



Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

A winter sunset from the Commando Memorial Photo: Bill Cameron

**Vol 55 No1
February
2021**



City of Dunedin Pipe Band in the Octagon on St. Andrew's Day Photo: Jean McQueen



Rob Cameron leads the City of Sails Pipe Band in the Papakura Santa Parade



Open Water Swimming in Lochaber during Lock-Down—see pages 5 and 6

Bill Cameron's lock-down activities. Left: a photo of Ben Nevis reflected in the Glen Nevis Lochan taken by Bill on a late afternoon bike ride. Right: Bill's early morning Winter swim in the Loch. Photo by John Ireland.

“Cameron”

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

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A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

I hope you have all had a great break over the Christmas period. With the COVID situation extremely dire in Europe, UK and the Americas particularly, I think we are very lucky to be living in New Zealand. At this time of the year as a plant breeder I am preparing for seed harvest with the placement and tying of approximately 10,000 cotton bags over seed heads of grass selections. The benefit of doing this is that we save time when the plants are cut for harvest retaining most of the seed and removing an element of risk through potential hail, strong winds or other weather factors. The other side benefit is that it provides myself and others doing this work a lot of physical exercise to help remove any over indulgence which might have occurred during the Christmas festivities!

My nephew Glen Rodgers spent time with my brother Paul Cameron at his farm in Porangahau during the break with a lot of hunter gatherer type activity going on which seems fairly typical of our families. This included shooting rabbits, collecting mussels of the rocks and fishing for Kahawai (Arripis trutta). I wonder how many of you have eaten kahawai and maybe someone might like to provide some recipes on the best method of processing and cooking it.

Glen recently sent me a picture of a General Duncan Cameron who fought in the New Zealand Wars and remarked on the remarkable physical resemblance between Duncan and my brother Paul. Perhaps Glen could do some historical research on any linkage between our families.

With our house re-build now almost complete Julie and I are looking forward to moving back very soon. This means unfortunately we will miss the Auckland Annual dinner ... hopefully we can attend the next one.

We may catch up with some of you at the Dunedin contest on the 20th and 21st February and the Napier piping contest (the "Nationals") on the 19th and 20th March 2021.

Good wishes and keep safe.

Cheers,

Nick



Coming Events

Saturday 13 February 2021
28th Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo
9am to 9pm Paeroa Domain.
The Cameron tent will be there.
Please come along and support us.
www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

Sunday 21 February 2021
Proposed Bay of Plenty Branch Luncheon.
To be confirmed. Tanya will let BOP members know.

Sunday 21 February 2021
Manawatu Branch AGM
Mt. Lees Reserve. 12 Noon.
See Manawatu Branch report.

Saturday/Sunday 19 and 20 March 2021
National Pipe Band Championships
Napier and Hastings.

Saturday 10 April 2021
National Gathering and AGM
Hawera
Registration form enclosed with this

**Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website**

www.clancameronnz.co.nz

**The Clan Cameron Interactive
Network**

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

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Mar 2021

Printed By

Vale

Mary Barber (nee Cameron)

Friends, family, and Clan folk gathered recently to farewell Mary Barber (nee Cameron) who passed away on 1st December, a few weeks short of her 87th birthday. Mary was well known to all in Clan Cameron New Zealand members, and was a Life Member of Clan Cameron Manawatu. Mary served



as National Vice President of Clan Cameron New Zealand, and as First Light Coordinator for several years.

Mary enjoyed a long and full life. Growing up in the Manawatu, Mary qualified as a teacher in 1950, and taught for almost 50 years in the Manawatu, and Bay of Plenty. Mary was also a qualified speech and drama teacher, and in her latter life trained as a specialist SPELD

teacher. Mary farmed in partnership with her husband, Bob Barber, and supported his interest in racing where they successfully owned, trained, and bred several winners over the years. Mary was a qualified provincial netball umpire, and maintained a lifetime interest in sport, especially netball, racing, polo, and rugby.

Mary was the eldest daughter of James (Jim) Quarrie Cameron, from Oroua Downs. Christened Mary Helena Cameron, she was named after Mary Helen McKillop, a relative of her father's, who is now known to us all as Saint Mother Mary McKillop. Mary had three younger sisters, Delia, Mona, and Elaine.

