



# Connecting People with Matheson Heritage

## The Chair's Corner

Dear fellow Clan Matheson members

Over the past year your branch committee has been carefully considering the best way to foster and share an interest in Matheson heritage in New Zealand. We've grappled with whether the current membership and subscription system is the best model as we move into the third decade of the 21st century.

After careful consideration, we consider there has to be a new approach. You can read more about this in the following article 'Adapting to change'.

We plan to launch this new way of operating at the next Clan Matheson New Zealand annual gathering, on Sunday 8 August. This will see:

- no more annual subscriptions to join the New Zealand branch of the Clan Matheson Society
- the newsletter freely available to anyone who's interested
- more active use of the website and Facebook group, and integration of information with the newsletter
- work to form a charitable trust, to be the legal vehicle for Clan Matheson in New Zealand.

This will require a new way of thinking, as well as operating. There won't be membership, or a list of members. People won't have to 'belong' in order to show their interest or share their stories. There will be more, and easier, ways to engage with Matheson heritage and history than joining a 'club'.

As we have considered the future of the New Zealand branch of Clan Matheson, and developed this new model, we have been in frequent communication with the Chief of Clan Matheson, Sir Alexander Matheson. He fully supports each branch developing their own way of operating, to suit their situation. We really appreciate his support and openness to fresh ideas.



### Inside this issue

#### The Chair's Corner

*Andrew Matheson* ..... 1

#### Adapting to change

*The Committee*..... 3

Annual gathering ... ..... 5

The Matheson grant ..... 6

#### An interesting question

*Andrew Matheson*..... 7

Clan Matheson news ..... 8

How to connect ..... 9



## The Chair's Corner (cont)

Please continue to let us know what you think of this new approach, by email ([chair@clanmatheson.org.nz](mailto:chair@clanmatheson.org.nz)), on the Facebook group or by coming along on 8 August. Please also think about how you can share your interest and family stories, and help others to do the same.

Andrew Matheson

Chair, New Zealand branch

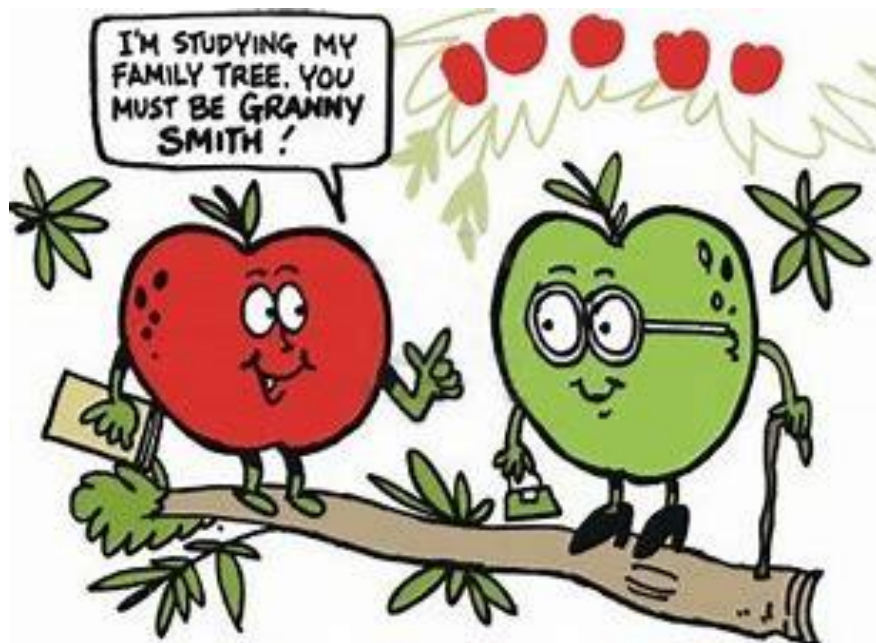
Chief's Lieutenant for New Zealand



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*“There will be more, and easier, ways to engage with Matheson heritage and history than joining a 'club'.”*

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## Adapting to change

How does the saying go — the only constant thing is change? We all know how much New Zealand has changed in the last 32 years, since the New Zealand branch of the Clan Matheson Society was formed. People have more and different ways to share ideas and information, and to connect socially. Joining a 'club' is far less popular than it used to be.

### Why are we here?

Our objectives remain the same:

- foster an interest in Matheson family heritage
- forge links between people in New Zealand with Matheson heritage, and between them and kinsfolk in other countries
- help people with Matheson heritage find out more about their family history.

### The challenges we face

At the branch's annual gathering last year we talked about the challenges facing the branch. What would the future be if we continued with the status quo? Is there any reason to think there wouldn't be a continuing decline in membership, and continuing increase in the average age of participants? That trajectory has only one destination.

