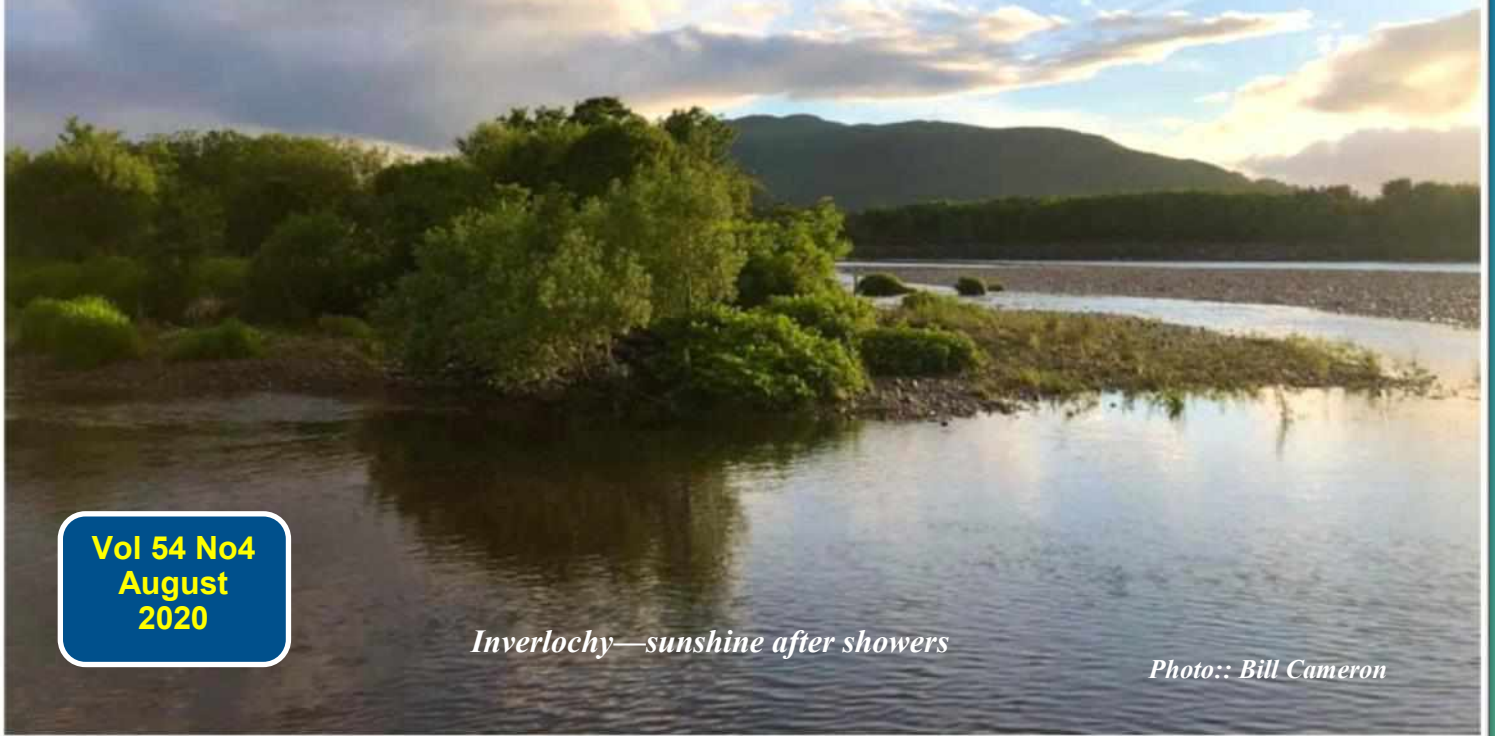




# Cameron



*The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.*



**Vol 54 No4  
August  
2020**

*Inverloch—sunshine after showers*

*Photo:: Bill Cameron*



*Buttercups beneath the Ben.*



*Water lilies—Glen Nevis - Photo: Bill Cameron*

*Photo: Bill Cameron*



## “Cameron”

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

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## A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

Since our last newsletter Julie and I have been preparing to move from our house to complete a much needed renovation following the earthquake and for some future proofing of a home we built 36 years ago. We completed the move last weekend ... so I do not envy Denis and Joy Cameron doing the same early next month to move to Christchurch from Tauranga. At least we only had a move of 3kms! We are delighted that they are joining our Canterbury Branch and no doubt we will find them some work on the Scottish Heritage Council. In doing the move I have had to relocate my home workshop including lathe, grinders, power tools etc. but this has given me a chance to hopefully improve the setup I had before. The lesson here perhaps is to stop hoarding and to do an occasional move to enable a clean-out of non-essential items.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that my brother Andrew had returned to Hawkes Bay from Afghanistan to help with COVID-19 testing. He is now on his way to South Sudan to carry out another Red Cross assignment.

I have had some advice from Tanya and Alison about the best way to organize our executive meetings and will shortly see if it is practical to arrange a Zoom session with those that can manage this technology. I have been a little cautious about trying to organize anything in terms of travel because of the ever changing COVID-19 outbreaks. The situation in Victoria Australia is an example of how quickly plans can be disrupted.

We have had notification that the Hororata Highland Games event is still to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. Julie and I look forward to a catch up with some of you at the always fantastic Auckland Clan dinner on the 22nd August.

Keep safe.

Cheers, Nick.



## Coming Events

**Auckland Branch Dinner.** 22 August at the Parnell Hotel, 10-20 Gladstone Road, Parnell. 6pm for 6.30. Contact Neil for a flyer. Flyers for Auckland Branch members who have not responded enclosed with this magazine.

**Manawatu Branch Dinner.** 29 August at the Wharerata Function Centre, Massey University. 6pm. See Manawatu Report, page 4.

**Hororata Highland Games.** 7 November. <https://hororatahighlandgames.org.nz>

### Postponements:

**International Gathering Achnacarry.** The gathering may now take place in July / August 2022. No firm decision has yet been made.

**Auckland Highland Games.** Postponed one year until 20 November 2021.

**Waipu Highland Games.** Postponed one year until 1 January 2022.

**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 Sept 2020**

**Printed By**

# Denis and Joy Cameron

*By Patricia Cameron (BOP Branch Secretary)*

On the 26th July 2020 members of the Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty Branch will farewell Denis and Joy Cameron as they leave the Bay of Plenty to settle in Christchurch among family. They have given many years to the Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty Branch and Clan Cameron New Zealand.

