



# Cameron

*The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.*



**Vol 49 No 5**  
**October**  
**2015**

*Traffic calming in Lochaber  
Highland cattle at Allt Mhuic, on  
the hill side of a butterfly reserve by  
Loch Arkaig. Photo: Bill Cameron*

## **The Blenheim to New Zealand**

### **175th Anniversary**



*Dinners to celebrate the departure of the barque Blenheim in August 1840 at Wanganui above and Auckland below.  
Photos: Tracey Grant (above) and Editor (below)*



#### **175 YEARS ON**

They left their homes, there would be no return,  
They turned away from all they knew, the heather and  
the burn,  
Farewell to friends and all their kin, many there would  
greet,  
Never to wake again, to the scent of smokey peat.

They braved the mighty oceans, the vagaries of sail,  
They put their trust in God, they donned  
His mighty mail,  
Their faith it was rewarded, for close on  
Christmas Day,  
They heard the rattle of the anchor, as they knelt to pray.

They gazed ashore in thankfulness, and with  
trepidation,  
The saplings and the shoots, of this fledging nation,  
They landed at Kaiwharawhara that narrow strip of  
shore,  
So this was home, and would be forever more.

The people of the Blenheim, as they are aptly known,  
Spread o'er the land, their names and families grown,  
And now we meet in reverence, for we truly sense,  
The treasure they have built for us, 175years hence.

**J.S. Grant** *(written for the people of the Blenheim)*

# "Cameron"

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

## Directory

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

**New Zealand President and Commissioner**  
Nick Cameron  
322 Auchenflower Road, RD 1 Darfield 7571  
Ph. 027 232 6667 nick.cameron@cropmark.co.nz

**Secretary**  
Tanya Cameron  
360 Kawerau Rd, RD2, Whakatane 3192  
Ph. (07) 323 8581 Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

**Treasurer**  
Alison Jordan  
1/5 Justine Way, Mount Maunganui 3116  
Ph. 027 525 4766 alison.jordan@kinect.co.nz

**Genealogist and Historian**  
Fiona Cameron  
7 Radcliffe St Glen Innes Auckland 1072  
Ph. (09) 521 3019 clancameronhistory@gmail.com

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

## Branch Presidents

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

**Bay of Plenty**  
Denis Cameron  
8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa, Tauranga 3118  
Ph. (07) 575 4659 Fax (07) 575 4661  
camisky@kinect.co.nz

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

**Hawke's Bay**  
Helen Shaw  
3/33 Avondale Road, Napier. 4112  
Ph. (06) 844 8398. locaber@xtra.co.nz

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

**Manawatu**  
Russell Cameron,  
5 Ranui Place, Feilding 4702  
Ph. (06) 323 7423 camfamily@clear.net.nz

**Wellington / Wairarapa**  
Rob Cameron  
114D Willow Park Drive, Masterton  
Ph. (06) 377 0377 opakirob@gmail.com

**Canterbury**  
Nick Cameron,  
322 Auchenflower Rd, RD1 Darfield 7571  
Ph 027 232 6667 nick.cameron@cropmark.co.nz

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

**Webmaster**  
Warren Cameron w.lcameron@xtra.co.nz

**Clan Cameron New Zealand website**  
Decision pending on new site  
Use Clan Cameron facebook page in the interim

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

## A Message from our President.....

Dear Clansfolk,

Last month Julie and I attended the Auckland clan winter dinner held at the Parnell Quality Hotel. This clan gathering would easily rate as one of the best I have ever attended. Bryan Haggitt (younger) was superb as an MC and gave the best rendition of the address to the haggis I have witnessed. Malcolm Campbell's singing solo of "Ae Fond Kiss" was very moving. I was very impressed with the easy to listen to and very well researched address by Marc Ulyatt (a well-known animal nutritionist in Agricultural Science circles) of the history of the descendants of the Barque Blenheim. What to me was fascinating was just how many descendants came to attend Marc's address. We were well entertained by an "emulated red hot chilli pepper" pipe band group of some talented individual pipers from the City of Auckland Pipe Band who gave some fairly energetic and musically pleasing at times performances (although my more conservative pipe tutor might have had words to them over some of their fingering and slurring techniques!).

The whisky raffle was somewhat embarrassingly won by my wife Julie who I can never remember ever winning a raffle before. She was then asked to pull a ticket out of a hat for the next draw and promptly pulled out another of her own tickets.... you just can not take some people anywhere can you!! So we both had a great evening. Congratulations to the organisers Neil and Norman for this fantastic event.