### What people told us

So we set out to find out more about who the organisation is for, what they're interested in, and how we as a group, or as an organisation, can be relevant to them.

First we surveyed members and others we could reach through our website and Facebook group. You can see the results in the December 2020 newsletter.

To sum up:

- people have different ways of interacting, and sharing interests and ideas, than they did when the branch was formed

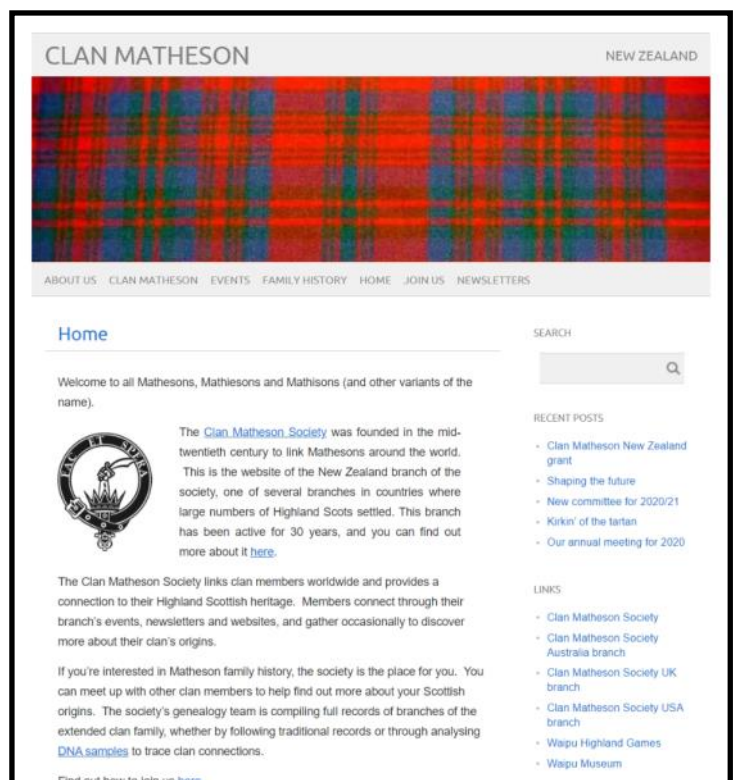
- the number of subscribing members has been slowly declining
- most organisations are moving away from keeping information, such as the newsletter, behind a paywall
- going to meetings, and being in a 'club', are less and less part of most people's lives.

We then proposed a different way of operating, which you can read about in the March 2021 newsletter and on the website [here](#).

This involved:

- not collecting subscriptions, or having a formal membership structure
- making the newsletter freely available to all
- investigating sponsorship and paid advertising,
- formalising the organisation as a charitable trust.

We appreciated the feedback we received. Though there wasn't much, it was all supportive.



