



# Cameron

*The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.*



*The Opening March*



*The Waipu Tartan see page 11*

**Waipu Games 2020**



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*The Clans Avenue*

*Photos: Editor*

# “Cameron”

is the magazine of the  
Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc)

## Directory

Hereditary Chief and Captain of Clan Cameron  
Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel,  
Lord Lieutenant of Inverness,  
Achnacarry, Spean Bridge,  
Imverness-shire, Scotland. PH34 4ES

New Zealand President and Commissioner  
Nick Cameron  
322 Auchenflower Road, RD 1 Darfield 7571  
Ph. 027 232 6664  
nick.cameron@cropmark.co.nz

Secretary  
Tanya Cameron  
97B McGarvey Rd, Whakatane 3120  
Ph. 027 293 5603 Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Treasurer  
Alison Thompson  
8 Mana Street, Otumoetai, Tauranga 3110  
Ph. 027 525 4766 alison.th59@gmail.com

Genealogist and Historian  
David Weston  
14 Tanguru Street, Wanganui 4500  
Ph. (06) 343 2539 westmor@yahoo.com

First Light Exchange Convenor  
Bryan Haggitt  
96A Lucerne Road, Remuera, Auckland 1050  
Ph. (09) 524 5254 bchecho@xtra.co.nz

## Branch Presidents

Auckland  
Norman Cameron  
31/37 Natzka Road, Ostend, Waiheke Is,  
Auckland 1081. Ph. (09) 372 8442  
norman.cameron37@gmail.com

Bay of Plenty  
Tanya Cameron  
97B McGarvey Rd, Whakatane 3120  
Ph. 027 293 5603 Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Gisborne  
David Cameron,  
885 Wharekopae Rd, RD2 Gisborne. 4072  
Ph. (06) 862 7803 camerondvd@xtra.co.nz

Hawke's Bay  
Hamish Cameron  
76 Jarvis Road, RD 5, Hastings 4175  
Ph. (06) 876 7509. h.jcameron@nowmail.co.nz

Iar (Taranaki / Wanganui)  
Neville Wallace  
275 Turuturu Road, RD 14, Hawera 4674  
Ph. (06) 278 6005. neville.wallace@talk2me.co.nz

Manawatu  
Russell Cameron,  
6 Woodland Grove, Feilding 4702  
Ph. (06) 323 7432 russellcam@gmail.com

Wellington / Wairarapa  
Graeme Cameron  
4 Karamu Street, Ngaio, Wellington 6035  
Ph. (04) 977 6250 glcameron@outlook.com

Canterbury  
Colin Cameron,  
11B Wills Street, Ashburton 7700  
Ph 03 308 8334 collincameron1938@gmail.com

Magazine Editor  
Neil Cameron,  
28 Oxford Terrace, Devonport, Auckland 0624  
Ph: (09) 446 1177 kncam@xtra.co.nz

Web Co-ordinator  
Tanya Cameron Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Clan Cameron New Zealand website  
[www.clanameronnz.co.nz](http://www.clanameronnz.co.nz)

## A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

On the 10th December our family received the sad news of my Uncle John Cameron's sudden passing. Thank you to the many messages of support from members of Clan Cameron. John was a recipient of the Legion d'honneur medal following service during WWII on minesweeper vessels BYMS2250 and MMS242 and was known as one of Churchill's Pirates. John was particularly proud of his Cameron heritage and his memorial service at the Porangahau Country Club featured a wreath laid on his Kilt and sporran of thistles, rosemary and fittingly a large artichoke flower. John's passions were painting, Clan Cameron, Scottish Country dancing, gardening and cooking. Family members spread his ashes on the top of the farm at Porangahau accompanied to the piobaireachd "You're Welcome Ewen Lochiel".

Uncle John left me a particular piece of gardening advice which was to pick black currants by using secateurs to cut the branches containing the berries and strip them in the comfort of a table and chair. Having just done this a week ago and also having picked a similar quantity of blueberries and black raspberries – these were mixed equally in a several very large pots – lightly boiled with a hint of sugar – and the 20 litres of this mixture frozen in 1 - 2 litre containers for use as a dessert or for use with breakfast cereal. This three way mixture loaded with antioxidants tastes very like wild blackberry – simply yum!. Perhaps Neil's granddaughter can enlighten the Clan as to the value of antioxidants in our foods for cancer prevention?

