



# Cameron

*The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.*

Vol 50 No 6  
December  
2016

The beaches on Harris: Seilebost in the foreground,  
looking across to Luskenytre . (See page 8)

*Photo: Heather Laird*



***A Merry Christmas and A Happy Hogmanay to you All***



Achnacarry 2016

*Photo: Norman and Jill Cameron.*

# “Cameron”

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

## Directory

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

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

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

**Treasurer**  
Alison Jordan  
4 Nelson Avenue, Surfdale, Waiheke Is. 1081  
Ph. 027 525 4766 alison.jordan@kinect.co.nz

**Genealogist and Historian**  
David Weston  
14 Tanguru Street, Wanganui 4500  
Ph. (06) 343 2539 westmor@clear.net.nz

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

## Branch Presidents

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

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

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

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

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

**Manawatu**  
Russell Cameron,  
5 Ranui Place, Feilding 4702  
Ph. (06) 323 7432 camfamily@clear.net.nz

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

**Canterbury**  
Colin Cameron,  
11B Wills Street, Ashburton 7700  
Ph 03 308 8334 colincameron1938@vodafone.co.nz

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

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

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

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

## A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

I hope you are all keeping well and for those in the lower parts of the North Island and Upper South Island you are not too stressed out with our recent 7.8 earthquake event and subsequent aftershocks.

For those interested in stress relief and reading fictional books – I have recently read a series of Peter May books based on activities around the outer Hebrides. The “Enzo files” and his “Lewis Trilogy” are very good reads as are his China series. I found some of these in Bruce McKenzie’s Bookstore in Palmerston North during my trip to the Clan dinner. Bruce is also a descendent of Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

It has been a busy time for me as our Canterbury Caledonian Society 4A band travelled to Sydney for the Australian National piping contest held in the first week of October. We went on the board with 28 pipers and managed a creditable 3rd placing overall with 3 first places in piping – so we came away well pleased.

The following weekend I travelled to Turangi where your executive members met to discuss Clan Cameron matters of interest in October. A particular item discussed was the 2018 Australian Clan gathering where we tossed around the idea of going together as a group to Brisbane. No doubt this will be discussed further at our national AGM in Masterton.

On the 5th November our clan once again provided free haggis at the Hororata Games – having secured a useful tent site in the “Clan Ally”. The haggis was ably cooked by Sharon Wallace who bravely transported the haggis (from South Canterbury - crossing the Rakaia gorge) in a large pot of near boiling water. The games were attended by at least 11,000 people and I was pleased to hear from one of our newest clan members Phillip Bell (who is a piper with the Rangiora based McAlpines band) that he had won our whisky. My uncle John Cameron, local treasurer Pat Tarbotton, President Colin and Isobel Cameron, and our local secretary Rae Magson were all kept very busy during the day servicing the tent. I know they all enjoyed the day.

A thank you to the branch presidents for their support during the year and to our National Treasurer Alison Jordan – she has managed to make it easier for me with the setting up of an electronic means of payment authorization with our bank.

I would like to say a big thank you to Tanya Cameron for regularly updating our facebook site during the year and to Neil Cameron for this fantastic newsletter publication. I would also like to thank Neil’s grandson Matthew McQueen who is doing a great job in rejuvenating our website.

Best wishes and a merry Christmas.

*Nick.*



## Clan Cameron Gathering 2018 - Australia

20-22 April 2018 Gold Coast Queensland

Information on Gathering facebook page as above

Registration of intention to attend form will be placed on our website

How do you pronounce our  
Clan motto?

“Aonaibh ri Cheile”

[ Uhniv ree Hail ]



Next Magazine Deadline is 15 January

Printed By

## Christmas Message from Lochiel

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a good New Year - I hope that 2017 will bring you good health, prosperity and happiness. I also hope that you are spared from the consequences of the earthquakes which have brought you so much hardship. It is impossible, sometimes, to combat the power of nature but we who love New Zealand wish you all the very best in this regard.

I am pleased to report that our hydro schemes are now all working which will make a big difference to our finances. We have also carried out a lot of forestry work and the garden at Achnacarry is being transformed with the clearance of laurel and other trees.

Our holiday apartments have been very well utilised and are much appreciated by visitors and overall the Estate appears to be in good shape and extremely well managed by Astie Cameron.

My family are all in very good form and my son, Donald, is much enjoying being a Member of the Scottish Parliament although it is hard work as you can imagine. Our six grandchildren are growing up quickly and are a great joy to Cecil and myself. I myself reached the grand old age of 70 but

still feel young at heart and celebrated my birthday in style !

