



Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

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Achnacarry Castle from the gardens

photo: Martin Briscoe



These photos
taken during the
Lochaber History
Society tour.
See Page 9

Achnacarry Castle from St.Ciaran's Church

photo: Bill Cameron

“Cameron”

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Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc)

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A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

The feature of the previous month was our National AGM held in Masterton. The hosting of the AGM in the old Masterton Gentlemen's Club was a stroke of genius. It is full of history and conveyed a great atmosphere. Special thanks must go to the organisers of this event especially to Rob and Catherine Cameron and the rest of this team for the excellent way in which this was organised. The evening “highland games” were very entertaining and John Cameron’s team are to be congratulated on winning all but one event. I am sorry to the contributors to my team – as my 3 year old grand-daughter Andrea was recently heard to remark somewhat unkindly to me “Gramps you are not a winner” – I guess this somewhat summarized the situation quite well!!

As an executive we had looked at holding next years AGM later in the year because of the Australian gathering – but unfortunately because of the timing of our National Accounts sign-off as per our constitution we will need to hold it in April next year – so our Canterbury branch will need to start some planning for this.

I attended the Hastings Easter pipe solos the week after the Masterton AGM and occasionally helped support the Clan Cameron display primarily looked after by Shane East, Helen Shaw, Mike Topham and my Uncle John Cameron. This was held indoors as the weather had been very wet the previous week and the grounds were too wet for pipe solos and other displays. The Clan display is actually well sited being very central to most of the activities and so having it indoors is not really a problem. I know my uncle John thoroughly enjoyed his time here.

I was asking John if he knew of the relationship between our family and the famous Donald Cameron of Tain “King of Pipers” fame – since my great great grandfather Alexander Cameron moved to Tain with his eleven children after the Little Loch Broom evictions at a similar time. He did not know of any relationship here but I guess the families may have known one another. My great grandfather Donald Cameron after working for a period in Stornoway as Superintendent of Police moved back to Tain – his picture is present in the Tain museum in the “Tain through Time” articles - see:

<http://www.tainmuseum.org.uk/imagelibrary/picture/number204.asp>

Others may find this reference interesting as it contains information to a number of other highlanders.

Keep warm. Cheers

Nick.



From Lochiel on 19 April:

“Just to let you know that my middle daughter, Lucy Maundrell, gave birth to a little girl this morning - to be called Flora. That brings the number of grandchildren to 7 ! Mother and baby doing well so very good news.”

From our President, Nick:

“Congratulations from all of us on the birth of your new grand-daughter. Great to hear both Lucy and Flora are doing well. Exciting times for you all.”

Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website

www.clanameronnz.co.nz

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 July

Printed By



Welcome to the following Member who has recently joined us:

Iar:

Felicity Cameron

Hawera

Ceud Mile Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes

Vale

**Robert Neil (Bob) McConnell, Q.S.M., J.P., M.A. (Hons)
1928 – 2017**

Bob passed away peacefully on 8th April 2017 at Te Puia Springs Hospital.

Bob was fiercely proud of his Scottish heritage. The McConnells were a Sept of Clan Donald who in the 12th century reclaimed the West coast of Scotland from the Norsemen. Bob's forebears were originally from the Isle of Islay but in the mid 17th century The Marquis of Donegal settled the whole parish of Carnmoney in Country Antrim Ireland, with Scots from Islay.

In 1858, Bob's Grandfather William McConnell, emigrated from Ireland to New Zealand on the "Lord Worsley" and settled in Dunedin where he was employed by his cousin who had stables and a carting business, mainly carrying supplies to the Otago gold fields. Bob's father, also William, worked in the farming industry and became Manager of Allandale Station, an extensive run on Burke's Pass.

Bob, who was born at Fairlie, entered the teaching profession. From 1948 to 1950 he was the sole charge teacher at a small Maori settlement on D'urville Island. This was a life changing experience for Bob and was where his first contact was made with Maori language and culture. This led to an interest in Anthropology, Maori History and Genealogy. In 1951, still with the Maori School Service, he moved to Te Araroa where he met his wife to be Vivienne Hovell and her family

After two years at Te Araroa Bob travelled overseas to teach in Belfast, Ireland and West Lothian, Scotland. When at Bo'ness he learned to play the bagpipes and joined the local Pipe Band. He considered staying in Scotland but after a couple of years the pull of New Zealand was strong so he returned home.

In 1958 Bob and Vivienne were married at Te Araroa.

