



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



Vol 52 No 3
June
2018

Three Presidents—
Roddy Cameron
(Scotland), James
Cameron (Australia)
and Nick Cameron
(New Zealand)

From Left: Rex Wood, Bryan Haggitt, Julie Cameron, Jenny Haggitt, Laurence Cheetham, Mary-Anne Cameron, John Cameron, Tanya Cameron, Nick Cameron, Rhys Fenton, Erina Wood and Elizabeth Cheetham



12 of the Best. New Zealand Camerons at the Australian Gathering on the Gold Coast

“Cameron”

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

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A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

In attending the Highland Games at Lindisfarne college on Pakowhai Road Hastings during the Easter weekend from 31st March to 1 April - it was a real pleasure to once again catch up with the dedicated Hawkes Bay branch members with the revamped Clan Display. Well done to Helen Shaw, Shane East, Mike Topham, my Uncle John Cameron and big John (Manawatu) Cameron for manning this tent over two days.

The following weekend was fairly well occupied with our National AGM held in Ashburton. Special thanks to Colin and Isobel Cameron, Rae Magson, and Pat Tarbotton for doing most of the work in organizing what was a very special event. I know the attendees thoroughly enjoyed their time in the South Island. We were very lucky to have some very talented “Taylor Clan” pipers for this event and Chris Stevens for his flawless rendition of the “Ode to the haggis”. The address given by Simon Cameron from Ben Ohau Station was very informative and he gave us a real insight into the difficulties of his family’s emigration from the highlands and the past and current practices of farming a large area of land in the Southern South Island with fine wool merino sheep. Fittingly the Canterbury Branch organisers had put on a spinning demonstration after lunch which proved very interesting and entertaining for those that were tempted to “have a go at spinning”.

Julie and I attended the Australian Clan Cameron Gathering two weeks later as part of the New Zealand contingent. It was an incredibly well organized event by our Australian Clan Cameron members. It was nice to discover some New Zealand links to the Clan Branches in Australia – with Alastair Cameron who is currently the NSW branch president – a grandson of the famous Ian Cameron of the Wairarapa. Ian Cameron was a previous commissioner and one of the principal organisers who formed the New Zealand Clan Society. The real value in attending these events is to form some strong friendships with those who attend. I was very impressed that the event had not just one pipe band in attendance but three – with the main theme tune for all being the “March of the Cameron Men”. If we are ever to emulate this sort of gathering in the future within New Zealand I think we should bring over the famous Lynne and John Cameron and their daughters, as well as commissioner James Cameron and President Alastair Cameron to help. Thank you to the New Zealand contingent who attended this event and to John Cameron’s Operatunity travel company who made this trip work so well for us all.

Cheers

Nick.



Cameron Gathering Achnacarry

*This will take place on 1 August 2020
with events from 30 July to 2 August.*

*More details later but now is the time
to start planning your trip.*

**Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website**

www.clanameronnz.co.nz



Next Magazine Deadline is 15 July

Printed By

A Nokomai Cameron

by Nick Cameron

Ian Harvey and wife Rowena Joy Hallam from Benowa, Queensland Australia at the Clan Cameron Gathering held in the Gold Coast recently. Ian is descended from the Nokomai Camerons in New Zealand. He was born in Napier and attended school in Hastings and Napier – later on attending Canterbury University where he studied Electronics and telecommunications. He subsequently worked for Hewlett Packard, Nokia and Hawker Siddeley helping to build new mobile phone technology systems. Rowena is a registered Clinical Psychologist now practicing privately on the Gold Coast.



Alistair Cameron

by Elizabeth Cheetham

Alistair Cameron, President of Clan Cameron NSW Inc (which hosted the recent Australian Clan Cameron Gathering on the Gold Coast).

Alistair hails from New Zealand, being born and raised in the Wairarapa. His Cameron ancestors came from Scotland on the 'Blenheim' and he proudly values his Scottish connections and background.

He is the grandson of Ian Cameron, who was, along with several others, instrumental in the formation of the Clan Cameron association in New Zealand in 1938. Ian Cameron was the first New Zealand president of the clan on it's revival in 1956.

Alistair has had a long career in civil engineering in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Australia. He now lives in Sydney and has been an active member of the Cameron Clan Association for many years.

Elizabeth Cheetham, from Masterton New Zealand, also attended the Australian Gathering. She is Alistair's brother.