The next 2-3 months will be a busy time for pipe band members with the Nationals in Invercargill only 7 weeks away on the 13th and 14th March interspersed with earlier contests in Ashburton on the 26th Jan and Dunedin on the 15th and 16th February. I look forward to having a catch up with some of you there and at our annual AGM in Tauranga.

For those that might be interested the Hororata Highland Games for the coming year will be on the 7th November 2020 – an event well worth attending.

Cheers, Nick



## Vale...

### John Robert Cameron

See above and Hawke's Bay Report on page 4.

Left: John receives the Legion d'Honneur from the French Ambassador, Her Excellency Florence Jeanblanc-Risler.

Right: At the Hawke's Bay Highland Games, John (left) with Tom McDonald, Helen Shaw, John Cameron and the late Mike Topham.

Photos: Nick Cameron

Clan Cameron New Zealand  
Website

[www.clanameronnz.co.nz](http://www.clanameronnz.co.nz)

The Clan Cameron Interactive  
Network

<http://clanameron.ning.com/>

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Mar 2020

Printed By

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Auckland Branch

Cleve Cameron & Family

Hikurangi

*Ceud Mìle Fàilte*

Canterbury Branch

Carolyn Cameron  
Anna Tarbotton

Ashburton  
Dunedin

*One Hundred  
Thousand Welcomes*

## *Clan Cameron International Gathering. Achnacarry 2020*



*This is where it will all happen—will you be there?*

*30 July—2 August 2020*

*“We look forward to welcoming you”*

### **Clan Cameron Gathering Facebook Page**

A Gathering Facebook page has been set up by Catriona Fleming, who is the curator of the clan Cameron museum. The Facebook page has all the information about the programme as it stands, along with information on tickets, transport, accommodation etc. It is called **Clan Cameron Gathering 2020**.

You can access the British Pathe video of the 1956 Achnacarry Gathering on this page. This is the video mentioned on page 10 of this magazine.

### **Programme for the 2020 Gathering:**

#### **Thursday 30 July**

*Morning - Guided walks in Achnacarry*

*Afternoon - Various talks in Achnacarry*

*Evening - Informal meet and greet, Fort William*

#### **Friday 31 July**

*Morning - Guided walks in Achnacarry*

*Afternoon - Various talks in Achnacarry*

*Evening - Reception in Fort William*

#### **Saturday 1 August**

*10am - 4pm*

*Gathering at Achnacarry - lots of entertainment all day in Achnacarry, in the field and the big tent.*

*7.30pm - Midnight*

*Ceilidh in the tent at Achnacarry*

#### **Sunday 2 August**

*Morning - Service at St. Ciaran's Church, Achnacarry.*

*Afternoon - Barbecue at Achnacarry*

The Facebook page will publish a detailed programme nearer the time, with all the events, venues and times listed.

## *Coming Events:*

### **Saturday 8 February 2020**

#### **27th Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo**

9am to 9pm Paeroa Domain.

Special guests include the Topp Twins.

The Cameron tent will be there. Please support us.

[www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz](http://www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz)

### **Sunday 16 February 2020**

#### **Manawatu Branch AGM**

12 Noon at the Summer House

Mt. Lees Reserve

See Manawatu Report.

### **Saturday 7 March 2020**

#### **Clan Cameron Iar Haggis Evening**

Clan Cameron Iar is proud to present Taranaki/King Country MP Mrs. Barbara Kuriger to speak at a meeting to be held in the Hawera Club, 38 High Street Hawera, on

Saturday March 7th commencing at 7 pm. Barbara Kuriger is a strong advocate for Rural NZ

Following Barbara's presentation, we will have the haggis ceremony followed by supper and socializing. A cash bar will be available

Tickets will cost \$20 each, available from Harding's Funeral Services Regent Street Hawera. If you are out of towners, please deposit your money at TSB Bank number 15 - 3950- 0650035-00 Please make sure you identify who you are when you register before



Friday the 28th of February

If you need further information or assistance, please call Neville 027 416 3563 or Shona 027 663 2825

### **Sunday 8 March 2020**

#### **Auckland Branch AGM**

Parnell Cricket Club. AGM 4pm, BBQ 5.30pm.