They began married life in South Auckland with Bob attending Auckland University studying for his M.A. as well as school teaching. They returned to Te Araroa in 1960 where Bob taught until retiring as Principal of the Te Waha o Rerekohu Area School in 1985. Bob and Vivienne were both fully involved in the activities of the Te Araroa community and the Hinerupe Marae. They researched and recorded local history and Bob published several books. Bob was made a Justice of The Peace in 1967 and was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in 2000 for his contribution to the East Coast community.

In 1986 Bob and Vivienne were part of a small group of people who hosted Sir Donald and Lady Margaret Cameron of Lochiel – the 26th Chief of Clan Cameron, at Gisborne. At the time an invitation was extended to all local Cameron's to attend the function which was held at the residence of Marion and Don Lewes. The success of this gathering led to the setting up of a committee to investigate establishing a branch of Clan Cameron at Gisborne. Bob and Vivienne approached every Cameron in the district and their enthusiasm was such that the Gisborne Branch was registered in March 1987. Without doubt, Bob and Vivienne were over the years, Gisborne Branch's most influential members. In 1989 they were part of a group of Clan Cameron N.Z. Members who journeyed to Achnacarry, Scotland to attend the Golden Wedding Celebration of Sir Donald and Lady Margaret Cameron.

Both members of the Gisborne Branch Committee, Bob and Vivienne were the Branch's Representatives at all Clan Executive and Annual Gatherings from 1987 until Vivienne's death in 2008. Bob's enthusiasm was an inspiration to the members of Gisborne Branch and he will be greatly missed.

Bob is survived by daughters Jean and Peggy, son Andrew, their spouses and six grandchildren. His funeral service was held at the Hinerupe Marae, Te Araroa on 13th April, 2017.

— by Mike Topham

2018 Australian Clan Gathering on the Gold Coast

John Cameron of Operatunity Travel (and a member of Clan Cameron NZ), who organised the tour to Scotland for the 2009 Gathering, is putting together a package for folk that wish to attend this gathering.

He is in the early stages of planning and really is looking for your input for what you might desire.

One package would be for the 4 nights around the official gathering (20th to 23rd April 2018) and provide accommodation at a mid-price hotel on the Gold Coast as well as return airfares and include the official Cameron events being organised. (inc transfers and the Gathering Registration fees)

Then he is planning to offer a second package of sightseeing, events, tours and restaurant meals that will showcase the Gold Coast area for a duration of further 4 nights to make the trip a little more worthwhile. (Including accommodation and all transfers)

Or else he could plan for you to go to Sydney, Brisbane or in fact any destination after the official 4 day gathering or after the 8 day package.

As he is in the early days of planning he would appreciate your input and ideas and he will create a trip that the majority of us would like, or just drop him a line to say "send me the full information pack when it is ready"

**Please email Raelene at John's office on
raelene@operatunity.co.nz with your input.**

From the Branches....

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

Auckland by Norman Cameron

The AGM of the Auckland Branch of Clan Cameron was held on the 12th of March at the Parnell Cricket Pavilion. Unfortunately I was unable to attend because of flooding on Waiheke Island, however it was ably chaired by Bryan Haggitt. Two new members were elected to the Committee, namely John Cameron and Rob Cameron, and I look forward to working with them. A notice of motion was put that the Auckland Branch of Clan Cameron become un-incorporated and this was carried unanimously.

A BBQ followed the meeting and I was very sorry that I was unable to attend the meeting.

The 2017 National Gathering of Clan Cameron was held at the Masterton Club on the 8th of April and it was very well organised by Rob & Catherine Cameron and their Committee. Forty people attended the meeting and there were at least sixty at the dinner. The entertainment after dinner was the Branch version of Indoor Highland Games, all in all a very enjoyable evening.

It was decided at the meeting to hold the 2018 National Gathering at Ashburton in June as holding the meeting in April would clash with the Australian Gathering of Clan Cameron. (*now changed back to April - Ed*)

On Saturday the 6th of May Bryan and Jenny Haggitt, Hillary and Cass Hakaraia and I attended the Clan Donald 20th Anniversary Dinner at the Rutherford Room, Alexandra Park and there were over sixty guests who had a very enjoyable evening.

The Combined Clans of Auckland are having their AGM and annual dinner on the 16th of September, the dinner being at the Quality Hotel, Parnell. Hillary Hakaraia has been attending the SCAAD meetings and I thank her for this.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Clan Cameron BOP has been quiet over the last couple of months.

We are holding a committee meeting on 21st May 2017 to plan future events for the year and to prepare for our AGM in June.

