

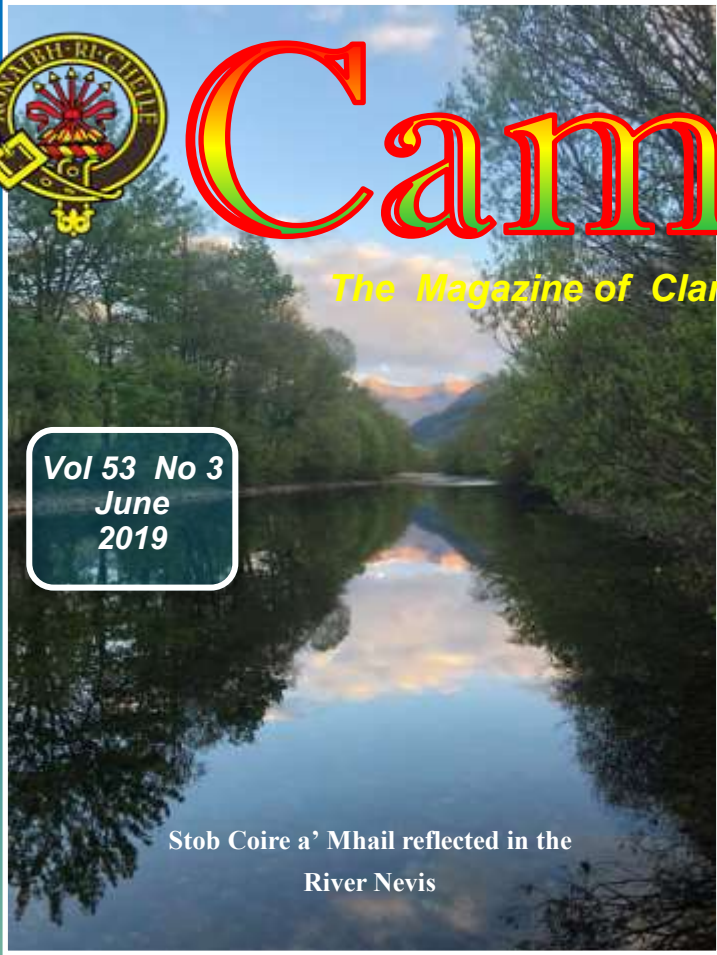


Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

**Vol 53 No 3
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2019**



Stob Coire a' Mhail reflected in the River Nevis



A Spring day in Lochaber



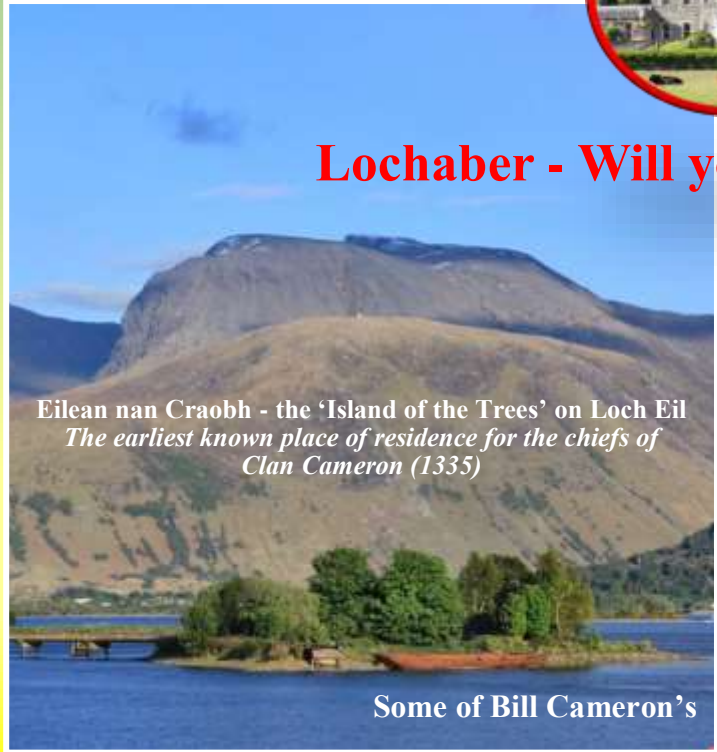
Kiachnish *Loch Linnhe*



Achandaul
Macsorlie-Camerons settled here



Lochaber - Will you be there in 2020?