I have been in communication recently with Warren and Tanya Cameron regarding further ideas to develop our facebook site which has become our de facto web site. Neil has now downloaded many of the previous newsletters onto this site. We need to work out how to best link this site to others and how we should request members as "friends" to this site. Anyone who has ideas regarding this site and its further development should contact Tanya and Warren.

Linked sites might include piping and dancing sites, historical information sites, and so on.

Next year I would like the branches to consider doing a joint effort of some sort at the Fielding Pipe band Nationals... any ideas would be welcome.



Nick had a nasty fall recently from his son's building site off some scaffolding. This meant a rescue by the fire brigade and a first ever trip in an ambulance. He was very badly bruised on his back and leg but nothing broken. So some time off work and pipe banding.

Nick is now making a rapid recovery and managing some long walks.

## The Website and Facebook

The website will stay out of action for now. If anyone is interested in designing a new one page CC website please contact Tanya or Warren (contact details on left).

The editor has put all the newsletters he has edited (from June 2005) on dropbox,

and these have now been loaded by Tanya onto the Clan Cameron facebook page

The link that will take you to facebook, whether you are a facebook user or not, is shown on the left.

A presentation on Facebook and Dropbox will be given at the next AGM.

See page 6 -Ed

## 2016 Pipe Band Nationals

Feilding. Friday 11 March 2016 9:00am  
and Saturday 12 March 2016 9:00am

<http://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2016/national-pipe-band-championships/feilding>

## Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Nov.

Printed By

Bay of Plenty:

Karen Guy Te Awamutu

Auckland:

James and Fay Cameron Kaukapakapa

One Hundred Thousand

Welcomes

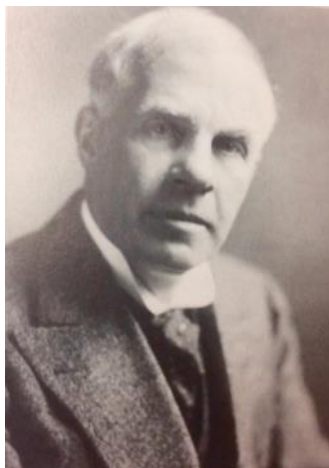
A Cameron artist. *by Bill Cameron*

The artist Sir David Younger Cameron (1865 -1945) collected many distinguished titles throughout his long life, amongst them was his appointment as the Kings painter in Scotland - Royal Limner. However I believe his greatest legacy is the rich and varied body of work he left behind.

As a son of the manse his early life was spent in Glasgow where his father was a Presbyterian minister in the city.

D.Y. Cameron attended the Glasgow School of Art where his architectural draughting skills were spotted early on in his studies. From here he would go onto to build a far reaching reputation as a highly skilled etcher and draughtsman.

Cameron travelled extensively throughout his life, both as a commissioned war artist in France, as well as working in various European cities with his wife Jeanie.



It's not clear when D.Y. Cameron's family left Lochaber to settle in the central belt of Scotland. However his love of the Highlands would last a lifetime, with many of his landscape paintings depicting remote parts of the Highlands and in particular the West Highlands with its ever changing light and dramatic mountain ranges.

I have yet to discover if D.Y. Cameron was a member of the Clan Cameron Association, yet we do know that he was responsible for producing the distinguished etched certificate of membership for the Clan Cameron Association Scotland. The certificate includes a stylised view of Achnacarry castle, the oak leaf motif of the clan and two Lochaber axes intertwined with celtic knot work. The Gaelic war cry of the Camerons is also included in the certificate. *Chlanna nan con thigibh a so's gheibh*

*sibh feòil.* Which translates as: Sons of the hounds, come here and get flesh.

It is believed that D.Y. Cameron spent a fair amount of time in Lochaber painting landscapes, as well as apparently designing the furniture for Kilmallie Parish Church which sits on the hill opposite the first Cameron stronghold on the Loch Eil narrows, *Eilean na Craoibhe - Island of the trees.*



Clan Cameron Certificate



*A watercolour study of Glen Nevis and Ben Nevis painted by D.Y. Cameron in 1916 was recently auctioned in Edinburgh. Although I've yet to pin point the spot from where the study was made. I think the painting conveys a majestic view of Britain's highest mountain in the heart of Cameron country. We may assume from this dramatic interpretation that D.Y. Cameron was proud of his Cameron connections with Lochaber.*



**Coming Events:**

(See facebook page for details and other events)

**Sunday 11th October 2015**

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church Turakina  
Invites you to attend

**The Kirkin 'o' the Tartan Service**

At 2pm With Rev John Peill  
Come and celebrate  
the wearing of the TARTAN

**Sunday 18th October**

**The Bay of Plenty Branch**

are having a luncheon on at the Tauranga RSA, 1237  
Cameron Road, Tauranga commencing at 11:30 a.m. Cost is  
\$20.00 per person payable on the day to the RSA.

