



# Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



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*Bryan Haggit addresses the Haggis in Auckland.*

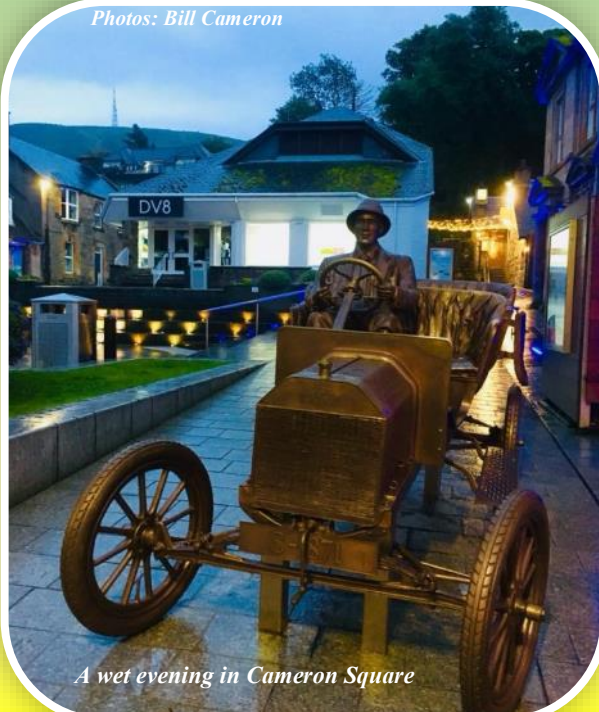
*photo: Jean McQueen*



*Kevin Sinclair pipes in the Haggis in Palmerston North*

*photo: Jo Cameron*

*Photos: Bill Cameron*



*A wet evening in Cameron Square*



*Mike Munro talks about his grandfather's ascent of Ben Nevis*

*The Model T Ford Bronze Replica in Cameron Square—See Bill Cameron's article page 8 and 9*

## “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.th59@gmail.com

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

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

### Branch Presidents

**Auckland**  
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. locaber@xtra.co.nz

**Iar (Taranaki / Wanganui)**  
Neville Wallace  
275 Turuturu 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 russelldcam@gmail.com

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

**Canterbury**  
Colin Cameron,  
11B Wills Street, Ashburton 7700  
Ph 03 308 8334 colincameron1938@gmail.com

**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.clanameronnz.co.nz](http://www.clanameronnz.co.nz)

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

## A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

Last weekend your executive had its mid year meeting in Turangi to discuss forthcoming events and for a general catch up. We were delighted to receive a power-point presentation from Jo Cameron of the Manawatu branch on the subject of the DNA Clan Cameron project in terms of how it is done, the differences between autosomal and Y chromosome data, and what it might mean if you discover that you are not who you thought you might be related to or otherwise!. It was a fascinating talk and very well presented. The pre-meeting meal at the Parklands Hotel was very enjoyable – thank you to Neil for organizing this for us.

On a personal note my father-in-law Jesse Chapman passed away last week with his funeral tomorrow. He was a cropping and sheep farmer in Darfield and served in WW2 as a tank commander at Montecasino in Italy. He has specifically asked for me to play the pipes at his funeral – and I guess with a twinkle in his eye when he wrote the request – mentioned that he was pleased he wouldn't be able to hear it!. He was 97 years old and had lived a very good and full life.

Next Sunday I fly to Johannesburg in South Africa for a work trip. Unfortunately I will miss the AB's test against the Boks in that country – I hope we see some Utu after last weekend's defeat.

My youngest brother Andrew Cameron has once again been asked to return with the Red Cross to Yemen for a 12 month spell (this country is in the middle of a civil war) – so his speech to the AGM next year will now no longer be possible.

We need to reply to Locheil with likely attendees for the 2020 gathering and advise him of any programme events you might like to see or have changed.

We will once again be giving away free haggis at the Hororata Highland Games with a Clan Cameron tent display on the 7th November for any of you who might want to attend. My daughter Rowan will be looking after the tent on this day. These games are usually very well attended with pipe band and dancing contests, many stalls and a range of other contests.

Cheers, *Nick.*

### Congratulations

Rob Cameron, Vice President of the Auckland Branch of Clan Cameron, was elected Vice President of the Combined Clan's Association (Auckland Districts) at their recent AGM. At the dinner following the AGM Rob piped in the haggis and also won the raffle prize.

Rob is the grandson of the late Rodney Cameron, former Clan Piper and Newsletter Editor



Clan Cameron New Zealand  
Website

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

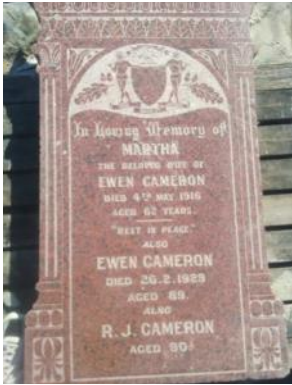


Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Nov

Printed By

## Calling All Descendants of Ewen Cameron of Toanga, Poverty Bay

Some years ago, in an effort to tidy up the Makaraka cemetery, the Gisborne Council buried some headstones without consulting the descendants.