Alistair Cameron parades the Clan Cameron Australia Banner at the Gathering on the Gold Coast

Coming Events:

[Further events and details on our web site](#)

Sunday 24 June 2018

Auckland Kirkin' O' the Tartan

St. Andrew's Church, Symond Street.
10 am. Banner bearers muster at 9.30.

Saturday 4 August 2018

Auckland Mid-Winter Dinner

Quality Hotel, Parnell.
Registration form for Auckland members enclosed. If anyone else would like one please contact Neil \$63 per person.
Inquiries to Neil Cameron.

Saturday 18 August 2018

Manawatu Branch Dinner

Wharerata Function Centre, Massey University, Palmerston North.
Please email Bryan Barber on <bjbbarber@gmail.com> to register interest

Saturday 8 September 2018

Executive Council Meeting

Parklands Motor Lodge Conference Room Turangi
Motel booking: Ph. 0800 456 284

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday
12-14 April 2019**

54th Clan Cameron AGM and Gathering

Quality Hotel, Parnell, Auckland and other venues.

From the Branches....

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

Auckland by Norman Cameron

The highlight of this report was the annual Clan gathering at the Ashburton Events Centre on Saturday 7th of April. I wish to thank President Colin and his small team of helpers for a well organised day. The pre-lunch speaker Simon Cameron spoke about the history of Ben Ohau Station. This was of special interest to me as I had been to Ben Ohau and had met Simon and his parents. On the Sunday we gave Rob Cameron from Masterton a ride back to the Airport via the Rakia Gorge and Darfield. The Branch was represented by Bryan and Jenny Haggitt at the Australian gathering.



When we were recently in the Wairarapa we visited Ewen Cameron whose son Alistair is the President of Clan Cameron in New South Wales. Ewen's father Ian D. Cameron of Mauriceville was involved with the starting Clan Cameron New Zealand.

I also paid a visit on Wendy Cameron the widow E H Cameron a past President of the Wairarapa Branch of Clan Cameron from 1981 to 1995. Wendy rejoined the Clan last year as she likes reading Neil's excellent Bulletins.

"Kirking of the Tartan" is to be held on Sunday the 24th of June at St Andrews Church, Symond Street, starting at 9.30 am.

Clan Cameron Auckland Branch will be holding their Annual Winter Dinner on Saturday the 4th of August at the Quality Hotel, Parnell, 6 pm for 6.30 pm.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Wow! What a year so far for us. In the last couple of months alone, I have attended the Clan Cameron NZ National AGM in Ashburton and then went off to Australia with the Clan Cameron NZ Contingent and had a ball.



Our branch has been pretty quiet with our local AGM coming up on 10th June at Denis and Joys' Papamoa residence. We are hoping to organise some interesting events for the future.

The National AGM was a wonderful time of community and meeting of new people in new places. This AGM was well run and the event was pulled together beautifully. Unfortunately we are hearing more and more often of only a few in each branch pulling these events and others together. What happened to the community that this organization was built to achieve? Do we still rally around those in need, or do we even ask for help anymore? Is everyone assuming everyone else is self sufficient? Please check on your neighbours and Clans folk.

The Clan Cameron Gathering in Australia was another triumph. There were a wonderfully diverse group of Cameron's there with much to say for themselves and who took the opportunity to meet new people and get to know them. What a wonderful experience. Should we give this another go in the future? Is Scotland going to be as good in 2020 or better? Who will be there?

The next events I am planning on attending are the August Manawatu and Auckland dinners.

Please, if there are events coming up in your Clan Branch, please let us know, either through the website, Facebook or the newsletter. Enjoy each other and our stories. Let's gather this information together. Recipes, family stories, poems, photos and share them with each other. Share your family history with David Weston our Genealogist who would love to add you to the database so we can all be from one big family and maybe find relatives we didn't know we had. Have your DNA done, check in with Jo Cameron from Manawatu. Live your lives, don't just exist.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

The Clan Cameron Gathering held in Ashburton early in April went very well. Everyone who attended appeared to enjoy the proceedings, especially the dinner at night. There was a lot of entertainment suitable for the occasion and the food was tasty. It was, of course, great to relax the next day and think about it all, and to realise that it was successful.



Since then we have not had any functions, rather resting on our laurels.

Recently I had to give a mini-speech at a local Friendship (formerly Probus) Club and decided to talk about researching family history. It appeared to be well received. I had shown them a book I had written on my grandparents, John and Lizzie Cameron and there were some photos of the house they lived in, and where my mother was brought up. This house has long been pulled down. After my speech a very excited woman came up to me and said she used to live in that house and had lots of memories of being there. I was pleased to talk to her as I was very young when my grandmother had sold the farm and house.