**Saturday 7 November 2015**

**Hororata Highland Games**

**Saturday 21 November 2015**

**Auckland Highland games**

Three Kings Reserve. Commencing 10.30am. Free entry and a wonderful day for all the family. Visit the Cameron tent for a friendly welcome and to learn about our clan.

**12 December 2015**

**Square Day Palmerston North**

Clan Cameron Manawatu will be there with their sausage sizzle and extremely popular haggis sandwiches. And, as always, assistance from members would be appreciated.

**Saturday 9th April 2016 51st AGM and Gathering**

Venue: The Hub Hawera. Entry off Waihi Road or Camberwell Road.

8.30 am Executive meeting followed by AGM at 10.30 am  
There are a number of motels in Hawera with four on Waihi Road close to the venue.

We hope many will attend and enjoy their time in Hawera.

# From the Branches....

*Auckland* by Norman Cameron

The highlight of this report must be the Auckland Branch Clan Cameron dinner held on the 22nd of August, over 100 people attended. As it is 175 years since the barque "Blenheim" arrived in New Zealand I decided to ask descendants of passengers to attend and the numbers swelled by thirty.

The guest speaker was Marc Ulyatt who is the author of the book "The Kaiwarra Camerons" and in his speech he asked for a show of hands of the descendants of Cameron the "Weaver" and eighteen hands were raised including Marc's. There was a good representation of McMasters plus a scattering of other families.

One of our Members Rex Garland arranged for a Fusion group in which the Pipes and Drums combined with modern instruments from the Auckland City Pipe Band to play at the dinner. It is the first time we have sung "Auld Lang Syne" accompanied by pipers.

Neil Cameron organised the programme in his usual thorough way with help from our Vice - President Bryan Haggitt. Bryan's son the Reverend Bryan Haggitt was the MC and he also addressed the Haggis. All in all a very successful dinner ably supported by the Committee and Jenny Haggitt.

The Branch appreciated the National President of Clan Cameron Nick Cameron and his wife Julie attending the dinner. The following Tuesday the 25th of August I flew to Wanganui to a "Blenheim" dinner which was attended by 180 people and it was here that Hugh McPhail launched his book "The Blenheim People". This book is worth reading and only costs \$25.00 plus \$6.50 postage. Hugh McPhail's email is [blenheim175@gmail](mailto:blenheim175@gmail.com) and phone 04 970 9851.

The Branch Committee has lost two stalwarts and are looking for new people. Anne Cameron has moved to Thames, Anne worked hard for the Clan especially at the Auckland Highland Games. The other loss is David & Karen Cameron who are moving to Christchurch, David is a First Lighter from Scotland.

On Saturday the 19th of September the Executive of Clan Cameron will meet at the Wellington Airport and I hope there is a good attendance as this is the first time this venue has been tried.

*Bay of Plenty* by Denis Cameron

I have recently followed up several members who were not financial and they are still keen to remain members and will be forwarding their "dues" by return.

Plans are underway for our luncheon at the Tauranga RSA on Sunday the 18th October 2015 at 11:30 a.m. so we look forward to a good get together of members, friends and hopefully some representatives from other Clans. Cost is \$20.00 per person for lunch, plus drinks at your own expense. We will have the usual haggis, light entertainment and a few raffles during the afternoon. Could you please let Ray Crafts, phone 577-9562, or Denis Cameron phone 575-4659 know if you are able to attend so we can advise the RSA.

We still have Clan Cameron Fridge Magnets and Clan Cameron Pens available for sale at \$2.00 each. Please contact our Treasurer, Joy Cameron, 575-4659 or email [camisky@kinect.co.nz](mailto:camisky@kinect.co.nz)

Unfortunately Joy and I were not able to attend the National Executive Meeting held recently in Wellington but look forward to a report from the Secretary, Tanya Cameron.

Could we please have any photos and information on special occasions in any of our families forwarded to the Newsletter Editor, Neil Cameron so he can include them in our great magazine.

