

# **MacDONALD: SHIRLEY ANNE (nee CARKEEK)**

**Born: 9 Nov 1947, Levin, New Zealand**

**Married: 27 Oct 1972, Inverness, Scotland**

**To: Alexander (Sandy) MacDonald (21 Jun 1948 – 13 Jan 2018)**

## ***Shirley's parents were:***

Morgan James Ewart (Jim) Carkeek (1923 – 1998) &  
Beryl Wakelin (1920 – 2007) Married 1943

## ***Shirley has 3 brothers & 1 sister:***

Robyn Gail (1942 – )  
Ewart Arthur (1944 – )  
Dennis Charles (1946 – 2006)  
Stephen James (1959 – 2019)

## ***Shirley has 4 children:***

Jonathan Iain (21 Jan 1972, York, England)  
Heather Jessie (1 Oct 1973, Inverness, Scotland)  
Alison Christina (14 Jun 1975, Inverness,  
Scotland)  
Rachel Ellen (22 Dec 1981, Levin, New Zealand)

## ***Shirley's Grandchildren are:***

Jade (1997 - )  
Rhea (1999 - )  
Paige (2000 - )  
Zoe (2005 - )  
Hannah (2007 - )  
Tara (2007 - )  
Billy (2013 - )

## ***Shirley's Great Grandchildren are:***

Skyla (2018 - )  
Carter (2024 - )

## ***Shirley's Grandparents were:***

Arthur Carkeek 1872 – 1961 &  
Jessie Cross McKay (1892 – 1971) Married: 1919  
Charles Edward Wakelin (1886 – 1947) &  
Jessie Priscilla Adelaide Dunford (1890 – 1977) Married: 1908



## Shirley's Life

Shirley Macdonald, nee Carkeek, was born in Levin in 1947. Her parents were Morgan (Jim) Carkeek and Beryl (Bet) Wakelin. Her siblings are Robyne, Ewart, Dennis (dec) and Stephen (dec).

Shirley began her education at Levin School in Oxford Street (now the Adventure Park), then moved to Levin East School, once that had opened. She spent only two months at Horowhenua College, before moving to Upper Hutt in 1961, where she attended Heretaunga College.

After working for a dentist, for four years, in Upper Hutt, Shirley returned to Levin in 1967, eventually becoming employed in the local poultry industry. This included working on Breeder farms, hatchery work rearing meat chickens, running a trial unit to optimise growth in chickens. She also reared and delivered pullets for egg producing farms and at Benniks, including running an egg farm for them with her husband for 5 years up till retirement.

She left New Zealand for the United Kingdom in 1971, returning 5 years later with husband, Alexander (Sandy) and 2 children, Heather and Alison. A third child Rachel was born 6 years later.

Shirley was a member of the local Highland Pipe band, playing tenor drum, during the years 1993 to 2007, attending many competitions throughout New Zealand.

In 2005 she discovered Petanque, joining Horowhenua Petanque Club, then later Otaki Petanque Club. In 2012 she was selected to play for the New Zealand Senior Petanque team to play against Australia in the annual Trans Tasman Challenge, which was hosted that year by the Wanganui Petanque Club. Horowhenua hosted it in 2006. The competition alternates between the 2 countries, being held in Perth in 2024. Shirley has been selected every year since 2012, in both the Open and Senior Sections – except 2020, due to covid.

She has played in the Oceania Championship, held in Christchurch in 2017 against Australia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, and Tahiti. In June 2024 Shirley travelled to Taipei for the Pan Pacific Cup, involving Chinese Taipei, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand. New Zealand won the Senior Competition.

Shirley is also a Wellington Regional Representative, playing against Auckland, Canterbury and Southern Region in annual challenges.



First time representing New Zealand Senior team. 2012



**Some of Shirleys successes:**

Championship winner in Singles, Doubles and Triples at both Club and regional competitions, as well as placings in National Competitions.

National Title in Womans Triples and Runner Up in National Singles.

Team member in the Trans Tasman Challenges over 12 years

Team member at Oceania championship at Christchurch

Team member of winning Senior Triples Team at Pan Pacific Championships at Taipei, Taiwan



## **Some Family History:**

Shirley's great great grandfather, Stephen Carkeek, arrived in New Zealand in 1840. A ships captain, he ferried Governor Grey around the Bay of Islands. He next worked as a Customs Officer, being the first one for the port of Nelson, then progressing to Comptroller of Customs in Wellington. He instigated the erection of a time ball, which once stood on Custom House Quay. Stephen retired to Featherston, where he built an observatory, said to be the first one in New Zealand. It still exists though it has a walnut tree growing in the middle.

A son, Morgan, Shirley's great grandfather, was a surveyor, working throughout the lower North Island. Mt. Carkeek, now Mt Arete, in the Tararua Ranges is named after him. One of Morgan's brothers, Arthur Wakefield Carkeek, was a recipient of the NZ Cross, awarded during the Land Wars. It is on display in the War Memorial Museum at Waiouru. Shirley's grandfather, Arthur, farmed in the Mangaone Valley, and also assisted Morgan with surveying. Shirley's grandmother was Jessie Carkeek (nee MacKay).

Shirley's father, Jim, worked as a carpenter for Bert Woollett when they built St. Marys Church in Cambridge street, sadly gone now. He was foreman for Sciascia Brothers when the Levin Home for War Veterans was built. His next job took him to Palmerston North, as Clerk of Works for Structon Group Architects, eventually moving to the Wellington area for the majority of his work. Shirley's uncle Lawton, was a butcher at Avenue Butcheries in Oxford Street, Levin.

On Shirley's maternal side, her grandfather, Charles Wakelin, built houses in Levin and her grandmother, Jessie. was well known for her sewing skills, making many wedding gowns for locals. Her sewing basically kept the family fed during the depression. Her mother, Beryl (Bet), served in the WAAC's during WW2, based at Fort Dorset in Wellington, training in Radar Tracking and as a gunner. An uncle, Ken, was a house painter in Levin, and another, Harry, was a local mechanic.

Shirley's maternal great, great grandparents, Dunfords, were passengers on the 'Cressey' one of the first four ships to arrive in Lyttleton, with the first settlers. They eventually owned a guest house beside the Rakaia river also running a ferry service there.

Shirley now resides at Speldhurst Country Estate.