Eilean nan Craobh - the 'Island of the Trees' on Loch Eil
The earliest known place of residence for the chiefs of Clan Cameron (1335)

Some of Bill Cameron's



Road to the Isles. *Glenfinnan at dusk.*

great Lochaber Images

“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 Thompson
10 Albert St., Coromandel 3506
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
Collin Cameron,
11B Wills Street, Ashburton 7700
Ph. 03 308 8334 collincameron1938@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

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

A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

Special thanks to the organisers of the Auckland AGM in April – especially Neil who seems to work tirelessly for our Clan. The evening event would be hard to beat in terms of music, dancing and informative talks. Once again Brian Haggitt II proved in a flawless manner that he can adjust the “Address to the Haggis” to suit the occasion. Sadly in 2018 my wife Julie drew the winning ticket for the whisky raffle – which for obvious reasons we had to forgo. Not to repeat the same mistake as last year the organisers asked if I would draw the ticket – once again my own ticket was drawn and again the whisky was forgone. Neil has just informed me that the word has gone out of my winning the whisky raffle for the third time running at the Easter Hawkes Bay Clan Cameron Tent. I suspect I might be banned from entering these raffles from now on!! A special thanks to Mike Topham who donated this bottle, decanter, and Clan Cameron tartan encased wooden holder.



The visit to the Devonport Naval Centre on the Sunday morning following the AGM where we were given a special tour of the HMNZS Canterbury was a memorable one. One can see now why such a vessel is useful during events such as the Kaikoura earthquake. I think we were all impressed with the discipline shown by the recruits after only eight weeks of training. The value of these visits is that it also gives some time to discuss items of interest with clan members. I was intrigued to find out that Sarah McQueen is currently engaged in a PhD programme at Dunedin University looking at molecular markers surrounding breast cancer research. It would be useful for clan members who are engaged in post graduate research to provide a summary of their work

(thesis topics) in our magazine (perhaps in a more easily understood language than might be used by a Scientist).

My youngest brother Andrew Cameron who was listed to give a talk to clan members at the AGM but was called away to South Sudan is now in Afghanistan and Tajikistan for a year



working for the Red Cross to as he puts it – “to help the poor”.

Andrew recently informed me that while running the Birdsville Clinic in the Australian Outback he picked up a woman in his ambulance who looked severely distressed from heat exposure and moisture deprivation. He suggested she come back to the Clinic but on the trip back was called away to a car accident 2 hours away. She peppered him for information about his life in Birdsville. She told Andrew her name was Jane Harper and that she was a novelist doing research for a new book. The book is now published and is entitled “The Lost Man” (a great read in my opinion) where Andrew has become a main character. The book has already sold over a million copies.

Cheers,
Nick.

**Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website**

www.clanameronnz.co.nz

**The Clan Cameron Interactive
Network**

<http://clanameron.ning.com/>

**Next Magazine Deadline is 15 July
Printed By**

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Auckland Branch

Dugald Martin
Diane Casterton
Eliot Fenton
Jeff Thomson

Titirangi
Waiuku
Hobsonville
Helensville

Ceud Mile Fáilte
One Hundred
Thousand Welcomes

Do you have Cameron Relatives who died in World War 1?

By David Weston

I am writing this just prior to Anzac Day and this got me thinking about the number of New Zealand soldiers who died in World War 1 (WW1) so I did a check of the computer database I have of Cameron's. At present the database is not complete but I would estimate at least 60% of the information Clan members have supplied on their family has been entered and it contains nearly 7500 people. Despite this I can only identify 13 soldiers on the data base who died in WW1, 8 have the Cameron surname and another 5 who were Cameron descendants. A further check on deaths of all New Zealand soldiers in WW1 showed that 42 soldiers with the surname Cameron died while on active duty. Sourced from NZ War Graves web site: <https://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/casualties> So there are 34 other Cameron men who died in WW1 who are not on our computer database. Were any of them your relatives? Perhaps it is time to think about your relatives who served in the war and provide their details so they can be added to our records, preferably not just that individual but also where they fit into your family. As well as those that died there were many others that took part in some way. I am not easily able to identify those Cameron's on the data base who served in the war but were not killed. A quick search of the NZ Army World War 1 Casualty List, available on Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/nzefcasualtieswwi/> shows that in total there were 140 Cameron casualties, presumably including those injured as well as those killed. Another site, <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/first->

[world-war-by-numbers](#) shows that 98,950 soldiers served with the NZ Army in WW1, there were just over 18,000 deaths and 41,000 suffered injury or illness.

It is thus possible that there were many other Cameron's involved in the war that may not be on our data base. By the time you get the Clan Cameron magazine Anzac Day will be gone but it will not be too late to commemorate those soldiers and others who were affected by the war - nurses, conscientious objectors, those who kept the farms running, the families that lost sons and daughters. One way to do this would be to provide information on them and their wider families for our database so those in the future can also know their involvement.



Bryan and Jenny Haggitt laid a Cameron wreath at the St Aidan's ceremony on Anzac Day. Two sons, John and James (brothers of Bryan's Grandmother, Mary Wilson nee Cameron), of John Cameron of "Marangai", Wanganui, died in World War 1.

Coming Events:

Sunday 9 June 2019

Clan Cameron NZ BOP Branch AGM

At the home of Denis and Joy Cameron, 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa. 1pm.

We will have the AGM to start at 1:00pm to discuss the coming year and also our hosting of the Clan Cameron NZ National AGM next year in April 2020.