Reports and photos from any members travelling to Scotland would also be appreciated.

Philip Renner, a long serving and very supportive member of the Bay of Plenty Branch of Clan Cameron passed away peacefully on

the 12th September 2015 in Tauranga after a short illness. Phil was in his 88th year and together with his wife Helen were involved in Clan Cameron activities in Gisborne, where they were foundation members, before retiring to Tauranga.

We will certainly miss Phil's cheerful and positive personality and the wise words he always had on hand to share.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Helen and the family at this very sad time.

*Canterbury* by Rae Magson

Six members attended the Tartan Day luncheon held in Christchurch by the Scottish Heritage Council. This was an enjoyable event, even having to write another verse to a well known Scottish song. Our attempt was reasonable, based on the Highlanders. It is interesting to get together with other Clan members to find out what events they have and maybe ways of finding new members. There was a haggis ceremony as well, of course.

Recently a former member of the Clan, Selwyn Cameron passed away at a rest home in Christchurch. He was related to several of our members. He grew up in Chertsey (south of Christchurch), went into the Navy, and then to Christchurch. His funeral notice had "Much loved and respected by staff and residents alike", and this was a fitting tribute. Life was not always kind to Selwyn. He attended events held by Clan Cameron Canterbury in our early days, but in recent years had ill health and was not able to attend.

*This should have been printed last issue - my apologies -Ed*

*Hawke's Bay* by Trish Topham

On 25<sup>th</sup> August, Helen joined Mike and myself on a visit to Wanganui to attend the "Blenheim" 175th Memorial Dinner. We were there to honour the memory of Mike's Great Great Grandparents Duncan and Marjory Fraser and Great Great Grandmother Annie Cameron (daughter of Donald The Weaver Cameron) who came out on the Blenheim in 1840 as a single woman with her parents and siblings. 8 years later Annie married James McDonnell. Also on board were Helen's Great Great Grandparents John "Mor" Cameron and his wife Jeanette. We were seated at a table reserved for Frasers - a very happy and friendly bunch of new friends. It was also good to catch up with familiar Cameron faces and meet folk from other Clans. The dinner was excellent and very well attended. Special thanks to Roz and Ewen for their tireless efforts in contributing hugely to the evening's success.

Our visit to Wanganui was twofold - in so much that it allowed Helen the opportunity to take flowers and visit her parents and grandparents graves at Aramaho Cemetery, a beautiful, peaceful and immaculate setting. On our way over to Wanganui we visited graves at Turakina where Mike was able to procure information on his McDonnell ancestors, then on our way home we made a side visit to the Fraser family cemetery near Bulls. The cemetery is situated at "Pukehou" and part of the property owned originally by Duncan and Marjory Fraser. For some time "Pukehou" was a Lavender farm.

The countryside was looking very picturesque and the sight of several pure black little lambs near Takapau, together with paddocks of daffodils at "Taniwha" heralded the fact that Spring was almost here. A very enjoyable visit.

*Iar (formerly Taranaki/Wanganui)* by Shona Wallace

Arrangements for next year's AGM are well in hand with bookings made and finer details being organised. Details are shown in 'Coming Events'.

# Toast to the Emigrants

*Below is the toast proposed by Hugh McPhail at the Blenheim dinner in Wanganui.....  
(With thanks to Hugh McPhail)*

On this day in 1840 a group of nearly 200 emigrants left Greenock in Scotland for Port Nicholson on the other side of the world in New Zealand.

This was an amazing leap of faith for these people – to undertake a dangerous and arduous voyage of several months to a wilderness that was so far from the ken of their familiar homes and families.

We know they succeeded, and we know that because we are all here, today, to mark the 175th anniversary of that day of departure.

But who were they? Where did they come from? How did they manage on the voyage? What did they bring? And what did they find?

## **Who were they? First of all, some numbers.**

On departure there were 21 cabin passengers and 178 steerage passengers, totalling 199, with births and deaths on the voyage making a total of 203 on arrival.

There were 26 family groups, totalling 177 passengers, with 65 children under 14.

The largest families were those of Ewen Cameron, totalling 13, and his brother Donald Cameron, ‘the cooper’, who had 12 in his party, as well as a married daughter, Jane McLachlan, also on board. Closely following them were Duncan Fraser with 11, which increased to 12 during the voyage, and John ‘Mor’ Cameron also with 11.