Denis joined the Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty Branch in 1978 after seeing an advertisement in the local paper asking the Cameron's of Tauranga to join Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty Branch for their AGM to be held at the Hauraki Regimental Army Hall in Dive Crescent. There were over 50 people present and they were very happy to welcome both Denis and Joy into Clan Cameron and Denis was nominated for the Bay of Plenty Branch Committee. Denis has given 45 years to the Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty Branch and Clan Cameron New Zealand.

Joy joined a little later and she has given 32 years as the Treasurer to Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty Branch. Joy has assumed this role ever since. She made sure that all the figures were correct and that the annual accounts were easy to read. Joy is a great organiser and is known as the "Raffle Lady" and if you wanted to know where Joy was at any meeting she attended - she could always be found arranging meals in the kitchen. Joy was presented with a Bay of Plenty Branch Life Membership Certificate that acknowledged this commitment by the late Harold Cameron MBE JP.

The first social meeting Joy and Denis attended was at the invitation of the late Charles Cameron in 1975. It was a cool winters night with a great fire going, the traditional Athol Brose and trimmings with a couple of pipers and a couple of drummers at Dive Crescent. Ray Crafts: one of our most recognised members, presented to the Bay of Plenty Branch a truly magnificent reproduction of the Clan Cameron Crest and a Bard's Wand. This was much appreciated by the members of the Bay of Plenty Branch.

There were plenty of Ceilidhs over the years held at the Ohauti Hall with over 100 members and guests present from our and other Clans and they organised similar gatherings which were held around the Waikato/Bay of Plenty regions. Denis and Joy attended many meetings/gatherings from Auckland to Dunedin and were passionate about including other Clans and their members into the Clan Cameron family. Their home was always available for any BOP Branch Committee Meetings, BBQs, Potluck dinners and luncheons with plenty of Scottish hospitality.

In 2009 – both Denis and Joy attended the Clan Cameron International Gathering at Achnacarry Castle and joined with many Camerons from around the world. Following the 2009 International Gathering - Denis and Joy flew over to the Shetland Islands to track down some of their family members who were living there and ended up living in Ashburton. They were Jamiesons, Rattrays, Ratter and Moodie families. They discovered that their Shetland Island ancestors travelled to New Zealand on the "Blairgowrie" that sailed from London on 29th May 1875 and arrived at Lyttelton 22nd August 1875. The Shetland Islander men folk were both fishermen and sheep farmers at Walls and Sandness and they would have been hunting whales in the North Sea off the Shetland Islands. They saw some of their fishing boats in the Shetland Museum and Archives in Lerwick and they looked so big and clumsy, where each boat would have four oarsmen plus the harpoonist at the front of the boat. What a hard and dangerous life in the North Sea with many losses of life while fishing.

Denis firmly believes that his Shetland male ancestors, became part of the Blairgowrie's crew and that their families had free passage from Lerwick to Lyttelton. This was because they had good seamanship experience and were used to sailing boats in the North Sea. One such man – Denis's great grandfather named Tom Jamieson helped to build the Rangitata River Bridge, close to the town of Ashburton in New Zealand.

Cameron representatives from the Cook Islands attended one of the Clan Cameron New Zealand Annual General Meetings held in Tauranga

During his time in the Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty Branch – Denis held the Office of President, Vice President, Secretary, Membership Co-ordinator, Historian Researcher and Public Relations Officer, while for Clan Cameron New Zealand – Denis was the Secretary, President and New Zealand Commissioner for the Chief of Clan Cameron - Lochiel.

In 1999 Denis was delighted to receive a Life Membership of Clan Cameron New Zealand, that was presented by the New Zealand President at the time, Dr Maisie Earle OBE MBE.

Recently Joy received a Certificate of Appreciation for 32 years of Service and Denis received a Certificate of Appreciation for 42 years of Service from Tanya Cameron, President of the Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty Branch.

They will be missed by all members of Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty Branch. We wish them well in their new adventures

*(photos on back page - Ed)*

## An Earlier Pandemic

*By the Editor*

As we fight the current flu pandemic, I think back to the Asian Flu pandemic of 1957, in which I was caught up. This was the second flu pandemic of the 20th century and was relatively mild when compared to the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918/19, in which up to 50 million people died. However, with the Asian Flu, 1-2 million were believed to have died.

In 1957, I was a member of the crew of HMNZS Royalist which was carrying out a tour of duty in the Far East. We were away from New Zealand for 14 months but as a young single man I was enjoying life and not worried about separation from home and family as many married men were.

The ship was visiting Japan and had arrived at the US Naval base in Yokosuka, near Tokyo. At that time the Asian Flu was raging in the area and an American medical team came on board and gave us all an injection, using a sort of compressed air gun. This was meant to give us some

protection but didn't do much good. Up until then we had no cases on board but, in the next weeks, over 80% of us contacted the flu, with serious to mild symptoms. However, the ship managed to continue its programme and sailed for Kobe. No isolation or quarantine was observed.

In Kobe I caught the flu. The more serious cases, which included me, were put on camp beds in the ship's recreation space, as the sick bay was full, and that is where I spent the next week or more, with a very high temperature. I have no recollection of that time at all.

The ship, during this period, visited the west coast of Korea, where I had patrolled during the Korean War. I had been looking forward to re-visiting that area but was not even aware we were there. Sadly, one of my shipmates died from complications following the flu and was buried there in the War Cemetery in Pusan, Korea.

We can be thankful that most of the world has learnt from these and subsequent flu pandemics and that our government has reduced our risk by enforcing isolation and quarantine. I hope you will all keep safe and well and look forward to more normal times ahead.

## From the Branches....

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

### **Auckland** by Rob Cameron

The committee met mid-June to discuss the annual dinner. As the country had moved back into level one with no restrictions (at least none where we are concerned) the easy decision was made to continue as planned. The dinner will be held on the 22nd of August at "The Parnell" (previously known as the Quality Inn Hotel). Originz will be returning to provide the main entertainment for the evening. It will be a great night of socializing and entertainment.

The Kirkin' o' the Tartan usually held on Tartan day was moved to the 26th July this year due to complications after coming out of lockdown. A small group will attend this event to hold the Cameron banner.

Clan Cameron members have been invited to attend a Clan Donald dinner, held on 1st of August to celebrate the changing of their commissioner. Clan Donald are strong supporters of Clan Cameron and we will have a presence for this dinner to show our support.

The committees current focus has been the dinner in August; however, we will soon start planning for other events. Due to the lockdown, council funding has ceased for many events, this includes events like the Auckland Highland Games, many Christmas parades, and even into next year's North Shore Tartan Day Tattoo. Further cancellations like the Waipu Highland Games may make it a quiet summer for clan participation.