Please advise your attendance to Joy Cameron (hostess) or Pat Cameron (Secretary) or Tanya to allow us to confirm numbers for the day.

Please bring along any thoughts or concerns.

See BOP Branch news on page 4

Saturday 15 June 2019

The Wellington-Wairarapa Branch

are planning a visit to the Zealandia Wildlife Ecosanctuary, Karori, on Saturday 15 June.

Anyone wishing to join us should contact Rob, phone (06) 377-0377, or Graeme, phone (04) 977-6250, for further information.

The Wellington-Wairarapa members on our mailing list will be receiving more information in a flyer that is being sent out to them.

Saturday 10 August 2019

Manawatu Branch Annual Dinner

Wharerata Function Centre, Massey University, Palmerston North.

See Manawatu Branch News on page 4

Saturday 7 September 2019

Executive Council Meeting

Parklands Motor Lodge Conference Room, Turangi

Motel Booking: Phone 0800 456 284

30 July - 2 August 2020

Clan Cameron Gathering Achnacarry

A very full programme is being arranged which will include all the traditional gathering events - plus a lot more.

Lochiel has asked for numbers likely to attend from NZ. If you intend going, either individually, or with John Cameron's Operatunity tour party please let Neil Cameron know.

John Cameron's tour was described in the December issue of 'Cameron'. Further details of John's tour can be found on the website.

From the Branches....

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

Auckland by Norman Cameron.

This is a report of the National AGM held in Auckland on the 5/6/7 of April. On the Friday the Branch had a BBQ at St Aidan's Church for the out of towners and local members. On the following morning the National Executive Council met before morning tea. This was followed by the Annual General Meeting where annual reports were presented and Nick Cameron was re-elected as President.

The Annual General Meeting was very poorly attended with very few branch members in attendance.

Thanks to a lot of hard work by Neil Cameron there was a good attendance at the dinner. Vice-President Rob Cameron piped guests to their tables, The Rev Bryan Haggitt addressed the haggis in his usual professional manner, the music was provided by OriginZ (City of Auckland Pipe Band), Malcolm Campbell led the singing and Duncan McQueen was an entertaining MC.

Past President Brian Cameron's speech was based on Scottish weaponry and included in his speech was how a Cameron Regiment held the Germans at bay at Dunkirk and allowed over 300,000 troops to escape to England. The Cameron Regiment would have fought to the last man but their commanding officer ordered them to lay down their arms.

On Sunday 20 members and friends of the Clan assembled at the gates of the Devonport Naval Base and were escorted by the Navy Pipes and Drums to the chapel where a service was held and the congregation included 150 new recruits, afterwards morning tea was served at the mess hall.

After morning tea the Navy organised a walking tour of the base which included a very interesting tour of HMNZS Canterbury. Finished the morning with a private luncheon at the Naval Museum.

A special thanks must go to Neil Cameron for organising the Devonport Naval Base visit.

The Auckland Branch of Clan Cameron put on a very good three day programme with very poor representation from the other branches. It looks as if there should be only a one day meeting in the future with a dinner in the evening.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Greetings all
On behalf of the BOP Branch I attended the Clan Cameron NZ National Gathering in Auckland in April. It was a small branch attended AGM meeting but a wonderful lunch and dinner and visit to the Naval Chapel and HMNZS Canterbury. Many photos were taken at all these events.

The Annual gathering meals were well attended and OriginZ was again a great band playing on the Saturday night. Rob Cameron from Auckland made a 3D printed mould that was used to stamp the shortbread his Mum made that we were given as part of our packs. It was a great design, personalising the shortbread with something special to us all. Rob and his Mum also gave us a couple of



tunes on the bagpipes and drums which was wonderful to hear, and the young dancers were superb.

From the Annual Gathering the Bay of Plenty Branch has been nominated for the 2020 Annual Gathering which we hope to run as well as our last one in Tauranga. Any input you would like to give on ideas or thoughts for this event would be happily received to me direct by email. We will be holding it early April 2020 so sooner rather than later would be great.

We would like to invite you to our BYO afternoon tea gathering for the Clan Cameron NZ BOP Branch AGM on Sunday the 9th of June 2019 at 1:00pm. This will be at Denis and Joy Cameron's house, 8 Kokomoa Key, Papamoa. We will have the AGM to start at 1:00pm to discuss the coming year and also our hosting of the Clan Cameron NZ National AGM next year in April 2020. Please advise your attendance to Joy Cameron (hostess) or Pat Cameron (Secretary) or myself to allow us to confirm numbers for the day. Please bring along any thoughts or concerns.