*Our website*

## Adapting to change (cont)

### The way forward

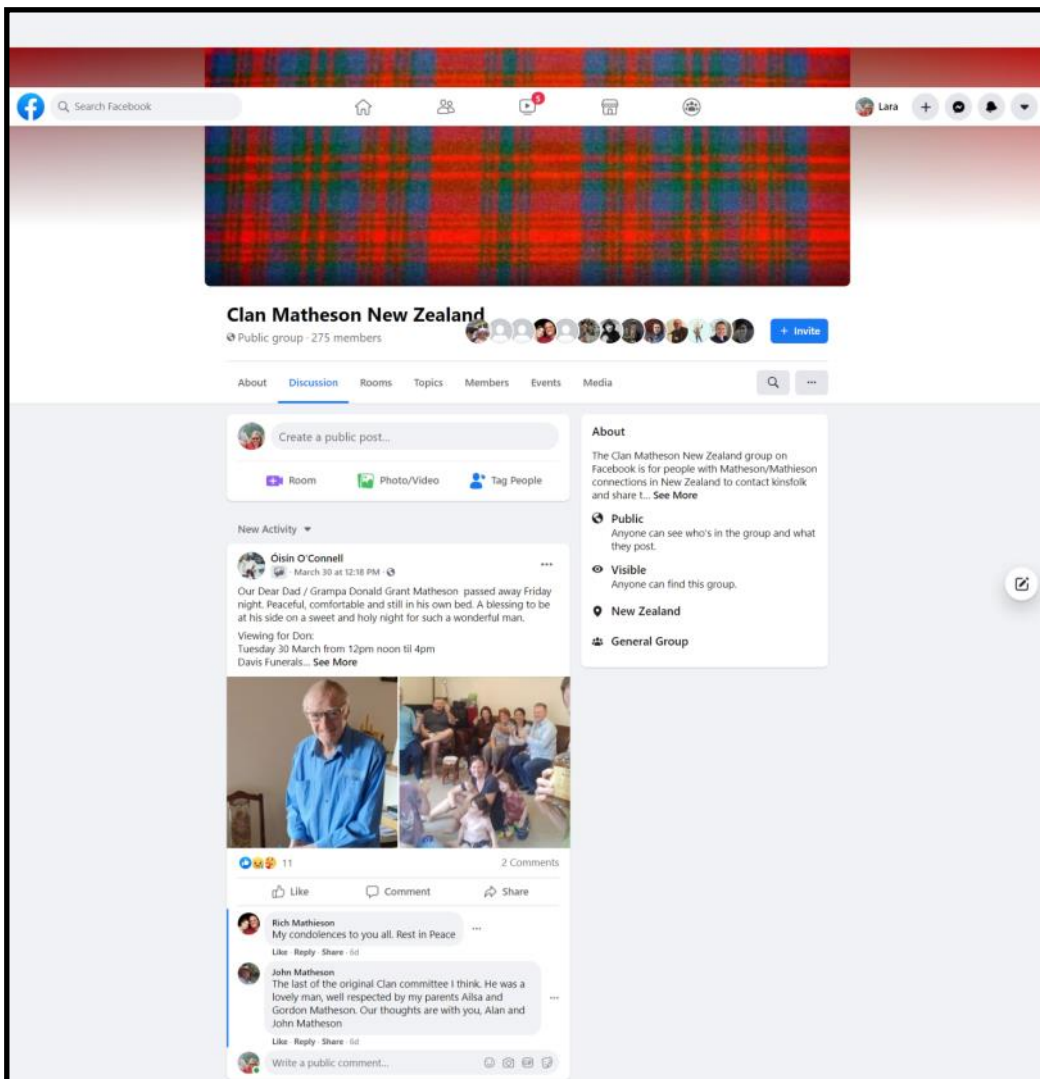
The committee has continued to consider the proposal, and has decided to trial this. We plan to not send out subscription notices for 2021/2022, and make the newsletter available for anyone to download. The few people currently receiving a hard copy will be encouraged to switch to email, but there will still be a hard copy option. There will have to be a fee for that, to cover printing and postage, but this will be a newsletter fee rather than membership subscription.

Over the next 12 months the committee will work to make the other changes listed above. We hope that by this time next year, Clan Matheson New Zealand will be more visible, more open to engage with, and more effective in achieving our aims.

The Clan Matheson NZ Branch Committee

### Tell us what you think

Please let us know what you think, at [chair@clanmatheson.org.nz](mailto:chair@clanmatheson.org.nz)



Our Facebook page

# Clan Matheson New Zealand annual gathering

## Invitation

Welcome to all with Matheson\* Heritage

Clan Matheson NZ annual gathering and Annual General Meeting (AGM)

8 August 2021

1.30 – 4.00pm

Logan Campbell Room

Auckland Botanic Gardens

Hill Road, Manurewa

Agenda:

- Welcome
- The year in retrospect
- The year ahead: Clan Matheson NZ 2021/22
- Afternoon tea and Clan Piper

\*And other variants of the name including Mathieson Matheson Mathisons

## All welcome

You can find a map to the Auckland Botanic Gardens and the Logan Campbell room at

[www.aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz/visit-us/map/](http://www.aucklandbotanicgardens.co.nz/visit-us/map/)



The Logan Campbell Room, Auckland Botanic Gardens

## The Matheson Grant: helping people discover and explore Matheson heritage

Want to do more to generate interest in Matheson heritage? Keen to strengthen the profile of Scottish culture and customs in New Zealand? If you have a good idea about how to do that, we'd like to hear from you.

We are the New Zealand branch of the international Clan Matheson Society. We aim to foster interest in Matheson family heritage, forge links between people in New Zealand with Matheson heritage, and between them and kinsfolk in other countries, and

help people with Matheson heritage find out more about their family history and family stories.

As a branch we have established a small grant scheme to help people implement worthwhile projects that align well with those aims.

If you think you have an appropriate activity that we might fund, check out the grant scheme on the website [here](#). You'll see there are clear guidelines about the outcomes we're seeking through the grant, but no limitations on what activities we'd like to consider. Innovation and new ideas are very welcome.

Applications close on 30 September 2021.



"Family history is great! I love finding all those connections that have combined to make me into the person that I am today!"

## An interesting question

The Matheson stories on our website attract interest from different sources, and not only people with Matheson heritage. One part of our site tells the stories of those New Zealand Mathesons we've been able to identify as having died while serving during the Second World War. One is [Ian Edgecombe Mathieson](#).

Ian survived a long period of action as a fighter pilot over Europe, only to die in 1943 at an RAF base in Scotland when a trainee pilot crashed into his plane.