With the colder weather we are currently experiencing we are sitting inside reading and enjoying the new layout of the newsletter immensely with the many photos it features and historic articles.

Our National AGM was held in Masterton on the 8th of April 2017 and was a great day out with all Officers being returned. The venue and accommodation was very central and easy to find.

We were reminded about the upcoming 20-22 April 2018 Australian International Gathering and the proposed Achnacarry International Gathering in late August 2020.

David Weston our Genealogist brought along a copy of the Family History Database so far for those that wanted to see the progress.

Our immediate past National President and past Branch President Fraser Cameron received a National Life Membership that was awarded to him for long service. This



certificate was presented by Nick Cameron, the current National President and Commissioner and was signed by Lochiel himself.

The AGM of Clan Cameron BOP to be held on Sunday June 11th 2017 at 2pm at the home of Denis & Joy Cameron at 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa. We look forward to seeing you there. RSVP by 7th June 2017 to: Patricia Cameron Secretary, patcam@slingshot.co.nz 07 533 4345

Canterbury by Rae Magson

We have been resting on our laurels over the last two months, however we will be thinking of the Hororata Highland Games that will be held in November and how we can participate in them. It is always a fun busy day.

One of our loyal committee members, Rex Tarbotton has been having a lengthy stay, firstly in Christchurch Hospital, now in Ashburton Hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery, and extend best wishes to his wife Pat who visits him every day.

Hawke's Bay by Helen Shaw

Once again we had our stand at the Easter Highland Games. The weather was disappointing and as a result we were indoors. It was interesting to note that Clan Cameron was the only Clan who stayed for the two days. When we are able to be outside we find we get more visitors and enquiries. Nick and his Uncle John joined Helen, Shane and Mike at our display and Nick took photographs. In view of the inclement weather it was decided not to run our usual Whisky Raffle. Our thanks to Neil once again for the use of his Cameron display boards.

In April, Shane East and Mike and Trish Topham travelled to Masterton for the 2017 A.G.M. and Gathering and a good time was had by all who attended. The "Indoor Highland Games" were great fun and a challenge to all participants!

On returning from the A.G.M. we were saddened to receive a call telling us that Bob McConnell had died. Mike and Trish went up to Gisborne to attend a service there, then travelled up to Te Araroa for the main funeral service held on the Hinerupe Marae. Mike addressed the assembled people and gave a fitting tribute on behalf of Clan Cameron N.Z. The trip back to Gisborne was quite nerve wracking as being in the eye of Cyclone Cook they encountered washouts, uprooted trees, falling boulders and tree branches breaking and falling on the car roof. Torrential rain and lightning added to the drama which wreaked havoc down the East Coast and beyond. It was a relief to arrive safely in Gisborne. We hope our members in the areas affected did not suffer too much damage to their properties.

Manawatu by Anne Walker

Plans are underway for the Annual Clan Cameron Manawatu mid-winter dinner. This will be held on Saturday August 19th. All Clan Cameron members and supporters are welcome to join us for an evening, to enjoy the company of fellow Clan members, delicious food, a haggis ceremony, and entertainment. We are looking forward to hosting Clan



Cameron New Zealand President Nick Cameron for this occasion.

Dale Bailey, a long time Clan Cameron member now employed as the Director, Strategy and Collections at Te Papa, Museum of New Zealand, will be our Guest Speaker for the night. Dale has taken a special interest in the Scottish collections at Te Papa, and will share this with us. For more information please email Anne Walker akwalker@xtra.co.nz.

A number of Clan Cameron Manawatu members joined others for the Robert Bruce Centennial Commemoration in Turakina recently. We acknowledge the efforts of member Roz Grant who was very involved in planning for this commemoration, and bringing this interesting piece of history to our attention.

Wellington/Wairarapa by Rob Cameron

The Wellington/Wairarapa Branch took much pleasure in hosting this year's Annual Gathering. A small steering committee worked beforehand to arrange the venue, catering, and activities.

The Masterton Club was selected as the venue for all events and this proved to be ideal. It was very central and its wonderful old décor, including mounted stags heads on the walls, gave the whole occasion a very homely Scottish Highland's feel. Many people wandered into the Snooker Room and were enthralled by the wooden panels and history the room conveyed. The caterer at the Masterton Club did all of the catering and this proved to be more than adequate and appropriate for the Gathering. One of the local women created some beautiful floral arrangements for the entranceway and the tables.

The Executive meeting and AGM were held in the morning followed by lunch. The afternoon was free and



people visited the Aviation Museum, Shear Discovery and a few vineyards.