Iar by Shona Wallace

Our arranged evening with Dr. Jacqueline Rowarth was held in the Hawera Club on March 30th. The evening was very successful with an excellent turn out of Clan Cameron members from Iar as well as the Manawatu clan. Dr. Rowarth was introduced to those present by Iar president Neville Wallace, who also thanked our sponsors Tobi and Susie Hipp proprietors of 4UComputers who printed flyers and tickets and also sold tickets. This was a tremendous help putting the evening on. He also thanked our new member Bryan Kyle who piped in the Haggis, to John and Val Grant who donated the bottle of whisky for the raffle, and those Manawatu members who made the journey up here. Dr. Rowarth's talk was about Human and animal genetics. This was a power point presentation of visual data with many questions being asked from those present. Jacqueline's eloquence shone through when she started with an of the cuff remark; that the scots and Irish were great gardeners, "look at the offspring that Robbie Burns produced". She covered the ancestry of the Scots and spoke of how blue eyes and red hair was a link back to our Nordic ancestry.

The evening concluded with the address to the haggis where we departed from the usual and included Shona and Felicity Cameron as bearers of the Haggis and whisky. Neville addressed the haggis and Jacqueline gave the Selkirk grace. My thanks to Alan Drake for moving a vote of thanks to Jacqueline for her very informative presentation. It was a great evening, enjoyed by all!

Manawatu by Anne Walker

As we approach beginning of our colder winter months, Clan Cameron Manawatu are planning for their annual mid-winter dinner which will be held on Saturday 10th August. This annual festive occasion will be held again 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 as many as possible attend. Please email Anne Walker on akwalker@xtra.co.nz to register interest. Formal invitations will be emailed shortly.



John Cameron, Clan Cameron Branch Vice-President and Life Member, attended the national AGM in Auckland as our representative. Information about the Clan Cameron Gathering in Achnacarry 2020 has been circulated to branch members, and we hope to generate interest.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

Our branch of Clan Cameron Canterbury has been quiet lately, maybe it is time we organised an event.

However on a personal level, my sister Pat Tarbotton and I are undertaking a project involving our grandparents, John and Elizabeth Cameron. In 1926 a horrific fire started by a steam train went through their farm, causing damage to stock, and burning all outbuildings, including the wc. It then went through many other farms right down to sea level. One man died fighting the fire and another was severely burnt. Last week several descendants of these farmers got together with all the information we could find on this fire, and we hope to find more. The idea is to make a spiral bound book. We feel this dreadful fire was part of the



history of our area, and should be recorded. My own grandmother (Elizabeth Cameron) lived with us when I was a child, and she talked about it a lot, especially when the house was surrounded by flames, and she was there inside with her two children. Very frightening. Unfortunately, being a typical child I didn't take a lot of notice of her stories, which I now regret.

The lesson here is to write the stories down before it is too late.

Hawke's Bay by Helen Shaw

Easter weekend was warm and sunny for the Hastings Highland Games held at Lindisfarne College. Hawkes Bay branch held their Annual display. Helpers at the tent were Hamish & Joan Cameron, John Cameron, Ian Cameron, Shane East and Helen Shaw. The raffle was won by National President Nick Cameron who was attending the Games as a Piper. Branch members Monica & Quinney Olsen & boys from Dannevirke were visitors to the tent and John Cameron from the Manawatu branch.



Congratulations

To Shona Shirley (nee Cameron) who gave birth to a son, Alasdair, on 14 April.

Alasdair is pictured on left with Shirley and Gavin and on the right with grandmother Margaret Boyd.

Shona was a First Lighter in New Zealand for four months in 2006. She was hosted by the Manawatu Branch.

Shona's mother, Margaret, initially looked after the First Light organisation in Lochaber.



HMS Iolaire Remembered

By the Editor

This is a follow up to my story of the loss of *HMS Iolaire* which was published in the August 2016 issue. You may remember that this tragic event happened in the early hours of 1 January 1919, with the loss by drowning of 201 men from Lewis and Harris, mostly Naval reservists who had survived the war. The ship was within sight of its destination, Stornaway, where families were waiting to welcome their loved ones home. Many had not been home since the war began. The tragedy was to leave 58 widows and 209 fatherless children in this close-knit Hebridean community

Only 79 were saved, half of them thanks to John Finlay McLeod, who managed to swim ashore with a line, by which 40 were able to get to the shore.

A memorial service was held this year at the Iolaire monument in Stornaway in the early hours of New Years day and also another later in the morning on the 100th anniversary



of _____ that

tragedy. This latter service was attended by Prince Charles, as Lord of the Isles, and he laid a wreath, as also did Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon.

A Royal Navy guard and the Royal Marine Band attended and played the Last Post and the National Anthem. One of the four sentries at the early service was Lt. Alison Ross, who is the great-great-niece of John Finlay McLeod above.

Later, in the afternoon, relatives and members of the community boarded the ferry *Loch Seaforth*, which anchored near the wreck site. A memorial service was held and wreaths cast into the sea and 201 pupils cast flowers into the sea to represent those who had died.

A further service was held in Kyle, from whence the Iolaire had sailed.

