



# Cameron

*The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.*

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*Finlay Cameron, our new First  
Lighter, plays at the Glenfinnan  
Gathering.*

*Photo: Iain Ferguson*



**We wish you a Happy Christmas and hope you keep safe and well in 2023**

## “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,  
Achnacarry, Spean Bridge,  
Inverness-shire, Scotland. PH34 4ES

#### New Zealand President and Commissioner

Dale Cameron Bailey  
6 Harapaki Street, Meadowbank, Auckland 1072  
Ph. 09 521 5329 dale.bailey@xtra.co.nz

#### Secretary

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

#### Treasurer

Hillary Hakaraia  
2 Crestlands Place, Papakura, Auckland 2110  
09 299 8672 HillaryHak@xtra.co.nz

#### 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

Rob Cameron  
15B Gavin Street, Ellerslie, Auckland 1060  
Ph. 022 525 3151 robcameronnz@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.j.cameron@nowmail.co.nz

##### Iar (Taranaki / Whanganui)

Neville Wallace  
242B Turu Turu Road, RD 14, Hawera 4674  
Ph. 027 416 3563 neville.wallace@talk2me.co.nz

##### Manawatu

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

##### Wellington / Wairarapa

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

##### Canterbury

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

##### Magazine Editor

Neil Cameron,  
SA 551, William Sanders Retirement Village  
7 Ngataranga Road, Devonport,  
Auckland 0624  
Ph: 027 948 5808 kncam@xtra.co.nz

##### Web Co-ordinator

Tanya Cameron  
Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

##### Facebook

<https://m.facebook.com/ClanCameronNZ>

## A Message from our Chief...

Last year, I said it was difficult to concoct a cheerful message and although matters have improved since then, it is a bit early to relax and I hope that clansfolk around the world are safe and well.

I very much hope that we will be able to hold a gathering at Achnacarry in 2024 - probably in early August and I hope that many clan members will be able to attend.

My family are all well - no more grandchildren yet! My wife, Cecil, has written a novel called "An Italian Scandal" which has been very well reviewed and is selling well! My children are all working hard and have interesting jobs. My son is a member of the Scottish parliament which he much enjoys despite the clamour for independence.

The Estate is in good shape and as I said last year, our Hydro schemes are making a big difference in that they produce a good annual income which we can use to improve our assets. We have also done a lot of work in the garden which now looks lovely with a new avenue of lime trees and lots of wild flowers.

I realise that it has been difficult for branches around the world to operate effectively given the constraints of Covid but I would like to thank you all for keeping the clan spirit alive and well - I am very grateful to all those who help in so many different ways.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and hope that 2023 is a happy and healthy year for all of us.

*Donald Cameron of Lochiel*



## And from our Commissioner...

Kia ora tatou, greetings to us all

I have just returned from the amazing Hororata Highland Games in Canterbury. What a great day celebrating community spirit and our Scots culture. Organisers said that they had sold 20,000 tickets to the event, and it was a real celebration of piping, dancing, and the "heavies" field events. Twenty bands were in attendance, their largest field since starting. Great community stall holders and wide array of Clan societies added to the occasion.

Thank you to the team who staffed the Clan Cameron stall where we got lots of visitors and members visiting. This was the 11th Hororata Games and it was full of energy and vitality. So good seeing such community spirit and interest in having a good family time. On our way out the manager of the entrance gate said so many people were interested in the Clan societies and the public mentioned to her it as a highlight of their day. You should consider putting it on your list if you have never been before. Lena and I really enjoyed our first visit this year, Lena hosting in the Clan Matheson tent. On days such as this you can see how much Scots culture is appreciated in New Zealand. Even with no Scottish connection.

What was also really nice was to meet and welcome our First Lighter Finlay Cameron. It was wonderful to see him enjoying the day. He both entered the solo piping competitions and was appointed a judge of one of the band competitions. Finlay is excited about his time in New Zealand and very keen to meet members across the country. We have plans to move him around over the next 6 months so there will be opportunities for you to meet and talk with him. Thanks very much to Bryan Haggitt and the Auckland branch for getting Finlay here in New Zealand. If you happen to be in Auckland on the 3rd of December we have a recital by Finlay on offer, so you can hear this talented piper for yourself. Thank you to all who have donated to the funds to enable Finlay to travel to and around New Zealand.

Well 2022 is rapidly drawing to a close, and I wanted to wish you and your family the very best Christmas and New Year. This year we have seen us begin to break free of the pandemic which has disrupted so much of our lives. It's great to see people out again and enjoying each others company in person.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Clan Cameron. I look forward to seeing you at some of the upcoming highland games and events over the summer.

*Aonaibh ri Cheile*

*Dale*

*Cameron December 2022*

# Finlay John Cameron

By Nick Cameron (President Clan Canterbury Branch)

*Clan Cameron Canterbury Report on a First Lighter Visit by Finlay John Cameron of Lochaber to date as at 13th November 2022*

I picked Finlay up from the airport 1st November Tuesday 8.30pm and took him to our home on Auchenflower Road, Darfield which is 30 minutes inland from Christchurch. He informed me that he had just finished turning a set of bagpipes on his lathe but had not blown them to date.