Meat provided but please bring either a salad or a sweet, letting Jenny Haggitt know you are coming and which food you would like to bring. Cash bar.

Jenny: 09 524 5254 [bchecho@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bchecho@xtra.co.nz)

### **Saturday 4 April 2020**

#### **55th Clan Gathering and AGM, hosted by the Bay of Plenty Branch.**

This will be a one day event with the main meal being lunch.

The venue will be the Classic Flyers

Conference Room, Mt. Maunganui.

Registration Form is enclosed.

Enquiries to Tanya.

## From the Branches....

*The views expressed in these reports are those of the writers. Some have been lightly edited.*

### **Auckland** by Editor for Norman Cameron.

It was lovely to renew our acquaintance with Shona Shirley, nee Cameron, who was a First Lighter from Scotland in 2006. She, with husband Gavin and son Alasdair were visiting New Zealand and Australia, and spent a few days in Auckland. Despite it being a week day, several members of the branch were able to come and meet them for lunch at the Northcote Tavern.



On New Year's Day, in beautiful weather, Duncan, Jean and Sarah McQueen and the editor arrived at Waipu at 7am to put up the Cameron tent. We had left Auckland at 5am as the Waipu people wanted everything set up by 8.30. Rob Cameron, with his parents Allan and Morea were there to help and with seven of us, were set up in record time by 7.30 - we could have slept another hour! Thank you all.

During the day Glenis Cameron and John Cameron from the Auckland branch also offered their help in manning the tent and that was very much appreciated.

The AGM of the branch will be held on March 8th. We would love to see you there for a short meeting followed by a pleasant barbeque. Details in 'Coming Events'.

### **Manawatu** by Anne Walker

Clan Cameron Manawatu extend our best wishes to all for a happy and successful 2020.

Clan Cameron Manawatu concluded a busy year with a small presence at the Jenny Mair Highland Games in Palmerston North. We were pleased to be able to host Shona Shirley (nee Cameron) during her visit to New Zealand with husband Gavin, and their son, Alasdair.



On the 25th January, Clan members will once again be present at the Turakina Highland Games. The Turakina Games are always a wonderful event drawing attendees from all over. Invariably the weather is kind, and it is a great day out. Clan Cameron Manawatu invite all to call by their Clan tent, to catch up with friends and enjoy Clan hospitality. Information about Clan genealogy and the Clan Cameron DNA project will be available for those interested in exploring more of their Clan heritage.

Members are advised that the AGM of Clan Cameron Manawatu will be held at Mt Lees Reserve, near Feilding at 12 noon on Sunday 16th February. All members, family and friends are welcome to attend the AGM, which will be followed by a shared potluck luncheon.

### **Two Firstlighters catch up**

On December 22nd, Firstlighters Shona Shirley (nee Cameron) and Kimberley Walker were able to catch up in Palmerston North for the first time in many years. Shona first visited New Zealand as a Firstlighter in 2006, and Kimberley travelled to Scotland as a Firstlighter the following year.

During Shona's 2006 visit, she spent an extended time in the Manawatu where she stayed with Kimberley's parents, Anne Walker and Nigel Long, and worked in the Massey University Library. Shona and her family enjoyed a special visit with Maisie and Dick Earle, before several Manawatu

members enjoyed an afternoon gathering held at the home of Anne and Nigel. This time Shona was able to catch up with other Manawatu members with whom she had stayed during her 2006 visit including Mary Barber, Colin and Joy Cameron, and Ewen Grant. Everyone was delighted to meet Shona's husband Gavin, and wee boy, Alasdair. Shona is a registered nurse specializing in childcare and will soon return to fulltime work following parental leave.