There were eight sets of Camerons, some related to each other, totalling 61 or nearly a third of all passengers. How many here have a Cameron connection?

## **Where did they come from?**

Over half of the Blenheim passengers came from the Lochaber area of Western Highlands of Scotland, a quarter from Paisley, Glasgow and other Lowland cities, and a number from Skye and the Islands.

Of the Lochaber contingent of 108, most were selected by Donald McDonald, late of Dimintoran in Ardnamurchan, with many known to him personally, or were recommended by their landowners or ministers.

In some cases we know that the clearances that were changing the face of the Highlands were the major driver in the decision to emigrate. Both land use and land ownership was changing.

One writer has noted that at the end of the eighteenth century no Lowland Scot or other *sassenach* held an acre of land in the parish of Morvern. Yet in the twenty-five years from 1813 to 1838 every single property in Morvern changed hands, and by 1844 there was scarcely a proprietor left who had any traditional or lengthy association with the parish, or (in most cases) with anywhere else in the Highlands either. We know that for the Morvern families these changes were the main reason for them seeking opportunities in the new colony.

In Skye, in the parish of Bracadale, Hugh McAskill and his brother established the Tallisker whisky distillery in 1830, much to the disgust of the local Minister. The McAskills continued the process of moving people from the bulk of the land to displace them with more profitable sheep. To help the process of moving people out, Hugh McAskill helped pay for tenants to emigrate, and recommended the McQuarries and Gregor McGregor, as well as some others who didn’t travel. In any event, since Tallisker whisky was one of the drivers of emigration on the Blenheim, it seemed only fitting that we should use it this evening.

Many of the other Highland families must have seen the writing on the wall for their prospects, and decided that New Zealand offered a brighter future, especially for their children. The enthusiastic and active promotion by the New Zealand Company, including the wide publicity given to the departure in October of the *Bengal Merchant*, and free passages, fell on fertile ground. Of

course, the New Zealand Company was not only an organiser of emigration, but was, perhaps first and foremost, a vehicle for land speculation, so the incidence of off-shore property investors is not a new phenomenon.

But not all of the Blenheim’s passengers were from the Highlands.

A few days before the Blenheim was due to leave a number of prospective Highland emigrants changed their minds. Their places were quickly taken up by families principally from Paisley and Glasgow, including Browns, McConnells, Dunnets, Millers, Mitchells, Nicols and Thompsons; but just think about the very short time these families had to make this major decision, then get ready for the journey in a couple of days! The Emigration Committee of the New Zealand Society launched an appeal for funds to meet the costs, estimated at £30, to cover their bedding and clothing requirements. It is also noteworthy that one couple, George and Mary Easton, were married on the day before the Blenheim sailed.

## **How did they manage on the voyage?**

It seems that the cabin passengers ate pretty well and were not uncomfortable, but the steerage passengers would have been cramped for space. Remember there were 65 children under 14. They complained about the food, and were also concerned about the way the Captain treated his crew.

The ship did not land at any port along the way, so it was a long and confined four months, with rough seas in the Bay of Biscay, but good steady progress in the Southern Ocean. I strongly recommend that you read Jessie Campbell’s Journal to get her perspective on the voyage.

The Captain and the Surgeon Superintendent were responsible for keeping the passengers clean, active and healthy. There was regular dancing, bagpipe-playing and games such as leap-frog, and on Sundays there were church services in both English and Gaelic. During the voyage there were two deaths (both children) and six births. There was a smallpox scare but the infected passenger was isolated and there was no spread of the disease.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that prior to embarkation the Highland elders assembled the young of marriageable age and firmly warned them against any ‘funny business’ on the trip. There is some suggestion that not everyone heeded the warning. However, the four month journey in the close confines of shipboard life clearly had other results, in that there were a number of marriages, at least 9, between Blenheim passengers, in many cases some years after arrival. Alexander McDonald many years later wrote “coming out on the “Blenheim” I made the acquaintance of a Highland lassie of about my own age [*they were 12*]. We forthwith became sweethearts and agreed that when our respective parents would permit, or we became of age to act for ourselves, we certainly would marry.” Well they did, and ten years later Annie Cameron married Alexander McDonald. Annie’s older sister Mary had also married a fellow passenger, Alexander Grant within a few weeks of arrival, while over the next year or so Gregor McGregor married Catherine Fraser, and Angus McMaster married Mary McKenzie, and the consequences of all of these unions are well represented here tonight.