### **Manawatu** by Anne Walker

We are pleased to advise that Clan Cameron Manawatu will hold our annual mid-winter dinner on Saturday 29th August, commencing with pre-dinner drinks at 6pm. This annual festive occasion will be held at the Wharerata Function Centre, Massey University where we can enjoy the comfortable Edwardian ambiance of this historic building and superb catering service.

We are looking forward to warmly welcoming you all, to enjoy the company of Clan members, and friends. Pipers from the Manawatu Scottish Pipe band will entertain.

All members, friends and supporters of Clan Cameron branches are invited. We would love to see as many as possible attend.

Cost is \$58, and this includes a welcome drink on arrival. Cash bar.

As numbers are limited, please ensure you register your interest as early as possible by emailing Anne Walker on [akwalker@xtra.co.nz](mailto:akwalker@xtra.co.nz), or ringing or texting on 027415 4105.

Please RSVP by 19th August 2020.

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

As was noted in recent Branch recordings, the COVID-19 lockdown and it's diminishing severities has impacted hugely on everybody's lifestyles. The cancellation of the Hastings Highland Games signalled the beginning of our forced hibernation as a Branch. Apart from phone calls there has been little communication between members as we each navigated our way through the



various phases of our new existence. So sadly, nothing exciting to recount Branch-wise.

But living in the provinces means that your existence inevitably revolves around agriculture, the production of food – an essential industry, and COVID is just another curve-ball thrown into procedures. Frustration at the convoluted way business had to continue was probably the most lasting memory of the season. Later came the impact of closed borders on the thousands of migrant workers who we have come to rely on for our harvests and market preparations.

These workers have largely been caught in a very distressing situation where they came, at our request, to work for a legislated period and now find – because of Border closures – that they are stranded here and not allowed to work to support themselves. They are enduring isolation in a foreign country away from Home and Family, with no continuing means of support not knowing how many days-weeks-months before they can go home . . . . .

Kiwis who have fled the chaos of the worlds El-Dorado's to come home to the safe haven created by the "team of five million" have absolutely no grounds to complain about 14 days of quarantine on their homecoming. In the words of our own Fred Dagg – "They don't know how fortuitous are their circumstances!"

### **Bay of Plenty** by Tanya Cameron

The National AGM we were to host was cancelled due to COVID-19 gathering policies so we haven't had a chance to get together as a branch this year.

We will be having our BOP Branch AGM and a leisurely sit down buffet to farewell Denis and Joy Cameron (before they leave at the end of July for Canterbury) on Sunday the 26th of July 2020 at the Te Puke Citizens RSA Club. The plan is to be in from 1030ish and have the AGM from 1100am until midday with lunch from 1230pm. Due to the speedy nature of this event and restrictions, there will be no haggis or entertainment, just our family and friends sharing stories, laughter and time. I am hoping during the buffet meal, that those who would like to publicly say something to Denis and Joy before they go do so, and that we will move around the room and catch up with people we haven't seen in a while. Denis and Joy are only moving islands and towns not leaving the country so we hope to still hear from them from time to time.

I will be attending the Auckland dinner and Manawatu dinner (snow dependant) again this year. I would love the opportunity to visit other branch events also. Maybe the Branch Secretaries could send me details as they come up and I can also put them on our Facebook page so if others are in the area, they may wish to attend also.

Rug up warm and see you all soon

PS. At the AGM above, Ray Crafts has taken on the position of Patron, Bard and Piper. Alison Thompson is the Treasurer, Patricia Cameron Secretary and I am President.

### **Canterbury** by Rae Magson

No activities for Canterbury Clan members in the last two months, guess we are still getting over lockdown, however it is nice to have a little more freedom.

An invitation was received to attend the Canterbury Scottish Heritage Council Tartan Day at Lincoln on 19 July, this was forwarded to all members.

Arrangements are being made for the Hororata Highland Games in November.

Brian Cameron is a member of the Rotary Club of Ashburton, and at a recent meeting he was awarded the Paul





## Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

*Ceud Míle Fáilte  
One Hundred  
Thousand Welcomes*

Iar Branch

Janne Grant

Marton

Harris Award. Brian has been a Rotary member for 16 years and a third generation farmer. He was the first with a deep bore well in Mid-Canterbury and published author on irrigation. He is a keen support of Rotary's annual Bookarama. IrrigationNZ honoured him with the organisation's Ron Cocks Memorial Award for outstanding leadership in irrigation as part of the IrrigationNZ 2012 Conference. Brian is also a loyal member of Clan Cameron Canterbury.

The Paul Harris Fellow Award is to show appreciation to encourage, and recognise, substantial contributions to Rotary International.

*Iar (Taranaki/Whanganui) by Neville Wallace*

It has been about ten years since I embarked into an unpaid world of radio broadcasting as a hobby. It has been interesting journey meeting the various people who are connected to Farming and are willing to share with me their expertise to support the Agricultural Industry. The other interesting aspect is how equipment has changed in the field of communication. It was a very technical situation ten years back when I had to go into the local radio station to record all the interviews I had lined up. They would be broadcast a few days later at six fifteen AM. It was not long after I started this career change that the local radio station was closed and moved to New Plymouth.

We endeavoured to record people interviews over the phone with three people, but it ended with too many technical issues relating to sound quality. Then I was directed to another radio setup called community radio this was where I recorded through my original source, but I was to learn that many interviewees could not be available at that time. So, I purchased my own recording equipment put the phone on speaker and lined the microphone up to capture the conversation, probably not as good as a commercial set up, but we made it work!

With the rapid advance of technology, cell phones have become smartphones and billing systems have changed tremendously. I have an Australian friend who was in NZ, promoting her farming books so I did an interview with her, here in NZ. When I got my phone account, I was charged at Australian rates here in NZ! But a little chat with my service



provider got me on a plan that encompasses Australia as well. When part of your family decides to live in Australia you need to keep in touch!

During this time smart phones have got even smarter and now have the ability to become a mini computer and host many add-ons such as social media which come with their own built in messaging systems which allow the user to global personal conversation.

But getting back to my rural radio content. I have expanded my contacts to other countries to extremes such as Antarctica where the temperature was minus 60, then to the top of the world speaking to an exchange student from Sweden about an education system for preparing students for coping with future life such as loans, mortgages and maybe some home skills. Regrettably, we now live in an age where life beyond school is never discussed over a meal at the dinner-table

Farming is all about coping with nature and we are living with an ever-increasing number of compliance issues, plus the idealists who have numerous unproven ideas to do it their way! Farms have increased in size due to the costs of living and raising a family. It is a different life from the metropolitan way. We work alone from home most of the time. So, when it comes to rural radio and the work I do; life under Covid-19 lockdown was just another day at the office!