I would like to thank all those members of the clan who keep the Cameron spirit alive - I really appreciate all the work that you do and am very grateful.

With very best wishes to you all

Lochiel

### Clan Cameron New Zealand Website

The website is up and running

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

The site is still being developed and will improve with time.

Your comment is welcome. We would particularly like further input from the branches, using the Auckland page as a guide.

Please send your comment and updates to:

Matthew McQueen. [matt-mcq@hotmail.com](mailto:matt-mcq@hotmail.com)  
CC Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com  
CC Neil Cameron [kncam@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kncam@xtra.co.nz)

### Tiny Scanner

*By Editor: At the Executive Council meeting in Turangi, president Nick Cameron spoke about the usefulness of the smart phone app Tiny Scanner. Neville Wallace has kindly sent the script he did for his radio programme about it.*

Have you ever had that experience while waiting for an appointment that you eventually start to read a magazine that's on the waiting room table. It's about a topic that you think you would like a copy of? With the modern "I phone" you could take a picture of the article for future reading. The problem is pictures can take up too much space on your "I phone" memory as most pictures are in MB.

Here's an app that turns your phone into a mini flat bed scanner. Go to your Google play store on your phone and look for Tiny Scanner it will come up with quite a number. Choose one and click install and it will duly appear on your screen.

To operate the tiny scanner click on the app and your camera takes over as a flat bed scanner. The image that appears gives you the luxury of being able to drag pointers just to outline the article that you want for your records. You are able to select what size you want to make your image, up to A4. Type in the reference for that particular item for identification purposes.

Next you have an option of where you want to store your PDF image. I like to store mine in Drop Box as that will take it to other devices such as my computer, I pad . etc. You can even email these images. PDF has the advantage of storing data in Kbs which are small in comparison to pictures which are in MB I've got a friend who uses this device for utilitarian purposes such as business cards, phone lists, scanning receipts while on business trip for his business records. In fact this tiny little app can give you the opportunity to digitally store all your records, or keep those meeting notes where they won't get lost.

Most android phones developed in the last three to four years should perform OK. You will need to have lots of practice to learn to operate this device; remember practice

### Coming Events:

*Further events and details on our web site*

**Saturday 10 December 2016**

**Palmerston North Jenny Mair Square Day**

Clan Cameron will be there. See the Manawatu news.

**Sunday 1st January 2017**

**Waipu Highland Games**

Events start with a formal march from the street at 9am. Visit the Cameron tent and give us your support. Helpers would be very welcome.

Info at [www.waipugames.co.nz](http://www.waipugames.co.nz)

**Saturday 21 January 2017 12noon.**

**Auckland visit to Cameron Highlands Cattle Farm**

See the October magazine article *A Highland Story*.

North of Kaukapakapa. Details will be advised to all Auckland members when confirmed. Probable BBQ and pot luck lunch.

Information from Norman Cameron, details on left. or Elaine Ebbett:- 09 523 3994.

**Saturday 28 January 2017**

**153rd Turakina Highland Games**

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

**Saturday 11 February 2017 9am**

**24th Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo**

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

**Saturday 8 April 2017**

**Clan Cameron Gathering and AGM.**

At the Masterton Club.

(See enclosure and details on page 5)

## From the Branches....

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

### Auckland by Norman Cameron

I returned from a six weeks overseas trip on October 1st so missed a few activities. Neil Cameron wrote on my behalf the Auckland Branch October report which was very thorough and I thank him for it. I must make mention the death of Don Cameron who I followed as President, he was an inspiration to me and I will miss him.

Our annual Winter dinner was very successful thanks to Neil Cameron, Bryan Haggitt and Rex Garland and all the other helpers. I have purchased from the shop at the Clan Cameron Museum some prizes for next years dinner, take the pressure off Jenny Haggitt. I missed the Combined Clans Dinner on September the 10th, however Clan Cameron was represented by Elaine Ebbert, Bryan & Jenny Haggitt.

On our overseas trip spent we four days in Scotland staying in Fort William at the Alexandra Hotel. Had a very pleasant two hours with Lochiel and I have sent him a couple of photos of our visit. Had dinner with Bill Cameron and Florence Cameron who coming out to New Zealand to see her son David. Next night Robert Nairn and his new wife Maree joined us for dinner. Robert and Maree have only been married for four weeks.