Hawke's Bay by Helen Shaw

Our Branch hosted a Cameron display at the Hawke's Bay Highland Games held at Lindisfarne College over Easter.



Our stand was attended by Shane, John, Mike and Helen. We discussed Scottish history and Cameron Genealogy with the visitors who called at our tent, and we also raffled a bottle of Highland nectar.

Visitors from other Cameron Branches who joined us were National President Nick Cameron, who was competing in the Solo Piping events and John Cameron of Palmerston North. The highlight of the weekend for our members was when Champion Bag Piper Elizabeth Jury marched to our tent playing "The March of the Cameron men".

Trish and Mike attended the Annual Gathering at Ashburton in April. It was a very well organised event and they congratulate the Host Committee for their warm, Southern hospitality and the entertainment provided for the members. Thankyou Colin, Isabella and Rae.

Trish and Mike said it was good to catch up with old friends and to meet Lloyd and Trish Anderson from Te Awamutu, along with the many South Island Cameron's who attended.

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Auckland Branch

Ian Milne

Titirangi

Ceud Mile Fàilte

One Hundred

Thousand Welcomes

Wellington/ Wairarapa Branch

Hamish Cameron & Hannah Carty.

Iar (Western North Island) by Shona Wallace

Clan Cameron Iar is humming along quietly and meeting every few months. We had our AGM on the 26th April which we held in Waverley as a midway point. We all enjoyed a very nice lunch followed by our meeting. Not a lot of business to discuss. All officers were returned to office by a motion put forward and was unopposed. Our members are spread quite wide and far so having a meeting always involves a lot of travelling for some. However we do have some dedicated members who always make that effort which is always appreciated. As always not a lot to report.



as many as possible attend. Please email Bryan Barber on <bjbpbbarber@gmail.com> to register interest. Formal invitations will be emailed shortly.

Mindful that not all members can attend the AGM or our special mid-winter dinner, Clan Cameron Manawatu is planning an informal social event during the year. More information about this event will be available soon.

John Cameron, Clan Cameron Branch Vice-President and Life Member, attended the national AGM in Ashburton as our representative, and the April gathering on the Gold Coast. John reported very positively on both events and thoroughly enjoyed being part of the NZ contingent to the Australian gathering. ☆

Manawatu by Anne Walker

Clan Cameron Manawatu will hold their mid-winter dinner on Saturday 18th August. This annual festive occasion will be held this year at the Wharerata Function Centre, Massey University. All members, friends and supporters of Clan Cameron branches are welcome to join us, and early registration of interest is encouraged, as we would love to see



Above: *Lochiel and members of the association talk about armour with Paul MacDonald after his illustrated talk on armour.*

Paul was recently involved in restoring a number of items from the armoury at Achnacarry castle.

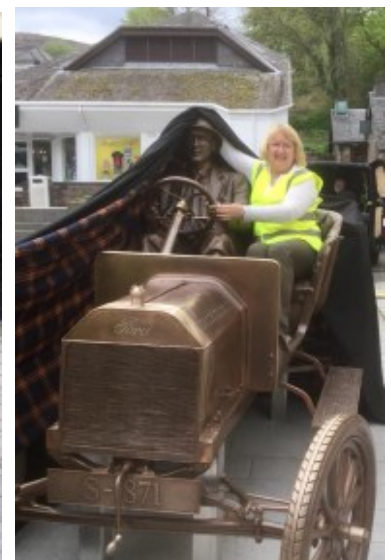
Photo: Bill Cameron

Model T Ford Replica for Cameron Square

In May 1911 a Ford Model T car was driven to the summit of Ben Nevis. The feat drew a large crowd to Fort William - and there are hopes that a new statue will help bring more visitors to the town.

A bronze replica of the car was unveiled on the 19 May. Bill Cameron ran up and down the Ben early in the morning of that day to get some snow from the summit for a special dram at the unveiling ceremony. They then fifty five cars rallying around Lochaber to celebrate the event.

We hope to bring you the full story in a future article.