The Friends of the Makaraka Cemetery Trust has now recovered 87 of the headstones and wants the families to restore the headstones onto the original gravesites. The cost involved is up to each family.

Colin Cameron, a great grandson of Ewen and Martha Cameron, is liaising with the trust to restore his grandparents' headstone.

Colin is asking for some financial help from Ewen's descendants, many of whom are members of the Clan Cameron Association. They will have descended from the family shown in the photograph on right. The quote for replacing the headstone on the burial site is \$931.50.

Bank account for donations is: Kiwibank 38 9016 0457946 Name Ewen Cameron. Please put your own name on the donation.

Colin says they are nearly halfway there and is asking descendants to show pride in their family and heritage.



**The Family of Ewen Cameron (circa 1905)**  
 Back Row: Robert John (Bob), George Alexander (Alex), Isabella Kathleen (Bella), Ewen Angus Turnbull (Angus).  
 Centre: Edward Knowles (Knowlie), **Ewen Snr.**, Mrs Ewen Snr., Maria Alice (Ria), Patrick Martin (Pat)  
 Front: Rymer Corrychoellie (Corry), Septimus John (Jack), Ewen Jnr.

If over subscribed, Colin suggests that it goes towards the Gisborne Highland Pipe Band which will be celebrating its centenary in 2020.

Ewen Cameron was the sponsor of the first meeting in 1920 to establish the Pipe Band.

### Clan Cameron Gathering Achnacarry



This will take place from 30 July to 2 August 2020. Now is the time to start planning your trip as accommodation can be hard to find in the summer holiday months.

For the 2009 Achnacarry Gathering, John Cameron, of Operatunity Travel, led a group (shown left) on a very successful "no worries" trip with everything arranged.

He has offered to do the same for the coming 2020 Gathering, but will need at least 20 clansfolk to make it worthwhile. If you are thinking of going on John's tour please email Neil (kncam@xtra.co.nz) so that John can be advised and, if he has the numbers, can start planning.

If you plan to attend independently please let Nick know so that Lochiel can be advised (note Commissioner's message on page 2).

The Gathering programme will include the traditional events as shown in the last magazine's Commissioner's message. Lochiel has asked if you would like to change anything or include other events—please let Nick have any ideas.

### Coming Events:

Further events and details on our web site

**Sunday 14th. of October 2018**  
**Kirkin O' The Tartan Service**  
 St. Andrews Turakina at 2pm.  
 This year's piper will be Callum Cameron along with his parents Heather and Eoin playing the organ.  
 Information contact Roz & Ewen Grant  
 06 327 3861 - tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz

**Saturday 10 November 2018**  
**Hororata Highland Games**  
 Hororata Domain: 56 Hororata Rd, Hororata  
 "Traditional Scottish Highland Games with a Kiwi twist."  
 Clan Cameron will be there, giving out free haggis and shortbread.  
 www.hororata.org.nz

**Saturday 17 November 2018**  
**Auckland Highland Games.**  
 Event Centre, Ellerslie Racecourse.  
 Come and help christen our new Cameron Gazebo. 9am to 5pm.  
**New website: ahg.org.nz**

**Tuesday 1 January 2018**  
**Waipu Highland Games.**  
 The Cameron tent will be there. Visit us and give us your support.  
 www.waipugames.co.nz

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday**  
**5-7 April 2019 (note changed date)**  
**54th Clan Cameron AGM and Gathering**  
 Quality Hotel, Parnell, Auckland and other venues.  
 It is hoped Sunday will include a service in the Naval Chapel followed by a walk around the Naval Base.

## From the Branches....

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

### **Auckland** by Norman Cameron

In this report I will mainly write about our very successful mid Winter Dinner held at the Quality Hotel on the 4th of August. Special guests were the New Zealand Commissioner Nick Cameron and his wife Julie also James Cameron the Australian Commissioner. Included in this list is Angus Fletcher our Patron. There were a hundred and ten guests including representatives from Clan Donald and Clan Davidson. Our Vice-President Rob Cameron piped the guests to the tables followed by an introduction by Duncan McQueen the MC. We were entertained by the OrigNZ pipers and musicians plus dancers, Malcolm Campbell led us with the singing. The Reverend Bryan Haggitt "Addressed the Haggis" in his usual entertaining way. The guest speaker was Fay Cameron who spoke about early days of sailing with her husband James and settling in New Zealand and breeding Highland Cattle. A special thanks to Neil Cameron for organising the evening, Elaine & Hillary for welcoming the guests and Bryan and Jenny for running the raffle. Jean McQueen was very busy with her camera and I will be interested in the end results.

Bryan and Jenny had James Cameron to dinner on Thursday night, Bryan took him to St Kentigern College on Friday to watch a game of rugby. He also went to the Remuera Rotary Club with Bryan on Monday night. On the following Thursday James came over to Waiheke and Jill and I took him to lunch. After lunch showed him a bit of the Island and I then took him to Devonport where Neil Cameron walked him up Mount Victoria and took him for a drive around Devonport.