## **What did they bring?**

I mean this in the sense of what skills and experience, what culture and traditions, did the Blenheim passengers bring with them to New Zealand?

The Highlanders had their Gaelic language and their strong religious beliefs. Sunday observance was strongly ingrained, and Rachael McQuarrie, Jessie Campbell’s Skye servant, refused to make haggis on Sundays, much to Captain Grey’s displeasure.

Most of the Highlanders had worked the land in some form or another, while the Lowlanders included weavers and bakers. Most of the single women were described as housemaids or other form of servant, but few continued in this role in the new country – causing Jessie Campbell to complain in her letters home about the difficulty of obtaining and retaining any servants at all.

Most brought endurance and a willingness to work hard, with the result that within a generation many of the families had become significant landowners and farmers, something they would

never have achieved had they stayed in Scotland. Others became publicans and businessmen. Many went on to participate fully in the building of the new colony, being active in municipal affairs and in community organisations.

A number also became proficient in the Maori language, perhaps reflecting their own different linguistic heritage, and acted as interpreters and in some cases active supporters of the Maori cause in disputes over land sales, perhaps also reflecting Highland experiences of both confiscation and clearance.

#### What did they find?

Well, on her arrival in Wellington Jessie Campbell noted:

“We were much disappointed at the wild appearance the country presented.”

And “The climate would be delightful but for the high winds that prevail.”

Some were clearly not impressed by the earthquakes, the wilderness and lack of civilisation, or were nervous of the local

Maori inhabitants, and very quickly moved on to various colonies in Australia.

Others remained at Kaiwarra and worked on the roads being built to Petone and Porirua.

Many were frustrated by the delays in realising their land options and looked to make their own arrangements, like the Sinclairs who settled at Pigeon Bay in Banks Peninsula, before moving on again to Hawaii, and like the McMasters, Camerons, McKenzies and Morrisons who moved to the Wairarapa. And not only in these places: Blenheim passengers were among the earliest settlers here in the Wanganui and Rangitikei districts, in the Upper Hutt Valley, in Porirua, in Canterbury and in Otago, while some even went to Auckland.

It is 175 years since the Blenheim set out with its complement of the hopeful and the desperate, making the leap into the unknown and the uncharted. They left their homes and their wider families behind them, but they brought with them qualities and a culture that has helped make New Zealand what it is today. ☆

## The Blenheim Dinner in Wanganui

By Roz Grant

The Barque Blenheim 175<sup>th</sup>. departure dinner was a great success with 182 attending from Auckland to Christchurch and 7 from Australia. Local piper Revel McIntyre piped everyone to the their tables, the Rev. John Peill read the report from the Greenock Advertiser Newspaper for the Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> of August 1840 on the start of the daunting adventure and Peter McNaughton recited a Gaelic Blessing in both English & Gaelic along with the Selkirk Grace.

Colin McKenzie from Thames addressed the Haggis, Alix Taylor read from Jessie Campbell's journal on the leaving and David Moore read John Grant's poem "175 Years On", Hugh McPhail proposed the toast to the emigrants and Dougal McIntosh the reply, Ewen Grant read a letter from the Scottish Parliament, and Betty Stent and 3 year old Leah Maddren cut the special celebration cake .

Following coffee the descendants were entertained by Shirley & John Baillie on harp and violin, Margaret Hughes sang accompanied by Sassie Gilbert and Revel piping again finishing with Auld Lang Syne. A group gathered for breakfast in the morning before departing to their homes.

### *Criomagan (Odds & Ends)* by the Editor

#### Kilt for Sale

Pre-loved heavyweight kilt in Cameron of Erracht tartan. Waist 75cm, length 60cm. Needs some repairs. May be inspected by arrangement with the editor. Offers invited with proceeds going to Clan Cameron Auckland.

#### Clan Historian / Genealogist (Repeated as no interest to date)

Fiona Cameron, because of personal commitments and pressure of work, has advised us that she is not able to give full justice to the position and has tendered her resignation.

The urgent task is to convert masses of records from various paper forms to disc. Fiona has completed about a third of the task. She is happy to retain custody for the time being and will progress the work when she can.

If you are interested in taking over this important position, or in helping Fiona, please contact her to obtain further details of what the task entails. (contact details on page 2)

#### Magazine Content

Thank you for your input. Several items have been held over for the next issue. Please keep sending your stories.