As great-granddaughter of Thomas Ross Cameron, an early Scottish settler in the Rangitikei region, Mary was immensely proud of, and knowledgeable about, her Cameron heritage. Mary grew up surrounded by her extended Cameron family and heard many stories of their Scottish heritage and ancestral home. Mary's father Jim was one of those who began Clan Cameron in New Zealand in 1935, and the Manawatu branch began to meet as informal extended family gatherings a couple of years later. Following the death of her mother in 1953, Mary supported her father in all these Clan activities. After the visit of Lochiel in 1969, the branch became a little more formal electing Jim as President and appointing a Secretary. Lochiel corresponded with Jim Cameron (Mary's father) for the rest of his life. Mary travelled to Scotland in the 1980's and visited the ancestral homelands.

Mary was Manawatu branch president in 1985 when the Branch hosted Lochiel's visit to the region. With support from Colin and Joy Cameron, Mary organised a garden party at Pukemarama, then the Tangimoana home of Clan Cameron members Ian and Sue McKelvie. At the gathering Manawatu Scottish pipe band, the official Clan Cameron band at the time, proudly played for Lochiel as he arrived. Lochiel was thrilled with the welcome, and this was particularly important for the band, as they wore the Cameron tartan and had the Clan logo on the bass drum. The evening finished with a meal and after-dinner entertainment from a local band, *The Tartan Clansmen*, who played Scottish folk music. Lochiel was so impressed he invited them to Achnacarry for the next Clan gathering.

Mary thoroughly enjoyed her lifetime interest in Clan Cameron and felt privileged to be part of the wider Clan and to know so much of her own personal family history. She encouraged all Cameron family to become involved in the Clan, and consequently Mary's daughter Anne and son Bryan are actively involved in the Manawatu branch. Mary's granddaughter Kimberley Walker visited Scotland as a First Lighter in 2006.

Mary raised a family of four – one daughter and three sons - and was a much-loved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and is sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Another Folk Tale From Scotland

by David Weston

Apparently Loch Ness was not the only Loch to have records of a water creature. Below is a story about Loch Arkaig near where our Clan Chief resides at Achnacarry. Again I have taken this story from "*The Peat Fire Flame*" by Alasdair Alpin McGregor.

Loch Arkaig's Water-Horse

Loch Arkaig, that historic and romantic sheet of fresh water in Prince Charlie's Country, is not without its record of a water-horse. As recently as 1857 it was seen. In that year, Lord Malmesbury wrote in his *Memoirs*: "My stalker, John Stuart at Achnacarry, has seen it twice, and both times at sunrise in summer, when there was not a ripple on the water. The creature was basking on the surface; he saw only the head and hind-quarters, proving that its back was hollow, which is not the shape of any fish, or of a seal. The head resembled that of a horse. The Highlanders are very superstitious about this creature. They believe there is never more than one in existence at the same time".

Congratulations

To James Cameron
President of Clan Cameron Australia
on his award of the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

By Editor.

Reading our Commissioner's message on page 2 brought back many memories of fishing for Kahawai in the Ngaruroro River near Clive as a schoolboy, and biking home to Hastings with one or two fish on the handlebars if my luck was in.

Mum often made them into fish cakes, which were delicious and a great supplement to war-time rationing. The simple recipe below is from *Home Science Recipes*.

Ingredients: Cold boiled fish, cold mashed potatoes, salt and pepper, egg, parsley.

Mix fish and potato well together, add all other ingredients. turn onto floured board, shape into flat cakes, roll in flour, fry a nice brown.

From the Branches....

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

Auckland by Rob Cameron

I hope everyone enjoyed Christmas and New Year's, hopefully 2021 will give us a bit more freedom.

The Scottish Clans Association Annual Dinner was at the end of November. Clan Cameron had nearly 2 tables thanks to Dorothy Cameron-Gavin and her family. They even took a bottle of whisky home from the raffle. The piping duties were done by last year's scholarship awardee Charlotte Rhoads, and she did a magnificent job, looks like she will have a strong piping career ahead of her.

In December we held a quick committee meeting to make sure our moved Annual Dinner plans were on track. This was held just before a clan luncheon at The Good Home in Mt Eden. Lunch was in the Whiskey Room and it was good to catch up with a few members.

Personally, December was quite busy for me, piping at several Santa Parades arounds Auckland in the stifling heat, or rain as it was for the Farmers Parade. Work had no signs of slowing down right up till the last day just before Christmas Eve.