On Wednesday night he was invited to tune up the Cale Grade 3 band and was taken in to the Cale Band Rooms in Christchurch by my fellow plant breeding workmate James Kinsman who is a piper in that band.

On Thursday I introduced Finlay to Chris Charles who has just finished restoring 2 sets of Pianolas. Finlay has a set which he would like to restore. Chris has an extensive engineering workshop with various lathes, milling equipment etc.

As it turned out the drone sound from the new pipes was exceptional and the following Saturday morning at the Hororata Highland Games (5th November) our Pipe Major from the Canterbury Caledonian band asked how he managed to get such a great sound from them. I had entered him in the Grade 1 MSR event in which he came a very creditable second with Natt Russell (an international judge) adjudicating. The organizer's were so impressed he was asked to judge the Band events during the afternoon. This included mainly South Island Bands from Grade 1 to 4 from Nelson down to Invercargill... so Finlay had a very busy time. After his solos in the morning, he helped briefly with the Clan Tent and before judging was asked to carry our Clan Cameron Canterbury Banner at mid day. We also had great support from our Commissioner Dale also carrying the National banner who had flown down from Auckland. Also supporting the Clan Tent was John Cameron who had travelled down from the Manawatu branch and who did an awesome job selling raffle tickets and giving out free haggis and helping where I could not because of my band piping commitments during the day. Also helping on the Tent was my wife Julie, daughter Rowan, and son Hamish. It was great also to get support from Allan Cameron from Blenheim - father of Rob Cameron (President Auckland Branch). Over 10,000 people attended the games on the day.

On Sunday the 6th November we took him to my daughter Rowan's property at Fernside to play some birthday tunes for my grandson Evan which was highly appreciated by my family.

On Monday 7th November he started work for Cropmark Seeds of which I am one of the owners. His work involved framing and bagging 500 pair cross grass plants with pollen proof covers and working alongside myself and James Kinsman mentioned above, along with a French couple and other New Zealanders. This has given him a flavour of the life we have in this country. On that night I introduced him to Donald Gannaway (my own pipe tutor). Donald is well known in piping circles and was the founder of the Gannaway pipe bags and for many years has taught piping. He was so impressed with Finlay he asked if he could see him the following Friday morning where he gifted him 13 vintage pipe chanters and a set of small pipes.

On Tuesday night 8th November Finlay tuned up our band and was able to spend some time with Graeme Bryce of "Bryce's Bagpipes".

In the afternoon of Friday Finlay was asked to play for the Canterbury A&P show in the Grand Parade in front of 30,000+ people with a combined grades Cale Band with 21 other pipers including myself.

On Saturday 12th November Finlay was invited to Ray and Nancy Drury's property to inspect their extensive vintage car and motor cycle collection along with their pipe organ and pianola collection. Nancy gifted Finlay another collection of 15 antique pipe chanters. Nancy is the former Pipe Major of the Ladies Cale Band and still plays with me in our 4A Band. Her daughter Elizabeth Drury is a former Grade 1 Pipe Major of the Cale band and now leads the 4A band and is a full time pipe tutor.

Today (Sunday 13th) from 9am to 11 am we had a visit from Daniel Milosavljevic (a Grade 1 piper/teacher) who explained his PhD thesis on the history of Piobaireachd music in New Zealand. This afternoon Julie and I took him up to Lake Lyndon and Castle Hill to give him a flavour of our South Island high country.

Tomorrow he will start immunoblotting individual grass plants for endophytic fungal presence in the Cropmark Laboratories.

He is an absolute pleasure to host and I think we have to date kept him fully occupied. He is a talented piper and also plays a wooden flute rather well. He repaired and played a set of Julie's made around 1890 ... the first time either of us has listened to them.

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## Cameron Town

by Dale Bailey

Just south of Pukekohe there is a small remnant of the New Zealand Land Wars and a place with a unique Cameron heritage: Cameron Town. Named for Lieutenant General Duncan Cameron, Cameron Town was a staging post on the lower reaches of the Waikato River. It was used as a supply route for the invasion of the Waikato by the British colonial forces in the 1860s. Supplies were freighted from Onehunga around the coast through Port Waikato and up to Cameron Town. Waka from Māori supporters of the Crown ferried the supplies up river to support action against the Kingitanga.

The site is also notable in that it was a significant skirmish and two of the British troops were awarded Victoria Crosses. Vincent O' Malley noted historian of the Waikato Wars describes this event in his landmark book "*The Great War for New Zealand Waikato 1800-2000*". In the morning of 7 September 1863 a party of 100-200 Kingitanga attacked the settlement. The raid was effective, ' before departing the

Kingitanga force had seized or destroyed some 41 tons of commissariat supplies, ... and effectively destroyed the fledgling canoe-borne supply line' (page 238).