I attended the Clan Cameron NZ Executive Committee Meeting at the Turangi RSA on the 8th of October which was well attended.

The Auckland Highland Games were held on Saturday the 19th of November at Three Kings Reserve in rather damp conditions with poor attendance. Thank you to Jean and Duncan McQueen, Brian Cameron and Bryan Haggitt for manning the tent during Neil's absence at the Naval Review.

On the 27th of November there will be a Christmas lunch to be held at the Esplanade Hotel, Devonport at 12 noon.

### Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

The Bay of Plenty Branch is currently organising our annual luncheon in November. We have previously held these at the Tauranga RSA but are hoping that with a change of venue we may get more of the Clan attending by having the dinner in either Mt Maunganui or Te Puke. I believe some of the Clan have been worried about the traffic in the area around the RSA so if we are in smaller town areas, we hope it will help.

At our committee meeting on Sunday 11th September we discussed our luncheon. We are looking forward to our Luncheon on the 6th of November 2016 at the Citizen RSA Club at 179 Jellicoe Street, Te Puke at 12 Noon.

We have had a couple of our members moving house recently and one resignation so our hope to increase our members is still a work in progress. But we will prevail.

As the incoming branch president, I hope to have some more to report in the near future, but until then, please feel free to send me any feedback you have.

### Canterbury by Rae Magson

The Hororata Highland Games – another successful event. Not that the Clan Cameron Canterbury can take the credit for that, however we had our small part to play. As in the past few years we were in Clan Lane, with the other Clans. We had haggis to give away, this is popular, except for the occasional person who does not wish to try it. For those people we had some shortbread. As well we had the whisky raffle, the winner was delighted. So were we as he was a cousin we had not met before. We have hopes he will join the Clan. The Mayor Christchurch, indicated that she would be rejoining the Clan too. The weather was warm, the crowds were huge, and there always seemed to be people coming to see us, and looking at the books we had on display. There was much happening in the arena, the bicycle polo was fascinating. Our youngest member, Joe Wallace aged five years enjoyed tossing the caber and the haggis, and Uncle John Cameron, aged 93 years enjoyed the day as well. All ages were represented.

Last weekend the Annual General Meeting was held at the home of Pat and Rex Tarbotton. NZ President Nick Cameron was in attendance. President Colin Cameron read the 26th Annual Report and Treasurer, Pat Tarbotton advised we had 27 members. It had been a satisfactory year, the Tartan Day luncheon held in July had been particularly successful, welcoming members of other clans and some local visitors. The event at Riccarton in February went well, and as usual we gave away free haggis. People seem to enjoy trying this and many ask "what is in it". We are careful how we answer. The Hororata Highland Games in November was an overwhelming success, a huge crowd attending. Many people came to visit us at our tent, yet again we gave away free haggis, but had a whisky raffle as well.

The election of officers was held, all officers remaining in the positions. We intend to have a committee meeting in January to make arrangements for the Riccarton event. After the meeting we adjourned to Robbies Restaurant to enjoy a relaxing luncheon together.



Phillip Bell, winner of the whisky raffle.

### Hawke's Bay by Helen Shaw

Our Branch Christmas Gathering will be held at "The Clansman Motor Lodge" 907 Railway Road, Hastings on Thursday 8th December, at 6.00 p.m.

Please bring a plate of finger food to share. Drinks at your cost.

Our hosts Leigh and Maree have again generously offered

their premises for the occasion and those who intend being there are asked to phone either Mike Topham 8798.215 or Helen Shaw 8448.398. It is always a good opportunity to catch up in friendly relaxed surroundings. Please mark this on your Calendar – we would love to see you there .

**Manawatu** by Jessie Annabell

**H**elp needed for Square Day! and for Turakina!

Don't forget our fundraising day in the Square on Saturday 10th December. Last year was a magnificent effort and we sold out of our popular haggis sandwiches and our good old perennial sausages by 2pm. As usual, Bryan, John and Barbara are capably heading the team. As you know, our branch has always supported the First Light Scheme and this is our main means of fundraising. We really do need extra help with setting up from 7 am and especially during the rush between 10 am and 2 pm. Please, those of you who can spare an hour or two in the middle of the day, contact Bryan or Barbara at [bjbpbarber@gmail.com](mailto:bjbpbarber@gmail.com) or 06 354 5811.

All branch members are invited to attend the next committee meeting on 24 January 2017, 7.30 pm at the home of Bryan and Barbara Barber, 28 Aranui Road, Palmerston North.