I spent the Christmas break winding down in the Marlborough Sounds. It was a great opportunity to get back into the family research. As I write this there is a week left before we hold our branch's Annual Dinner. It all looks good to go. I have said that before, as last time it had to be postponed only a few days before it was scheduled.

The clan will also be at the Paeroa Highland Games in February. This will be the first highland games type gathering we will be involved in since the lockdowns.

Manawatu by Anne Walker

Clan Cameron Manawatu extend our best wishes to all for a happy and successful 2021. We are all very mindful that the Covid-19 pandemic is still a major problem for the world, and wish all a safe and healthy 2021.

We recently sadly farewelled Clan Cameron Manawatu life member Mary Barber, who passed away on December 1st. More information about Mary's life and contribution to Clan Cameron is elsewhere in this newsletter.

On 12th December, Clan Cameron Manawatu hosted a hospitality tent at Jenny Mair Highland Games in Palmerston North. As usual an early morning start ensured a prime spot for viewing the bands, and piping. We gave away Christmas shortbread – a nice festive season touch provided by Jessie Annabell. This year we provided complementary haggis tasting. Many first-time tasters commented on how surprisingly delicious the haggis was, and it was certainly a talking point. Our haggis came from the excellent Greytown Butchers.

On Saturday 30th January, Clan members will be present at the Turakina Highland Games. The Turakina Highland Games are always a wonderful event. Invariably the weather is kind, and it is a great day out for people who attend from all over the country. Clan Cameron Manawatu invite all to call by their Clan tent, to catch up with friends and enjoy Clan hospitality. Information about Clan Cameron membership, 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 Branch will be held at Mt Lees Reserve, near Feilding at 12 noon on Sunday 21st February. All members, family and friends are welcome to attend the short AGM, which will be followed by a shared potluck luncheon.

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

While the events of the past year have impacted greatly on everyone's traditional way of thinking, about who we are and what we do, the imposed restrictions endeavouring to keep us all safe have made us instinctively aware of the possible consequences of those actions. None more so than when planning future travel.

Those restrictions can also have a "silver lining" in that staying put has no major impact on our bank balances.-----
-- A quite addictive outlook-----

To this end the cancellation of our annual trip to Australia, to be with family at the beach, was easily explained away as just another Covid-19 casualty.-----

The "Silver Lining" theme did, however mean the time was now available to visit – and host – those who we seldom catch –up with. Always an emotionally rewarding time.

It transpired we were not the only ones indulging this new freedom to re-discover our own back yard, as a number of our Branch also exploited a hitherto unplanned interlude.

It was on one such leisurely stroll down a bustling main street in an unfamiliar northern town, I happened upon a trestle out-side a larger shop sporting a sign over a large carton of various articles

Proclaiming "Free" help yourself, to which some wag had added after the "Free" -----**Rubbish!**

The significant point to this was the inclusion of a clutch of 2020 Calendars ----- I can't understand them taking all year to work out 2020 was a "Rubbish" year!

At this time the only thing occupying us as a Branch is the beginning of the planning process for the Annual Easter Highland Games. The Games Committee this week called for all interested Clans to register so they can plan towards running another awesome event.----- Barring Covid-19 of course ----- which cancelled last year's event.

So we live in hope, that this year will proceed as planned, and we don't end up explaining away more disruptions as the "new normal"

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Clan Cameron BoP have done little community gathering recently. I have limited myself to family events as much as possible with all these new COVID-19 strains that are around. Our Berry farms are doing a roaring trade with all the visitors passing through in the Summer months, and it has been great to see.

I am heading up to Auckland (Wellington Anniversary weekend) and attending the Auckland Clan Cameron Dinner on the 23rd of January then heading to Wellington (Auckland Anniversary weekend) and visiting friends and family we haven't seen in quite a while (with my son in tow), then it is Waitangi Weekend and then Paeroa Highland Games Weekend and then our BOP Branch luncheon (hopefully) at the Citizens Club in Te Puke. Due to a clash with the local monthly meeting of the Country music club, we are hoping to work with them to have a lovely meal together.

So even though I worked some of the Christmas break, I think I have the next month or so pretty well laid out with long weekends.

I hope you are all well and looking out for each other.



We are into a New Year - 2021. What does it hold? We do not know as we watch the events all around the World, and think what a great place we live in.

The Clan has not had any activities in the last couple of months, so we will start thinking about having a lunch out soon, now that we are getting back to normal after the holiday season.