Bill with snow from the top of the Ben, The Model T Ford replica and Margaret Boyd at the unveiling. Photos: Bill Cameron and Margaret Boyd

The Ashburton Gathering and AGM



Alan MacDonald, Clan Donald President, (centre) with Jill and Brent Tomlinson



Mike and Trish Topham



Pat Tarbotton and Rae Magson welcome guests



Malcolm Thompson, Alison Jordan, Norman and Jill Cameron



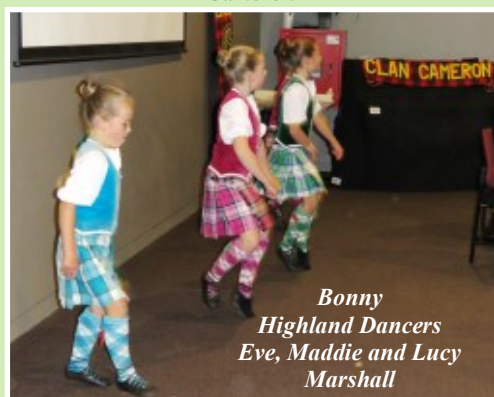
Lloyd and Trish Anderson with Joy and Denis Cameron



John and Sharon Wallace with Tania Cameron



Gordon Cameron and Kathleen Stringer



Bonny Highland Dancers Eve, Maddie and Lucy Marshall



Pipers Reuben McDonnell and Harrison Allen. Chris Stevens addresses the haggis.



Left: Bev Cameron and Right: The Vivienne McConnell banner about to be handed to Colin Cameron by Rob Cameron



The Australian Gathering (see page10)

(Photos by Tanya Cameron, Jenny Haggitt, Nick Cameron and Liz O'Brian)



*Lynne and John Cameron
Gathering organisers*



Outback Spectacular



Celtic Psychosis Band



Tanya with James Cameron



Neil Cameron (France)



Massed Bands

The Hawke's Bay Highland Games

photos: Nick Cameron



*Left: John Cameron, Tom MacDonald (Clan Donald) Helen Shaw, John Cameron (Manawatu) and Mike Topham in the Cameron tent.
Centre: Elizabeth Drury, Honorary Hawkes Bay piper, plays "The March of the Cameron Men"
Right: Highland Dancing*



Did you survive the Invasion?

By Kathleen Stringer

Aonaibh Ri Chéile—Let us Unite

Did you survive the invasion? No I'm not talking about the hordes of people driving through Ashburton during the Easter break; I refer to the influx of Cameron clan members, septes and associates who gathered for their AGM in Ashburton over the weekend. As the Clan Cameron motto says, Aonaibh Ri Chéile or Let us unite.

It may come as a surprise to some that there is any interest in things Scottish here in Canterbury, the last, if not the furthest bastion of English Anglicanism. However there has always been a significant population of Scottish people in Canterbury.

In fact, some of the earliest settlers, including the well-known Deans family, were Scots Presbyterians. These people, in a somewhat arrogant fashion, are termed 'pre-Adamites' implying that it was Godley's Canterbury Association pilgrims who were the first 'real' settlers of the province.

People of different faiths or nationalities were not included in Godley's vision of a transplanted England.

Gang aft agley



Probably the most well-known Cameron in Ashburton District was Duncan, who owned Springfield estate near Methven. Born in Invernesshire, Duncan was connected to the two main branches of the clan on both his paternal and maternal side.

When Godley and Edward Wakefield devised their plan for a settlement, Godley petitioned the New Zealand government for a million acres of land, so there would be no neighbouring community that could taint the unique character of their settlement.

Godley's plan of a 'pure' settlement however, was flawed from the outset. Although the immigrants were handpicked, many by his right hand man Anglo-Irishman James Fitzgerald, some Scottish people were thought suitable enough to join the community and were passengers on the first ships.

Included in the settlement were also a number of

Methodists who, at that time, were still considered Anglican. A number of these Methodists, who felt disenfranchised, moved southwards and settled here in Mid Canterbury. While Scottish people were certainly in the minority in that area managed by the Canterbury Association, the extent of the Association's influence ended at the Ashburton River.

That area south of Ashburton (including Tinwald) was a no man's land, until 1853. Settlers from all nationalities were, therefore, able to purchase land in our area.

While many are proud of their connection with Godley's settlers and can't imagine Canterbury anywhere else, 'here' could well have been in the North Island. A large tract of land near Auckland was offered to Godley by the Government – but thought unsuitable due to 'native unrest'.

Something that appeals to my Otago background is that Canterbury's green and flat pleasant land was originally offered for the Scot's Free Church settlement, however they

found it unsuitable, with little timber and light soils, so not useful for oat and grain growing; and so suggested people into stock, meaning English farmers, be offered it.

Auld lang syne

There is no doubt that people, however adventurous they may be, tend to settle in locations that remind them of home. This is not just sentimentality; it makes great sense. Settling in a region that has similar climates, soils or resources, such as timber or stone, to the one you left, enables you to adapt quickly and so succeed.