Kimberley was based in Lochabar during her Firstlighter exchange in 2007. During her exchange, Kimberley work briefly at the Achnacarry Museum, University of the Highlands and Islands, and at an outdoor adventure company, and was hosted by Shona's mother, Margaret Cameron. Kimberley recently returned to live permanently in New Zealand, after several years in Australia, and Singapore, where she worked in banking. Kimberley is currently a senior manager at Westpac New Zealand.

Both Firstlighters recall how special the Firstlighter exchange was for each of them, and how good it was to renew this friendship.

### **Hawke's Bay** by Hamish Cameron

If I was amazed at how quickly 2019 passed, I shouldn't have been surprised at the speed at which Christmas and its attendant holiday period ate into our time.

Personally - we spent time off shore, and some in a Melbourne Hospital when Joan took ill - another first! -- and then back home to hosting Trouble one and Trouble two, two of our boisterous Grandsons. Luckily, Hawke's Bay has a climate conducive to outdoor activities suitable for the de-energizing of mini - dynamos. Its this dependable weather pattern that generally has everybody here making the most of their Christmas break and therefore as a Branch nothing is organised function wise.

However, as a Branch we were once again deprived of another active member who had become an integral part of the Cameron site at the Hastings Highland Games

The passing of **John Robert Cameron** of Porangahau on the 10th December came as a real shock in spite of his advanced years. The presence of John in the Cameron tent has become one of the Games "must Visit" attractions of later years. Such was his knowledge of Clan History.

Unfortunately Johns passing and Funeral all happened while Joan and I were overseas, so may we belatedly extend our condolences to his Family and also Paul, Andrew and Nick - Clan President to whom he was a much adored Uncle.

This Branch inactivity though is about to change as we start to gear - up for the Hastings Highland Games at Easter. Clan Cameron traditionally have a tent here, along with other Clans, and it is at this event that most of our funding -- recruitment etc takes place. This event is spread right over the Easter Holiday period and involves both National Piping and Highland Dancing Championships. So this is now our focus and is becoming more so as we move into the New Year.

As I write this all around us the cropping/ orcharding industries are persevering in their relentless efforts to complete yet another harvest. In our region this goes on seven days a week - dawn to dusk - and the intensity of effort is exhausting just being amongst it!

I think this persistent urgency has solidified my new desire to retire -----!!

With that profound thought I will now also retire this short update at what is -- or is not--happening here in Hawke's Bay.



Sadly another magazine contains the loss of a Branch member. We appreciate the time Helen Renner has devoted to Clan Cameron and our committees, especially her availability and happiness to help. See obituary below.



The BOP Branch is busy organising for the Annual Gathering in April. We have planned a one day event so that those that want to visit with others in the area, or book a fishing trip while they are here or enjoy a relaxing event will have options. The National Gathering will be held on Saturday the 4th of April 2020. This will allow for those coming from out of town to arrive the night before if they chose. Easter Sunday is the following weekend on the 12th of April 2020.

The Executive meeting will be held in the morning with the AGM to follow and the main meal will be the lunch. The afternoon will be available to relax over an extended lunch and casual conversation and for local activity events or relaxing and catching up with our visitors. We are holding all our events in the Classic Flyers Boeing conference room which is upstairs and has a lift and stairs for access immediately inside the front door. There is some parking at the front door otherwise there is event parking on the grounds nearby, this will be sign posted with only a short walk.

There is an aviation museum and lots of planes and fun information to look around. There are also flights available. The Tauranga airport is based in Mount Maunganui and therefore your closest accommodation for those not flying in and out for the day will be in the Mount or in Tauranga near the Port. Who knows, maybe a cruise ship will be in on the day too.

Early in December our Annual General Meeting was held. Our President Colin Cameron gave his report and advised that due to ill health he would be resigning. The Vice President Sharon Wallace took the chair for the election of officers, there were no changes except that Nick Cameron consented to being the President. Outgoing President Colin was thanked for his time and efforts. It was decided that there be a pot luck dinner in May and to be represented at the Hororata Games. After the meeting several members went to the Cleavers Corner Restaurant for lunch. They were extremely busy but the meal and company were enjoyable.