Iar (Taranaki/Whanganui) by Neville Wallace

Well, much has happened over the last couple of months. Shona and I have shifted camp and life has been very hectic to say the least.

As a clan we've been able to squeeze in a meeting to organize the Clan Cameron 56th Annual Gathering which will be held on April 10th at the Hawera Club 38 High street. Our gathering will be commencing at 12. 30 pm with an executive luncheon, Executive meeting, afternoon tea for everyone followed by our AGM and Dinner. A happy hour between 5pm and 6pm.

6pm will be dinner and we have two highly informative speakers to entertain and inform you. Namely, New Zealand's Leading farming academic, Adjunct Professor Dr. Jacqueline Rowarth CNZM and Alan Beck (ONZM and QSM.)



CEO Beck Helicopters, Specialist's for Heavy Lift, Agricultural, and Fire Fighting.

These two remarkably interesting speakers will undoubtedly draw a large audience so the dinner will be opened to paying listeners from the public.

Hawera has a choice of Motels so get your accommodation settled because this is going to be a continuous show with no breaks so come dressed in your Highland regalia

A registration form for this AGM is enclosed in this issue of our magazine. Please fill in and return by March 21st. Please make sure that your payment is identified with your name.

Let's make this a great evening for Clan Cameron and those that come along!

Wellington/Wairarapa by Graeme Cameron

The Wellington-Wairarapa Branch held a lunch at the Margrain Vineyard, Martinborough, on Saturday 12 December 2020. Nineteen family members and/or friends enjoyed the get-together in fine warm weather.



We are planning another event on the Wellington side of the Rimutaka Hill in the Autumn.

Swimming through the lock-down in Lochaber

by Bill Cameron

Since the corona virus appeared in Scotland back in March 2020, life has changed for many of us. As a teacher my daily routine changed from being on the go in the classroom, to a much more sedentary day sitting at a computer preparing online lessons for my classes.

I am a relatively active person who likes to run and cycle most days. The lock down has seen many travel restrictions put in place, with little opportunity to travel to other parts of Scotland to run or walk up mountains. This in turn opened up a new perspectives to make more of what we have here in Lochaber at sea level and above.

People have been swimming outdoors, or open water swimming as it is often called for many years. However, in Lochaber at least it tended to be a summer time pursuit and usually done in certain rivers like the River Nevis that runs through Glen Nevis.

Meeting up with a couple of like minded folk, we arranged to swim through the summer months, most days at seven am in Loch Linnhe here in Fort William. During this time we have enjoyed swimming alongside some amazing wildlife from jellyfish, rock cod, herons, seals and a very tame guillemot.

We also dealt with removing a number of discarded traffic cones from the Loch.

The temperature of Loch Linnhe in June averaged around 13 degrees. Many people, myself included started of wearing a wet suit to stay warm. However, as time went on, some of us realised how much hassle it was putting it on and taking it off. Most of the guys now tend to wear a pair of shorts, neoprene top, gloves and socks, oh and if its a cold day, a woolly hat.

Starting off the day with a cold swim is a great shock for the senses and certainly wakes you up. As one of my fellow swimmers wisely

said "If all you achieve today is getting in for a swim, then it's been a good day". A great bit of common sense when there has been so much in the news here in Scotland about keeping good mental health during the pandemic.

As summer changed to autumn, myself and a small group of other open water swimmers investigated a great variety fresh water and salt water spots across Lochaber. Some of which included forest lochans, hill lochans, rivers and areas along the coast line. With every stretch of water having its own unique characteristics of wildlife, scenery and water quality - needless to say you never tire of the surroundings.

Swimming most days throughout the lock down has had many health and well being benefits for myself. One of the most noticeable has been sleeping more soundly at the end of the day when you've been swimming.

Safety is always taken into account when swimming in large open stretches of water with strong tides and currents. Everyone swims with buoyancy float. This is worn in case you get cramp whilst out in the open water and begin to struggle. It also makes you more visible to others people in the loch. Our coldest swim so far has been a quick five minute dip at minus two degrees in a frozen lochan that we had to smash our way into with a sledge hammer.

Swimming throughout the lockdown here in Lochaber has been a very positive experience that I hope will continue for myself and others when the pandemic is over.

A friend recently asked me why I go swimming on cold dark mornings. To which I replied, it's free and it makes you feel amazing.



Photo by John Ireland.