The Wanganui War Memorial hall proved to be a great venue to hold the dinner with room dividers displaying Ian Dickson's display boards depicting memorabilia of the Blenheim people, along with tartan scarves and Scottish tea towels. Joy McGregor's floral arrangement and mannequins in period costumes along with a Kist plus Scottish Flags and Clan Banners provided the atmosphere.

We are now planning the Kaiwhararaha Picnic on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December at 11am to celebrate the arrival of the Blenheim and it is well under way. It will be held at Onslow College on the Old Porirua Road which was built by the Blenheim people.

Photos from the dinner can be viewed at; [pass word Blenheim](http://www.traceygrantphotography.co.nz/the-barque-blenheim-gathering/) <http://www.traceygrantphotography.co.nz/the-barque-blenheim-gathering/>

Hugh McPhail's book on The Blenheim People can be ordered from; Hugh McPhail, 7 Westland Road, Mt Cook, Wellington 6021. 04 970 9851 <blenheim175@gmail.com>

Memorabilia of key rings, badges, brooches & fridge magnets can be ordered from David Moore; 369 Waitohu Valley Rd. Otaki 5583. 06 3648937 davidmoore@xtra.co.nz

### From the EC meeting.....

A decision was made at the recent Clan Cameron Executive meeting in Wellington not to replace meantime the Clan Cameron NZ website. Members are urged to try the new Clan Cameron NZ Facebook page on the internet for up to date information on our Clan and other Scottish events and activities in NZ and from overseas.

Also accessible on our Facebook page are newsletters, an application form to join, contact details, clan brochure and lots more. If you "like" the page you will get regular updates when something new is posted to the page.

Clan members can also post free on our Facebook page information about local activities coming up and other matters of interest like photos from your local events, family gatherings, genealogy enquiries, etc. Please feel free to make use of it and mention it to other family members. Another recommended website to look at and list NZ events on is: [www.eventfinder.co.nz](http://www.eventfinder.co.nz) We or you can then post the event to the Clan Cameron NZ Facebook page to give you wider publicity.

Please remember to keep our newsletter editor, Neil Cameron updated with photos and articles on local events as the newsletter is still the most important means of communication with Clan Cameron members.

How to find us on Facebook:  
Go to Facebook on the internet and search for "Clan Cameron NZ". It's that easy. Anyone with an internet connection using a desktop computer, laptop, tablet or a smartphone can access it. If you are not sure ask one of the family. (Grandchildren? - Ed)

# A Trip to Scotland

by Pam and Brian Cameron

On the 4<sup>th</sup> July we crossed the border into Scotland to begin our four week motor home tour.

Our first stop was the Hermitage Border Castle. Mary Queen of Scots rode 30 miles to visit the wounded Lord Bosworth there. She later married him but it only lasted 7 months! We also joined "Historic Scotland" and found this very worthwhile in



savings and avoiding queuing. Well worth a visit was Abbotsford House. This beautiful house and gardens is the much loved home housing various collections of the famous Sir Walter Scott. Heading north our next visit was Rosslyn

Chapel. With 15<sup>th</sup> Century origins its beauty and mystery is compelling. It became more famous with the publication of the "Da Vinci Code".

Next day was Edinburgh Castle and environs where wonderful actors bring history alive.

Stirling Castle has been beautifully restored since we were last there (1980) including the room where Mary Queen of Scots gave birth to James the 1<sup>st</sup> of England. We free camped in the car park with the Castle lit above us.

After a scenic drive, passing through Pitlochry we arrived at the Battle site of Culloden. This ferocious Battle against the English which also set Clan against Clan resulted in over 1,000 dead in less than an hour, including 400 Camerons. The new visitor centre and museum is a welcome addition.

On to the beautiful City of Inverness and their excellent Highland Archive and Registration Centre, where we did some great historical research.

Fort George was well worth a visit as it is home to the former Queens own Highlanders museum ( Seaforths and Camerons) and is still an active Highland Regimental Military base. Whilst there Brian obtained the service history of the owner of a fine regimental Broadsword he bought in Edinburgh in 1980. His man Martin Glynn joined The Seaforths in 1871, and rose through the ranks to a commission in 1892 finally retiring as Major in 1908. He re-joined in 1914 and served as OC troops in Edinburgh Castle throughout the 1st World War until 1919. A service record of some 40 years, many of them on active service in India and the South African war. He died in 1933 aged 83 years.