We would also really like more branch support (ie more bodies to man the tent and be in the clan march) at the Turakina Highland Games on Saturday 28 January. John Cameron, at [theclansman1948@xtra.co.nz](mailto:theclansman1948@xtra.co.nz) or 06 358 0417, will be delighted to hear from you.

Our branch AGM date has changed. It is now Sunday 5 March and still at the lovely Mount Lees at 12 am. As usual, it is a potluck lunch. We amended the date in order to avoid clashing with the Ohakea Airshow the previous weekend.

**Wellington/Wairarapa** by Rob Cameron

**T**he Annual gathering will be held Saturday 8th April 2017. The Masterton Club is the venue. The Executive meeting will be held first, followed by the AGM, then lunch.

There will be time to visit local places of interest. Currently we are trying to arrange a visit to The Vintage Aviator Fighter Collection at Hood Aerodrome and also the Sports and Vintage Aviation Museum. Shear Discovery and Pukaha Mt Bruce are also worth a visit

The evening will begin with a get together, followed by a Scottish themed meal and entertainment. We will enclose a full programme and an enrolment form with this newsletter.

**First Light** by Bryan Haggitt

**F**ollowing Norman Cameron's talks to Lochiel and Bill Cameron whilst in Scotland, and correspondence with the president of Clan Cameron Scotland, we are optimistic that progress will be made. We would still like to hear from you if you would be able to host a First Lighter from Scotland. Please contact me if you are able to help.

[bchecho@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bchecho@xtra.co.nz) Phone 524 5254 or 021 0264 5021

# Next stop, Regionals

By Beckie Wilson



**F**or a country man, icing a cake isn't usually on the daily to-do list, but Richie Cameron managed just that on his way to taking out the Young Farmer Wairarapa district title.

Mr Cameron, from Mauriceville, competed in the contest and skills day on Saturday in Gladstone.

The competition had 13 modules ranging from farm-related tasks with a focus on health and safety, to basic kitchen skills, including cake icing.

"[There was] the standard stuff like fencing, putting together a hand piece for shearing, theory around feed budgeting and insurance," he said.

Mr Cameron said it covered a lot of skills he used on a day-to-day basis from working on a farm, but there were also some things you could not practice for.

The district competition is the first round before the regionals, then the national Young Farmer of the Year competition which shows New Zealand's high level of agriculture expertise.

This year the district competition was open to members at any level of ability.

"They had a focus on people just having a go, not all were competing, so there were a lot more females this year," he said.

He had entered three or four times before he said, but was excited to finally win.

"My next focus is probably doing my best at regionals," he said.

Mr Cameron is also a member of the Mauriceville volunteer fire brigade and Wairarapa Young Farmers Club. He was one of nine men and six women to compete, with Henry Reynolds finishing in second place and Rebecca O'Neale third.

The regional competition will be held in Waipukurau on April 1.

*Courtesy of Wairarapa Times Age*

Ritchie is the nephew of Rob Cameron, president of the Wellington/Wairarapa branch. He is Donald's grandson and Rob's brother David's son

*The Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for a Safe and Prosperous 2017 to you all.*



The Executive Council Meeting held at the RSA Clubrooms, Turangi on the 8th October.

From Left: Joy Cameron, Ruth Cameron, Shirley-Anne Thomson, Trish Topham, Norman Cameron, Alison Jordan, Mike Topham, Rob Cameron, Tanya Cameron, Nick Cameron, Shona Wallace, Denis Cameron, Neville Wallace, Neil Cameron. Inset: Jill Cameron (photographer)  
Below left and centre: A convivial pub meal was enjoyed the evening before the meeting



New decals on the CC Auckland trailer  
Note updated web site



**Turakina Kirkin o' the Tartan:** Left: Jessie Annabell and Margaret Steedman (both descendants of Big John) with Big John's chair. Centre: John Cameron with Ewen Grant. Right: The Haggis Party.  
Photos: Dean Cameron



**Auckland Highland Games.** Left: A group of Camerons after the Opening Parade in miserable conditions. Centre: The team after erecting the tent. Photos by Jean or Duncan McQueen.  
Right: Jill Cameron with Lochiel and Merlin outside the door of Achnacarry Castle. Photo: Norman Cameron



# Pictures from the Past....



Above and Left: Denis Cameron presents Lochiel and Lady Margaret with a trinket made specially for Lochiel by master carver Ray Crafts during Lochiel's visit to the BOP in 1986.