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

I attended the Auckland and Manawatu dinners in August which were both wonderful. I enjoyed seeing Clan Cameron members and families that I don't often otherwise see and enjoying accommodation nearby. Thank you Bay of plenty Clan Cameron NZ branch for helping me achieve this. We saw James Cameron (Australian Commissioner) at the Auckland dinner and the wonderful band was in Auckland again this year. I had a go at a live feed on Facebook for Manawatu for their Haggis ceremony which was an exciting new experience. I attended the Turangi National Executive meeting at the beginning of September and enjoyed a wonderful meal the night before at our accommodation. We plan to have our end of year luncheon but at this stage we are not sure when this will go ahead.

### **Canterbury** by Rae Magson

Not a lot happening at this stage, frankly we need some new blood and we are not sure how to find them.

However plans are being made for the Annual General Meeting in November, also the Hororata Highland Games. The usual arrangements will apply, giving away haggis and shortbread, and also have a raffle. This is usually



### **Iar (Western North Island)** by Shona Wallace

Clan Cameron Iar has been quiet over the winter months but are meeting again on the 26th September. The Executive meeting was attended by Neville and Shona who also attended the Manawatu annual dinner. A very enjoyable occasion and we were lucky to be hosted by Brian and Barbara Barber. Thankyou to you both for such a great time. We are looking forward to catching up with some of our members who have not had a good winter so we are all wishing them much better health as the weather warms up. Once again congratulations to Manawatu for such a successful dinner. Our sympathy is also extended to Julie and Nick and family on the death of Julie's father.



### **Manawatu** by Anne Walker

Clan Cameron Manawatu held our annual mid-winter dinner on Saturday 18th August. Nearly 60 members and friends joined together for a grand evening of convivial company, delicious food and great entertainment, in the ambiance of Wharerata, one of Palmerston North's historic homesteads.

Clan members came from the length and breadth of New Zealand for this event. They were hosted by Master of Ceremonies, Russell Cameron, President of Clan Cameron Manawatu. We were thrilled and honoured to have Nick Cameron, Clan Cameron NZ President and Commissioner, and Julie Cameron, join us from Christchurch for the evening. Guests were welcomed to Wharerata by pipers from the Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band. Under the guidance of Grade 1 piper, Kevin Sinclair, talented youth piper Reuban Bilsland (15) with his younger brother Angus (12) on the drums delighted the audience when they entertained during the evening.

Bryan Barber conducted the haggis ceremony and delivered the Ode very well. Bryan was supported by Clansmen of whom some were experiencing their first participation in a haggis ceremony. The haggis, prepared by Roz Grant, was peppery, and very favoursome and we enjoyed this as the entree. The three-course buffet meal served by Wharerata over the course of the evening was delicious. Starting with a memorable cock-a-leckie soup, followed by a substantial main course, we finished with a baked pudding that all guests appreciated on the chilly winters night.

Finally, our guest speaker Neal Duff, a retired school principal, regaled us with his personal reflections on two years teaching in Thurso and Wick, in the Scottish Highlands. He shared his collection of beautiful photographic images. His topic – "Education, Distilleries and Kippers in the Land of the Heather" entertained us, and we all left knowing a great deal more about Scottish whisky than we thought possible. Clan Cameron Manawatu enjoyed hosting guests from all over the country for this event and have received many messages indicating that everyone had a wonderful time. Some have already indicated that they'll be back in 2019. Photos and videos taken by Jo Cameron during the dinner can be viewed on Clan Cameron Manawatu Facebook page.



# St. Ciaran's Church, Achnacarry

By Sandy Edmond

The church has an interesting history and the records have been kept for over the hundred years of its existence. At a meeting in August 1909, chaired by the then Donald Cameron of Lochiel, a request was made for a piece of land to be made available for the purpose of building a place of worship. It was agreed that this would be a Mission Church to serve the needs of all local people and that it would be managed as a Charity by appointed Trustees. The Deeds state that two of the Trustees must be the Lochiel and the Parish Minister of Kilmallie, Church of Scotland, and that services should be conducted by any minister or missionary of Protestant faith. (note that St Ciaran's is not owned or managed or funded by the Church of Scotland – it is an independent charity).

Within 4 months, by December 1909 the community had raised £545 (about £60,000 in today's money) towards the cost of the build and an estimate from the architect came in at £980-15-2d (that's pounds, shillings and pennies!!!) for the finished church. That comprised £397 for the stone mason to build all the walls and the steeple, £152 for the joiner to form the roof and the floors and pews, £106 for the slater to slate and lead the roofs, and £15 to paint the whole lot! And the architect agreed to reduce his fee from £100 to £76.