A farmer is the only one in our economy that buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale and pays for freight both ways. JFK

*Wellington/Wairarapa by Graeme Cameron*

We had a very successful meeting and "Sunday roast dinner" at the Aston Norwood cafeteria this afternoon. We had 22 members plus Eoin's two grandchildren attend the function.

Rob and Cath gave a very interesting talk on their trip to China and Russia which was very well received.

*By Ed: Please refer to the February 2020 issue of this magazine for a description of Rob and Catherine's trip by train across China, Siberia and Russia.*



## Introducing Henry Cameron

– Head Coach of our Premier Women

*By Bryan Haggitt*

We welcome Henry to the Parnell Cricket Club to take up the position vacated earlier in the year by Rob Nicol. Henry is an old boy of both Rathkeale College and Palmerston North Boys High, of farming stock and a former cricket captain of Wairarapa.

In recent years he has been coaching in South Australia and the photo above was taken last summer whilst he was fighting fires on Kangaroo Island near his fiancée Georgina's family farm. Apart from his 4 years in South Australia, Henry also played in England, being the professional for the Dorking CC in Surrey.

He is now residing in Remuera and we very much look forward to seeing him around the Terry Jervis Centre.



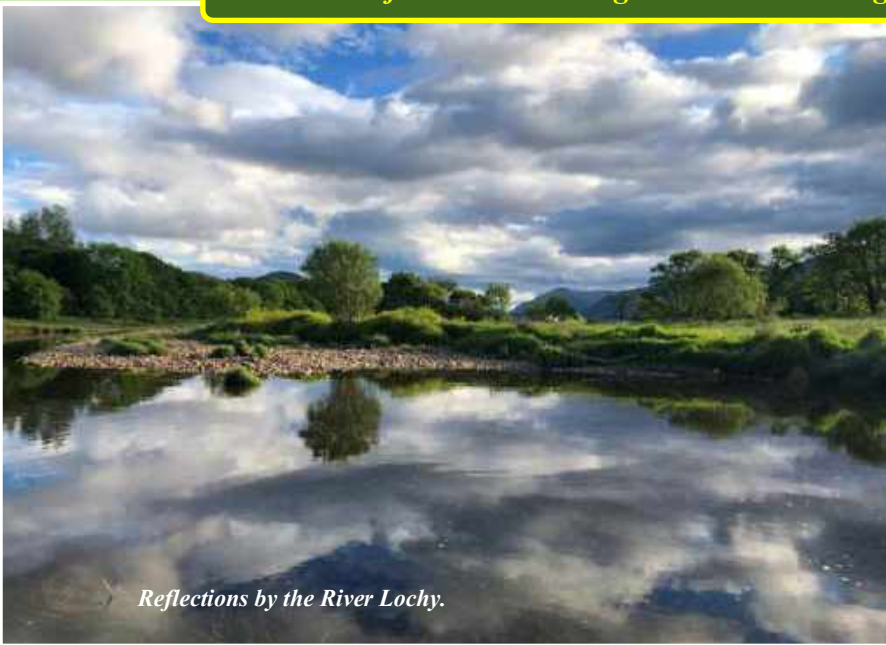
The Parnell Cricket Club is New Zealand's oldest cricket club, having been established in 1858.

The Auckland Branch of Clan Cameron has used their facilities for branch AGM's for many years.

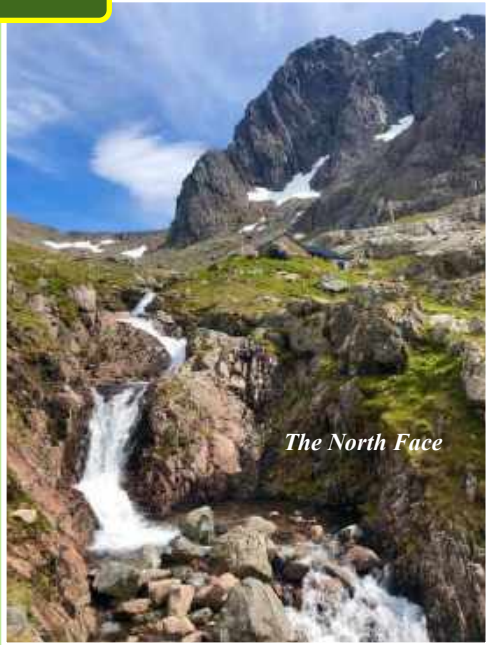
*Henry Cameron  
pictured in the  
Terry Jervis Centre*



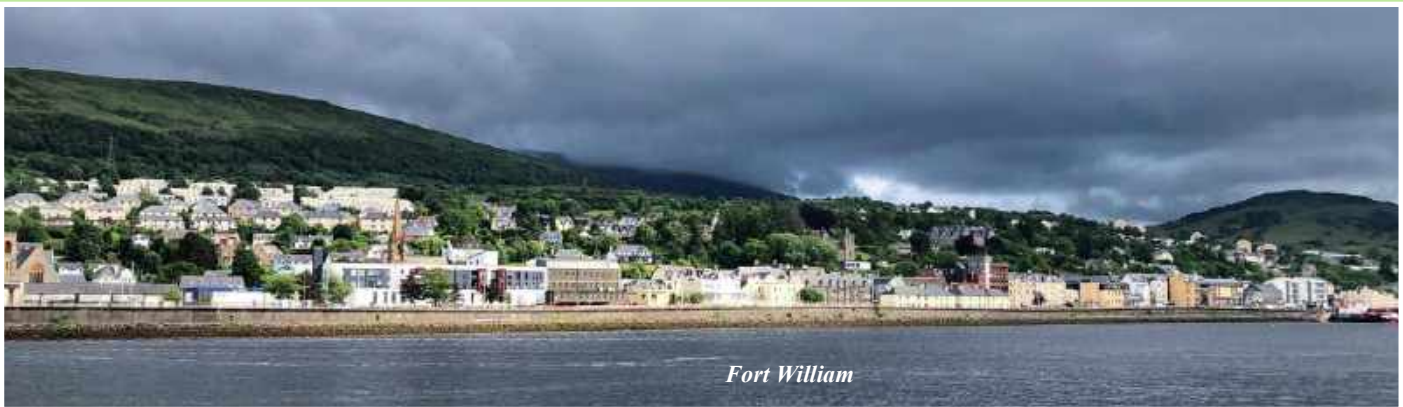
*More of Bill Cameron's great Lochaber images.*