Photo: Hannah Craik

A Dunedin Wedding

Canterbury member Anna Tarbotton married Michael McKenzie on Saturday 5th December 2020 in Dunedin.

Anna is the granddaughter of Pat and Rex Tarbotton, both members of Clan Cameron Canterbury for many years. Anna and Mike got married in July, but because of Covid19 were limited to 10 guests, so last Saturday they had the celebration in Dunedin for their family and guests. Apparently it went well, I had Pat and Rex at my home and we watched the ceremony on Zoom. Rex is not well and was not able to get to Dunedin.

- Rae Magson

Right:

Jenny Mair Square Day in Palmerston North where Manawatu members, Anne Walker, John Cameron, Jessie Annabell and Bryan Barber provided free haggis for tasting. Photos: Dean Cameron

Below:

The Wellington/Wairarapa Branch hold a Pre-Christmas lunch at the Margrain Vineyard, Martinborough. Photo: Graeme Cameron



Photo: Liam Beagent



Photo to go with Bill Cameron's article on page 5.

Winter pictures from Fort William by Bill Cameron



First Lighter Heather Cameron meets Lochiel in 2005



Not Heather! Clan members Jean and Duncan McQueen at Wanaka Lavender Farm in glorious January weather.



Cameron's at the Scottish Clans Association Dinner

Right: Dale receives the raffle prize of a Tekoteko carving from Auckland President Rob Cameron, who was the carver.



Yvette and Craig—Married Again in NZ

Yvette's Blog: wayfaringkiwi.com



Yvette Webster (nee Morrissey) is a full time New Zealand travel blogger, living in Scotland. She recently re-visited New Zealand and was married- again!

“My dad was too sick to travel to our wedding in Scotland, and since we organised our wedding in just 10 weeks many of my Kiwi friends and family couldn't join us, so we decided to have a New Zealand wedding. My dad finally got the opportunity to walk me down the aisle, which was incredible!

We had a handfasting ceremony, which is an ancient Celtic tradition where the hands are bound together to symbolize the binding of two lives. [If you're an Outlander fan, this is what Jamie and Claire did when they got married]

We also had a Quaiach ceremony- another Scottish tradition- where we each took a sip of whisky from a cup with two handles.

The reason for this is that both hands are used to hold the cup so that one cannot draw their sword and harm their lover [I feel as though you probably shouldn't get married if you feel the urge to stab your lover- just my two cents!!]

Craig wore a kilt, I walked down the aisle in my jandels to the bagpipes. As the day wore on [and many whisky's consumed] we had an impromptu ceilidh.

It was such an incredible experience being able to merge my two worlds together- one old, one new.

It's kind of crazy that we started 2020 with a wedding, and ended 2020 with a wedding, and what a perfect way to end a year that has kept so many of us far away from our loved ones.

Being able to celebrate with my friends and family for a day is a memory I'll never forget”.

A Royal Jacobite Sporting Gun

by Paul Macdonald—Macdonald Armouries

Reprinted with the kind permission of the author and the West Highland Museum, Cameron Square, Fort William.

The 31st December 2020 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Prince Charles Edward Stuart. To commemorate this special occasion the West Highland Museum has organised a series of articles written by scholars, academics, authors, and Jacobite enthusiasts. In this ninth in the series, military expert and proprietor of MacDonal Armouries, Paul MacDonal, focuses on a special Jacobite weapon.

A Royal Jacobite Sporting Gun

In my profession of crafting custom historic arms, some of the most rewarding and insightful work comes in the form of handling and studying original examples. The opportunities to refurbish and examine originals present themselves quite regularly, though handling pieces of notably significant provenance are always rarer honours to cherish.

I was honoured indeed in 2016 to be asked to refurbish the private collection of Donald Cameron of Lochiel, the 27th chief of Clan Cameron. This is undoubtedly one of Scotland's most important family collections of arms. Spanning some 350 years, many of these edged weapons and firearms were once owned, carried and used by the legendary ancestral chiefs of Clan Cameron. These arms are the tangible links to those remarkable men and their histories.



One of the most impressive and significant pieces in the whole collection is a flintlock musket of outstanding provenance. Crafted in France c.1735 - 45, this was Prince Charles Edward Stuart's personal fowling piece.