At Tuakau the garrison heard the gunfire and set out on a difficult 8 mile overland trek. On approaching Cameron Town they heard the Kingitanga loudly conversing, concluding that they were drunk. They were ordered to fix bayonets and attack, but the British soon discovered that the enemy were on the alert and far from inebriated. The Kingitanga force responded with ' a most terrific fire'. The British fought bravely into the night to extricate themselves from a very difficult situation, two of their number Colour Sergeant Edward McKenna and Lance-Corporal John Ryan being awarded Victoria Crosses for their actions.

Little of the town remains, however the maps mark a historic reserve and there is one road, Cameron Town Road. Today its open countryside with kahikatea reclaiming the swampy areas alongside the Waikato River. Its peaceful nature today denies its place in the history of the New Zealand land wars.

# From the Branches....

**Auckland** by Rob Cameron

The focus for our branch is in preparing for Finlay Cameron's Arrival, and what he will be doing for the first few months of his stay here in New Zealand. At the executive AGM earlier this year, it was decided to put some money aside for Finlay's internal travel, so we have organised, with Dale, the priority events that we need to get Finlay to up until the end of January. This includes getting him back to Palmerston North for Square day in December and The Turakina Highland Games in January. Hopefully by then Finlay would have met most of the people he will be staying with after that.



The clan was hosted by Jeff and Shona at Jeff Thompsons Art Studio in Helensville on October 24th. About a dozen members attended the invitation which was during the Arts in the Ville annual art trail. It was great listening to Jeff talk about his inspirations and art works and giving us a look into his passion.

Finlay arrived in New Zealand on the 1st of November and has been spending most of his time in the Christchurch region. He is already started engaging with the Clan Cameron members and various Pipe Band members by attending and competing in the Hororata Highland Games. It was great to see the photos pop up on Facebook of Finlay with Nick and Dale and great to hear that had a podium finish in his first solo competition. The Auckland members are eagerly awaiting Finlay's arrival on November 19th.

Bryan Haggitt has organised for Finlay to play at the Remuera Heritage Christmas Party on November 20th. We also intend to get Finlay involved with the likes of St Kentigern College and Auckland Grammar, both which have junior Pipe Bands.

A recital for Finlay to show off his piping skills has been organised for December 3rd at the Parnell Cricket Club. Invitations have been extended to pipe band members and other clans for anyone to attend who would be interested in seeing Finlay play. We will be putting on a BBQ with sausages and some of the clan members will supply some salads. Donations will go towards Finlay's expenses. As the Auckland Highland games have been cancelled this year, the focus for the clan will be the Waipu Highland Games on January 1st. We will be promoting Finlay as part of the 150th Highland Games celebrations and getting him involved in the competitions on the day.

Personally, I am gearing up for the Santa parade season before Christmas. These include Farmers Parade in Auckland CBD, Papatoetoe, Mangere Bridge, Howick, Ellerslie, and Papakura. I hope everyone is gearing up for a great summer season, a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to all.

**Manawatu** by Anne Walker

Clan Cameron Manawatu are busy planning for their summer events. We are looking forward a busy summer during which we will host Findlay Cameron, our First lighter, and will be able to participate in the local highland games event once again.



Our hospitality tent will be at the **Jenny Mair Square Day** in the Square, Palmerston North on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Cameron members and friends are very welcome at any time during the day to come by our clan tent and share some time. If we get there early (as we usually do) we will have a good spot from which to watch the piping.

Clan Cameron Manawatu will also be present with their Clan tent at the **2023 Turakina Highland Games** on Saturday

28<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and we look forward to this as last year the event was cancelled due to Covid. Turakina Highland Games is always a great event. It's the oldest highland games in the country having run for more than 158 years. A celebration of all things Scottish, the programme includes band competitions, solo piping, music, dancing, and sports all packed into a full day. We look forward to seeing Clan members there.

As we all prepare for Christmas 2022, we extend our best wishes to all Clan members for a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Please keep up to date with our news on the Clan Cameron Manawatu facebook page, or if you have any questions please email us on: [clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com](mailto:clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com).

**Hawke's Bay** by Hamish Cameron

In my last report I was lamenting the unusually persistent run of unpredictable weather we were experiencing at a time of expected tranquillity. Well, I have just had a lesson of the --- "you don't know how lucky you are"---- variety.

For the majority of the past eight or nine weeks I have endured the vagaries of the Auckland climate and its "four seasons in a day" deliveries. Trying to complete development/ maintenance schedules in unpredictable weather conditions becomes akin to picking Lotto numbers -- more misses than successes. Apart from the weather though, there are more insidious hoops to jump through, its called traffic ----

Though for those of us from Middle earth, it sometimes feels more like driving into a massive car park --- it plays havoc with planned time management.

However, mission accomplished, I now return to the familiar - and the start of advertising campaigns imploring ----"only so many days to Christmas ----" Cant be ---- that signals another year gone and therefore this is the last newsletter of 2022.

Time to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas that extends into the new year.---

From all of us in Hawkes Bay.

**Bay of Plenty** by Tanya Cameron

The Bay of Plenty Branch has not been together since the last issue. I hope that this will be remedied in the new year.