Right: At the 1993 Annual Gathering and AGM in Gisborne. From Left: John Cameron, Vivienne McConnell, Harold Cameron (NZ President), Shirley Brownlie, Mrs Grant, Frank Martin, Denis Cameron, Joy Cameron, Linda Cameron and Edgar White (President Gisborne Branch). Commander James Cook overseeing the group in the background.



At the Turakina Games 1991. From left: Joy Cameron, Betty and Harold Cameron, NZ President Donald Cameron, Ruth Cameron, Richard Cameron (son of Douglas Cameron, Wanganui), Neil Cameron and Molly Cameron



## Bay of Plenty Luncheon ...



Sandra Larsen and sister Tanya Cameron



Harry Cummings addresses the Haggis Ashley Williams and Logan Cameron behind



Sandra Larsen with Mikayla Larsen and Robbie Cameron-Henry (opposite)



Fraser and Elaine Cameron



Ray and Janet Crafts



Rex, Tanya and Patricia Cameron



President Tanya is piped in to luncheon



Katrina Williams (piper) and Ashley Williams (drummer)

Photos by Mary-Anne Cameron and Tanya Cameron

# Camerons on the move....

*By Editor: I would like to publish more stories like these. I'm sure they will motivate many of us to re-visit Scotland.*

## *Journey to the Outer Hebrides*

*by Heather Laird (Auckland)*



Once again I headed off to visit family in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, but with a diversion on the way to Festival Interceltique de Lorient. Brittany hosts this celebration of 'all things Celtic', which attracts 700,000 visitors each August. Performers come from all the Celtic nations: Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany, Asturia, Galicia, New Brunswick, Australia, NZ and even India. This year The City of Auckland Pipe Band and their fusion band OriginNZ played to enthusiastic audiences at different venues, and came together with the other performers in a dazzling display for Night Magic. It certainly broadened my musical horizons. Pipes are not limited to the Scots! We Celts are part of a worldwide community and we have all struggled to preserve our language, music and dance.

Music inspired me again on my journey to the Hebrides. The Gaelic college Sabhal Mor Ostaig in southern Skye was set up to preserve the culture in language and music, and I enjoyed a wonderful Gaelic concert at the college. It's got me thinking about doing a short course there myself. It now offers full degree programs in a broad range of studies and is attracting many young people.

My father was a Chalmers (hence the Cameron connection) but my mother was from the Isle of Harris. So from Skye I took the ferry across to Tarbert on Harris. Off I set in the hire car, onto the single track road, round a corner – and had to back up into a passing bay to let a vehicle pass. Welcome back to Harris! Mind you, many a good chat can be had when meeting in a passing bay! It was a joy to visit all the folk I wanted to – from a second cousin who grew up on the now uninhabited island of Taransay, to discovering I had another second cousin who grew up on the mainland and lives on the shores of Loch Duich in Kintail. It's always the people that make a place and I met a few characters. One of them almost let the tyres down on my father's car in 1952 in the hope that Dad wouldn't be able to marry Mum and take his favourite teacher away to NZ! He took me down to explore the old school

house at Bunavoneadar. My grandparents taught at the school at

Drinishader which now houses an historic spinning & weaving display and shop for the Harris Tweed & Knitwear Company. A new building has a display of the fabulous ways that modern designers are using Harris Tweed.

Seallum Visitor Centre in Northton is a wonderful place that Bill & Chris Lawson have developed as a resource for genealogy in the Western Isles. Bill has written 80 books so far and has more planned. He has also completed 27,000 family charts. I have one book that shows all the inhabitants of my family's croft at Manish, back to the 1700s. Just along the road at Scarista is one of the island graveyards. This visit was the first time I had seen my grandfather's grave stone with additional lettering completed. Now it tells a family story that I hope will be helpful for generations to come.

The west coast of Harris has some of the most magnificent beaches in the world with white or golden sand and clear turquoise water. I drove up the coast one sunny day with frequent stops to enjoy the views. My diary reads "breathtakingly beautiful". Another trip took me right up to the Butt of Lewis and Port Ness. This is the area in which Peter May set his books that comprise 'The Lewis Trilogy'. The places looked just as I had imagined them from his excellent descriptions.

My only disappointment was missing the annual dance of the Ceilidh & Scottish Dance group in Tarbert, as I was flying out that day on the long journey home. It wasn't just the dancing I missed but the opportunity to hear the Robert Nairn Highland Dance Band. Many of you will remember Robert from his time as a First Lighter in NZ. My only comfort is that it gives me a great reason to go back!