This sporting gun is of the highest quality overall and is made with a wender or turn-about flintlock mechanism. It has an over-under configuration of two barrels, with a flintlock

loading/firing mechanism on either side of the main body. The lock on the left side (as viewed with gun shouldered) is curiously upside-down. After priming and loading both barrels and flintlocks, the top barrel can then be fired (activated by the right-hand flintlock mechanism). The operator then puts their fingers underneath the trigger-guard and pulls it up into the body. The trigger guard when pulled activates an internal spring



lever, which allows both barrels to be rotated a full 180 degrees that the lower barrel becomes the upper and may then be fired.

The walnut stock is beautifully carved with scroll designs to complement the engraved steel fittings. Not one component of the gun in fact is without quality decoration. The lock bears the name of Bourdieu, Paris (operating there from 1735 - 1750) and refurbishment more clearly revealed part of an inscription running down the top of the barrel -

**TU:NE:CEDE:MALIS:SED:CONTRA:AUDENTIOR:ITO:
(QUA:TUA:TE:FORTUNA:SINET)**

(As for you, don't give way to evil: on the contrary venture forth more boldly on the route which your destiny permits). This quotation is from Virgil's Aeneid as Sybil urges Aeneas to acts of greater daring and is known on other Jacobite relics.



One flint-cock was replaced in 1995 by the National Trust in preparation for the gun being displayed as part of The Sword and The Sorrows exhibition at Culloden in 1996. One barrel has also at some point in its life been replaced with one of wooden form. This has likely been the result of damage or breakage (a possible fracture from over-charging) that would have rendered that barrel dangerous to use. The replacement wooden barrel still shows signs of age and professional quality craftsmanship (suggesting this may have been carried out during its working life or in the C19th at latest).





The back of the barrel is decorated with a prominent engraved and gilded Crown and Thistle device. It has been suggested this may originally have been crafted for the Prince's Father, King James VIII, though a counter-point to this may be presented in the fact that targes were crafted for use during the '45 which also incorporated a thistle and crown device, symbolising the Scottish King that was to be.

This gun was originally gifted to 7th Earl David Wemyss, Lord Elcho by Prince Charles Edward Stuart. Francis Lord Elcho, son of the 7th Earl of Wemyss made a gift of the gun to Cameron of Lochiel in 1808 (Donald Cameron, 22nd Chief). It has been held in the Lochiel line since that time. This gun also played a part in the history of the '45 Rising, with sporting shooting being a favoured pastime and skill the Prince enjoyed practicing. The following references make mention of this gun and the Prince's skill at arms.

From "The White Cockade" by The Baron Porcelli, 1949, p.155 -"June 1746 -

Thursday 15th (May) to Thursday, June 5th - The Prince remained in the forester's house at Corodale for twenty-two days, amusing himself by fishing and shooting. At this time the island of South Uist was considered the best for game in all Scotland, teeming, as it was, with grouse, partridges and all kinds of wild fowl and also plenty of deer. The Prince, who had always been a first-class shot, would bring down dozens of grouse in a day."

p.211 -
"September 1746 -

Breakachie also brought three guns ("fusees") belonging to the Prince, one mounted with gold, the second with silver and the third half mounted. The Prince, who was delighted to see these guns, said, "It is a remarkable thing that my enemies have not discovered one farthing of my money, a rag of my cloathes, or one piece of my arms."

That night, the whole party started off again. Sunday 14th - Reaching Corvoy, which means the corry of the Moy Burn, by daylight, they rested there during the day. After feeling refreshed, and deeming himself to be in a perfectly safe spot, the Prince made all the party throw up their bonnets in the air and fire at them with the Prince's guns, to see who was the best shot. The Prince proved to be an easy winner."

The Lochiel gun would appear to be the fore-mentioned one mounted with gold. This Royal firearm displays the highest levels of mid-C18th gunmaker's craft and seamless engineering in equal amounts. Along with the additional provenance of it having been fired by the Prince himself during the '45 and being a part of the unique Lochiel collection, this stands today as a historic relic of singular importance.

West Highland Museum's Object of the Week (6 January 2021)

This week's object of the week is a heavy dirk with a backed blade is made from steel with a wooden hilt decorated with a Celtic knotwork design and brass pins.

The dirk belonged to Big Duncan Cameron, known in Gaelic as Donnchadh Mor Camshron. At the Battle of Prestonpans in 1745 Duncan was anxious to go forward before the battle and was being restrained by his chief, the Gentle Lochiel. Finally, Duncan broke free and charged across the field followed by other Camerons.