Finlay Cameron is now here from Scotland and will be in our area in March or April next year. If you would like to offer to host Finlay or have thoughts about what we could be showing him in our area of local interest, please email me your thoughts.

I am still keen to gather a few paragraphs from our membership to allow us to learn something we didn't know about each other when we are next together.

Please remember to pay your 2022 Subscription as this pays for you receiving your newsletter every 2 months.

Stay safe in this ever changing world we live in and look out for your family, friends and neighbours.



**Canterbury** by Rae Magson

Recently the Annual General Meeting of the Clan Cameron Canterbury was held at the home of Rae Magson. We still have the same officers! Afterwards we went out for lunch at Cleavers, a popular eating spot in Ashburton. Arrangements were made for the Hororata Highland Games.



Iar by Neville Wallace

Our Clan Cameron Iar had our November meeting with only four members present but we had a useful conversation about the forthcoming visit from Finlay Cameron and were able to come up with sound ideas of involving the local Pipe bands.



As some of you know I do a local rural radio programme and a good source of information can be obtained from Newstalk ZB I was listening to Mike Hosking this morning discussing the slower road speeds that will be eventually rolled out over the country. Now several issues come to mind, now most of you will be drivers, have you encountered those pedestrians who will just walk out in front of a moving vehicle with out even looking. If it should happen to you, you curse them. When we went to school, we used to have a representative from the local AA who came and taught us about road rules. They have remained with me and if only the youth of today would learn what a wonderful safer world it would be, and the road toll wouldn't be what it is.

On the rural side of this milk tankers, articulated food transporters, may be required to travel at 60 Km per hour think of the logistics involved here.

On that note I will leave it at that Slainte maith, h-uile latha, na chi'snachfhaic!

Merry Christmas every one

As you will see elsewhere in this Newsletter, Finlay has arrived! Fantastic news, he flew in to Auckland on 31 October and was met by family friends who took him to Managwhai for the night. Next day he eventually flew to Christchurch (Jetstar had a 3 hour delay) where he was met by Past Commissioner Nick and already he is making his mark in Canterbury.



Finlay reaches Auckland Saturday evening and Jenny and I will be hosting him for the next few weeks before he flies to Palmerston North for their Square Day on 10 December. There he will meet and, possibly, pipe with the Manawatu Scottish Band.

Finlay will be piping at Remuera Heritage's Christmas Party at Sotheby Real Estate's rooms in the Old Remuera PO – from 2pm. This is for members of RH only. Then Clan Cameron Auckland's party at the Parnell Cricket Club's pavilion at Shore Road Reserve from 5pm on 3 December – all welcome.

Whilst in Auckland over the next couple of weeks I'd like Finlay to meet as many Camerons as possible. I'll be showing him around Auckland and hoping to take him to Saint Kentigern's Campuses at Pakuranga and at Remuera.

Please, if you would like to meet Finlay, please phone or email me – 021 0264 5021 or bchecho@xtra.co.nz.

## Coming Events

### Saturday 3 December 2022 5pm

#### Finlay Cameron Recital

Parnell Cricket Club, Shore road, Remuera.

No charge but a donation to First Light would be welcomed.

Sausage barbecue follows.

Enquiries to Jenny Haggitt,

bchecho@xtra.co.nz telephone 524 5254.

### Saturday 10 December 2022

#### Jenny Mair Highland Square Day

The Square, Palmerston North

8am –6.30pm.

A great day for all.

See Manawatu Report on page 4.

### Sunday 1 January 2022.

#### 150th Waipu Highland Games

The Cameron tent will be there. Visit us and give us your support. Begins with a street march at 9am.

www.waipugames.co.nz

### Saturday 21 January 2022

#### Wellington/Wairarapa Branch Family Gathering

The Wellington-Wairarapa Branch are planning to hold a family gathering including a

BBQ at Rob and Cath's residence at Opaki on Saturday 21 January 2023. More detailed information will be forwarded to branch members closer to the date. At this stage, please make an entry in your diary for this date.

### Saturday 28 January 2022

#### Turakina Highland Games

Cameron Road, Turakina

Come and enjoy a day in the country.

Starts 8.30am.

www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz

### Saturday 11 February 2022

#### Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo

9am to 9pm Paeroa Domain.

The Cameron tent will be there.

www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

### Friday/Saturday 10 and 11 March 2023

#### New Zealand and South Pacific Pipe Band Championships

Hagley Park, Christchurch.

info@rnzpb.com

### Saturday 20 May 2022

#### National Gathering and AGM

Masterton Club, Chapel Street, Masterton.

Morning ~ executive meeting, morning tea, AGM, finger food lunch.

Afternoon free but we will offer a couple of visits to local places of interest, wineries etc Evening ~ entertainment with music, dancing, meal, haggis etc. Trying to think of something like the indoor Highland Games we had last time or a speaker.