We welcome Anna Tarbotton as a member of the clan. Anna is my great niece and grand daughter of Pat and Rex Tarbotton, members of this branch. Anna has just got engaged to Michael Mackenzie and they intend to get married in July.

Clan Cameron held their Christmas meeting in the home of Neville and Shona Wallace and they catered for about ten members who came to hear our local Genealogist Nicola Davies speak on how to make the most of where to look for places of where our forebears settled, and how situations, names and places have changed over the years



Nicola Davies gave a talk on land information, showing examples of how to trace land backwards, and how to identify land that your ancestors owned, looking at DP Plans, Block Sheets and Cadastral Maps and Records of Title (previously Certificates of Title). She gave examples of land which had been set out as towns or settlement, but which had never been developed, and remained farmland, even though legally the land has several paper roads and sections. One such example is "Cameron Town" on the Waikato River – the town never eventuated, but there still remains a "Cameron Town Road."

Nicola suggested using the following websites to help with your land research:  
National Library Catalogue for old cadastral maps (available online) - <https://natlib.govt.nz/>  
Ancestry.com – for electoral rolls and directories <https://www.ancestry.com/> (often available for free at local libraries)  
Local & Regional Councils websites for current land information, and visit local councils to view historic rates records (appointment usually required)  
Land Information NZ for current Record of Titles - <https://www.lin.govt.nz/>  
Papers Past - <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>  
Website <https://digitalnz.org/> for historic maps and photographs of New Zealand  
Google Maps  
You can look up "Cameron Town Road" on Google maps if you want to see where it is.

**Vale**

***Helen Mary Renner 1930 - 2019***

*By Miriam Ferguson*



Helen passed away after a short illness in her 90th year on the 11th December in Tauranga.

Helen was born on Jan 27th 1930 in Te Araroa, to Tom and Eva (nee Trafford) Hovell, and was the 4th daughter in a family that was to number 9 children - six daughters and three sons. Eva was the daughter of Arthur and Elizabeth (nee Cameron) Trafford, who farmed in the Waioeka Gorge near Gisborne.

Helen had a strong faith, regularly attending church, and this faith was manifested in her kindness, graciousness, humility and always thinking of others. She also believed in the importance of family, and lived accordingly. She was well known and loved by her large extended family. She stressed to her daughters the importance of never letting an opportunity to connect and re-connect with family pass.

She was a prolific and skilled craftsperson, and knitted, crocheted, spun and wove Taniko, often winning awards. She saw creative possibilities in everything.

She and her late husband, Phil, who were both teachers moved to Tauranga from Gisborne in 1999 to be closer to family. They travelled widely in their latter years, and enjoyed a full life with many interests including Clan Cameron.

Helen is survived by her two daughters, Elizabeth Weusten and Miriam Ferguson, her five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.



*Next Issue .....*

*Bill Cameron will tell us about this special bookmark and the Arms of the Chief of Clan Cameron*



*Loch Leven and the Pap of Glen Coe photo: Bill Cameron*



*First Lighters Catch Up. See Manawatu Report.*

*Left: Shona and Kimberley with Margaret Cameron taken at the Smithy at Spean Bridge, Scotland in 2007  
Right: Shona and baby Alasdair and Kimberley was taken in December, 2019. Photos: Anne Walker*



*By Editor: Ruth and I were delighted when our grandson Matthew married Rebekah on January 18th in Auckland*

*Matthew was responsible for setting up the Clan Cameron NZ website, which he continues to monitor from Sydney, where both he and Rebekah are working.*

*Right: Mathew's sister Sarah plays outside the church.*

*At the Wedding. The McQueen family, who do so much for Clan Cameron Auckland, especially with Highland Games and Clan functions. From left: Duncan, (a great MC), Andrew (piping), Matthew (drumming), Sarah (Highland dancing and piping), and Jean who works so hard behind the scenes. Photos: Jean McQueen and Editor*



*Scottish First Lighter Shona Shirley (nee Cameron) with husband Gavin and son Alasdair were able to meet up with members of the Auckland Branch for lunch on 11th December.*

*Above left with Bryan Haggitt, Alex and David Knapman (from Scotland), Rex Garland, Barry Stevens and Linda Garland.*