In the evening Clans folk were welcomed outside the Club by piper Xavier Boyles and his brother, drummer Adam Boyles. Inside we had a mix and mingle then the festivities began. The haggis was piped in and Graeme McArthur addressed it. After the main course and dessert we took part in Cameron Gentle Highland Games. Erina Wood was the organiser of this fun indoor event. The guests were divided into two teams, one led by Nick Cameron and one by John Cameron. We had Tossing the Sheath, Farmers Walk, Hammer Throw, Putting the Shot, Tug-o-War, and Tossing the Caber. These created a lot of laughter and I am amazed how competitive Cameron's can be!! After each event medals were presented to the winners. At the conclusion of these events the evening was wound up and people dispersed to their accommodation or stayed and had a drink or two.

After the Gathering we felt the day had gone very well and feedback from participants endorsed this; a most satisfying occasion that gave us the chance to showcase Clan Cameron Wellington/Wairarapa as well as local Wairarapa attractions.

My special thanks need to go to my wife Catherine Cameron who collated all enrolments, handled all the banking, photocopied and laminated the placemats, arranged the raffle etc; Erina Wood for much of the computer work, welcoming people as they arrived, and for suggesting, arranging and running the Gentle Highland Games; Graeme McArthur – who incidentally is the NZ Chieftain of Clan MacArthur – for addressing the haggis; our piper and drummer Xavier and Adam Boyles; and Graeme and Hazel Cameron, Elizabeth Cheetham, Warren and Lorraine Cameron, who all donated items for the very successful raffles.

Finally a big thank you to the people who made the effort to attend and made the event a special occasion for all of us.

The History of the Pipes

by Ewen Cameron of Masterton.

This set of pipes was played at Culloden by John Stewart. Ian D. Cameron's grandfather of several generations back was Lochiel's second in command at Culloden, and his wife's brother was John Stewart who played this historical set of pipes at the battle.

It is of interest that Cameron accompanied Lochiel when he and Prince Charlie crossed by ship to France.

A Stewart descendant played these pipes at the battle of Waterloo and again at the Crimean Wars. Later the pipes were played in the American Civil War by a relative who at the time was serving with the Fraser Highlanders.

The pipes have remained in the family ever since and were presented to Ian D. Cameron by a blood relation, Miss Ann Stewart, of Vancouver, during his last trip home.

It is interesting to note that the pipes up to this time had always remained in the hands of the Stewarts. During the Battle of Culloden the pipes were damaged but retained by John Stewart and repaired later.

When the pipes were presented to Ian D. Cameron they were damaged and a kinsman, Iain C. Cameron, with the help of Robert Thompson, and Pipe Major Robertson of the Guards Regiment, repaired the set to the present condition.

The original parts of this set were made of local wood, probably apple or pear. The extra piece of drone has been made of cocus wood. The drones are obviously of much later date than the stocks and may be of Glasgow make. The bores are of different diameters. Battle damage has been repaired at different periods and parts are hand made.

The well known piping authority, Campbell of Kilberry, bears out these facts and says that the timbers used in the original parts line up with the few, very few, old sets which exist today.



By Editor:

I am grateful to Ewen Cameron, son of Ian D. Cameron, and to Elizabeth Cheetham, Ian's grand daughter, for giving me this story and for allowing me to photograph the pipes. (Ian D. Cameron was the founder and first President of Clan Cameron New Zealand)

Images from the AGM and Gathering at Masterton 8 April



A group photograph of those who attended the AGM



The winning team at the Gathering's "Indoor Highland Games"



President Nick and Julie Cameron



Jill and Brian Cameron



Shona Cameron, Alex Cowling, Mary-Anne Cameron, Tanya Cameron and John Cameron



Malcolm Thompson, Alison Jordan, Norman and Jill Cameron



Xavier Boyles pipes in the Haggis



Fraser holds his Life Membership of Clan Cameron NZ certificate



Fraser Cameron receives L M Certificate from Nick, with Fraser's family; Maty-Anne, Elaine and Shona



The Haggis Party. Graeme McArthur, John, Warren and Russell Cameron



Ewen and Roz Grant with Graeme and Hazel Cameron



Shirley-Anne Thomson and Warren Cameron



Mike Topham and Shane East



Ewen Cameron and Elizabeth Cheetham



Neil Cameron, John Thompson, Catherine Cameron AND Ewen Cameron



Rob Cameron has the Vivienne McConnell Banner handed to him for safe keeping by Shona Wallace of the Iar Branch



Tartan on show after the AGM. Nick, Neil, Denis, John and Rob Cameron. Shirley-Anne Thomson, Fraser Cameron and Shane East.