*The City of Auckland Pipe Band playing at the historic fort at Port-Louis, Brittany*



*Drinishader school house – now home to Harris Tweed*



*Road near Manish – typical single track with passing place at top, and sheep grazing*



# Norman & Jill Cameron's Scottish Trip

by Norman Cameron (Auckland)



On Sunday the 28th of August we travelled by train to Inverness and stayed the night at the Royal Highland Hotel. Picked up a rental car next morning and drove to Fort William, stopping at the Commando Memorial for a photo take. Stayed the next three nights at the Alexandra Hotel which is next door to St Andrew's Church. On the lawn near the hotel there is a bronze statue which is a life-like representation of Donald Cameron of Lochiel, 24th Chief of Clan Cameron which was unveiled on December 20th, 1909.

On Tuesday morning we drove to Achnacarry and had coffee with Lochiel, who gave us a tour of the ground floor of Achnacarry accompanied by his faithful black Labrador "Merlin". While having coffee we talked about the Hydro Scheme which will give the Estate a guaranteed income. On the River Arkaig an Archimedes Screw is being installed and there is a photo of the river taken from the house.

Lochiel said that the lambing percentage was only 40% so he has leased out his rural land. One of the tenants is Robert Nairn who was the last "First Lighter" from Lochaber. On the way back to Fort William we called into the Clan Cameron Museum and purchased prizes for future raffles, the T shirts have not arrived yet.

In the evening Bill Cameron & Florence Cameron (mother of David Cameron) joined us for dinner. We discussed the "First Lighter" programme and it was suggested that Lochaber College could be a possible source.

Next day we took the return train to Mallaig, not by the steam train as it was fully booked. The weather was showery but managed to get a couple of photos of the Glenfinnan Viaduct.

Robert Nairn and his wife Maree had dinner with us that evening. Robert and Maree had only been married for four weeks when we saw them.

Robert still plays in a band, works for the Agriculture Department, is into forestry and is running cattle on the 400 acres he has



Jill and Norman with Robert Nairn and his wife Maree

leased from Lochiel.

On Thursday the 1st of September we left Fort William travelling on the West Highland train for Glasgow expecting to see wonderful scenery but unfortunately we had rain and mist most of the way.

We only spent five days in Scotland and it was full on.



# To Scotland Again

by John Cameron (Manawatu)



In August and September I took off on my second trip to Scotland landing at Glasgow after a long flight with Emirates. Then it was a train ride to Edinburgh for a few days stay, mainly to see the Tattoo, a great show with a full house. I walked all over the city seeing the sights then back to Glasgow to meet up with a Globus tour and to meet my fellow travellers - Americans, Canadians, Aussies and some New Zealanders. A great bunch - I got on with most of them as the tour progressed. Next day, off we went on our 14 day tour of Scotland, travelling back to Edinburgh, staying 3 nights and visiting the usual tourist spots, Edinburgh castle, Roslyn chapel, and Bannockburn, to name a few. We then travelled to Inverness, from where we went to Culloden moor, another castle then went on a boat trip on Loch Ness (no sight of Nessie).

Thurso was the next port of call. From Thurso we took the ferry to Orkney islands (South Ronaldsay), drove over the Churchill Barriers, Scapa flow, the Italian chapel, a brewery visit and tasting, the 5000 year old Skara Brae village, the Ring of Brogar, then finished with a look around Kirkwall, the island capital. Next day we visited the Isle of Skye - boring part of the tour, for me anyway.

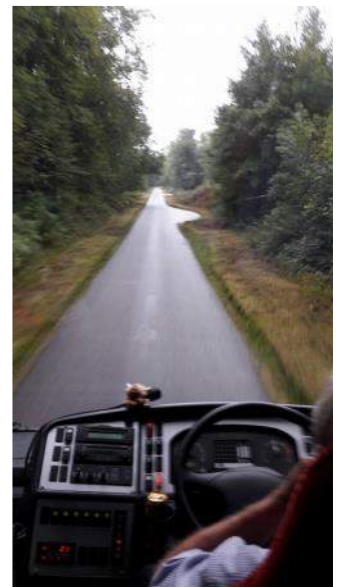
Over the next few days we took in the sights around Scotland. Glenfinnan, Isle of Mull, Iona to visit the Abbey there, then it was Glasgow bound passing Oban, Inveraray, Loch Lomond then home to Glasgow. A fantastic two weeks. I travelled all over Scotland, saw heaps - too much to mention.