*Above Right with Barry and Mirren Stevens, Neil Cameron, Shona Cameron, Rex Garland, Jenny Haggitt, Jill and Norman Cameron, Bryan Haggitt and Alex Knapman.*

*Left: Shona with Shona Cameron*

*Right: Gavin, Shona and Alasdair with Colin Cameron.*



*Photos: Gavin Shirley and Editor*



*At the Turakina Highland Games on January 25th. Photos received as we were going to press and show the Cameron tent and Clan March. In the right hand photo below are Daniel and Emma Cameron, also Anne Walker-Long and Bruce Cameron. Photos: Jo / Dean Cameron*



# Beijing to St. Petersburg

By Rob and Catherine Cameron

Our holiday in the company of a small group was the result of watching too much T.V. Joanna Lumley's train trip through Mongolia and Russia had us reaching for the computer. Usually we organise our own travel but with visa requirements this was difficult, so a contact in Auckland organised it and along with our regular travel companions off we went in August last year.

Our group of 14 met in Beijing and walked the Wall, visited the Forbidden City and ate several Chinese banquets. Excitement built as we boarded the train for three weeks of adventure. Each couple had a cabin, normally meant for 4. Each carriage had toilet but no showers, and a samovar so we always had boiling water. We had been warned that the food carriage was not always with us so we had stores put aside.



*The Great Wall*

The first activity of interest was crossing the border into Mongolia. China's train gauge isn't in sync with the rest of the world. Grumpy custom officials and seven hours in the middle of the night to change bogeys, no getting off, no use of the toilets! The Gobi Desert was a revelation as it encroaches on China at a rate of 2 kilometres a year. They are trying to plant a green wall to hold it back. Interestingly it is not all sand but mainly grassland. Only 5% is sand and we saw none of it. Ulaanbaatar the capital of Mongolia charmed us. Very friendly people. Very modern on one hand with all the international brands but lacking infrastructure with roads and traffic. We stayed in a Ger, out in a national park. Warm as toast with amazing views of our surroundings. Most families



*A Ger camp*

seem to have a Ger either on a section in town or out where their horses roamed. Horses, sheep and yaks roam freely. No fences and no ownership of land. We drank fermented mare's milk (an acquired taste) and tasted local delicacies. Genghis Khan's monument was amazing.



*We stood in this head and saw for miles.*

*This is the actual size of the boot on the monument. The group are standing in front.*



*The inside of our ger.*

From Mongolia we crossed into Russia and the city of Urtutz and the beginning of Siberia. No dinosaurs roamed here but mammoths conquered. Many skeletons turn up every year.

Lake Baikal is nearby and is fascinating. Five hundred rivers flow into it but only one flows out. It contains 20% of the world's fresh water excluding the Poles. Over 500 hundred kilometres long; it is the deepest fresh water lake in



the world. It freezes over in winter. Train tracks can be laid on it with no problem. It is home to the world's only fresh water seals. The temperature here can go down to -40 degrees in Winter.

*Decorative and very old buildings sit beside Soviet era concrete boxes*



As we crossed Siberia we played cards, talked and drank vodka. Trees were the predominate scenery, interspersed with water and small villages. Each house had an amazing vegetable garden, no lawns and flowers interspersed with the veg. No planting for carbon credits needed.

We had many stops as we headed towards Moscow including following the story of the Russian Czars. Visiting historic sites, political museums, traditional restaurants with very local dishes, we got to know Russia better.

We did have some laughs.

Rob bought milk...it was yoghurt and sank to the bottom of the cup of tea.

Mike bought beer....it was raspberry drink and ended up in the vodka.

We tried to replenish our supplies but no-one can buy alcohol on Wednesday in Russia. Vodka can be bought at railway stations but it is very underhand.

In Moscow and St Petersburg we visited well-known sites and wandered the streets as all tourists do.



*Putin's home in Ekaterinburg.*



*Red Square by night.*



*Peter and Paul Fortress where the Romanovs rest.*



*In the middle of a tourist area. First wild fox we'd seen.*



*The Faberge Museum, St Petersburg*

We had travelled 7826 kilometres in great company across an amazing landscape.