Understanding the environment and appreciation of the



The Ashburton County Society played a significant part in fostering things Scottish, for Cameron's and other Scottish migrants. This image shows a ball at Radiant Hall in 1973, with debutantes being presented to Chief Don McPherson and his wife.

landscape was one reason that Ashburton District's percentage of 'Scottishness' increases as the terrain becomes hillier.

Those closest to the main divide were more likely to be Scots and especially highland in decendency than on the flat.

This, coupled with the clan background of highlanders, like the Camerons, saw whole groups move into the area of Methven, once known as Canterbury Highland Village.

It should be noted though, that they didn't shift here as a direct result of the Highland Clearances, although this was part



Originally used to led fighters into the battle (and to scare the enemy) war pipes have been transformed into a more gentler, if just as stirring, accompaniment for a number of activities. Here the Ashburton County Scottish Society Pipe Band is about to lead the grand parade at New Zealand's first traction engine rally held near Tinwald on Saturday October 18, 1958.

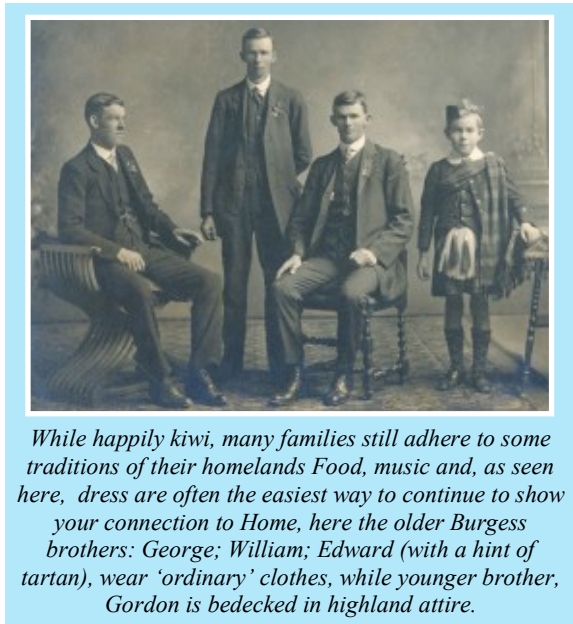
of the back story of the generations prior.

Farmers, both English and Scot, appreciated the knowledge and determination of highland farmers and often placed


advertisements in highland newspapers to entice men and their families to migrate.

We are all proud kiwis, however, especially with the Commonwealth Games occurring at the moment, we should take time, also to recall and celebrate the various nationalities that make up our genetic and cultural background.

Such gatherings as the Clan Cameron get together also reminds us of the cultural diversity that continues to make Ashburton District an interesting place to live.



While happily kiwi, many families still adhere to some traditions of their homelands Food, music and, as seen here, dress are often the easiest way to continue to show your connection to Home, here the older Burgess brothers: George; William; Edward (with a hint of tartan), wear 'ordinary' clothes, while younger brother, Gordon is bedecked in highland attire.



Kathleen is the Ashburton Museum Archivist . Above is an article she wrote after the Gathering for publication in the Ashburton Guardian and below is an article which covers a talk she gave at the AGM.

Photos with the above article courtesy of the Ashburton Museum.

The Cameron Clan



By Kathleen Stringer

explanation of where you came from (Lochiel and nearby) and who your chief was, became people's surnames. As families moved the connection to the clan may have lessened but the connection between the surname and a known ancestor (such as grandfathers etc.) intensified.

What is a clan?

Clan has often been described as a family; however it is actually far more fluid than that. While the originator may have initially been followed by people closely related to him, over time the clan would encompass distant relations (kin), as well as people who were willing to follow the chief and upon whose loyalty he could depend.

Being a member of clan required a commitment to cooperate with and support fellow members. The clan would follow the chief into battle, but also provide a work force for large scale projects, such as fortifications, and often paid the chief some homage and due on an annual basis – such as a quantity of food. In return, the chief would provide lands for the members to farm, protection and refuge and food in times of want. Clan members were expected to show hospitality and assistance when needed to other clan members.

What's in a name?

While Cameron is now an established surname, last names only became wide spread in the early 1200s, and much later in the Highlands. Before that, people referred to an individual by their first name and a unique identifier, specific to them, which was not hereditary, ie it wasn't always passed on to the individuals children. Names may include references to the person's occupation, location of birth, or physical features.