One highlight was a ceilidh in the middle of nowhere at Old Smiddy Inn, a real entertaining night out, local music, Gaelic story telling singing and drinking.

After the tour I spent a week at Fort William catching up with Bill Cameron, visited Lochiel, spent heaps at the Cameron museum and drove all over Fort William looking in cemeteries searching for dead relatives.

After seeing all the sights Fort William had to offer I returned to good old New Zealand.

It was a great trip which I do not think I will repeat - but you never know!



Showing the narrow single lane roads with passing bays

# Dr. Archie Cameron - Part 2

## A Highland Gentleman to the end

by Bill Cameron

Following his early schooling in Stirling, it is understood that young Archie Cameron studied Latin and Greek at college in Glasgow, possibly with an eye to becoming a lawyer. However, his interest lay in helping others less fortunate than himself, and so to this end he began his training to become a doctor. This would see him further his studies in Edinburgh, where he is recorded as a student in the university of Edinburgh in 1723. Following his time there, he went on to study at a higher level in France. By this time it is thought that he had already graduated as a doctor.

Whilst in Paris he would be reunited with his exiled father and his brother, Alexander, who was also studying in Paris at that time.

Living in the one of the most cosmopolitan cities in Europe in the seventeenth century was apparently not a draw for Dr. Archie to stay, even though his father was living there and wanted him to stay and practice medicine in France.

Archie had always wanted to go back to Scotland to live and work amongst his own people, as well as intending to marry the girl of his dreams, Jean Cameron.

Archie returned to Scotland sometime in the early 1730's. Shortly afterwards marrying his childhood sweetheart, Jean Cameron from Glenhurich near Loch Sunart.

As a doctor practicing in the Highlands at this time, his salary would have been relatively low around nine pounds a year. In many cases he was paid within the context of barter

system where food supplies, such as turnip or salted herring would be given in return for his services as a doctor.

We know that Archie and Jean were staying for a time in Glenkingie where he had a house, as well as some cattle and crops. He was also known by the title of Dr. Archibald Cameron of Glenkingie at this time. This title "of Glenkingie" existed until relatively recently, when this part of the Lochiel estate was sold.

The day-to-day work as a rural doctor would take him all over Lochaber, at a time when travel would have been on horseback, navigating wild terrain and in challenging weather conditions.

Travelling great distances to treat people in the remote glens of Lochaber would take him away from home for days at a time. As a result, he quickly got to know the lay of the land and the struggles people living upon it had in order to provide for their families.

With the opening of new mineral mines in Strontian in around 1720, near to where his wife Jean had been brought up. This would see the couple move to Strontian on a permanent basis. Here there was a ready supply of patients to look after as the mining community increased, so unfortunately did the accidental injuries occur during the extraction of minerals.

Life was going well for Archie and Jean.

He had a steady income as a doctor to the mining community, as well as maintaining some cattle in Glenkingie.

Living peacefully within this rural idyll, a young family soon followed. Life however would suddenly change for Archie and Jean with the arrival of a note sent from Achnacarry. Not only would it change their way of life forever, but also change the course of British history.

*To be continued next issue.*



*The old shepherds cottage in Glenhurich which is now called Resourie mountain bothy.*



*Glenhurich looking towards Loch Doliean. This is the area where Jean Cameron was brought up, and where Dr Archie would have visited as a rural doctor. ☆*

### **Family History Information**

The Clan Genealogist would like to make family history information, which he holds, available on the Clan Cameron website for researchers. He was rather concerned about privacy, particularly if people are still living.

At the Executive Council meeting it was decided that family trees currently held could be published on the website provided there were no objections.

Any objections should be in writing to our National Secretary, Tanya Cameron, by 1 February 2017.

Tanya's contact details are in the Directory on page 2

# Top Honour for Veteran

Hawke's Bay member John Cameron is to be awarded France's highest honour, the Chevalier (Knight) of the Legion of Honour for his service in World War 2.

*John writes:* "The award of the legion d'honneur was to those in foreign forces who helped in some way to free France from the German invasion, but the medal is not given posthumously. I served in the patrol service of the Royal navy, that is the small ships, motor torpedo boats (MTBs) mine layers (MLs) minesweepers, some of which dealt with moored mines, others with magnetic and acoustic mines laid in shallower waters, I spent some time on a motor minesweeper (MMS) and later on a later type (BYMS) British Y class. Both types were wooden to reduce the magnetic field created, but still protected by a surrounding degaussing cable, as were all ships.