This of course is heavily edited, but if you would like to read the full story go to [robandcathcameron.travel.blog](http://robandcathcameron.travel.blog)



(As a prelude to the forthcoming International Gathering, this article, written and published in April 2013, is re-printed - Ed.)

## The 1956 Clan Gathering, some Cameron Locomotives and other Musings ..... by the Editor



*The Gathering train, drawn by the engine 'Clan Cameron' approaches Crianlarich in June 1956*

*Photo: Hamish Stevenson Collection*

The special train (above) from Glasgow to Spean Bridge was arranged to bring clansfolk to the first post war Clan Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry on 18 June 1956. Lochiel, (Lt. Col Donald Hamish Cameron) was, for many years, a member of the Scottish Region Area Board of British Rail. The engine was the Pacific Class No. 72001 named 'Clan Cameron', which, although not designed for the steep inclines and curves of the West Highland Line, coped well although perhaps not happy with some of the curves. The driver, fireman and guard all bore the surname Cameron and some 200 Camerons were on the train, which was cheered at every wayside station.

What a wonderful way to come to an Achnacarry gathering! The scenery must be some of the most spectacular in Britain.

The engine on the right, LNER class K4 No. 61995, named 'Cameron of Lochiel', which was designed for that line, was on standby at Crianlarich, but was not needed. An engine of this class, No. 61994 'The Great Marquess', privately owned by John Cameron, can, I believe, still be seen pulling special trains on the network.

The Gathering was attended by 1000 clansfolk from around the world. The Clan Cameron Association in New Zealand had lapsed but NZ was represented by Ian D Cameron from the Wairarapa. He was asked by Lochiel to revive the NZ Association. On his return he proceeded to do so by writing to clansfolk around the country, re-forming the first of the branches in Auckland in 1958.

The Gathering took very much the same form as recent ones, but the dress was much more formal. There were Scottish Country Dancing, sheep dog trials, tug-o-war, the march past and the pipe band. The band was from the 4/5 Battalion (TA) of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. A short film clip is available on the internet of the Gathering by British Pathe News. Look up [www.britishpathe.com/video/](http://www.britishpathe.com/video/)

clan-gathering. The band looks absolutely splendid! - and there are some great shots of the 26th Chief of Clan Cameron.

I notice there was mention of the dress of the clansfolk who were not in Highland Dress, and how it had not changed since the beginning of the century. We must remember that Britain, and much of the world, had gone through two world wars and a depression. Rationing had only ceased two years before and many goods were still in short supply. It was still a land of austerity but the gathering gave clansfolk a great opportunity to let their hair down, celebrate their heritage and draw hope for the future.

I well remember those times in Britain. I had arrived in Devonport, Plymouth, just before Christmas 1955, on the cruiser *Bellona*, which we were returning to the Royal Navy in exchange for the modernised cruiser *Royalist*. We spent Christmas and New Year there - and was it cold! We were berthed alongside the battleship

*Vanguard* and I remember the long icicles hanging from her guns. Everything was very drab - the buildings, the people and the food - and there was still considerable bomb damage visible. The locals, however, made us antipodeans very welcome and the local rough cider (scrumpy) was only 8d a pint!

I went on to Portsmouth in January for a 5 month radar course and experienced similar conditions there (chips with every meal!) - finally joining *Royalist* in early June 1956, leaving almost straight away for the Mediterranean to join the British fleet preparing for the invasion of Suez.....thus I missed the chance of attending my first Achnacarry Gathering.

*I am indebted to Colin and Isabel Cameron, Dian Gorrie and John McGregor for research and permission to reprint the above photos. Also used for reference were 'Clan Cameron New Zealand' by Dorothy Cameron-Gavin and the 'Railtour Files'.*



*Engine no. 61995, 'Cameron of Lochiel' at Fort William*

*Photo: Hamish Stevenson Collection*

# The Waipu Tartan

*With the kind permission of the Waipu Museum.*

A dream that became reality for the descendants of the great migration was to create a tartan unique to the Waipu area and call it their own.