Shona and Neville Wallace with Rex and Erina Wood



Graeme McArthur with hosts Rob and Catherine Cameron

Photographs by Neville Wallace, Trish Topham and the Editor

Sleeping Alone

Robert Cunningham Bruce commemoration

23 April 2017, Ngaruru

The woolshed at Ngaruru, on the Turakina Valley Road, south of Hunterville, Rangitikei, was the site for a very special commemoration on Sunday 23rd April this year. It was the hundredth anniversary of the death of Robert Cunningham Bruce, a proud Scot and an early conservationist in the Rangitikei. He is buried alone with no gravestone, on an adjacent hill clad in the native bush that he held so dear. Above the grave at the top of the hill is a tall Iona [Celtic] cross. Bruce might have been forgotten but for the tenacity of another, current-day Robert Bruce, who was intrigued to know about his namesake. Over 100 people came along amid warm and sunny weather, idyllic as only a late autumn Sunday could be.



Back Row L-R Vince Neall, Ewen Grant
Front L-R Hamish McDouall – Wanganui Mayor, Roslyn Grant, Robert A Bruce, Ian McKelvie – MP for Rangitikei, and wife Sue McKelvie gather in front of the Memorial Ionic Cross to Robert Bruce.

The occasion had special resonance for several Manawatu branch members, in particular, Roz and Ewen Grant, who worked hard to make this event happen. The Rangitikei Pipe Band (with Bruce Cameron) piped us to the graveside, where Jimmy Whittle played pipe laments that were piped at his burial. The poem written after his funeral in 1917 was read and we placed sprigs of rosemary and native hebe on his grave. And then we went back to the woolshed for a haggis ceremony and a traditional rural afternoon tea. Amongst other speakers, Ian McKelvie (M.P. for Rangitikei and a Manawatu branch member) told us something about Cunningham Bruce's political life in the 1880s as M.P. for the local area. There were also speakers from the Bruce Trust, (which was established in his name in the 1920's, expressly for the purpose of replanting native bush in reserves & domains), and

from the Department of Conservation. Manawatu members Maisie and Dick Earle were also present, as well John Cameron of Marton, and Jessie and John Annabell along with Richard Cameron.

Sleeping Alone

*And There They Left Him
Sleeping alone in the wild wild bush
Where the rata stoop
And their blossoms droop
When the Spring glides in with a healthy
flush
Sleeping alone.*

*Sleeping alone in the quiet glade,
Where the timid sheep
From the red sun creep
To hang their heads in the leafy shade,
Sleeping alone*

*Sleeping alone where the morepork's call
At night is heard
With echoes weird,
When Luna peeps through the rata tall.
Sleeping alone.*

*Sleeping alone 'neath the unfenced mound,
No kindred bones
Nor memory stones
In nature's lonely burying ground.
Sleeping alone.*

*Sleeping alone where but few have trod,
Till the last bell tolls
And the unjudged souls
Bring up their clay to the Throne of God.
Sleeping alone.*

Article text by Jessie Annabell

Photos by Tracey Grant Photography



L-R Robert A Bruce throws a sprig of Rosemary onto Robert Bruce's Grave. Andy Watson - Rangitikei Mayor, Vince Neall - Trustee of Robert Bruce Trust, Jimmy Whittle - Piper, Hugh Stewart - Rangitikei Forrester and Bird, and Hamish McDouall – Wanganui Mayor, watch on.



Rangitikei Scots Pipe band leads the march to the Memorial Ionic Cross to Robert Bruce.

Coming Events:

Further events and details on our web site

Sunday 11th June 2017

Bay of Plenty Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 11th June 2017 at the home of Denis and Joy Cameron, 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa commencing at 2 pm and followed by afternoon tea We look forward to seeing you there. RSVP by 7th June 2017 to Patricia Cameron Secretary patcam@slingshot.co.nz 07 533 4345

Saturday 12 August 2017

Auckland Branch Annual Dinner.
At the Quality Hotel, Parnell 6pm for 6.30pm. Ticket price \$60 This will be the 30th anniversary of the 1st dinner of the present Auckland branch. Enquiries to Norman or Neil Cameron.

Saturday 19 August 2017

Manawatu Branch Annual Dinner
Dale Bailey, from Te Papa, will be the guest speaker. Enquiries to Anne Walker akwalker@xtra.co.nz.