(With information from the Royal Navy News)

From the 2019 Gathering



Photo: Duncan McQueen



Photo: Duncan McQueen

Led by the Navy Pipes and Drums, members of the Clan march to the Naval Chapel .
Below Left: Jenny Haggitt reads the lesson and Rob Cameron plays 'Amazing Grace'

Inside the Naval Chapel. The screen says
'A special welcome to Cameron Clan guests'



Photo: Duncan McQueen



Photo: Duncan McQueen



A visit to HMNZS Canterbury followed the chapel service. Above: Tavish and Marcus Cameron, Pam and Lachlan Cameron.
Below left: Editor with the ship behind. Centre: on the upper bridge. Right: the editor and Malcolm Thompson listen as our escorts, Lt. Cdr Williams (over 2m tall) and Sub Lt Reid describe the ship . Photos by Brian Cameron.



Photo: Jean /Duncan McQueen



Photo: Jean /Duncan McQueen



Photo: Jean /Duncan McQueen

Some of the night's great entertainment. Above: The Orizgin Band, Malcolm Campbell leads 'The March of the Cameron Men' and Natasha Busch and Jordan Braid-Eley dance the 'Sword Dance'. Below: The (mainly) young Haggis Party; Chef Thomas, Max Cameron, Annika Cameron, Lachlan Cameron, Piper Michel Tent and Sarah McQueen enjoy Bryan Haggitt's 'Address to the Haggis'. Photographer Jean McQueen, right, catches the action.



Photo: Brian Cameron



Photo: Editor

From the 2019 Gathering



Photo: Jean /Duncan McQueen



Photo: Jean McQueen



Photo: Norman Cameron

Left: Sarah and Jean McQueen (grandniece and niece) with Hazel and Graeme Cameron. Centre: Sarah McQueen carries in the 'water of life' Right: Norman Cameron with three nieces, Fiona Cameron, Libby White and Penny Strang



Photo: Jean /Duncan McQueen



Photo: Jean /Duncan McQueen



Photo: Jean /Duncan McQueen

Left: Jenny and Bryan Haggitt with friends. Centre: Our smiling MC, Duncan McQueen. Right: Weapon exponent Brian Cameron, our speaker.



Photo: Jean /Duncan McQueen



Photo: Jean /Duncan McQueen



Photo: Jean /Duncan McQueen

Left: Dorothy Cameron-Gavin, Tanya Cameron and new member Diane Casterton. Centre: Cass and Hillary Hakaraia. Right: The team.



Photo: Jean /Duncan McQueen

Left: Brian and Pam Cameron family table



Photo: Editor

Right: Across a Crowded Room....



Photo: Jean /Duncan McQueen



Photo: Jean /Duncan McQueen



Photo: Norman Cameron

Left: Great music from Originz. Centre: Nick and Morea play the March of the Cameron men. Right: Rob Cameron, Auckland Vice President, with his parents Morea and Allan Cameron. Allan is the son of the late Rodney Cameron, Clan piper and former newsletter editor.

Achnagauna: *A Sense of Place* - Part 3

Further Places in Scotland where John 'Mòr' Cameron lived prior to his 1840 emigration to N.Z.

By Roger Cameron (Marrickville, Australia and Iar Branch NZ)

NOTES: ACHNAGAUNA - AN AFFINITY DESTROYED:

A. Better records in Morvern: That we have far better records for Big John (and Janet too) in the parish of Morvern (as compared to ?missing earlier records in the parish of Kilmallie) is, I suspect, no accident but, in part, a by-product of the MacLeod family ministry in the parish of Morvern. Norman MacLeod (1745-1824) was presented to the parish by the Duke of Argyll in 1775 (Gaskell, 1980, p.11) and his son John MacLeod (1801-1882) was appointed just before Norman died. Administratively speaking, perhaps they ran a 'tight ship', kept a watchful eye on their flock and recorded all significant events. That a book was written by John MacLeod's nephew (in 1867) about life in the parish, the parishioners, the clearances, and John's latter days as 'the wandering lonely minister' suggests to me that the MacLeod family not only knew what was going on but also wanted to leave a permanent record. I also presume that it was the Rev. John MacLeod, the purportedly 6'9" tall "High Priest of Morvern" (MacLeod [Ed. Thornber], 2002) who wrote one of the two references (mentioned in the passenger list) that Big John carried. Have Big John's two references survived in New Zealand?