Registration form with costings out in the new year

### Santa Parade Dates (Auckland) with pipe band attendance.

Farmers Parade - Sunday 27th November  
Onehunga - Saturday 3rd December  
Ellerslie (morning) and Papakura (afternoon) - Sunday 4th December  
Papatotetoe - Wednesday 7th December  
Mangere Bridge - Thursday 8th December  
Howick - Sunday 11th December

### Pipe band competitions are;

Paeroa Highland Games - 11th February 2023  
Auckland Centre Contest - 19th February 2023  
Central North Island Contest 25th February 2023

## Clan Cameron Gathering. Achnacarry August 2024



Tentative date is August 2nd - 4th.

Accommodation is often difficult in Fort William at that time of the year so early booking is essential

If anyone is interested in a group tour please contact the Editor.

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Nov 2022

Printed By

# My First Two Weeks as a First Lighter

By Finlay Cameron

My first two weeks in New Zealand as a “First Lighter”, have been packed with exciting experiences and opportunities right from the start. I was collected from Christchurch airport (weary, following a three hour delay in Auckland) by past Commissioner Nick Cameron, who was to be my first host along with his wife Julie. I spent the first couple of days recovering from the journey, along with preparing for my first Highland Games appearance at Hororata, where I carried the Cameron banner beside Dale Bailey for the main parade. I also took the opportunity to play in the ‘A’ grade light music contest, as well as judging the band ‘medley’ competitions in the afternoon.

The picture above shows me playing my pipes by Nick Cameron’s ‘Five Arrows’ gate, where I was accompanied on vocals by their two young springer pups – ‘Roy’ on the left, and ‘Taurluath (Tor for short)’ on the right. To the left and below, is a picture from my ‘A’ Grade MSR performance at Hororata Highland Games, with Pipe Band legend Nat Russel taking the judge’s bench. The right-hand photo is of me showing Nat the pipes I made just before I left Scotland. In the middle is a photo of myself and Donald Gannaway, founder of “Gannaway Pipe Bags”.



Following the games at Hororata, I was soon “put to work” by Nick – I was kindly offered some hours at Cropmark. My first week was very rewarding – I got to work alongside a lovely French couple, and fellow piper James Kinsman of Canterbury Caledonian Pipe Band. I had the pleasure of attending the practices for Canterbury Caledonian’s Grade 3, Grade 4, and juvenile bands. This was a great chance to meet other pipers and have a listen to some excellent music. I was also invited to play at the Canterbury A&P show which was a great privilege. I could be seen donning a mismatched kilt outfit and making a mess of the counter march!

I had the pleasure of visiting Ray and Nancy Drury on Saturday following the A&P show (Nancy, of CCPB), where I got to look round their extensive collection of classic cars, and heard their beautiful, fully restored Wurlitzer Organ in action. (For the Benefit of Russell Cameron, we never saw a single Toyota in Ray’s collection...) I very much enjoyed talking to both Nancy and Ray about their wonderful collection, and about my own interests in Bagpipe making and

restoration. On the left is a picture of me inspecting Nancy Drury’s collection of bagpipe chanters and related items.

This morning, I had a visit from piper Daniel Milosavljevic to talk about his PHD thesis on “Piobaireachd in New Zealand” – Dan raised some very interesting points on the authenticity of the global tradition we accept today, along with its development in New Zealand from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, and in relation to the Scottish tradition in the same time frame.

This afternoon, I took a trip up to Lake Lyndon with Nick, Julie and the pups – we had lunch in the sun and enjoyed the views. The photo on right is of Roy and Tor having a swim in Lake Lyndon.



*Auckland Branch visit to Jeff Thomson's Sculpture Studio in Helensville*  
 Photos by Jean McQueen, Heather Laird and Editor



**Above:** This is the newest arrival for the Haggitt Clan, Naomi Joan Elizabeth Finn, born to Celia and Dave on Tuesday 27th September 2022. Shown with proud grandparents Jenny and Bryan.

**Right:** Ava Charlotte Cameron, born to Hannah and Callum on 2nd November 2022. Shown with grandparents Eoin and Heather of the Wellington/Wairarapa Branch. The photogenic dog is called Nico.



# Mary Cameron

By Christina Ward

When Mary Cameron boarded the *Blenheim* on a rainy summer's day in Greenock, Scotland, she carried with her a small upright spinning wheel - still treasured by her descendants today.

Mary made the 141-day journey to New Zealand with her parents, Donald and Mary Cameron and 10 brothers and sisters in 1840. A family story recounts that Mary changed her mind about leaving Scotland at the last minute. As the ship weighed anchor, she asked a rowboat to take her back to shore, but Alexander Grant, a 30-year-old mason from Inverness pulled her back on board the *Blenheim*. Clearly annoyed, Mary called Alexander "loud-mouth" throughout the trip. There was a happy ending, however - Mary and Alexander were married just over a month after they arrived in Wellington.

Mary's spinning wheel has continued to be used by five generations of her female descendants.

## Catherine Simpson (nee Grant)

Mary's spinning wheel was passed on to her eldest daughter, Catherine who married Robert Kirkpatrick Simpson - they lived at Closeburn, Bonny Glen, Marton.

