught at Mount Holyoke College, and was popular on the speaking circuit. In 1985 she became the first President of the National Political Congress of Black Women. She re-married in 1986. During the later years of her life she was awarded 38 honorary degrees. Bill Clinton offered her the position of Ambassador to Jamaica, but she had to turn it down because of her deteriorating health. She died in Florida on 1 January 2005. In 2009, a book of tributes was published, saluting her as one of America's great reformers. (Paraphrased from the Wikipedia article, and others.)

Shirley Chisholm Wisdom



"If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."

"Tremendous amounts of talent are lost to our society just because that talent wears a skirt."

"The emotional, sexual, and psychological stereotyping of females begins when the doctor says, 'It's a girl'."

"My God, what do we want? What does any human being want? Take away an accident of pigmentation of a thin layer of our outer skin and there is no difference between me and anyone else."

"In the end, anti-black, anti-female, and all forms of discrimination are equivalent to the same thing - anti-humanism."



Clan Chisholm Journal # 35 1992

I have selected this article from the archives, to coincide with the visit to Auckland of Keith's son Kim, from Montreal, daughter in law Magali, and grandson Louis, who have a brief stopover in Auckland at Christmas.

Keith and Kim are descended from Roderick, son of Colin III Lietre, who received a headwound at Culloden, but survived, moved to Breakachy above Erchless Castle, and had a large family from whom there are very many descendants in every part of the Chisholm world, including a Chisholm family based in Central Otago. Descendants of Roderick are part of the Chisholm branch known as *Clann ic Ruaridh*.

DARING EXPLOITS OF AUSSIE WAR HERO



The exploits of Australian war hero, Keith Chisholm, who died last weekend aged 72, read like stories from a *Boy's Own* annual.

In five action-packed years from 1939 when he was a 21-year-old RAAF Flight-Sergeant and Spitfire pilot, Chisholm:

- Made 92 successful sorties in seven months against the Germans.
Shot down numerous German aircraft, including two Messerschmitts in less than one minute.
Cheated death when his Spitfire was shot down over enemy territory.
Escaped twice from Prisoner of War camps.
Tried to make another daring escape by stealing a German plane.
Was tortured for 10 days by the dreaded Gestapo.
Worked undercover for the Polish and French Resistance.
Escaped across Europe to freedom disguised as a German Army soldier.

Keith Bruce Chisholm was born in Petersham, Sydney, on December 2, 1918, the son of a dentist. He was educated at Newington College, Stanmore.

In 1939, when war broke out, he quit a dentistry course at Sydney University to join the RAAF.

He trained in Canada as a pilot and in March 1941 went to England to join the RAF's newly formed 452 Fighter Squadron, which consisted mainly of Australians.

The crack 452 Squadron became one of the most successful in the RAF, destroying 22 enemy planes in its first four months.

Flight-Sergeant Chisholm made his name as one of the top Spitfire pilots - but his luck ran out in October 1941.

His Spitfire's tail unit was blasted off in a dog-fight with a German plane over the coast of occupied France. Chisholm bailed out and landed in the English Channel, only to be captured by a German patrol boat.

He was taken to Stalag VIII B prisoner-of-war camp in Sudetenland - a former Czech possession - but within days hatched a plan to escape.

Chisholm swapped uniforms with a British soldier, who was less closely guarded, and got out of the camp with a working party bound for nearby railway lines.

Fifteen of the party were locked up overnight in a disused flour mill and escaped in the dead of night by ripping out floorboards and climbing through an air vent.

German search parties recaptured all the escapees except Chisholm, a Canadian

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and a Briton, who trekked to a Czech village near Brno and contacted the Czech Resistance.

In a mix-up caused by language difficulties, the escapees were sent to see the Mayor of Brno - who turned out to be a Nazi collaborator who informed the Gestapo.

The Gestapo soon realised Chisholm was not a soldier. They suspected him of a recent assassination of a local Nazi and for 10 days, Chisholm was interrogated, bashed, tortured and abused - night and day - but refused to talk.

He finally collapsed and was sent to a hospital, where he befriended another captured pilot, Wing Commander Douglas Bader, the legendary English ace with tin legs.

Within days, Chisholm and Bader hatched an audacious plan to escape by stealing a Messerschmitt fighter and flying it to England.

They decided to swap identities and join a working party heading for Gliwicz, on the old German-Polish border, where there was an air strip with German ME110 planes.

But the Gestapo caught wind of the escape attempt and a carload of agents screamed into the work camp the day before the escape attempt.

Security at the camp was tightened but that only fuelled Chisholm's obsession to escape.