B. Janet McGregor - another problem with records: There is no OPR record of a Janet McGregor being born to a "John McGregor and Ann St Clair" (as per NZ Death Certificate 1880/3136). If accurate, her name was almost certainly Sinclair and not St Clair (a French name - Doak, pers comm., 2015). In passing, I noted many 'Sinclairs' in the OPRs but I had to look for "St Clairs" and then only found two. The family narrative has Big John and Janet's wedding on the island of Lismore (parish of Lismore and Appin) yet the OPRs record their marriage in the parish of Morvern (OPR Marriages 528/00 0010 0043, Morvern). Chris Doak comes to my rescue:

You queried the two marriage locations for the marriage between John Mòr and Janet McGregor. It is quite likely that they were married in both the Morvern and Lismore Parishes. It was customary at the time, if the couple came from different Parishes, for them to have two ceremonies - a few days apart - one in each of their homes, so that family and neighbours could bear witness to the event. I would hope as well, that that also meant two parties afterwards! As an aside, I would imagine that Janet's mother's maiden name was SINCLAIR, rather than St.Clair, a French name. As you had worked out correctly, John and Janet's home at "Achnagauna" was the Farm known as ACHADH NAN GAMHA, just south of Loch Arienas. (Doak, pers comm., 2015)

So, was Janet born on Lismore and/or was just a latter part of her childhood spent there? My understanding is that we will never have a definitive answer.

We do have a Scottish death certificate for Janet's sister, Ann McGregor. She is registered as having died, aged 100, in the village of Lochaline (Morvern) on the 15th Nov. 1883

(Scotland's Statutory Registers, Deaths, 528/8). This certificate confirms the identity of her then-deceased parents as John McGregor and Ann Sinclair. Additionally, a copy of a letter (held by the ?Grant family, Turakina NZ, - Weston, pers comm, 2017) from Ann to her son in New Zealand (dated 21st February 1881) confirms her relationship to Janet, expresses her sorrow at the death of her sister and asks that her sympathies are extended to her son's aunt's family.

Interestingly, in this letter, Ann believes herself to be 94 in 1881, yet when she dies in 1883 she is registered as being 100 years old. She also noted in this letter that Janet was three years younger than her; yet in Janet's NZ death certificate in 1880 (NZBDM - 1880/3136) Janet is registered as being 94 at her death. If Janet was indeed 17 when she was married (03 Jun. 1806), then she was born either late in 1788 or early in 1789. So, was Janet 17 or 20 when she was married? With the conflicting information at hand thus far, we remain uncertain. It is more likely she was 17 when married. That would still leave her being 46 when her last child Marjory ('Mary'/'Maisie') was born in 1835.

C. Big John's ?son, Angus - we may have a problem with records: We do not have an 'Angus' birth registered to Big John and Janet from December 1816 (say, 10 months after John's birth) until December 1819 (9 months before Charles' birth). In fact we do not have a record at all, yet we have records for all their other children. In the 1814-to-1818 time frame, in Morvern, there are only 3 Angus Camerons born: on 13/Oct/1815, on 28/Feb/1816 and on 11/Oct/1818. Perhaps, Big John and Janet never got around to registering their Angus. Now, if we accept that the MacLeod ministers did keep accurate records, then Angus may not have been Big John and Janet's biological son. My guess is that he could have been the son of Donald Cameron and Mary MacInnis - tenants who also lived in Achnagauna. Perhaps this Donald was also a relative of Big John. If this is correct, then the OPR record of this Angus shows him being born on 28 Feb. 1816 (Scotland OPR, Births 528/ 10 31 Morvern).

D. Big John and Janet's departure from Drimnin Estate in 1815. The attempts at an early 1816 sale of Drimnin Estate as part of the clearances (see Newspaper Cutting 1) probably involved the removal of as many tenants/crofters as possible. The first newspaper advertisements appeared in late 1815, after which there are a number throughout 1816.

F. Any Scottish correspondence? All these discoveries raise the question as to whether there are any family records or stories of Big John writing to his eldest children and/or their writing to him. And what of any records of sibling to sibling correspondence? Did any of the children who sailed on the Blenheim correspond with those left behind? Was there any correspondence between Scotland and New Zealand at all in Big John's family?

To be continued.

The MS Serenissima Adventure - Part 2

By John and Lynne Cameron (Australia)

Here is another fascinating part of Scotland with the small expedition ship MS Serenissima



In the last Newsletter we spoke about the expedition to St Kilda's Hirta Bay settlement.

Commencing the adventure at Oban, MS Serenissima's adventurers visited (via Zodiac transport to the shores) Gigha, Islay, Iona, passing by Staffa's Fingal caves. On the third day on board, the weather closed in, so much so that the ship's master made the decision to take shelter from storm force winds in a scenic fjord, the isolated and uninhabited Loch Hourn on Scotland's mainland.

Then, our visit to the Standing Stones of Callanish (Isle of Lewis) showed them absolutely unchanged and still generating that eerie feeling. These spectacular Neolithic era stones are sited in a wild and secluded promontory overlooking Loch Roag. Established some 5000 years ago, they are of the same era, roughly, as the pyramids of Egypt. No one is really certain of their historical significance. The stones remain an ageless mystery.



Callanish stones – Isle of Lewis

We returned to MS Serenissima via the Gairranan Blackhouse Village and onto an adventurous wild Zodiac ride and slippery/steep landing on Lunga.