A family historian from Cornwall in England, Phil Ellery, got in touch via our Facebook group to find out more. Why was Ian buried at St Illogan's churchyard in Cornwall, though he died in Scotland? The question hadn't occurred to me when writing the article. A query posted on the [Wings over New Zealand](#) forum was quickly answered by the ever-helpful Errol Martyn.

St Illogan's churchyard contains airmen from nearby RAF Portreath and RAF Perranporth who died, mostly in accidents. From 7 Sep 1943 to 7 Nov 1943 Ian Mathieson's 66 Squadron was based at Perranporth. He died less than 3 weeks later in Scotland. So there is a Cornwall connection, but why was he buried there? Perhaps we can speculate that he had got to know a family in the area, or formed a romantic attachment, which led to a request for him to be buried at St Illogan's.

Ian's brother Russel Maurice Mathieson was also a fighter pilot during WW2, and survived. Their parents were Augustus Nicholas Mathieson and Ivy Jane Edgecombe, who farmed at Wanstead near Waipukurau. Their paternal grandfather was Gustavus Maurice Mathieson, who may have been born in Norway though other sources say Glasgow. The choice of names does suggest a Scandinavian origin.

Andrew Matheson



Flt/Sgt. I. E. Mathieson, of Wanstead, killed on active service.

## All welcome

Clan Matheson Society New Zealand

Annual Gathering and AGM

8 August 2021

1.30—4.00pm

Logan Campbell Room

Auckland Botanic Gardens

Hill Road, Manurewa



## Clan Matheson News

### Family update from Donald Matheson

This photograph shows four generations of our Matheson family.

Recently my grandson Alex James became the father of my 17th great grandchild, Hugo James Matheson.

At the celebration of his birth we have Hugo and Alex and proud grandfather Stuart James and very proud great grandfather Donald James Matheson.

I believe the photograph is unique as the time span is over 93 years, and we all live within kilometres of each other.



### Clan Matheson international gathering

It's full steam ahead for the 2021 international gathering of people interested in their Matheson heritage. Covid restrictions put paid to the event last year, but with the USA returning to normal life the event is confirmed for July 2021.

Mathesons will gather as part of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, to be held near Linville, North Carolina, from Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 July. Clan Matheson is the 'honoured clan' for the event, so the Chief of Clan Matheson, Sir Alexander Matheson of Matheson, will be the chief-tain of the 2021 games.

For more information, check out the Clan Matheson USA [website](#) and the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games [website](#).

## Clan Matheson Society New Zealand Branch

If you are a Matheson, Mathieson, Mathison (and other variants of the name) by birth, kinship, maternal descent or marriage, why not become a member of the New Zealand Clan Society and enjoy the benefits of friendship, fraternity and family history



### New Zealand branch website

[www.clanmatheson.org.nz](http://www.clanmatheson.org.nz)

### International Clan website

[www.clanmatheson.org](http://www.clanmatheson.org)

### Membership

[membership@clanmatheson.org.nz](mailto:membership@clanmatheson.org.nz)

### Newsletter

[news@clanmatheson.org.nz](mailto:news@clanmatheson.org.nz)

## How to connect with us

Chair	<a href="mailto:chair@clanmatheson.org.nz">chair@clanmatheson.org.nz</a>
Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@clanmatheson.org.nz">secretary@clanmatheson.org.nz</a>
Membership	<a href="mailto:membership@clanmatheson.org.nz">membership@clanmatheson.org.nz</a>
News editor	<a href="mailto:news@clanmatheson.org.nz">news@clanmatheson.org.nz</a>
Website	<a href="mailto:web@clanmatheson.org.nz">web@clanmatheson.org.nz</a>
Family history	<a href="mailto:web@clanmatheson.org.nz">web@clanmatheson.org.nz</a>

### Clan Matheson New Zealand branch committee 2020–2021

Andrew Matheson (Chair)	Wellington
Lena Orum (Secretary)	Auckland
Doug Hayr (Treasurer)	Auckland
Lara Penman (News editor)	Wellington
Graeme Matheson	Christchurch
Rodger Matheson	Auckland
Wayne Matheson	Queenstown

[www.clanmatheson.org.nz/about/contacts](http://www.clanmatheson.org.nz/about/contacts)

*Chief's Lieutenant for New Zealand:* Andrew Matheson

*Chief's Deputy Lieutenants for New Zealand:* Blair Matheson and Graeme Matheson

Join the New Zealand branch of the Clan Matheson Society to connect with others who share your common Highland heritage.

You will receive a copy of our quarterly newsletters and be invited to clan events. You will also be able to use the services of our clan genealogist, for help with your family history.

If you want to find out about membership or to join the New Zealand branch of the Clan Matheson Society, please go to [www.clanmatheson.org.nz/join-us/](http://www.clanmatheson.org.nz/join-us/)

Don't forget to re-subscribe for this year.