The dirk was bequeathed to the museum by his great-great-granddaughter.



Teaching in Rwanda

By Heather Cameron

It has been 16 years since I had the privilege of travelling to Scotland as the New Zealand Cameron Clan First Light Ambassador. For a few weeks of my time in Scotland, I was hired as sole teacher on the Inner Hebrides island of Eigg, population 87! It was a special time getting to know something of the unique Hebridean culture whilst teaching all 4 of the school aged children on the island.

In 2016 I again headed overseas to teach and experience another culture. For two years I taught as a volunteer at a mission school in the Republic of Rwanda in East Africa. I guess the only similarity between Eigg and my adopted home town of Musanze was that I again had a very small class!



Musanze town with two of the volcanoes in the background

Known as the "land of a thousand hills," Rwanda is a mountainous country, bordering on Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Rwanda has experienced quite a violent history, including the 100 days of genocide in 1994 of Tutsis at the hands of the Hutu government. The country has yet to recover fully or come to terms with this violence decades later. However, during my time in this amazing country I always felt safe and at home.

Musanze is the tourist hub of Rwanda as it accesses the Volcanoes National Park, which is home to the mountain gorilla and the golden monkey and was the base for the famous primatologist Dian Fossey. There are five volcanoes to the north and east of Musanze which make for spectacular views on clear days. At an altitude of 1850m the climate is pleasant with similar temperatures to our spring.

The local people are friendly and welcoming. Relationships are valued highly so you always meet people with a handshake. Rwandans also value hospitality and the custom is to invite yourself over for a visit! When you do you will be served food and drinks and proudly shown around the home.

Rwandans also take great pride in their environment and personal dress. The streets are virtually rubbish free and they were one of the first countries to ban single-use plastic bags. It is common to see people early in the morning washing their porches and sweeping their yards. The women often wear stunning colourful dresses and will wash their shoes daily to keep them dust free.

Virunga Valley Academy, the school I taught at, was



After school baking

founded and is run by American Christian missionaries who have other community projects in Rwanda.

My students were all locals, full of energy and enthusiasm and an absolute joy to teach. They loved superheroes and princesses and in many ways emphasized that kids are the same the world over whether in Eigg or Rwanda!

As with my experience on Eigg it was a lovely change of pace from the 25+ class sizes and traffic jams of life in Auckland. The trip to school in Rwanda was a short 15min walk and it was lovely having the opportunity to visit families or have the class for afternoon tea at my place to teach them how to make pikelets and Anzac biscuits.

Community involvement is important at Virunga Valley. One Friday a month is a real highlight for the kids as it's movie night at school. Families come to enjoy an outdoor movie projected onto a big sheet. And when the power inevitably went off the adults talked and the kids played!

Community service was also part of the schools mission statement. Once a month a couple of classes visit the children's



Getting up close to the mountain gorillas

ward at the local hospital and take food packages. The hospital rooms are completely void of any colour and are eerily quiet.

Families have to provide their own bedding and food so you see the gratefulness in the parent's eyes when they receive a simple brown paper bag with oranges, bananas, biscuits, soap and milk. Other community projects involved us visiting a

boy's orphanage home and helping build toilets for neighbouring communities.

Being based in Rwanda for two years, I had time to take part in several bucket list activities away from school. On one occasion, over a long weekend, we visited the Queen Elizabeth Safari Park across the border in Uganda. It was an unforgettable experience being up close, in the wild, to hippos, buffalos, alligators, lions and elephants.

Even more spectacular was a guided trek in rugged steep terrain to see the famous Rwandan mountain gorillas. We were able to stand within a few metres of these endangered giant creatures – literally look them in the eye.

As a Cameron, I will always have a special regard for Scotland and grateful to Clan Cameron for facilitating those few months in Lochaber and my experience on Eigg. I also have a soft spot for the wonderful friends I made in Rwanda and look forward to returning there one day to "invite myself home!"

By Editor:

Heather was our First Lighter to Scotland in 2005.

As part of her exchange Heather spent five weeks on the Inner Hebrides island of Eigg as sole teacher at the island's Primary School. The total roll was four.

She was warmly welcomed by the islanders and wrote to us about the stunning views but also the harsh winter weather.

Below are photos of her time on Eigg.



Visiting a student's family at their home



Fancy Dress Day



Heather's class on Eigg



The Eigg Primary School