As we know, 'Cameron' probably refers to an individual with a crooked nose, but some writers think it may also refer to the person coming from an area with a crooked or jagged hill line. Cameron wasn't a first name, but everyone knew who they were referring to (like the term Lochiel today). In Ireland it is common to prefix such a term with "The", so perhaps Cameron may have been known as "The Cameron", with other members called simply "Cameron". Within the confines of the clan base everyone would have their own names e.g. Dark Donald. However, when clan members left the clan strongholds, they would introduce themselves as belonging to or following "The Cameron". Many Irish surnames illustrate this more clearly – for example Og Brien (O'Brien) means 'of Brien's group'. Eventually, the

Who was Cameron?

We must assume that at least one of his descendants had charisma and determination to obtain such a large following, but the identity of the first Cameron is lost in the midst of time. We don't even know where he came from before he removed the Chattan clan off the area which is now the Cameron's homeland. Early manuscripts state that the first or very early Cameron was involved in restoring Fergus Mor to his hereditary lands in Scotland. Fergus is often called King Fergus, although the term 'king' is not as we would imagine it to be today.

Fergus was a Pict ruler or high chief who some state had been exiled in Denmark after his father had been murdered. Confusingly, Pict is the name given to that tribe which eventually became the primary inhabitants of Scotland, also known as Caledonia and Alba. The other tribe that lived in 'Scotland', the Scotti, eventually settled in Ireland!

Fergus had lands both in Scotland and Ireland and there is a theory that while living in Ireland Fergus located the stone of scone and brought it to Scotland when he was restored. These stories suggest that "The Cameron" may be either Danish or Irish in origin!

The history of the Cameron clan therefore is tantalisingly vague until the 1500s and the chieftainship of Black Donald. After that there are written records that trace the many battles and major events that occurred surrounding the clan.

However little is recorded of the day to day activities and the many families and individuals that made up the clan.

As families moved away from the clan homeland to the lowlands or overseas, Cameron's made their own history and traditions. Connections to the clan became lost and people became far more family focused than before. While it is interesting and of value to be aware of the history of the clan as an institution – clans have always been mindful of the individual as well as the group and it is in this knowledge that I encourage clan members to trace their own families and record their own stories to add to the many already fascinating stories connected with this powerful highland clan.

Clan Cameron Gathering Australia - Gold Coast, Queensland, 20-22 April

By Bryan Haggitt

An outstanding success – congratulations to James Lachlan Cameron, Commissioner Clan Cameron Australia, and his team.

The Gathering was hosted by Clan Cameron New South Wales Inc. – their President being Alastair Cameron and huge thanks go to him and his organisers, John and Lynne Cameron who did a brilliant job together with a multitude of helpers.

The venue was the Royal Pines Resort, Benowa, South Queensland – the photos tell the story of how appropriate and convenient it was with some 140 attending the weekend plus three pipe bands who played superbly. Our NZ contingent of ten all stayed at Royal Pines – NZ Commissioner Nick and Julie Cameron, National Secretary and Bay of Plenty President, Tanya Cameron plus Mary Ann Cameron and Rhys Fenton (also Bay of Plenty), Rex and Erina Wood and John Cameron (Manawatu) and Bryan and Jenny Haggitt (Auckland). Elizabeth and Lawrence Cheetham of Masterton also attended independently.

Friday: Our group arrived at Royal Pines late – a change of aircraft for mechanical reason was necessary back at Mangere. Just time for a quick but excellent meal at the hotel then to the Southport RSL Club for the Ceilidh. Great music provided by Celtic Psychosis, a large band of three pipers, several guitars, drummers and other instruments. At least three singers – lively, non-stop Gaelic tunes on the pipes, intermingled with country music and a cheerfully wide range of tunes and beat. A short speech of welcome from Australian Commissioner James and an outline of the weekend by Organiser John Cameron. Then several visitors joined in – of special note was Neil Cameron, from France, strumming a guitar he proved to be a highly proficient musician. A rollicking evening but, at 10pm (midnight NZ time), our NZ group headed back to the hotel leaving the Ceilidh in full swing.

Saturday: Glorious sunrise but not many takers for a dip in the pool before breakfast - yours truly was lonely! Our group met at 8am for a substantial breakfast and, soon after, gathered to register at the marquee on the nearby Concert Lawn. The Concert Lawn – a vast lawn, which included a rugby field, and the Resort's golf course beyond where the Australian PGA Championship is held annually

Contrary to forecast, hardly a cloud in the sky – three pipe bands, Brisbane Boys' College, Brisbane Boys' Old Boys and the National Servicemen's Memorial Pipe Band set the tone for the day with an immaculate display of massed marching, piping and drumming. Then the formal Opening - speeches of welcome, the presenting of Banners and a group photograph of everyone, surrounded by the bands, taken by a drone overhead.