## Margaret Kirkpatrick Simpson

Catherine passed the spinning wheel on to her oldest daughter Margaret, who lived at Closeburn, Bonny Glen, Marton.

## Nancy Waythe Beckett (nee Simpson)

Margaret gave the spinning wheel on to her niece, Nan Beckett. Nan was the daughter of James and Rhoda Simpson. She was brought up in Marton, then married Barney Beckett, and lived in Tauranga.

## Mary Jane Brodie Hailwood (nee Shand)

Nan passed the spinning wheel on to Jane Hailwood, the daughter of Nan's first cousin, Catherine Shand (nee Gibson). Catherine's mother was Mary Simpson, sister of Margaret (see above), and the only other daughter of Catherine Simpson (see above). Jane lives in Hamilton.

## Georgina Catherine Brodie Hailwood

Jane has recently given the spinning wheel to her daughter Georgina, who also lives in Hamilton.



Mary Grant (nee Cameron)



Mary Cameron's spinning wheel

Source: *Blenheim175*

Following their marriage, Mary and Alexander spent a year in New Plymouth where Alexander worked as a surveyor for the New Zealand Company. He was a member of Kettle's

survey party to the Wairarapa in 1842. From New Plymouth the family returned to Wellington where Alexander worked in various surveying parties. Grant Road in Thorndon is named after him.

In the spring of 1850, the Grant family walked up the coastline from Wellington to Turakina, where they bought land. They named the farm Tullochgorum. Mary and Alexander enjoyed a long, productive life together at Turakina. Mary gave birth to nine children, although two did not survive infancy. In 1891 Mary and Alexander celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

The *Wanganui Chronicle* of 4 February 1891 reported, "Mr and Mrs Alexander Grant, of Tullochgorum, Turakina, celebrated their golden wedding on Thursday last, when a large number of children and grandchildren, as well as a host of friends were present to do honour to the occasion. We are glad to hear that Mr and Mrs Grant are in the best of health and likely to enjoy a good many more years of a happy contented life."

## Acknowledgements and sources:

Ewen and Roz Grant, Tullochgorum, Turakina  
[Blenheim175](#) website  
[National Library](#) website  
*The Wanganui Chronicle*

The author, Christina Ward, is the sister of Jane Hailwood, left and above.

## Lest we forget



Photo: Bill Cameron

We will Remember Them.

Armistice Sunday on The Parade, Fort William.



# The Massacre of Glencoe 1692

By Megan McLaughlin. University of the Highlands and Islands

(With thanks to The West Highland Museum, Fort William)

Darkness shrouded the Scottish sky one fateful night in 1692, when booted feet echoed their steps off stone walls and floors as streams of blood spread to puddles and marked the Glencoe Massacre on the history of this country forever.

In the wee hours between February 12 and 13 in the winter snow that covered the mountains of this area, a military unit of Campbell Clan members were ordered in service of the Scottish government to eliminate the MacDonalds of Glencoe as repercussions for failing to give, as required by law, a public pledge of allegiance to the two new monarchs of their country, William of Orange and his wife Mary II.

At the time, there were two major parties in Scotland, the Whigs and the Tories, the latter of which still exist today and who were losing power at the time of the massacre. Only the MacDonalds held onto their Tory loyalty in their remote Highland area, and this made them an expensive stain to scrub out for the Whig government in Edinburgh.

To convince the remaining disloyal clans to swear allegiance to the new monarchs, a subsidy was introduced for those who cut their losses and gave into the majority ruling, but this still didn't sway some of the clans, and so the Scottish Secretary, John Dalrymple, had to make an example of one of these dissenting groups.

The MacDonalds got the short stick amongst the rest of being slaughtered.

Like a scene out of Game of Thrones, the 120 Campbells, hereditary enemies of the MacDonalds, carried out their orders for "free quarter" – an established alternative to paying taxes in a society that still didn't use much cash – and killed 30 of the MacDonalds clansfolk.

Their official directive came as "see that this be putt in execution without feud or favour, else you may expect to be dealt with as one not true to King nor Government, nor a man fit to carry Commission in the Kings service."

That night was not something any honourable clansman should be proud of. The MacDonalds had opened up their home to the Campbells, given them hospitality and friendship for the night they spent there until retiring to sleep, and they were all killed in cold blood. The chief was shot on sight as he got out of bed to greet the soldiers who he presumed were just passing by, and his wife was beaten half to death and robbed while his two sons ran free into the cold night outside.

Most able-bodied men managed to flee as their crofts were set on fire in their wake, and their wives and children were dealt the fate of death as they froze until their hearts stopped in the cold snow of that winter's night in Glencoe.

It was criminal action, so much so that the government had to decide the fate of the Campbells involved and determined it was a case of "slaughter under trust", otherwise known as murder in cold blood, such as after hospitality had been accepted or surrender had been agreed.

However, given that it was an act of violence carried out under orders from the King, the murder case was thrown out and instead it was trialled as whether the men had gone above and beyond what was asked of them rather than whether the orders were legal.