With the involvement and tenacity of many, including local Primary School pupils, the end result is a stunning piece of tartan artistry profoundly described in the poem by our own loom master Lloyd Cullen.

The Waipu Tartan revisits the history of local weavers producing their unique tartan patterns all over Scotland. The people of a district would wear the tartan from their local weaver hence the development of clan tartans.

Officially registered in Scotland, the first bolt of Waipu Tartan dress weight 100% wool fabric was also woven in Scotland and shipped to Waipu in April 2008.

Wear and display your Waipu Tartan with the same pride that went into its creation by the people of Waipu.

## Waipu Highland Games 1 January 2021



*The most entertaining way to start every New Year.*

On January 1, 2021, we will be proudly celebrating our 150th Waipu Highland Games – a huge milestone in anyone’s history and we approach it with great anticipation.

One hundred and fifty years ago the land in the wee village of Waipu was gifted by the Caledonian Society as a green space to be kept in perpetuity for the people of the area to enjoy and to have as a centre for their annual Highland Games.

These Games went a long way to maintain the culture of the early settlers’ homeland... the piping, drumming and dancing of Scotland have been intrinsic to the Scots where-ever they have travelled.

The heavyweight competitions were an important part of this once-a-year celebration. In 2021 we promise you a bigger, better and even more entertaining event as part of the huge party which will fill the Waipu Caledonian Grounds to overflowing. Make sure you put it in your diaries now.

## A small Cameron world.

*By Bill Cameron (Lochaber)*

I have some Cameron friends visiting New Zealand at the moment. Marie Cameron was a support teacher at the High School, until she retired a few years back. Their son is living with his family in Auckland. He’s a designer with Fisher and Paykel. My friend Marie went in to a shoe store in Auckland just after Christmas looking for shoes. She was speaking to the assistant and said the shoes had to be waterproof, as she will be taking them back home to Fort William. The assistant was none other than Eliot Rhys Fenton who I think is the late Fraser Cameron’s grandson.

I met Eliot when he was over working here a couple of years back. He said to Marie, you don’t happen to know Bill Cameron from Fort William? He runs up mountains. Much to Marie’s surprise she said yes, I used to work with him! I had a message from both Marie and Elliot to inform me of their meeting.

**It really is a small Cameron world.**

## *The Waipu Tartan*

*It starts off with the clearances, when a Scotsman’s life was cheap  
They forced the people off the land (replaced them all with sheep)  
They then departed Scottish shores and Nova Scotia bound  
They stayed on there for thirty years (etched a living from the ground)  
When hardship and the famine forced them once again to flee  
The crafty Scotsman built some ships and headed out to sea  
They landed on the Aussie coast, did not like what they saw  
And once again they sailed away for some new distant shore  
They ended up in Waipu and have been here all this time  
So I’m telling you this story in a tartan and a rhyme  
The white is for the shaggy sheep and also for the snow, and Aotearoa where the Scotsman were to go  
Purple is for the heather on the Scottish countryside and the thistle as an emblem that is recognised worldwide.  
Blue is for the ocean it’s the highway for their trips  
Seven colours in the tartan represent the seven ships.  
The green is for the forest and the colour of the land which they saw while they were anchored out beyond the Waipu sand.  
The red is the MacFarlane Tie, adopted by the school  
No tartan from the town itself, that was the only rule  
It was the Reverend Norm McLeod the leader of the pack  
Who takes the last two colours with the yellow and the black  
We’ve used up all the colours and the story has been told  
And the Scotsman got to live in peace and all of them grew old.*

*by Lloyd Cullen 2003*



*Eliot Fenton and Bill Cameron on the Isle of Arran 2015*



The Clan March



New members Cleve Cameron and his daughters Isla and Huia



Ready for the Town march. Allan, Neil and Morea Cameron



The band and Massed Highland Fling at the Opening Ceremony



Simon Dean, this year's winner of the Cameron Cup for C Grade drumming. Simon is a member of OrigiNZ Band



The parents and sister of Tracy Cameron visit the Cameron tent at Waipu. Tracy is married to First Lighter Astie who is Lochiel's Estate Manager at Achnacarry



Rob Cameron plays as part of the band at the opening ceremony