Saturday 16 September 2017

Executive Council Meeting.
Parklands Motor Lodge Conference Room, Turangi.
The motel will provide the conference room at no charge if some of the delegates stay there. Room \$125 a night. Ph: 0800 456 284

April 2018

2018 Gathering and AGM.
This will be in Canterbury and will probably be in early April so as not to clash with the Australian Gathering 20-23 April 2018
Details later

Lochaber History Society Tour

By Bill Cameron

battle of Loos in the First World War, to how it came to end up at Achnacarry.

After walking the short distance from the museum to Achnacarry Castle, Lochiel met the group on the driveway up to the castle. He gave some history of the castle building and talked about the remains of old Achnacarry along the road.

Lochaber local history society finished off their winter programme with a tour around the Ben Nevis distillery and Achnacarry Estate on Saturday the 13th of May. Organised by Bill Cameron and Joan Ritchie, both committee members of the society.

A group of around fifty members were bused from Fort William over to the near by Ben Nevis distillery where they were given a tour around the old and new distillery buildings at the foot of Ben Nevis. They were informed about the history of this long established whisky which uses melt water from high up on Ben Nevis. Members were taken through the distillation process, viewing the large wooden vats where barley is steeped in water and left to ferment. As well as seeing the four copper stills that finish off the distillation process before the alcohol is left to mature in casks. The group were shown cherry, brandy and port casks where the whisky is stored in for an initial period of eight years - some staying in for decades longer to become prized malt whisky.

After coffee and scones in the restaurant, members of the group were offered a generous dram of Ben Nevis whisky before they left.

The Ben Nevis distillery has been sponsor of the Clan Cameron Association Scotland for a number of years.

After the distillery tour, the group headed up to the Clan Cameron museum at Achnacarry. Arriving in the early afternoon sunshine, Bill Cameron gave the group a potted history of the museum building which goes back to 17th century. He mentioned some highlights to be seen within the museum, including artefacts from the 45, as well as more contemporary exhibits such as the bridesmaids dress worn by Lochiel's daughter, Catherine, at the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. To some tableware from the Titanic (the film) that was donated by film director James Cameron.

Members were shown the German field gun outside the museum and given some of its history. From its involvement in the



Lochiel leading the group up to Achnacarry Castle



Inside the Still Room at Ben Nevis Distillery



Lochiel talking about an old piece of children's furniture in the foreground.



Inside St. Ciaran's Church, Achnacarry.

The group were then led in to the castle where Lochiel talked about the various contemporary and historical paintings in the large hallway. The group were then taken around a number of rooms where Lochiel talked about various artefacts, as well as the major renovations which have taken place in the castle over the last couple of years.

After a series of questions from various members. Lochiel talked about the various developments taking place on the estate; namely the introduction of a series of hydro schemes along Loch Arkaig and how these were beginning to make a much needed profit for the estate.

Lochiel was given a hearty thanks from the group as they made their way out of the castle and down to the Beech Avenue. The Avenue looked splendid with fresh leaves on the trees. Bill pointed out some original pegs in the trees from the Commando's time at Achnacarry and also noted that the trees were planted by the Gentle Lochiel back in 1745, just before the arrival of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

The group also looked in on the walled garden alongside the river Arkaig before heading back to Achnacarry Village hall for afternoon coffee and cakes. The group were then taken a short distance along the road to see the two new Archimedes screws that have been installed. The screws are driven by diverting water from the river Arkaig down past them which in turn, generates electricity that is then fed into the national grid. The scheme also includes fish ladders for trout to go safely up and down the system.

The final stop of the day was a short bus ride up to St Ciaran's Church on the Achnacarry Estate. Bill gave a short history of this lovely little Church which still sees parishioners from around Achnacarry gather once a month for a service.

The group finished the tour by returning for a meal back at the Alexandra hotel in Fort William.

Photographs by Martin Briscoe and Alex Gillespie

The Road back to Invermallie

Places in Scotland where John 'Mor' Cameron lived
prior to his 1840 emigration.

by Roger Cameron (Iar Branch and Australia)

The story continues —

So much for the geography - that this river is the source of fertility and sustenance for the farm is one matter. Another matter is that rivers also play a big part in the psyche of man and I imagine that the River Mallie facilitated a bonding to this area, an enhanced sense of belonging, in those who depended upon it. So, having seen Inver Mallie, I can only now begin to imagine my great great great grandfather's sorrow when he was evicted from this area - his familial home, his home terrain, his home. The other places in the parish of Morvern where he lived were firstly a large distance from this first home, very coastal in character, and the landscapes at Drimnin, Achnagouna and Achranich were not like that at Inver Mallie. Little wonder that when he finally settled along the Turakina River, with its rich alluvial flats, close to Wanganui, he called it *Invermallie*. So Big John was born in Inver Mallie and he died in *Invermallie*. Well, the Wanganui Chronicle records him (January 22, 1881, p.2) as "... dying in his residence, Turakina Valley, ..." but I would like to think that this was on his *Invermallie*. That he saw the Turakina but his mind's eye saw the Mallie.