*Reflections by the River Lochy.*



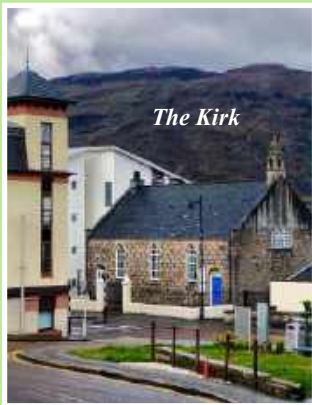
*The North Face*



*Fort William*



*The Lochan—Glen Nevis*



*The Kirk*



*Morning mist, Glen Nevis.*

**Looking Back**

*Neil Cameron with Florence Cameron and First Lighters Astie, David and Bill Cameron at a farewell dinner in Fort William in 2004.*

*Neil was completing a six day visit to Scotland to attend the funeral of the 26th Chief. He had brought two cartons of the Cameron jig-saws with him to be sold in Lochaber to raise funds for the International Gathering to be held in Auckland the following year. He also took the opportunity to acquire material for display at the gathering by visiting Fort George and other museums.*

*He will never forget the kindness and hospitality shown to him by those shown here and others in Scotland. We hope that the First Light Scheme will be re-activated and continue to engender lasting friendships with our kinsfolk in Lochaber.*





# The Camerons of Callart

By Bryan Haggitt

Two references in the last newsletter relate to my line of Camerons - you mention the unveiling of the statue of the 24th Lochiel by Mrs Cameron-Lucy of Callart in 1909. And Bill's article on the Cameron Obelisks in Lochaber.

Before Culloden, my Cameron ancestors had owned Callart - on the northern the shore of Loch Leven directly opposite Glencoe. I believe that the House was on a direct path to Fort William, over the mountains to Glen Nevis, rather than the route along the shores of Lochs Leven and Linnhe via Ballachulish.

Culloden was a disaster for the family - Gt, Gt, Gt, Gt Grandfather Allan Cameron of Callart was wounded at the battle as was his eldest son John. Worse, his brother Ewen was captured at the Siege of Fort William and executed in 1746. Allan, himself, was captured, incarcerated on a prison ship in London. Sentenced to death, but this was commuted on account of him having helped a wounded English officer on the battlefield. Instead, he was banished for life, took refuge in France and died in 1749 at Dunkirk. Callart lands were forfeited to the Crown.

In 1784 the Callart lands were restored to John, the eldest son, following the payment of a fine. The same year the second son, Charles, a captain in the 76th Regiment, MacDonald Highlanders, died of wounds suffered whilst fighting in America.

In 1787 John sold the Callart lands to a cousin but died two years later. The cousin who purchased Callart was Sir Ewen Cameron of Fassifern, father of Col. John Cameron who was killed at Quatre Bras, the battle that took place 48 hours before Waterloo.

James, the surviving 3rd brother of the original Callarts, had two sons - Ewen and Allan. Ewen became a banker, went to London, married twice but left no male heir.

Allan, my Gt Gt Grandfather, was born in 1768. He was a captain and paymaster of the Lochaber Fencibles and Factor to Lord McDonald of Sleat. As Factor he lived at Loch Maddy, North Uist, and Gt Grandfather John, of Marangai, Wanganui, was born there in 1817. Allan's wife was Mary Anne, a sister to Louisa, wife of Ewen of Fassifern. Mary Anne and Louisa were daughters of Duncan Roy Campbell of Barcaldine and Glenure. Duncan was a brother of Colin Roy Campbell, "the Red Fox", the Government Factor for the forfeited estates who was shot in 1752 near Ballachulish.

Back to the Callart land and the new owner - Sir Ewen Cameron of Fassifern. He was created a baronet in 1827 but died in 1829, leaving his estate to his son, Duncan. It was Sir Duncan who built the house (c. 1830) by Loch Leven that is in the course of renovation today.

Sir Duncan was Godfather to John of Marangai, and died in 1863 leaving a daughter, Christina. It would have been his gt grand-daughter, the Mrs Cameron-Lucy who, in 1909, unveiled the statue of Donald Cameron of Lochiel, 24th Chief of the Clan. Her full married name was Ada Christina (nee Lucy), Lady Ramsay-Fairfax-Lucy.

Callart House was lived in regularly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries despite the Lucy family owning considerable property in Oxfordshire. But, following WW 2, the House was abandoned and fell into total disrepair. About 15 years ago a Fort William surveyor, John Strachan, purchased the House and, with his wife, has been painstakingly restoring this historic building. Sited close to the Loch and amongst mature and stately trees, it is most picturesque. Jenny and I have visited twice and been shown right around by Mr and Mrs Strachan. Restoration is being done with great care but a wonderfully worthwhile project.



Loch Leven



# Our First Weekend of Covid - 19 Lock-down

by Brian Cameron (Wairarapa)

On the Thursday prior to the weekend the lady in our cottage, former world champion woman sheep shearer Jills Angus Burney, shored her lambs in our shed that had been grazing with their mothers in our paddock. After reorganizing her flock she put the 13 newly shorn lambs, now weaned, back into our paddock and their mothers went to another paddock that Jills had along the road. It began raining on Friday so Jills ran the shorn lambs back into the shed and fed them hay until Sunday morning by which time we had gone from severe drought to flood conditions caused by 145mm of rain.

Normally water to our house and cottage is from two 5000 gal tanks collecting off the roofs but during dry spells we usually switch the toilets onto a supply from the creek that runs through our property and supplies our garden taps and also the various troughs around our 13acs. Warning bells rang when early Saturday morning our toilets began to flush very muddy water. The creek was in flood! I rushed out to the house pump and shut off the creek supply and opened the tap that supplied from the tanks. I then went across to the cottage and did the same there. The lights were on in the cottage but Jills was already over at the shed checking on her shorn lambs. I then found a raincoat and went and inspected the creek which for several years now had become infested with a new type of weed called celery cress which is not watercress.

The creek was flooding over its banks and clumps of this celery weed were being dropped away from its proper course. Oh well, not too serious. Later that afternoon, Jills noticed that the bridge on the long driveway upstream of us was blocked underneath with this weed and water was ponding back upstream. She rang the Regional Council and it wasn't long before an officer was outside our gate talking to me on the phone. I was able to explain it all to him as he drove up our drive but I stayed inside and no direct contact was made. The decision was to wait till morning and bring a digger in.