The marquee - set out for general inspection and browsing were tables of memorabilia, family trees and records including an extremely impressive collection of genealogical information put together by Dr Bob Cameron who had been a stalwart of the Clan's NSW Branch.

There was a programme of speakers – a Life Saver (most appropriate with the surf so close by), then Darren Cameron, a



distinguished Marine Biologist, presented on the Great Barrier Reef. Marc Dorse, a noted scientist, spoke of “Deadly Australians” – cricketers didn't get a mention but we learned about creepy crawlies and other nasties from red backs to copperheads, the blue ringed octopus and the box jellyfish. A Genealogist and a DNA researcher followed – fascinating opportunities now available for delving into one's past!

Summing up, the speakers were superb – they presented well, their topics entirely relevant and they all kept to the point!

Another highlight – the “An T-arm Mhontrois - a weapon re-enactment”. A portly troupe of 17th Century garbed Highlanders demonstrated their skills with weapons of those days on a pile of pumpkins, standing in for the bodies/skulls of rustling neighbours or English troopers. From broadswords to sgian dubhs to battle axes – a most impressive display – the defenceless pumpkins stood no chance, one by one being stabbed, sliced and cleft in two.

Lunch – and in the interim, the lads from the bands played soccer in their kilts.

Afternoon - Dr Roderick (‘Roddy’) Cameron, Commissioner and President for Scotland, spoke of the Association's situation back in the ‘Homeland’ – particularly of the need to increase membership from the present 200 and the wish to bring younger members into the fold. He displayed Lochiel's new banner and, shortly after, Neil Cameron explained his French banner – blue with the Fleur de Lis depicted.

An informal discussion followed regarding First Light Exchange. This between Dr Roddy, NZ Commissioner Nick, Secretary Tanya, David Hazlett of NSW, John of Manawatu and NZ First Light Convenor Bryan – very positive on Roddy's part who sees the need to involve the likes of Lochaber College and his own alma mater, George Watson School. Oh for a person, the mum of a college piper, for example, willing and able to make the First Light Exchange their own.

Evening - most attended the Australian Outback Experience – a spectacular pageant and remarkable display of horsemanship – trick riding overcoming flashing strobe lights and a blaring sound system – amazing horses!

Sunday: Perfect weather again, another early unaccompanied dip, splendid breakfast and down to the Concert Lawn. Just the National Servicemen's Memorial Pipe Band on parade this time heralding a short church service conducted by the Rev'd Janice Chalmers, another Cameron by descent. A hymn piped to the tune of the Skye Boat Song was most memorable.

The Band, before departing, led a parade of the Banners followed by all present. Back to the marquee for Lochiel's video address, his regret on not being present and his congratulations to Australia for holding this Gathering.

The Commissioners, including NZ's Nick Cameron, then addressed us. Nick's presentation was very well received - he emphasised the value of communications and demonstrated, on screen/on line, the NZ website and Facebook.

Next a Forum facilitated by Elizabeth, John and Lynne's daughter – very positive suggestions came forward on increasing branch memberships, attracting younger members – points just earlier raised by Nick. First Light and the value of exchanges. Written suggestions were invited and a whole wall became covered with notes for Elizabeth to sift through – her findings will be of great interest.

Closure came mid afternoon following thanks from the visiting Commissioners. An outstanding weekend, the location superb and wonderfully organised by Clan Cameron NSW.



Highland Dress. Part 4

by Bill Cameron (Lochaber)

For centuries the image of kilted men has literally crossed continents around the world. Whether in the wearing of a family tartan whilst living far away from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, or when worn as part of a military or school uniform. The image of Highland dress is synonymous with the Highland way of life in making the most of our natural resources and creating garments which are both functional and generally appealing in their appearance.

However, we should not interpret Highland dress as being a uniquely male preserve. Highland dress for women also forms an important part of our broad cultural and rich historical identity. The wearing of tartan garments for women takes many forms, including: dresses, skirts and shawls, sashes. As well as smaller items which have been interpreted and detailed in many different styles that vary from region to region.

On the remote island of St. Kilda off the west coast of Scotland, we can see from photographs taken at the turn of last century how women used hand-woven woollen shawls as everyday wear that served both as protective garments shielding them from the strong winter winds that buffeted the islands. As well as displaying high quality skills and details of homespun products.