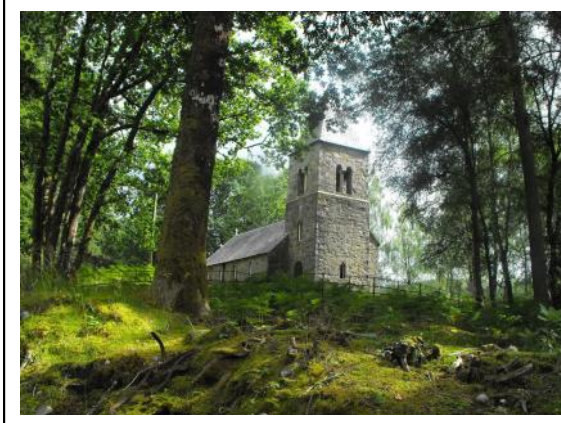
After much head scratching various economies were made such as not using pitch pine for the roof sarking but cheaper white pine, using a slate roof instead of concrete slab roof, a wooden floor instead of ceramic tiles, (and not bothering with heating initially!). This brought the cost down to just over £750. The build went ahead with Lady Hermione Cameron laying the foundation stone, and in early 1912 the church was opened. Somehow an extra £36-17-6d had been found which allowed the installation of a coal boiler heating system and piping/radiators. The coal was delivered by the Estate which charged 5/- per hundredweight delivered (that's 12p per 25kg bag or about £2.75 per tonne). The land was fenced off and the cast iron gates and fence hurdles were supplied by a Glasgow foundry and delivered 'by steamer paid' to Clunes Pier. (that would be the steamship 'Gondolier' maybe?)

The Church held regular services and was well attended by all accounts using many missionary preachers and occasional services from the Kilmallie Minister. There is reference to it being re-roofed after the war (second World War?) and there was considerable trouble with the roof due to inadequate main joists which needed the addition of the cross diagonal braces that still exist today. The end gable was altered in 1920 to take the War Memorial window and the marble dedication slab, commemorating the deaths of 16 local shepherds, gillies, and gardeners and including 5 members of

the Cameron Clan, this many being a huge loss to the lifeblood of the Estate.

Battery lighting was installed in 1934 at a cost of £24 and in 1950 the Hydro installed mains electricity (all in lead sheathed cables). There were ongoing issues with woodworm and at one point the Estate were asked to provide half a pound of paradichlorobenzene and half a gallon of paraffin, mixed and used to treat all the affected timbers (no Health and Safety then and surprising that the Church did not blow up!)

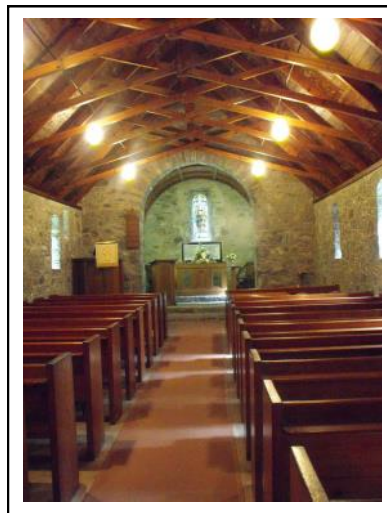
An organ was used for many years (presumably with manual bellows) but ongoing problems with damp rendered this instrument to be very temperamental. At a series of



Trustee meetings in the early 1930's the issue of transport for the missionaries to get to/from Achnacarry was discussed and it was agreed to provide a bicycle but only if the missionary paid his existing debt of £3 for the use of an Estate pony! A cleaner and caretaker was employed for many years (salary of £6 per annum) and the schoolhouse in Bunarkaig agreed to provide hot water for the cleaner (which had to be carried up to the church). Later, the Hydro provided a Belling hot water boiler

which was installed in the vestry. There has never been running water in the church (except occasionally through the roof!) and there is no record as to where water for the boiler was sourced but perhaps a rainwater butt.

St Ciaran's Church has, like many other churches, suffered from falling attendance in recent years and has now reached a critical point at which its future is uncertain. The monthly services are currently attended by only three to five worshippers, and occasionally only two, albeit with a good attendance at Christmas. It might be thought to be unreasonable to expect the Minister to attend from Corpach even once a month for such small numbers. At the most recent meeting of the Trustees of the Church it was decided that unless numbers increase then it may be that these regular monthly services will cease in the early part of 2019. The Trustees would then continue to maintain the building as long as declining finances allow and it could be kept available for special services, weddings, funerals etc as may be required. Routine cleaning and minor maintenance are currently carried out voluntarily by the Trustees and occasionally tradesmen are employed to carry out larger repairs. Currently the Trustees comprise Lochiel,



Rev Richard Corbett (Kilmallie Parish), Edward Robinson (Gairloch), Sandy Edmond (Bunarkaig) and Frances Love (Clunes). It is to be regretted that the Trustees have to consider closing the Church for regular worship but such are the times we live in and the Church has to respond to this downturn in demand.

By Sandy Edmond, on behalf of the Trustees of St Ciarans Church. [sandy.edmond@ymail.com](mailto:sandy.edmond@ymail.com)

With thanks to the Braes newsletter for the article and to Lorraine Cameron for the photographs.