The digger arrived about 9am, which was Sunday, and I had an open air discussion with the council officer who had his mask on and I was keeping a good two metres back. I became concerned about a two wire electric fence I had running along part of the creek to protect lambs from getting into it and not being able to get out again, something that had caused losses in the past. I threw some gear and my thigh

waders into the ute and drove out our drive and back up this other drive which we bounded onto. I put on my waders and with some gear climbed over the fence and had a look. There wasn't much I was going to save at that end. It was well tangled in with the celery weed and, although away from the main channel, the water was still too deep and swift from the 75mm that had been dumped overnight. But further along I was able to reach the wires and managed to save about 100m of wire and stakes. While there Jills and a neighbour strolled along our drive which the creek ran close to at this point and began giving me some lip about needing chest high waders. I was having to be careful as it was so my reply was short and sharp! I wandered back up to where the digger was accumulating a mountainous heap of weed from under the at risk bridge. Several days previously I had begun feeding willows to my small flock of ewes in this paddock so I grabbed my electric chainsaw and headed across to one of the only two trees that weren't surrounded by flood water. At the same time two new neighbours on this drive came along each with a wheelbarrow of feed for their horses. We enjoyed a conversation over the fence and they then moved on and had a yarn over the fence with the council officer. I threw my gear back into the ute and headed back to our own drive and its bridge which leads to our true neighbours who were heading off for a walk themselves so that was another opportunity for a yarn. They were also able to grab the digger themselves for a quick job before the driver loaded it back onto his truck and drove away.

It had all been very sociable but everyone kept their distances. Later that afternoon I received a friendly email from my edit advisor who with her husband live in a lovely area of bush near Titirangi Village in Auckland. We get on well and I happily replied in kind. Our current work is the story of the two Wairarapa coastal properties where I grew up being Flat Point Station and Glenburn Station. 'Coastal Stations is now held up from publishing and her comment was, 'How dare this covid thing interfere with our book!'

Monday morning looked a promising day until I found that the pump from the creek had choked up with mud and muck which I had to spend time cleaning out. As it would have been pumping on nothing I wondered if there was serious damage but no - it started like a charm and quickly went up to full pressure. Then I discovered another piece of good news. The water in the creek was now back in its proper channel and the digger had spread the celery weed around. The ewes discovered it and were thoroughly enjoying their new tucker so no more cutting willows.

What we have shown from all this is that farming still has to carry on regardless and that keeping distances is not a problem once we are used to it. We should always be aware of it especially during the winter months.

## St. Valery Commemoration

By Chris Doak

On 12 June 2020, hundreds of Pipers around the world joined in playing a tribute to the thousands of Scots who were killed or captured at St. Valery-en-Caux on 12 June 1940. It is widely believed - even to this day - that the British Army High Command, and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, sacrificed the 51st Highland Division to allow the successful mass evacuation of the British Expeditionary Forces from nearby Dunkirk.

The Division, comprising 4th Cameron Highlanders, 2nd and 4th Seaforth Highlanders, and 1st and 5th Gordon Highlanders, were either killed in fighting, fallen to their death from the cliffs, or captured and marched hundreds of miles to POW Camps in Eastern Europe. On a

personal level, my Uncle Tommy, 4th Cameron Highlanders, fell into the latter category, and spent the next 5 years as a prisoner of the Germans.

More than 200 Pipers from 16 countries, took to their doorsteps at 10am on June 12, and played the piper's march "The Heroes of St. Valery", composed by the late Pipe Major Donald Maclean, Seaforth Highlanders.



Finlay and Sandy Cameron from Inverlair play 'The Heroes of St. Valery at Spean Bridge.'



# This Week in 1745: The Bonnie Prince sets sail for Scotland

by Ally Entwistle.

Part one (Published in the Lochaber Times 16 July 2020)

This August, on the 19th to be precise, it will be 275 years since Prince Charles Edward Stuart - 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' - sparked the last, and most successful, of the Jacobite risings when he lifted his fluttering standard into the Loch Shiel breeze at Glenfinnan.



Glenfinnan Gathering 2011  
Photo: Bill Cameron

Today the 400,000 visitors that stream into this tiny hamlet every year might gaze down Loch Shiel, squeezed in between truly majestic hills, whilst thinking how beautiful it is, and pause to take a picture of the conveniently-situated stone tower with the kilted man on top, almost as an after-thought, before they turn the other way and head up the glen.

The main prize for many Glenfinnan visitors these days is 'the Harry Potter bridge', preferably with the 'Hogwarts Express' puffing over the top of it.

'Concrete Bob' MacAlpine, whose brainchild the viaduct was, would be spinning in his grave. In his day it was the Eighth Wonder of the World, a triumph of engineering.

But for many Scots, the dark waters of Loch Shiel and the 18-metre (60 feet in old money) monument are a bitter-sweet place of pilgrimage, the site of a hopeful spark which started a rising that could have changed the course of British history. But it ended nine months later, trampled into the blood and mud on a muir in the carnage that was Culloden.

Whilst debates still swirl around the actual, physical spot at which Prince Charles Edward raised the standard - reputedly sewn in red and white silk by women at nearby Dalilea - the monument and the loch along which the Prince was rowed remain the focus for modern-day Jacobites.

To mark the 275th anniversary of the start of the last Jacobite rising, this week we launch our new series involving a weekly timeline of the events leading up to that momentous day at Glenfinnan on August 19, and afterwards, along with some of the interesting facts and artefacts associated with the rising.

It was in 1744, that King Louis XV of France had formally declared war on Britain. Two merchants of Irish extraction operating in France - Walsh and Rutledge - had recently bought two ships from the French government in order to expand their operations and to act as privateers to cruise against the English in the war.

Walsh, who had made his money in the slave trade, came from Irish-Jacobite stock. His grandfather had been a captain in the French navy and it was on board his ship that the Prince's grandfather, James VII and II had fled from Kinsale, Ireland, to France in July, 1690, after the Battle of the Boyne, an unsuccessful bid to regain the British throne.

Walsh and Rutledge's ships comprised an old 64-gun man-o'-war, the Elisabeth, and the 16-gun, light frigate Du Teillay, which had been built at Nantes and just been launched in 1744.

The Prince was introduced to Walsh and Rutledge and not only did they pledge to lend him their ships, but also placed £3,800 in his hands.

And so the romantic endeavour begins...

**June 20** - The Prince makes his way to Nantes in disguise, and then sails to St Nazaire on a fishing boat, to board the Du Teillay.

**June 21** - the Du Teillay leaves St Nazaire, and sails to Belle-

Isle.

**July 4** - the Elisabeth joins the Du Teillay. On board the Elisabeth are 100 marines, 2,000 muskets, 20 cannon, 11,000 'arm' and 500 or 600 French broadswords.