Now, the victims of the Massacre of Glencoe are remembered by a commemorative cross where the slaughter took place, and their deaths are written in Scottish history as victims of a heinous act.

The West Highland Museum hosts two items confirmed to be directly associated with the Glencoe Massacre: the Governor's Room, a room setting from the Old Fort in Fort William, which is where the order for the Glencoe Massacre was signed off on, and an adze head or croman, a cultivating tool usually mounted on the end of a c. 2.5ft wooden shaft used for digging and clod-breaking. This object is on display

within the Governor's room and according to the donor, it was brought to Glen Creran by a party of MacDonalds who managed to escape the massacre by breaking out of the back of the house when the soldiers were entering the front. They escaped over the hill to Glen Creran where they were sheltered.

The Glencoe Massacre is just one of many interesting events that took place in Scotland's past, which the museum so lovingly preserves, so why don't you come and see this history come to life at the West Highland Museum in Fort William, just off the A82!

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By Editor: Megan McLaughlin was a creative writing student working with The West Highland Museum on a student placement in the Spring.



Massacre of Glencoe Memorial, Glencoe Village



Adze head in the West Highland Museum Collection



Photo: Bill Cameron

Looking down on Loch Leven and Glen Coe village

## Tartan

by Betty Bruce

The word tartan is derived from the French “tiretains” or the Spanish “tiritana” used to describe a half wool half linen cloth. In some obscure way, though we can no longer trace how, the word came to describe the designed fabric now known as tartan. The Gaelic word is “breacan” which originally meant a checked blanket.

Before the sixteenth century there is little evidence of the Scots wearing tartan. They are described as being dressed in a similar fashion to the Irish – wearing a full saffron shirt with a woollen garment similar to a cassock over it. However by the sixteenth century the “feileadh mor” or belted plaid became the accepted dress.

The repeated chequered designs known as setts date from this time. The first tartans were coloured by vegetable dyes from the plants most commonly found in an area. They were distinct patterns. So it is possible that the patterns varied from district to district according to the plants available. Most plants used for dyeing are fairly evenly distributed throughout the Highlands so this would account for only slight variations in design. It is probable that the personal preferences of weavers and the current colours in fashion also played a part. The tartans were of a district. No one tartan was associated with a particular clan. Plant badges were the distinguishing feature of each clan.

There is no real evidence of the existence of clan tartans before the eighteenth century. In 1725 Field Marshall George Wade formed six independent companies of Highlanders to

control the Highlands and squash any suspected Jacobite activity. These companies wore the belted plaid and in 1739 they were formed into a regiment of ten companies and supplied with a uniform tartan of “government pattern” in a green, blue and black check. This tartan became the Black Watch after the name of the regiment. Later regiments adopted this tartan with modifications and slight alterations. The Gordon Highlanders chose an overcheck of yellow, the Seaforths an overcheck of white.

From 1747 until 1782 tartan and the wearing of Highland dress was forbidden. The lifting of proscription did not immediately see a return of wearing tartan. The Highlanders were too poverty stricken to afford a change of dress. However with the Highland Societies, it was realised that almost two generations had lost part of their cultural heritage. The Highland Society of London began a collection of certified tartans to prevent old patterns from being lost forever and to encourage pride in family and clan. The collection of certified tartans continues to this day.

The feileadh gave way to the feileadh beag (the little kilt). In 1822 Sir Walter Scott persuaded George IV to visit Scotland and to wear a kilt. Unfortunately the look was not improved by his wearing pink tights. But tartan was on its way to popularity.

At present the feileadh is not on display in Room 5 but differences in style of the feileadh beag can be seen by comparing the hippy kilts of the Sobieski brothers in Room 5 with the regimental kilt of World War 1 in Room 8.

The equipping of so many Highland regiments led to the professional weaving of tartan. The Industrial Revolution brought chemical dyes. With royalty approving and using tartan extensively in dress and furnishings, tartan became fashionable and remains so today

## The Craigs

by Betty Bruce (Lochaber)

Before 1654 when the fort at Fort William was built on the orders of Oliver Cromwell, there were several small local burial grounds serving small pockets of the population. These were located at Glen Nevis, Kilmallie, Strone and Moy.

However the graveyard closest to the location of the fort was Tom Na Hara, on the watch hill at Inverlochry Castle. During my childhood in Inverlochry Village we knew this as the Creagan Dhu.

With the building and occupation of the fort things began to change. Soldiers died from natural causes and from accidents. A cemetery had to be found close to the garrison,

The first burial ground was between the present day Imperial Hotel and the shore. Of this no trace remains. The changing shoreline and tide and weather patterns have obliterated everything. In view of the deterioration later in the history of the fort the Craigs became the military cemetery.

Around any military garrison a civilian population inevitably grows to trade with the soldiers and probably for protection in time of trouble. The dead of these civilians were also buried in the Craigs- the soldiers on the west side, the civilians on the east side.

Unfortunately the oldest stones and inscriptions ( if indeed there were inscriptions ) have long since crumbled. However it is certain that Donald MacBain, who fought at and chronicled the Battle of Mulroy in 1688, was buried in the Craigs.