The MMS I was on was built in Newfoundland, living spaces were somewhat restricted, the length of the boat roughly 100 ft, we were paid extra, (hard laying money) a laughable sum these days, we towed a double buoyant cable one longer than the other, each with an electrode at the end to create a magnetic field which would hopefully set the mines off, another piece of equipment sent sound waves ahead to deal with the acoustic mines before we got there, hopefully! We had a crew of roughly 20 as I remember, 2 officers, a steward, cook, signalman, wireless operator, engine men, electricians, the rest were seamen.



*John Cameron carrying the banner at the Hororata Highland Games*

We were sweeping parts of the English channel coastal waters up to and after D day, then sweeping along the Belgian and Dutch coastal waters as far as the German Friesian island of Borkum.

On one occasion we had to sweep into a minefield in a Dutch estuary, thus enabling lighters to unload a merchant ship, with equipment for the east indies, which had strayed from a marked channel, and was sitting holed, in the mud.

There is a book about the minesweepers, called, I think, *Churchill's pirates*."

John was born in Calais, France in 1924, but raised in London, U.K. In 1943 he joined the Royal Navy serving on mine sweepers on the Channel Coast. Following the war John worked in the forestry industry for some time before joining the farming sector.

His next employment was as a plant operator at the Nuclear Power Station at Hinkley Point, Somerset, U.K. John returned in 1989 and lived in France for thirteen years. John has four nephews and two nieces living in Australia and New Zealand (one nephew is our President Nick) who suggested he should come to the Southern Hemisphere and join them. After spending some time on the Gold Coast and then Melbourne, Victoria, John came to NZ seven years ago, for his 85th birthday and now lives with his nephew, Paul Cameron, a farmer at Porangahau, Hawke's Bay.

John is active in the Hawke's Bay branch of Clan Cameron and recently travelled to the Hororata Highland Games to help in the Cameron tent and present the prizes.

Our congratulations to this wonderful nonagenarian.

*Thank you to Nick Cameron, Mike Topham and John Cameron for your input. - Ed.*

## Archibald McDonell

1792 - 8th October 1848

Archibald was Tacksman of two farms in Inverness-shire - Kinlochunagan near Fort Augustus and the other at Auchluachrach - about twelve miles from the first.

Archibald's widow, Annie McRae and ten of their fourteen children emigrated to New Zealand.

James, the eldest, married Annie Cameron, daughter of Donald "The Weaver" Cameron in 1849. They had twelve children.

Cumberland, married Marjorie/Mysie Cameron, a daughter of John "Mor" Cameron of Turakina in

*by Mike Topham*

1858. They also had twelve children.

Annie married Thomas Ross Cameron. They had ten children. ( Two died young)

Jemima ( the youngest child ) married Alexander Cameron ( 1838 -1916) the son of Thomas Ross Cameron's eldest brother (also) Alexander Cameron (1811 - ?)

Jemima and Alexander had five children.

Many of Archibald McDonell's descendants were, and are, members of Clan Cameron New Zealand.



## Cameron DNA Project - Update

by Joanne Cameron (Manawatu)

Hello Everyone,

The Annual FTDNA Holiday Sale is on, some really good prices for those who want to jump on in to the Clan Cameron DNA Project! The sale usually lasts until the end of December.

I also have discount coupons for anyone wanting individual tests, I will post them on the Clan Cameron Manawatu facebook page so keep a look out.

<https://www.familytreedna.com/products.aspx>

Our Clan DNA Project numbers are growing nicely...I would also like to thank everyone who has participated in the project so far and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

If you have any questions I can be reached via the Clan Cameron Manawatu facebook page.



Auckland President Norman Cameron calls on Lochiel at Achnacarry  
*Photo: Jill Cameron*



At the Hororata Highland Games: The busy Clan tent.  
*Photos by Nick Cameron and Colin Cameron*



Hororata Games. Left: John Cameron, Colin Cameron, Isobel Cameron, Pat Tarbotton and Rae Magson. Right: Joe Wallace, aged 5, throws the haggis. *Photos: Sharon Wallace and Nick Cameron*



Spotted on John Cameron's Scottish travels



A Seat by the River. *An Autumn photo by Bill Cameron*



The Commando Monument  
*Photo by Norman Cameron*



John at the Cameron Stone Culloden



Deer in Glen Etive

*photo by Bill Cameron*