**July 5** - the expedition sets sail and gets off to a promising start, with a fair wind which continues for the next few days

**July 8** - dead calm ensues.

**July 9** - at around 4pm as the ships approach the English coast off the Lizard, the most south-westerly point on the British mainland, a sail is spotted windward, which proves to be the Lion, a British man-o'-war of 60 guns.

With the Lion bearing down on the Du Teillay, the Elisabeth has the first broadside, and the ensuing battle lasts nearly five hours before the two parted - almost by mutual agreement. Night is coming on and by this point they are both almost wrecks. On board the much smaller Du Teillay, there is little the Prince can do but stand back out of range and watch.

The Elisabeth is so badly damaged that she can not even pull up alongside the Du Teillay to transfer 300 casualties and limps back to France, to the port of Brest. This leaves the expedition at an early disadvantage - the Elisabeth is carrying the bulk of the arms and ammunition. The Du Teillay continued on her voyage towards the western Highlands.

**July 11** - a sail was spied, and gave chase to the Du Teillay. A small, swift vessel, the Du Teillay outran her pursuer.

**July 15 and 16** - rough seas and tempestuous weather.



The intricate model of Du Teillay at NTS Glenfinnan Monument visitor centre.[

(To be continued)

## Who was Bonnie Prince Charlie?



The 1745 portrait of Prince Charles Edward Stuart by the artist Allan Ramsay. Photograph courtesy of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery

**Full name:** Prince Charles Edward Louis John Casimir Sylvester Severino Maria Stuart

**Place of birth:** Rome

**Father:** James Francis Edward, nicknamed The Old Pretender

**Grandfather:** James VII and II, who had been ousted in the so-called 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688. James was the last Catholic monarch of England, Scotland and Wales.

**Supporters:** called Jacobites (from Jacobus, the Latin for James).

**Emblem:** White rose - The Old Pretender's birthday, June 10, was known as White Rose Day by Jacobites.

With thanks to the Lochaber Times, Mark Entwistle and Bill Cameron

# Glen Innes: The Home of the Australian Standing Stones

By Denis Cameron

We arrived in Australia on the Sunday 29 April, 1990, the day after we spent a lovely afternoon listening to the “Scotland the Brave Concert” with members of the Auckland Branch.

For the next two days, we spent time looking around Sydney and took a ferry trip on Sydney Harbour. This certainly gave us an insight of just how big and picturesque the harbour looked. Apparently the Auckland Harbour is far larger than the Sydney Harbour.

Tuesday morning, we picked up our rental car and made our way towards Penrith. We took time looking at the Penrith White Water Stadium – the venue for the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games for the canoe slalom events.

It has 320 metres of solid Grade 3 water designed to test the skills of the best paddlers in the world ... and when you reach the bottom of the course, all you have to do is paddle over to the conveyor and catch a ride back to the top once again ... not bad!

Operating at normal capacity, enough water flows through the pumps to fill a 50 metre Olympic pool in just 55.7 seconds. Wow!

Wednesday, we took a leisurely trip to the Town of Leura, where we meet up with Dr Bob and Bet Cameron and stayed the night with them in their 100 year old home.

What a lovely town, the autumn leaves were turning rich brown and yellow colours.

Bob and Bet were tremendous hosts and the following day we started our trip to Glen Innes via Tamworth where we stayed the night.

On Friday morning, we took off for Glen Innes where we were guests of the Glen Innes Council for morning tea with the Mayor, followed by lunch with the Deputy Mayor.

The Town Crier, resplendent in the Glen Innes Tartan even called us forward to be introduced as visitors from New Zealand.

The Glen Innes Celtic Festival’s main venue - is the Australian Standing Stones - an array of granite monoliths like those around which the ancient Celts danced.

The four day festival provided non-stop entertainment including the street parade, spectacular ceremonial roles performed by re-enactment groups; the Spanish 9th Roman Legion, the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment, Celtic Strongmen events, the Kirking of the Tartan, massed pipe bands, children’s entertainment, dancing, flag raising ceremonies, poets’ breakfast, dog trials, market stalls, fun run and plenty of Celtic foods.

Glen Innes in 1992, had a population of 7000 and I think the whole town was involved with the Celtic Festival.

This was the “Year of the Scots” and the Special Guest was Paul Anderson, a Fiddler Extraordinaire from Scotland. The guest pipe band was the Southern Scenic Waimatuku Pipe Band [from New Zealand] who brought with them members of the Tautapere Highland Dancers [a population of 600].

What a team they were and certainly put New Zealand on the map with their high quality music and dancing. It was great to be a New Zealander.

Saturday morning, Joy and I travelled out to the Australian Standing Stones on Tynwald Hill - long before the sky had lit up - to find that the area was still bathed in moon light and had an eerie silence.

Suddenly, the lone piper appeared from behind the outer perimeter and then we could see the outline of those massive granite stones looking almost ghost like – majestically - and then as the semi darkness began to lift – the

stones began to show their true form – with rising of the sun. What an unbelievable sight.

To rise at dawn and listen to the eerie skirl of pipes in the brisk autumn morning is an experience not to be missed. Usually, there would have been mist surrounding the area, but that morning, the region was bathed in moonlight.

As the Lone Piper retreats, the haunting tune “In Christ Alone” to herald the start of the 16th Australian Celtic Festival.

The flags of the Celtic nations were raised - a welcome offered, guns fired and a brief history of the Standing Stones, were explained to the hundreds of hardy soles who were present.

It was hard not to think that one was in Orkney, where we could see the outline of these massive granite stones – almost ghost-like – looking magical and then as the semi - darkness began to lift - the Stones began to show their true form with the rising of the sun. What an unbelievable sight.

I can imagine, just how my ancestors from the Shetland Islands must have felt, as the long boats of the Vikings invaders began to materialise through the mist and then they fell among the Islanders with gusto.

The Australian Standing Stones comprise 40 granite monoliths.

Of these, there is a circle of 24 stones representing 24 hours of the day, three central stones, four cardinal stones marking true north, east, south and west and seven stones marking summer and winter solstices, the longest and shortest day of the year.

The Australian Standing Stones, are the official National Monument to Australia’s Celtic pioneers and venue for the annual Australian Celtic Festival.

The ancient Celts raised stones as calendars to mark the seasons – when to sow - when to harvest and they later developed religious significance.

Strange myths and legends surround the stones in Europe and while no such claims are made for the Australian Standing Stones - some visitors have felt a powerful spiritual influence as they walked among the array.

The Standing Stones were erected by the dedicated citizens of Glen Innes and were inspired by the Rings of Brodgar in Scotland’s Orkneys.