North Sea conditions somewhat abating we visited the 5000 year-old and now exposed Neolithic (stone age) village at Skara Brae – Scotland's Orkney Island. www.orkneyjar.com/history/skarabrae/index.html and later the 'Ring of Brodgar'. www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/westmainland/ringofbrodgar/index.html

There had been much speculation about strange and extremely rare (even mythical) woolly pigs that existed on Orkney Islands. We saw two! Lynne was so skilled and actually captured a photograph through the window of a moving coach! It is understood the ancient variety was very close to extinction.

Proceeding to Scotland's Shetland Isles, carefully excavated Neolithic (stone age) village sites were visited. Jarlshof: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jarlshof> Throughout the expedition, we witnessed the incredible spectacles of ocean seabirds including Razorbills, Giant



The rare woolly pig

skuas, Atlantic puffin, Black guillemots, Northern fulmars and several species of gulls.

Time lost due to continuing weather conditions did not allow a shore visit to the Fair Isles much to the disappointment of many 'adventurers' who had planned to purchase original fair isle patterned clothing or capture more birds on film. MS Serenissima did pass quite close to the islands. The clear evidence of the spectacular outcome of colliding continents, tectonic plates folded and changed by extreme heat and pressure some 450 million years ago was awe inspiring.



Fair Isles geology

Recognition is due also to the incredible skills of Serenissima's head Chef. Each day, he prepared a new edible fruit and vegetable 'creation.' The photo is an excellent example. Chef's creation - different one each day.

An amazing adventure and memorable experience! We're now small ship expedition fans



Thanks to the editor of Clan Cameron Australia News and to John and Lynne

The Bee Above The Door

Part 3

By William (Bill) Cameron

In 2007, ten years after The Stores had closed its doors - Rosemary called on Alisdair Campbell from Fort William to ask if he would like to have the MacInnes plaque. Alisdair's mother, Cathie, is a MacInnes from Bunree and he had a long standing involvement in the Clan MacInnes society here in Scotland. Rosemary rightly thought that the plaque would be best looked after by him.

Alisdair accepted the plaque, as he knew about its historical significance in relation to Tartan John MacInnes, who, it turned out, was also a relative of his on his mothers' side of the family. He kept the plaque safe at his home in Fort William for the next ten years where it remained in storage.

In January 2018, Alisdair mentioned to William Cameron from Inverloch, a cousin of his on his mother's side of the family that he had the MacInnes plaque that had once stood above the door to The Stores in Onich where his late father, Alexander had been brought up and offered it to him for safe keeping. William remembered the plaque from his childhood visits to The Stores and gladly accepted it.



The MacInnes plaque at Kinlochaline Castle, ancestral home of the Clan MacInnes.

The restoration of the MacInnes plaque

As a Technical teacher and someone interested in local history, William was keen to preserve this unique piece of woodwork and hopefully tell the story of the plaque's history. It would later turn out, thanks to genealogical research carried out by Alisdair Campbell, that not only did William have connections to the plaque through his late fathers side of the family at The Stores, but also through his mothers' side of the family who were directly related to Tartan John MacInnes himself.

In January 2018 William began the process of trying to save the plaque from further deterioration and preserve it for future generations.

In order not to cause any further decay to the plaque it was kept in a lined box for a period of weeks where it was allowed to gradually dry out.

Over the years the structure had been painted many times which had resulted in cracking paint and very uneven surfaces on the thistle and its backboard. It was in fact the many coats of paint that seems to have protected the oak wood from becoming damaged. Initial inspection of the plaque highlighted some rotten wood on the backboard on which the plaque was mounted.

In order to see what was underneath the plaque, the two individual parts (thistle and ribbon) were removed from the backboard by taking out a series of long rusty iron nails. This showed that the back of the thistle was intact, however where the nails had gone in showed some signs of decay.

With the thistle and ribbon removed, it was decided not to run the risk of using any chemicals to remove the paint in

case it damaged the wood underneath. Instead, William opted for using a sharp chisel to gently scrape the many layers of paint away so that the wood surface would not become harmed.

This process would take a number of months when time was available, as the work was slow to proceed and attention to detail was required so as not to harm the surface of the wood.

After a number of months of scraping paint, the wooden carving underneath was revealed. It displayed highly detailed craftsmanship on the leaves of the thistle and the bulb of the flower. The ribbon where the MacInnes motto once was showed quite a few areas of decay at the back where water had got in to the wood. Having removed the layers of paint, a coat of wood hardener was applied to those areas that showed decay. Fortunately, most of these were at the back of the plaque.

Unfortunately, the bumble bee that had once sat on top of the thistle had broken off many years before and had not been replaced. Only the stump of a rusty nail sticking out from the top of the thistle remained. No close up photographs were available to see what the original bumble bee carving looked like.

Instead of trying to make the plaque look modern and new, it was decided to keep any dents, holes or small broken bits of the thistle as they were, as this was all part of its history.