*The Auckland Dinner photos by Jean McQueen, Nick Cameron, Norman Cameron and Editor*



*From left: Mary-Anne with James, MC Duncan with Neil, James, Jill, Judy Murphy and Norman, The young haggis party: Annika, Lachlan and Max*



*Hillary Hakaraia and Elaine Ebbett*



*James Cameron addresses the diners*



*Mary-Anne, Tanya, Fraser and Shona Cameron*



*Clan crest carved by Rob presented to Originz*



*Watching the Haggis Ceremony*



*Fay Cameron talks about the Highland Cattle Farm*



*Honor Braid and Jordan Braid-Eley dance for us*



*Originz Band play for us*



*Auld Lang Syne*

*The Manawatu Dinner* photos by Jo / Dean Cameron and Nick Cameron



The Haggis is piped in



Bryan Barber addresses the Haggis



Jo Cameron, Roz Grant and Gail Cawkwell



Peter Cawkwell, Gail Cawkwell, Dean Cameron, John Cameron, Bryan Barber



Dale Bailey and Colin Cameron



The lovely setting in the Wharerata Historic Homestead



Dinner in style



Nick Cameron, Warren Cameron and Ewen Grant



Tanya Cameron

# Model T Ford and Ben Nevis

by Bill Cameron (Lochaber)

Why was a Model T taken 4,413 feet up on a snow covered mountain top in Scotland in May 1911 - with the stars and stripes fluttering behind it?

Britain's highest mountain Ben Nevis towers over the town of Fort William in the Scottish Highlands. The area's spectacular scenery was the back drop for the last great Jacobite uprising in 1745 and saw much of its population leave for the New World in the aftermath of that conflict. More recently it has been a backdrop for "Braveheart", "Rob Roy", "Harry Potter" and the site of much action in the "Outlander" series.

In 1911 however an outlandish dream became a reality when one Henry Alexander, a Ford dealer from Edinburgh drove a standard Model T Ford 120 miles to Fort William. He left the town driving from sea level, up the steep five miles to the summit of Ben Nevis which stands at 4,413 feet. The route crosses streams, traverses bogs and ascends the steep trackless rocky hillside. Then as now there is no road or navigable trail.

This feat of man and machine took five days to ascend the mountain and only a couple of hours to descend. This achievement was acclaimed by Ford for many years – though press reports at the time were not all overwhelmingly positive. Journalists were provided with ponies to carry them to the top of the Ben to report on the event after the car summited. "The Times" newspaper correspondent's pony did not take a great liking to him - and threw him off into a bog breaking his nose. He sent a rather abbreviated report. Henry Ford said it was one of the best adverts for his car, resulting in many sales after this early example of motor mountaineering

One hundred years later in May 2011 some 76 Model T Fords from all over Great Britain descended on Fort William for a week and drove amongst the hills and glens. One car attempted an abortive re-ascent of Ben Nevis, but it took a team of 77 stalwarts led by enthusiastic members of the Model T Register of Great Britain to carry a 1911 Model T in parts to the summit of the Ben. It was assembled in a

blizzard, photographed and then carried back to the town. When reassembled it took pride of place in the famous West Highland Museum in Cameron Square from where the car left and returned in 1911.

Later in 2011 the architect commissioned to redesign the Cameron Square suggested a Model T might be placed in the Square to commemorate the 1911 event and in no time this idea found local and national support and fund raising began to make this vision a reality.

After the idea to establish a Model T sculpture in Cameron Square was suggested, a group of eight local individuals came together to form the Ben Bronze team. Over the following seven years the team would have meetings and attend all manner of events to help raise the funds required to make a full size bronze Model T in Cameron Square.

In early 2017 the majority of the eighty five thousand pounds had been raised. The team then applied for European funding to secure the final amount required. Fortunately the bid was successful and the next stage of getting sculpture made would begin.

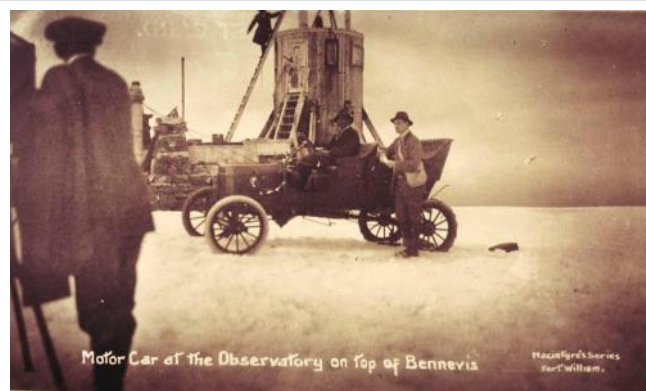
In 2017 the tendering process was set up for Scottish foundries to bid for the contract to manufacture the Ben Bronze Model T. Powder hall Bronze foundry in Edinburgh were

successful in winning the contract. The casting of the sculpture involved rubber moulds being taken directly from a 1911 Model T, thereby giving a high amount of detail in the final sculpture. The Ben Bronze team visited the foundry on a number of occasions during the making process - taking an active part in the final outcome of the sculpture. A group of design students from Lochaber High School also visited the foundry to see parts of the sculpture being cast.