The original erection for the Australian Standing Stones in Glen Innes – had been undertaken in recognition of the contribution made by the peoples, with Celtic origin in Australia over the last 200 plus years.

The site is to serve cultural gathering places for people from the Celtic Communities; the Irish, Welsh, Scottish, Cornish, Manx and Bretons.

As such, this array has major historic significance. It is also appropriate to acknowledge the Ngoorabul people, as the traditional Guardians of this land.

The Standing Stones in circles or in other configurations are part of the landscape in all Celtic countries past and present.

The Celts may not have built them all, but in their shadows the ceremonies of Europe’s first pastoral people were held millennia before Christ, up to recent times and now here in Glen Innes.

The Stones stand to mark the sacred places of Celtic people and are used as focal points for ceremonial meetings and national gatherings.

At Glen Innes, the Guardians are appointed and charged with protecting the site - both physically and culturally.

The Guardians are asked to renew their commitment to the site as Special Celtic Place of Celebration each year, as part of the Australian Celtic Festival by taking part in The Guardians of the Standing Stones Ceremony.

The Guardians are the leaders from various Celtic societies and people recognised for their responsibility to the



Glen Innes community; who are willing to promise they will do their utmost to preserve, both the physical stones as a National Monument to Celtic Australians and to the spirit of Celticity which dwells here.

New Guardians are appointed from time to time; the Ceremony is brief, but is meant to demonstrate that each Guardian is charged with personal responsibility. Each Guardian is robed, parade from the Gorsedd Stone into the inner circle of the Standing Stones, where they form around the Chief and Deputy Chief Guardian [The Mayor and Chairman of the Celtic Council of Australia]

We offer our congratulations to Mrs Valerie Smith, President of NSW Clan Cameron who was made one of the New Guardians.

On the Saturday night, Joy and I were present at the Scottish Australian Heritage Festival Dinner and were entertained with a very enlightening speech given by Dr Bob Cameron on his family tree.

On Sunday afternoon, all activities ceased for the Kirking of the Tartan and Celtic Blessing, followed by the Parade of the Tartan.

The recently appointed Clan Cameron Commissioner in Australia, Dr Robert Cameron, was brought forward and formally recognised as Lochiel's Commissioner for Australia.

This was very impressive and we were delighted to be able to be present to see Dr Bob being recognised and then being presented with an acknowledgement from the Celtic Council of Australia for his work on genealogy. A wonderful achievement and well deserved.

The next morning, being Monday, we said our sad farewells to the Cameron's of Australia, who had made us feel so very welcome and went out of their way to make us one of them. Our sincere thanks to you all.

From Glen Innes, we made our way south along the coast passing through Coffs Harbour to the Great Lakes Region of Forster and Tuncurry, the Pacific Palms Resort where we stayed for 6 days.

We left the Pacific Palms to fly out from Sydney and back to New Zealand. We had a wonderful 2 weeks, meeting plenty of wonderful people and had travelled 3000 kilometres by car on our trip and are now back for a rest and catch up.

Each year up to twenty different Clans and representation from the six Celtic nations turn out in force to hold their annual Celtic ceremonies and spectacles. This year [2020] Ireland and the Isle of Man will feature.

For some time, the Festival has worked on a six [6] year cycle celebrating official Nations individually, with the addition of Galicia and Asturias. As a result of this cycle some visitors only attend every [6] years to see their favourite or home Nation and participation numbers have fluctuated between 4,000 and 6,000 attendees.

For the future sustainability of the Festival, it is important that the Festive continues to grow and maintain high participation and interest levels.

New Three [3] Year Cycle. In consultation with the Australian Standing Stone Management Board, it has been agreed to operate in a three [3] year cycle in the coming years combining the recognised Nations.

The Australian Celtic Festival will recognise six [6] Celtic Nations to be featured at the Festival. The cycle and Nations will be as follows:

- 2019 Scotland
- 2021 Wales, Cornwall and Brittany

Scotland is a strong Nation with a proud history and very popular with Australian Celtic Festival attendees as a unique theme. It is because of these that Scotland will remain a stand alone Nation. Ireland and the Isle of Man both also have cultural similarities and share heritage in the Gaelic languages and traditions.

While the Nations will be combined, the Festival will ensure that all honoured Nations are celebrated through ceremonies, performer selection themes and gourmet food.

Wales and Brittany share a common ancient history and in remaining Celts in the western land so Britain and in some moving across a the channel to Brittany.

Cornwall was briefly called West Wales by the Saxons



*The Glen Innes Festival 2019 - the ceremony to recognise Neil MacDonald as High Commissioner of Clan Donald in Australia. Photo: James Cameron*

and Brittany is "little" Britain to the larger lands of Great Britain.

These Nations share a back ground of Brythonic strand of Celtic language. Other Nations of course have Celtic history and the Australian Celtic Festival continues all Celtic heritage within this new Format.

This is my final "big" effort before Joy and I leave the Bay of Plenty region and migrate to the Mainland and take up residence in the region of Christchurch.

"Leis gach deagh dhurachd"

[With every good wish **Denis Cameron:**



*The Australian Standing Stones Photo: Glen Innes Severn Council*





# Aonaibh ri Cheile

## The Back Page



The Wellington/Wairarapa lunch at the Aston Norwood Cafeteria

Above: Lawrence Cheetham, John Vaughan, Sonja Cameron, Robyn Tuckett, Hylton Tuckett, Rob Cameron, Cath Cameron, Jennie Vogel, Elizabeth Cheetham.

Left: Colin Cameron, Brian Cameron, Marion Cameron, Jenny Cameron, Jill Cameron, Jan Thompson, John Thompson, Hazel Cameron, Erina and Rex Wood.



Left: Rob and Cath Cameron with Mongolian hat and shoe mementos. They gave a talk about their travels.

Centre: Eoin and Heather Cameron with grandchildren Oliver and Findlay.

Right: A pre luncheon view of the room at the Aston Norwood. (All photos: Graeme Cameron)



Auckland Kirkin' o' the Tartan photo: Bryan Haggitt



Above: Joy and Denis Cameron with Elaine Cameron.

Right: Waiting for lunch—honeycomb table layout



(All BOP photos: Tanya Cameron)



Bay of Plenty AGM and Farewell to Denis and Joy Cameron. From left: Tanya Cameron, Rhys Fenton and Mary-Anne Cameron, Denis and Joy Cameron, Janet and Ray Crafts, David Cameron, Pat Cameron



Branch Patron and Bard, Ray Crafts, addressing Denis and Joy