William experimented with various paint finishes on similar bits of oak wood before settling on applying a wash of coloured wood

stain that would give the carvings a resemblance of a thistle, yet still clearly showing the intricate work that had been hidden away for many years by layers of paint.

With the backboard showing some signs of decay where the nails had gone through, it was taken back to the bare wood and again treated with wood hardener. Some cracks had also appeared on the wood where water had got in over the years. These were left as they were and the board was finished with a number of coats of matt white paint.

After removing the red paint from the ribbon at the bottom of the plaque it revealed that it was once covered in varnish but again showing some lovely detail that had been covered up by paint. There was no evidence of the motto that could just be made out on a black and white photograph from 1910.

William tried to replicate the word 'Industria' on the surface, using signwriters' gold paint and a fine brush, however the standard of finish was rather poor.

William contacted his friend Hughie Davidson, a retired sign writer on the Isle of Skye. Who skilfully applied the text and two small finials were inserted and a clear lacquer was applied to seal in the paintwork.

With the backboard, thistle and ribbon all complete it was debated whether to just attach the three things together and finish up without the bumble

bee. However, given the story of why the bumble bee was there in the first place, it was decided that a new one should be made.

As the carving was very small with lots



The completed crest



The bee - subject of this article

of detail, William got in touch with Stuart Murdoch, a wood sculptor from Speyside to see if he could assist in creating a new bumble bee.

Stuart was given exact measurements of the top of the thistle and the desired proportions of what the bumble bee should be in relation to the rest of the plaque. He worked from the measurements and sculpted a detailed bumble bee out of lime wood. This was chosen as it has a very tight grain and is relatively easy to work with. As the bumble bee would only really be seen from one side, it was decided to have the outward facing side highly detailed, whilst the side facing the backboard would not have as much detail.

The bumble bee was then drilled for attaching to the top of the thistle, as well as drilling two smaller holes in the head to attach two wire antennae. The bumble bee was painted and a clear lacquer applied to the surface then attached on to the thistle.

Finally, as the thistle and ribbon had been attached with nails onto the backboard, it was decided not to put new nails in to it. Instead the two carvings were attached using a silicone adhesive that allowed the parts to sit evenly on the backboard.

The MacInnes plaque was completed at the end of October 2018. William finished it just in time for the story of the plaque's history and restoration to be shared at the Lochaber Local History Society talk in November.

At the end of this talk the MacInnes plaque stood on an easel, covered up with a length of Hunting MacInnes tartan that was designed by John MacInnes more than a hundred years before. Rosemary Cameron and Alasdair Campbell were asked to unveil the restored plaque to the audience. It was given a hearty response by the 104 people who came along to see the illustrated talk.

Having covered nearly 145 years of history at The Stores at Onich, William has recently offered the plaque back to his Cameron relatives at The Stores, where it is hoped the plaque will remain indoors for future generations to find out about the story behind The Bee Above the Door.

I returned the restored MacInnes plaque to my Cameron relatives at the weekend recently to where the plaque stood for over

135 years, thus completing its restoration and taking the story full circle to where it started. The plaque will be located now inside the building which is now a holiday cottage by my cousin.

Thanks

I am very grateful to Alisdair Campbell for all his genealogical work on piecing together the story of the MacInnes families from Onich, and for trusting me to take care of the plaque and tell its interesting history.

I would like to thank both Rosemary Cameron and Alasdair Campbell for having the foresight to keep hold of what seemed like a crumbling piece of old wood and see the value in this local artefact. The story of the MacInnes plaque was well worth telling before it was forgotten.

I am also grateful to Les Fraser from Inverlochry for providing advice during the restoration of the plaque. Thanks also to Stuart Murdoch for sculpting a new bumble bee for the plaque.



Bill Cameron's Cameron grandparents outside their store



Returning the MacInnes plaque back to the Cameron Stores at Onich. Bill's mother, Bill's cousin Catriona Cameron, Rosemary Cameron (Bill's aunt) Cathie Campbell and Alisdair Campbell both relatives of Bill's on the MacInnes side of his family.



Aonaibh ri Cheile

The Back Page



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Congratulations

To our National Treasurer, Alison, and Malcolm Thompson who were married in March.

Left: Alison is with her mother, Jean Barker of Tauranga.



From the BOP Branch Luncheon in February

Left: Iain Bibby, Joy Cameron, Ian Martin, Raewyn Potaka, Tanya Cameron and Denis Cameron

Right: Sandra Larsen, Ian Martin, Joy Cameron, Raewyn Potaka and Denis Cameron.

Photos: Tanya Cameron



Iar Branch Haggis Evening with Doctor Jacqueline Rowarth
Left: Neville Wallace with Alan Drake.
Centre: Dr. Rowarth, Tobi Hipp, Susie Hipp and Matt Hipp (Sponsors)
Right: The Haggis Ceremony - Neville with Shona.



Auld Lang Syne at the Gathering dinner - Haste ye Back

Photos: Jean /Duncan McQueen