A FOOTNOTE: I walked away from Inver Mallie feeling ambivalent and I didn't expect this. Prior to this visit I was very much in John Prebble's camp with respect to the Clearances (Prebble, 1963). Now I am not so sure. My conflict lies between the immoral aspects on one hand (the Clearances being virtual ethnic cleansing), when compared with the Malthusian aspects on the other hand (this land could not sustain an increasingly larger population). That the Clearances, as the mass evictions have become known, were cruelly executed is beyond dispute. The history of the Clearances is replete with Writs of Removal virtually raining down on crofters and cottars and the Lochaber region is no exception (Mackenzie, c.1911). They were often forcibly removed from their crofts, watched whilst the roof was pulled down and set on fire, and then told to leave their ancestral homelands forever.

However, I left Inver Mallie doubting the carrying capacity of this land to support an increasing population. I thought of all the genealogical family trees I have seen to date that are relevant to just this area. I then imagined all these people being allowed to stay on and wondered how many generations would have remained before the degraded carrying capacity of this land and limited arable acreage would have imposed eviction upon them? Grass and moss growing on spongy peat is not exactly a highly nutritional feed for livestock. And - a simple examination of Google Earth imagery will confirm that there are not exactly large acreages of non-peat land available for agricultural crops. Clearly, a rapidly increasing population *in-situ* would have placed additional stresses on the already limited carrying capacity of the land and further entrenched poverty (and its associated problems that are already well documented) within the crofter and cottar classes of the highlands.

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The house that Alexander Cameron built - a view looking west showing 'Invermallie', now used as a bothy and maintained by walking groups. It was built in 1776, after Alexander Cameron's original house burnt down (1775) during a family absence. This is the only surviving building at Inver Mallie from the times of the Lochaber evictions and I am suggesting that Big John spent many hours in his grandfather's house - hence my connecting Big John to this house.

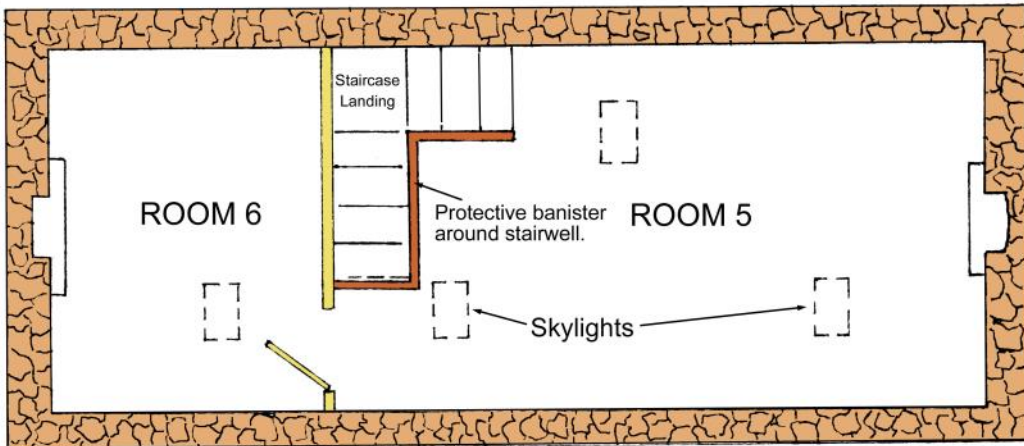


This concludes the description, which has run over three issues, of the places 'Big John' Cameron lived. We are grateful to Roger Cameron, member of the Iar Branch, NZ, and of Marrickville, Australia, for researching and bringing us this story. Email: cameronrg@optusnet.com.au