In order to get a good likeness of Henry Alexander's head in bronze, his grandson, Mike Munro was involved in giving feedback on the clay head of his grandfather. The Munro family were involved throughout the process and took a leading role at the unveiling of the sculpture.

After many months of hard work at the foundry the Ben Bronze Model T sculpture was completed at the end

of April 2018. Weighing in at just over three tonnes it was



Henry Alexander in his Model T on the summit of Ben Nevis alongside the remains of the old weather observatory.



The Model T in Cameron Square back in 1911.



Three generations: Henry Alexander behind the wheel, Mike Munro and his grandson Leighton, the gt gt gt grandson of Henry Alexander.



hoisted onto a specialist transporter and driven from Edinburgh up to Fort William.

As the sculpture is located in a public space where people are encouraged to engage with it by taking a front or back seat in the car, safety was of the utmost importance. The Model T has a reinforced steel frame within the structure, as well as four posts fixing it securely into the ground in Cameron Square.

I had been involved in the Model T team ascent of Ben Nevis back in 2011, where I helped carry the wooden chassis of a Model T up on to the summit of the Ben and back down. I would go on to be part of the Ben Bronze Team from the outset, through to its completion.

Nearing the time of the unveiling of the sculpture, my thoughts turned to think about how we could re-establish the connection between the car and the mountain. Considering the cultural and historical traditions associated with snow being on Ben Nevis, particularly in relation to Clan Cameron. The legend has it that the mountain would no longer belong to the Cameron family when there is no snow left on it - as it usually has snow patches on it all year round. This was highlighted back in 2000 when the mountain was sold by the Cameron Fairfax Lucy family to the John Muir Trust. On the morning of the sale a snowball was made on the summit of the Ben and taken down and used as a source of a celebrated dram during the exchange of papers from the Cameron family to a representative from the John Muir Trust.

Thinking on this tradition, as well as connecting the mountain with the Ben Bronze in Cameron Square. I decided to run up Ben Nevis with an empty steel flask early on the morning of the unveiling of sculpture. Arriving on the summit just before eight am, the flask was filled with fresh snow and I ran back down to Cameron Square.

The car had been installed in Cameron Square a couple of days earlier and had been covered up with a tarpaulin. On the morning of the unveiling it was draped in a Ford Model T tartan.

Arriving back down Cameron square just after nine am, crowds had started to gather in the square. A number of Model T's had also parked up around the edges of the square as there would be a rally after the unveiling.

Just before eleven o'clock the

Lochaber Schools Pipe band played a number of stirring Pipe tunes to the crowds in Cameron Square.

Local councillor Alan Henderson addressed the crowd and gave a potted history of the project and thanked a number of people involved in making the idea into a reality.



*Members of the Ben Bronze Model T team after the unveiling of the sculpture.*

Three members of the Munro family removed the Model T tartan to reveal the shining Ben Bronze Model T sculpture. This was met with great cheers and applause from the assembled crowds in the Square. Mike Munro, Henry Alexander's grandson then sat in the passengers seat next to the sculpture of his late grandfather and gave a speech which touched on his

grandfathers ascent of the Ben back in 1911, as well as his pride in seeing the finished sculpture. (see photo on front page).

The Ben Nevis distillery had commissioned a commemorative whisky decanter for the event. This was used along with the fresh snow from the summit of Ben Nevis and poured into a quach and passed around the members of the Munro family and the Ben Bronze team. (I should note that none were driving a car that day!)

Shortly afterwards around fifty Model T's were led out of Cameron Square by the Lochaber Schools Pipe Band along Fort William's High Street. A Bronze Trail was also inaugurated that day, encouraging people to visit the other notable bronze sculptures in Fort William, Inverlochly and Spean Bridge.

The day concluded with a gala dinner in the Alexandra Hotel where members of the Model T Register of Great Britain gathered along with the Model T team and the Munro family.

Since the Ben Bronze Model T was installed back in May it has proved to be a popular attraction with locals and visitors alike.

An explanatory bronze plaque will be added to the adjacent wall in Cameron Square shortly, along with inlaid bronze tyre tracks on the ground to complete the project.



*Bill on the summit of Ben Nevis after gathering some snow in a flask on the morning of the unveiling of the Ben Bronze Model T. Also carrying a miniature Model T car.*



By Editor:

When you visit Fort William, have your photo taken sitting in the seat of the Bronze Model T Ford - I will publish it in the magazine.

# The Scottish National Trail

- *Yvette's Journey* by Bev. Morrissey (Manawatu)

In March of this year, Yvette Morrissey, 29, (descendant of Thomas Ross/Annie Cameron), finally made it into Edinburgh!

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, she embarked on an amazing adventure – a 7 week solo hike of the length of Scotland - The Scottish National Trail. She had reasons for contemplating such a hike.