The Jacobite Rising of 1715 bypassed the fort but in 1746 it was besieged by the Jacobites. Some of the Jacobite

guns were stationed at the rocky outcrop at the entrance to the cemetery. Indeed as lately as 1952 cannon balls from this area were being handed into the West Highland Museum.



In 1793 Sir Allan Cameron of Erracht at the entrance to the Craigs recruited men for the regiment, which became the 79th Cameron Highlanders. It is said that he chose this stance to attract men passing to and fro from the Martinmas Fair ( early November) at Nevis Bridge.

When the Free Church, at the time of the Disruption in 1843 , was refused land on which to build churches, the Fort William congregation worshipped at the Craigs burial ground. They prayed and sang among the tombstones commemerating their forefathers.

When the fort was dismantled in 1864 the two gateway arches were dismantled stone by stone. In 1896 the smaller inner arch was erected at the entrance to the Craigs. There is inscription over the arch commemorating the raising of the 79th Cameron Highlanders.

One very sad episode in the later story of the Craigs occurred when The West Highland Railway came through to the pier head. Part of the excavation to lay the rails grazed the burial ground and uncovered some bones. These were reverently re-buried in a safer part of the cemetery.



Today the Craigs lies alongside the busy A82. Most drive past unthinkingly -never knowing the part it has played in the history of the town.

## Introduction to Podcasts

By Dale Cameron Bailey

Podcasts are like radio shows that you choose to play in any order you like and at any time. There are millions of them to choose from and they are a treasure trove of content, and they are free!

### Getting started

Most people use their mobile phones to access podcasts. Using your mobile phone means you can be very mobile, listening while walking, working or relaxing. You can in most modern cars link your phone to your car radio to listen while driving, a perfect addition to a long road trip. You can even download them onto your device to play later if you are out of cellphone or wifi range. As podcasts are audio files they don't use much data. You can listen on any device, computer, ipad or laptop.

A great website to get you started is this one, simple guidance and easy to follow.

<https://discoverpods.com/how-to-listen-to-podcasts-guide-for-beginners/>

Most people access through their phones and use built in apps for it. For iphone users Apple has its own app "podcasts". If you have a phone other than an Apple one you have a range to select from all work pretty good. Here what they look like on your phone.



From left to right, these are the podcast app icons for Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, Overcast, Stitcher, and Podcast Addict.

### Clan Cameron learning by podcast

Podcasts across the world are enormously varied but well indexed so you can find content very easily. As you start listening the apps will make suggestions of similar

podcasts that you might be interested in listening to. Also the search engines also connect to mentions within the podcast itself.

Here are some podcasts that might interest members and create some learning about our heritage.

**Stories of Scotland** is an award-winning Scottish history podcast. Join hosts Jenny and Annie as they unravel the rich tapestry of Scotland's culture, nature and heritage. Prepared to climb into caves, cairns and chaos, Jenny and Annie travel around Scotland and investigate how stories of the past can help us make sense of modern life.

**The History Scotland** - Hidden Histories podcast sheds light on hidden historical gems around the country. Join Neil McLennan as he explores lesser-known visitor attractions across Scotland. Find out more about History Scotland magazine at [www.history-scotland.com](http://www.history-scotland.com)

**Scottish Clans Dan Snow's history Hit.** It is believed clans started to emerge in Scotland around 1100AD and were originally the descendants of kings – if not of demigods from Irish mythology. As well as kinship and a sense of identity and belonging, being part of a clan was an important part of survival throughout the centuries that would follow. Scotland's leading cultural historian, Professor Murray Pittock, joins Dan on the podcast to share the history of the clans from their Celtic origins through to the Clearances and the present day. They discuss the structure of clans, how the system collapsed and the paradox of how global clanship has become today. This one will change your perspective on our Clan heritage.

**Neil Oliver's Love Letter to the British Isles;** Be prepared to be swept away as Neil turns us all into time travellers, flying through history and materialising next to the great figures who have shaped the world we live in today. It's a very personal and idiosyncratic story, a thrilling journey through time and space, giving us a unique and invaluable look at the whole of human history. You will recognise Neil from the television and he covers some very interesting Scottish stories included episodes on Culloden, the Highland Clearances, Robbie Burns and the Union of Scotland and England. Neil has Cameron heritage in his own family.

Enjoy the opportunity to learn about our unique Scots heritage.



*Finlay Cameron*



*Awaiting the Parade start*



*Dale Bailey, Finlay and Nick Cameron*



*Nick with grandchildren Andrea and Evan*



*Sporting the Erracht tartan*



*The Cameron tent*



**Left: Cameron Taylor, Ashley Skye and Julian. Julian won best dressed boy under 14 years and Cameron came second in his age category.  
Centre: Maryjane Beckett, Jaxson Beckett and Ryder Jarden.  
Right: Nick's family, Andrea, Evan, son Hamish and partner Ann-Marie Butler and daughter Rowan staff the Cameron tent.**