We then headed west on a stunning drive to Drumnadrochit (Loch Ness) visiting Urquhart Castle and some historic graveyards before driving to Wick in the far north. This was once the 'Herring Capital' of Europe with over 1000 boats crowding the harbour to catch 'The Silver Darlings' as they were known. Wonderful Heritage Centre run by enthusiastic volunteers.

We visited Dunnet Head, the most northern point, and Thurso, before heading for Ullapool on the West Coast. Single lane roads, spectacular coastal views, lovely fishing villages surrounded by scenic mountains led us to special free camping sites at Shieldaig, and on Skye.

On Skye we visited Flora Macdonald's house where she gave shelter to Bonny Prince Charlie after the battle of Culloden. 'The Museum of Island Life' in the far north of Skye gave a great

insight into rugged Island life in the bothys (houses) of the time.

On a very stormy night we parked at Trumpan, alongside a graveyard and roofless ruin of an old church. Here one of the bloodiest episodes in Scottish History took place between the MacLeods and McDonalds when in 1578 in an act of revenge the Macdonald's set fire to the church full of MacLeods, with only one survivor to raise the alarm. The result was the complete slaughter of the Macdonald's party on the beach below before they could free their stranded boats to escape.

We visited Dunvegan Castle the ancestral home of Chief of the Clan MacLeod for 800 years and found a stony silence in the annals regarding this matter!

Leaving Skye we headed for Fort William and Cameron country.

The Clan Cameron Museum at Achnacarry has come a long way since we last visited in 1992. We did our best to boost the turnover!

Lochiel made us most welcome at the house with a guided tour and interesting discussion including the New Hydro Power Generation scheme currently being built on the estate, and a possible historical artefact acquisition etc.

The following day was spent with Bill Cameron on a walking tour of Fort William and Glen Nevis. We were lucky to meet Ewen Cameron who kindly introduced us to his impressive and passive herd of Highland Cattle and lovely calves. We also visited the now semi over grown Cameron Graveyard in the Glen. Dinner at Glenfinnan Hotel and a moonlight visit to the Glenfinnan monument followed. The Jacobite Standard was raised here by Bonnie Prince Charlie on the 19<sup>th</sup> of August 1745 in the presence of 1200 clansmen including the Lochiel and Camerons.

From there we headed for Oban. A ferry trip to Mull included a visit to the tiny Isle of Iona and its beautifully restored Abbey founded in AD 563 by St. Columba. The Book of Kells was written here. Also the remote Island of Staffa which was formed by basaltic columns and is solely occupied by wild life.

The drive round Loch Lomond was very pretty and included a visit to Inverary Castle on nearby Loch Fyne, the home of the Clan Campbell and the Dukes of Argyll.

Then to Glasgow and the wonderful free museums. Charles Rennie McIntosh's house and museum. Kelvingrove museum. The Hunterian museum to mention just a few. Three days was not enough to visit them all. It was a grand finale of wonderful Scottish art and history in all its glory, to round off what we thought was a very special time in Scotland. not to be outdone however by the wonderful kindness and hospitality we found throughout our visit.



☆

By Editor:

Brian Cameron organised Lochiel's visit to Auckland during the latter's tour of New Zealand with Lady Margaret in 1985. During this visit Lochiel asked me to try to get the Auckland branch formed again. This, with Brian's help, I was able to do, establishing an Auckland branch of the Clan Cameron Association in 1986. Brian and Pam were foundation members.

Brian, as president of the Auckland branch, worked tirelessly to ensure that the International Gathering, held in Auckland in 2005, was a resounding success.



# Aonaibh ri Cheile The Back Page



Tracey Grant Photography



At Wanganui, Colin McKenzie addresses the Haggis while bearers Shirley Baillie, Ewen Grant and David Moore watch on



Pam Cameron with Lochiel at Achnacarry



Photo: Ed

The smiling welcomers, Elaine Ebbett and Gill Cameron, at the Auckland dinner.

Tracey Grant Photography



Betty Stent and Leah Maddren, held by her mother Rachel Wellwood, cut the cake at the Blenheim dinner in Wanganui



Photo: Ed

A stirring address to the haggis by Bryan Haggitt at the Auckland dinner



Tracey Grant Photography

Piper Revel McIntyre leads the haggis party at the Wanganui Blenheim dinner



Bill and Brian Cameron at the Cameron graveyard in Glen Nevis



The Executive Council met at Wellington on Sept 19. Above: Fraser hands the Presidential Crook and Crest to Nick Cameron.  
Photos: Tanya / Lorraine Cameron