INVER MALLIE

THE HOUSE THAT ALEXANDER CAMERON BUILT IN 1776

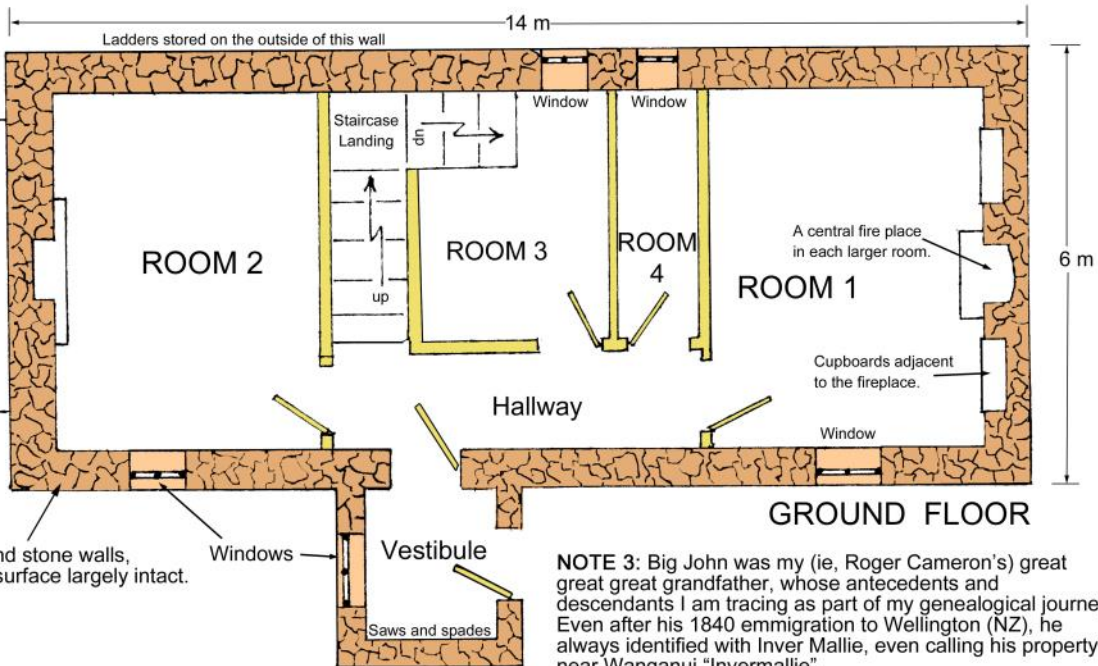
NOTE 1: This house, now used as a walker's bothy, was the home of Alexander Cameron (a tacksman from 1762 to 1804). He was the grandfather of John 'Mor' Cameron ('Big' John). Big John spent his childhood in the late eighteenth century growing up on the holding of 'Invermallie' and probably spent many hours here in this house. This is the only surviving building at Inver Mallie.



Wall's azimuth is 052° T

FIRST FLOOR

NOTE 2: Scale and internal relationships are approximate only, based on a brief pace and compass survey. Building dimensions and orientation confirmed in Google Earth.



GROUND FLOOR

Lime/cement mortar and stone walls, with a rendered outer surface largely intact.

NOTE 3: Big John was my (ie, Roger Cameron's) great great grandfather, whose antecedents and descendants I am tracing as part of my genealogical journey. Even after his 1840 emmigration to Wellington (NZ), he always identified with Inver Mallie, even calling his property near Wanganui "Invermallie".

LOCALITY DIAGRAM



Diagram adapted from: Loch Arkaig (399) 1:25,000 Topographic Map, Ordnance Survey 2015 (Topographic data 2007) Croft GPS: 56°57'10.1"N, 05°03'59.0"W

SCALE: Grid interval is 1,000m

Site visit: Sun. 21 August 2016
Field sketch and notes: Roger G Cameron
Contact: cameronrg@optusnet.com.au



Aonaibh ri Cheile The Back Page



Photo: Bryan Haggitt



Photo: Nick Cameron



Photo: Diane Winders

Left : Norman Cameron, Jenny and Bryan Haggitt, Hilary and Cass Hakaraia and piping in the Haggis at the Clan Donald dinner.

Top: John Cameron and Helen Shaw at the Hawke's Bay Highland Games.

Right: Bill Cameron exploring a crevasse in the Solheimajokull glacier. Iceland



Photo: Bill Cameron



Photo: Denis Cameron



Photo: Duncan McQueen

Graduation Day. Left: Joy and Denis Cameron with grandson Tom Taylor at Lincoln University. Right: Matthew McQueen with mother and father Jean and Duncan and brother Andrew at Auckland University. Matthew has developed our website.



Historic pipes were played at Culloden
See page 5



Florence Cameron at the Highland Haggis Festival