The wool from the islands sheep was hand clipped with shears, then carded and spun on a spinning wheel. Natural plant dyes found in grass, lichen and flowers were gathered from across the island and used to colour the wool. Most croft houses would have a pale in which both animal and human urine would be collected. This was used as natural method of fixing the colours on-to woollen fibres.

With the raw materials to hand, the skills of the weaver were then brought into play. These would include using a number of different patterns and colours that were uniquely tied to this particular landscape.

Over a five year period, I was lucky enough to have had a good number of conversations with the widow of one of the last St. Kildans shortly before her death at the age of ninety-seven. Although Nancy MacDonald was not born on the island, she had accumulated a lifetime of stories from her late husband who was one of the last thirty-six inhabitants to leave the archipelago back in 1930.

Nancy had a spinning wheel in her house that was given to her from her late mother in law when she lived on St Kilda. When I asked if she had ever used it, she told me how her mother in law used it a lot when she was on the island, as well as when she came off the island to live on the mainland. She had remembered her sitting outside the family home at Savary in Morvern, spinning wool on it, from which she would then use for knitting socks, jumpers, hats and shawls.

When I asked if she had kept any of the items that were made on the island, Nancy said she had a woollen blanket somewhere that was often used as a shawl that her mother in law had made whilst living on St. Kilda. When she presented it to me I was taken aback by the fresh looking appearance and style of this handmade item

that had been made over a hundred years ago.

It's worth considering the next time you pull on your jumper, how far removed we have become in wearing modern day clothes that are mass-produced on a machine in a far away country. Contrasted against the woven and knitted materials that are directly related to a landscape in which our ancestors lived and worked.

Possibly this is why there is some intangible sense of pride we get when we wear our family tartan that reflects a connection to a sense of time, place and belonging.



St. Kilda ladies sitting with woven blanket shawls.



A detail photograph of Nancy MacDonald's St. Kilda blanket shawl. Made by her late mother in law around the turn of last century. Note how similar the design is to that shown in the image of the St. Kildan lady on the right hand side of the photo.



Aonaibh ri Cheile

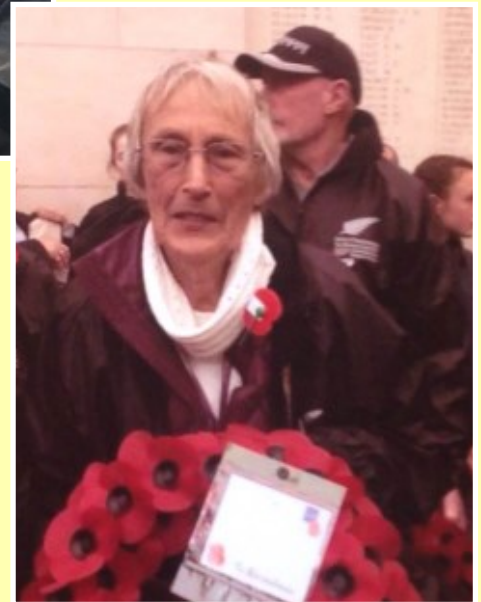
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Your Executive Council meet on the eve of the AGM in Ashburton.

From bottom left clockwise:

- Norman Cameron (Auckland)*
- Alison Jordan (Treasurer, Auckland)*
- John Cameron (Manawatu)*
- Rob Cameron (Wellington/Wairarapa)*
- Colin Cameron (Canterbury)*
- Mike Topham (Gisborne)*
- Trish Topham (Hawke's Bay)*
- Tanya Cameron (Secretary, Bay of Plenty)*
- Nick Cameron (President, Canterbury)*
- Inset: Neil Cameron (Newsletter Editor, Auckland)*



Sonia Cameron, of the Manawatu Branch, and daughter Iona Cameron-Smith attended the Passchendaele commemorations in Belgium in October. Pictured here placing a wreath at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres.

Piped by Astie Cameron and attended by Bill Cameron, Lochiel leads the procession at this year's Culloden Commemoration
Photo: The Gaelic Society of Inverness
Inset: the Cameron Marker on the day. *Photo: Bill Cameron*



Anzac Day 2018

City of Auckland Pipe Band at the Auckland Dawn Service—Rob Cameron on right



John and Andrew Cameron flew the flag for the Clan at the ANZAC Day Parade at Wimbledon and laid a wreath on the roadside cross of relative Captain Norman Donald Cameron of the East Coast Mounted Rifles, who was killed at Gallipoli



Auckland members celebrated the Royal Wedding with a scenic boat trip to the Riverhead Tavern at the top of the Waitemata Harbour