A few nights later, Chisholm and five other prisoners cut a hole in the roof of their sleeping quarters, climbed through the roof, scaled a barbed-wire perimeter fence and ran for cover to a wheat field.

Two of the escapees were recaptured two days later but Chisholm and his three partners hid in a farmhouse for a week then moved to Cracow and Warsaw with help from the Polish Resistance.

In Warsaw, Chisholm became fed up with running and hiding and decided to join the Polish Resistance in the spring of 1942.

For the next five months he risked his life again and again by smuggling more than 20 Allied soldiers over the Polish border.

Chisholm, who had assumed the identity of a Polish company director, then went into counter-espionage.

In March 1944, Chisholm and a Dutchman decided to escape to England via Brussels. They disguised themselves as Belgian members of the German Army and caught a train from Warsaw to Brussels.

In Brussels, Chisholm swapped identities again and got himself smuggled to Paris, where he teamed up with a French spy and began transmitting top secret information about German troops to Whitehall in London.

Chisholm joined the French Resistance, becoming bodyguard to underground leader Colonel Rol.

When the Allied forces liberated Paris, Chisholm was flown back to England.

He eventually returned to Sydney a war hero, having been awarded the Military Cross (MC), the Distinguished Flying Medal (DFC) and Poland's Gold Cross

Chisholm died of liver disease last weekend in New York, where he had lived for 15 years.

He leaves a widow, Marie-France (his second wife) and four children aged 30 to 37: Caroline, Tony, Kim and Peter.

Taken from "Sun-Herald" 1st September 1991

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Magali Chisholm



Kim Chisholm



Sgt. Keith Chisholm (left) 452 (Spitfire) Sqn 20 Sept 1941

Some Chisholm Footballers in the UK



Arbroath FC



**Queen's Park
Partick Thistle
Leeds
Leicester
Coventry**



Ken Chisholm (Leicester City) Inside left.
A cheerful heavyweight, he revived the Leicester forward line by his bustle and personality a year ago and helped them thereby to the Cup Final at Wembley. Was born within a stone's throw of Hampden Park, Glasgow and joined Queen's Park, the ground's tenants when 16. When he was demobilised from the R.A.F., he became a professional with Partick Thistle. While with them he played in the Victory International for Scotland against Ireland. Leeds United brought him to England and after almost a year in Yorkshire he moved on to Leicester in December 1946. Aged 24, he is a qualified P.T. instructor and helps in the training of his colleagues.



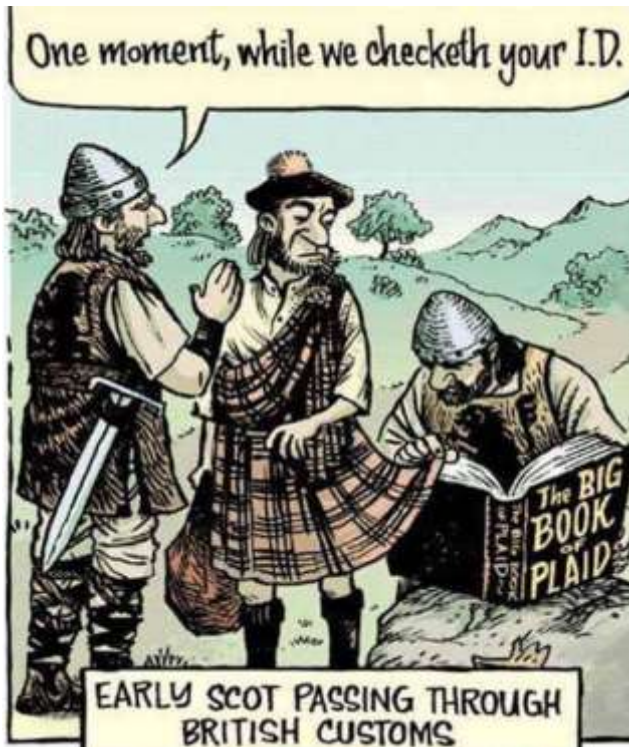
WILF CHISHOLM
(Grimsby Town)
Goalkeeper
Born Hebburn, 23 May 1921
Wilf Chisholm



GORDON CHISHOLM
Sunderland
**Sunderland
Hibs
Dundee**



JACK CHISHOLM
Brentford
**Spurs
Brentford
Sheffield United
Plymouth Argyle**



Prae-

Hello. Wondering, how many Chisholm's here are Chism's. Does anyone have history of the shortening of the name? Is my family right in telling me that I am actually a Chisholm or is this just likely made up? First post here. Any guidance is much appreciated. My Family is from Nebraska I, US but I live in Seattle. 🌟