- 1) She has always been passionate about her Scottish family history, wanting to experience life as closely as possible, as they did, also to challenge herself. To her, this was on foot.
- 2) To raise money for Cystic Fibrosis. Yvette's Goddaughter Olivia (5) has the incurable disease. She started a 'Go Fund Me' page for donations - half the funds raised would go to Olivia's treatment costs, the remaining half to CF Foundation NZ.

Yvette set off down to the start point - the Scottish/English border at Kirk Yetholm. From there she would spend the next 7 weeks hiking up to 35 km/day, with a 19kg backpack. She mostly wild camped in her small tent, to save on costs, but also stayed in Bothys, which are quaint stone huts dotted along the trail for hikers to spend the night, much like our DOC huts in NZ. Occasionally she stayed in campgrounds or a B & B.

Believe it or not, Scotland was in the midst of a summer heatwave, with temps in the high 20's! The first few days of the hike were pretty tiring, as Yvette's body got used to the steep hill climbs, river crossings, rough farmland. However, despite initial blisters, muscle aches, Yvette soon fell in love with the absolute beauty of the amazing Scottish countryside, quaint villages, and was incredibly touched by kind hospitality of the Scottish people she met along the way. Some even offered her a bed for the night, lovely cooked meals, along with a packed lunch for her.

After a week, her body was finally adjusting! She spent many nights, by herself, camping in the wild, sometimes beside rivers, once in front of a castle ruins. One night she heard a very scary noise which she said sounded like Gollum out of Lord of the Rings! It turned out to be 2 foxes mating! Nevertheless, she said she was scared out of her wits!

Yvette often took time to stop off at some of the historic villages to explore. She visited Callendar House in Falkirk, a

12<sup>th</sup> century mansion, home of many nobles including Mary Queen of Scots, and carries a lot of history. She also witnessed the Falkirk Wheel being colourfully lit up at night, where she had set up camp for the night.

Over the next few weeks, Yvette would walk along the Rob Roy way, to Blair Atholl, then into the remote Cairngorms mountain range, often with no phone reception. A highlight was to stumble across the set of the filming of

season 4 of Outlander! It was in a forest, in the the middle of nowhere on a Loch. She also encountered her first real fear...an Adder snake, right in the middle of the path. Adders are venomous, not poisonous, but a bite can cause nasty complications. Thankfully, with a bit of noise, it slithered away! The hike through the Cairngorms took 3 days, all with wild camping, alone in the wilderness. It was here she also encountered the nasty annoying midges, also ticks that burrowed in!! A highlight was swimming in the Falls of Tarf, swimming right up to the waterfall. Rivers became her common place of baths, which she became to love. It was the next night she stayed in her first Bothy – Ruigh Aiteachain. This

Bothy marked the official half way point of the trail. The lovely caretaker lit a firework for her and made a donation. This bothy she said was AMAZING. The famous painting 'Monarch of the Glen' by Edwin Landseer, was painted next to this bothy. She also planted a tree in memory of her Grandmother, Coline, (nee Cameron), who had passed away only 2 months prior.

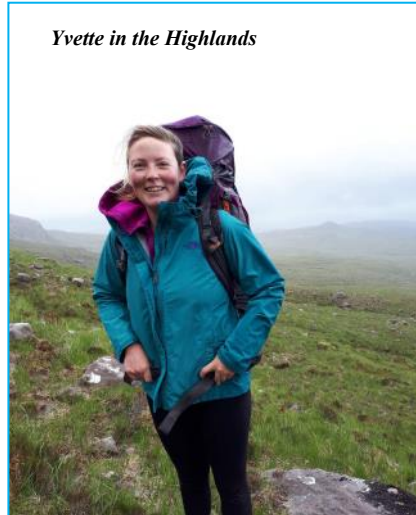
Yvette next headed into Cameron country - Fort

William. It was here she encountered a severe storm called Hector. She managed to pack up her tent at one point, to stay in a hostel till the weather cleared. The next day she experienced a very special day. She caught a bus to the Kilfinnan Graveyard, to visit her 4x Great Grandfather

Archibald MacDonell, who is surrounded by the Chiefs of Clan MacDonell. He died young, and his wife and children then moved to Aust then NZ. Their daughter Annie, married Thomas Ross Cameron. Yvette said it was surreal to sit by his grave and imagine the life he would have lived here. She then returned to her hike of the Great Glen Way, the Fort Augustus to Invergarry leg. She stopped off to visit

Invergarry Castle – her favourite castle ruin and once home of our MacDonell clan. She was excited to get to Invergarry, as quite a few of our ancestors lived and worked in this area.

The next leg of the hike of the Highlands were mentally and physically tough. She contended with steep terrain,



Yvette in the Highlands



Hiking in the Highlands



Ruigh Aiteachain Bothy

strong wind, fog, rain, and a 3.5km hike through bog up to her knees at times! She also encountered a horrible fly called a Clegg. They insistently chased her, biting her through her clothes, drawing blood!