August 25 - Glasgow, United Kingdom

I am in Glasgow tonight heading to Inverness tomorrow, hoping to meet up with fellow chisolms. Im buying the pints! I would love to meet some family on this side of our rock. Fierce with the

August 4 - Kinlochleven, United Kingdom

Like Comment Share

Travelled through Glencoe today, so spectacular the photos don't do it justice

<https://www.facebook.com/viralthread/videos/1313066478835191/>

Unbelievable captured footage of Nessie the Loch Ness Monster





Clan Chisholm Society NZ



2017 Gathering of Clan Chisholm

The AGM was held on the 28th May again in Wellington at the Miramar Uniting Church. Although a smallish gathering the normal traditions were vigorously upheld with a fine rendition from John Ross of the Ode to the Haggis, after which we all had a taste with tatties and neeks - and a tot!

The Presidents and financial reports were tabled and accepted. We were in a position to make a small financial grant to the International Clan for a project. This was well received and the secretary expressed their thanks.

John spoke on his paper on the World Wars and we had the normal reports from the Secretary, DNA, International News etc.

In the evening we had a very nice Chinese dinner to finish a very informative day.

It is really worth trying to get to an AGM to catch up with all that is happening.

Have a great Christmas
Ash Chisholm, NZ Secretary.



CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

Dear Reader

I hope you enjoy reading the Clan Chisholm (NZ) newsletters.

If you would like to help us to continue our work in promoting research into clan families and clan matters generally, please consider joining the society. Society members may also access the Clan Chisholm Forum, the International Database, and the Clan Chisholm Society website. The \$15.00 per year subscription represents great value, just the price of 3 or 4 cups of coffee to show your commitment to Clanship. You can pay by cheque to the address below:

The Treasurer
Clan Chisholm Society of NZ
9 Cedarwood Street, Newlands
Wellington 6037
Alternatively, you can pay online into our
Bank account: 06-0701-0134415-000



Society NZ



FEROS FERIO

World War One Centenary Memorial

The memorial booklet for Chisholm casualties in Flanders is available for download from the Clan Chisholm website. Here is a quickview from 3 of the entries

Bombardier Robert Chisholm Royal Field Artillery

Robert Chisholm of Marley Hill, Newcastle, Royal Field Artillery.

Died 1 November 1917, Ypres.

His widow Lizzie died after the war, and his son Ronald Admiral Chisholm came to the West Coast with other family. There are now grandchildren and more, in NZ, from this family.



Left: "Pip, Squeak and Wilfred."

1914 -15 Star, British War Medal 1914-18, Allied Victory Medal



Major John (Jack) De Havilland Chisholm-Batten
Royal Field Artillery

Died 7th August 1917, Ypres.



Great Grandson of
The Chisholm
Chief William XXIV



53145 Private James Chisholm NZ Entrenching Battalion

Died 12 July 1918



James Chisholm, Farmer, born in Outram, NZ, 28 Sept. 1872

Son of Alexander and Elizabeth Chisholm.

Not strictly a Flanders casualty, James and some 250 other members of the No 2 Entrenching Battalion were captured after being cut off, just a few km south of the Flanders Border, near Meteren in Northern France.

James died as a POW, a victim of dysentery, aged 45 years. He is buried at Leuze, which is some 14km east of the Flemish border.

Grandson of John and Jean Chisholm, Dunedin, formerly from Portnoak, Kinross, Scotland.

Uncle of Michael & Fay Chisholm (Branch Rep on Clan Council) of Gisborne



CAPTURED NEW ZEALANDERS.

CASUALTIES TOTAL 251.

(By Telegraph—Press Association.)

WELLINGTON, this day.

In June the question was cabled Home in regard to a report that 233 men of the New Zealand Entrenching Battalion had been captured. "Nothing," stated the question, "is known here about the Entrenching Battalion formation." The following reply has now been received by the Defence Minister: "All New Zealand Reinforcements in France were last February, on absorption of the Fourth Brigade, organised into three Entrenching Battalions, and are now so organised, but when the surplus numbers are absorbed they form an entrenching group of the strength of one battalion. On April 12 No. 2 Entrenching Battalion, strength 22 officers and 1,130 of other ranks, was moved hurriedly by motor 'buses from Abeele to St. Jan's Capel to fill up a gap near Meteren, and was attached to the 19th Division. They rendered excellent service, and fought well, but some were captured through being cut off. The casualties totalled 251."

Burial: Leuze Communal Cemetery

Leuze en Hainaut, Hainaut, Belgium Plot: II. B. 5.