From there, it was the final leg of the hike...the Cape Wrath Trail! One of the highlights on this leg was the final night at Sandalwood – a picturesque white sandy beach. The swim in the sea was heaven

So after 864 km, 54 days, Yvette finally reached her

destination...Cape Wrath Lighthouse, on the very tip of Scotland!

She caught a train back to Edinburgh, stopping off to visit Culloden, where she laid stones collected along her hike, around the Cameron gravestone.

*Yvette now resides in Edinburgh, working as a website designer/Digital Marketing Manager for a Tourism company. Her next challenge is the 24km, 2018 Kiltwalk, Edinburgh, in September raising money for CF Scotland.*

## Charles Archibald Cameron

**Same Family – Different Place and Time.**

*By Colin Cameron (Raumati)*

*A recent article by Norman Cameron on his grandfather Charles Archibald (C A) Cameron of Flat Point, Wairarapa, describes in photographs the movement of the wool clip off the station by sea in the 1920s.*

*In a family sequel some 80 years later, Norman's first cousin Colin – also a grandson of Charles Archibald – describes the movement of sheep, wool and supplies to and from Moturoa Island in the Bay Of Islands during the 10 years he and wife Marion managed the island farm.*

Moturoa carried a thousand breeding ewes and their lambs, was a designated Wildlife Reserve (home to Kiwi, Kakariki, NZ Dotterel, Banded Rail, Saddleback and other endangered bird species) and holiday home and playground to 20 shareholding families.

The island owned its own barge and boat, appropriately named "Farmboat", powered by a Yamaha 125 outboard. To provide the motive power for the barge, "Farmboat" was roped to the starboard stern quarter of the barge with bow and stern ropes, and a drive-rope running over the bow and back to the barge's starboard stern bollard.

Whenever barging operations were in progress we flew yellow-blue-yellow flag "Code D", which signalled to other water traffic to "Stand clear – I manoeuvre with difficulty"! Turning the barge was an art-form, especially with a bit of sea breeze, and not really attempted once the wind reached 15 to 20 knots.

To take sheep off the island we used portable gates braced and stayed on the deck of the barge, giving us 4 pens, each pen holding about 20 adult sheep or 30 lambs. The barge was roped to the island wharf in just enough water to avoid grounding as we loaded her. The last section of loading-race from the sheep yards was attached to a tripod and block-and-

tackle system, holding the end of the race 30 – 40cm above the deck of the barge to allow for the lift and fall of the wave action, ever present no matter how calm the sea looked. Being on the water had a calming effect on the livestock, as once on the barge they remained quite settled and moved around very little.

Off-loading involved nosing the bow of the barge onto the beach and the helmsman holding her square while the crew opened the 2 bow sheepgates and persuading the first 2 or 3 sheep to make the jump off the barge and onto the beach. Thence it was "follow the leader" as they scampered across the beach, into a small set of sheep yards, and on to waiting sheep trucks.

Wool was loaded out of the woolshed onto a flat-deck trailer that stood at the same height as the floating barge. Gone are the horse or bullock teams to haul the cargo, replaced by

tractor, but still requiring the same manpower to load the barge, or as in our case on Moturoa, man and woman power – aka Colin and Marion. With the trailer backed in to the bow of the floating barge it was a case of balancing each bale on its edge, and on "1-2-3 NOW!" flipping the bale from trailer to barge as the motion of the sea brought the barge and trailer together. Not a time for dissention in the ranks! In our 10 years on the island we only lost 1 wool bale into the water when I completely mis-cued this call. We retrieved the bale PDQ, and figured it would not have absorbed too much salt water, but the people at the wool store were not so impressed when they opened it up! Fortunately it was a bale of inferior wool type.

Offloading the wool on the mainland side was much more straightforward, by using a waiting hiab truck to hoist 2 bales at a time from our barge to the deck of the hiab.

No sheep were lost while barging under our watch. Half a dozen did take a swim, when the block-and-tackle holding the adjustable loading-race to the barge broke during embarkation, dumping the end of the race and the 4 or 5 sheep in it at the time into the water just below the tideline, in about half a metre of water. All were safely retrieved and returned to their mates.



*Colin says: "I am on the helm of the boat and my younger son Dugald is standing on the stern of the barge – grandson & great grandson of C.A. Its in the genes!"*





# Aonaibh ri Cheile *The Back Page*



1



2



3



4



5



6

### Pictures taken at a wet Glenfinnan Highland Gathering 2018

1. Jacobites on the way to the field. 2. The Glenfinnan Monument on the evening before. 3. Raising the Standard. 4 At the games field. 5. Clan members with Cameron flags at the monument 6 On the way to the games field. All photos by Bill Cameron.



### The Executive Council Meeting in Turangi.

Back from Left: Tanya Cameron, Bryan Haggitt, Neville Wallace, Mike Topham, Graeme Cameron, Dean Cameron, Nick Cameron, David Weston, Fraser Cameron, John Cameron, Neil Cameron. Front from Left: Jo Cameron, Trish Topham, Shona Wallace, Hazel Cameron. Inset: Jill Cameron (photographer)