



# Cameron



*The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.*

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Achnacarry Gathering 2009 photo: Bryan Haggitt

*Fraser presents mini lambskin rug to Catherine for Lochiel's first grandchild. Denis Cameron and Shirley-Anne Thomson look on.*

Fraser Logan Cameron QSM 1930—2019

## “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  
8 Mana Street, Otumoetai, Tauranga 3110  
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  
Hamish Cameron  
76 Jarvis Road, RD 5, Hastings 4175  
Ph. (06) 876 7509. hjcameron@nowmail.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 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](http://www.clanameronnz.co.nz)

## A Message from our Commissioner...

Dear Clansfolk,

Julie and I attended the Manawatu mid winter dinner on the 10th August which was held at Massey University's Whararata Function Centre. We were greeted with the sound of the pipes from two young pipers from the Manawatu Grade 3 pipe band, Rueben Bisland and Scott Orange. The event was very well organized – so a big thank you to Russell Cameron and his band of helpers – particularly Anne Walker, Ewen and Roz Grant, Bryan and Barbara Barber. I was very impressed with the “Address to the Haggis” by Bryan Barber – he has improved every year I have heard him do this. A thank you also to Briar Hamilton for providing her two recipes for haggis. I have forwarded these to various clan members who I think are capable of making these versions. My 95 year old uncle John Cameron (who is known for his cooking prowess) did mention that neither recipe contained lights (lungs) which in his opinion would improve the mix. He said these need to be boiled with the tubes hanging from the pot into a dish to remove mucous.



I was intrigued to see and play the “Blenheim pipes” which are 250 years old. They are a ¾ set and appear to be old ivory and cocus wood “Glens”. I understand these were owned by “Donald Cameron the piper” the son of “Donald Cameron the Weaver” who emigrated to New Zealand in the mid 1800's on the boat Blenheim. I feel these pipes should be looked after by his descendants who are proficient in piping.

The week preceding the visit above an ex colleague of mine (Andrew Ward) who is general manager of Assure Quality in New Zealand called in for a visit to our Research Laboratories in Darfield. I was telling him we had recently commercialized a monoclonal antibody immunoblot kit for field endophyte fungus testing of grasses which two of us had successfully field tested late last year in South Africa. He informed me that Assure Quality was very interested in using it and the person who would use it is his senior seed analyst. Coincidentally this is Beverley Morrissey (a well known Clan Cameron Manawatu branch member). Such a small world isn't it!!

I was saddened to hear of Fraser Cameron's passing. He was a previous National President and Branch President of the Bay of Plenty. Unfortunately I was multiple booked and could not attend his funeral - but was very pleased to hear that my letter to his family was read out at the service. He was a proud member of the Clan and passed off this interest to his off-spring and relations. There appears to be increased interest from around the world to attend the 2020 Clan Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry, Scotland which looks to be gathering momentum.

Your executive attended a meeting on the 7th September in Turangi – this included discussions around which branches will hold future national AGM's. So if you particularly want to be involved please let your branch President know of your preferences.

On the piping front the “Worlds” in Glasgow was won by the Inverary and District Pipe Band. Their medley is outstanding musically and incidentally includes Alastair McKenzie from our New Zealand Invercargill city pipe band. This music can be heard on You Tube if you wish to hear it. This year the Hororata Highland Games are to be held on the 9th November and we would welcome support from other branch members if they wish to help with our clan tent.

Cheers,

Nick.

**Clan Cameron New Zealand  
Website**

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

**The Clan Cameron Interactive  
Network**

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

**Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Nov**

**Printed By**



## Vale Fraser Logan Cameron QSM

With thanks to Denis Cameron and the late Mike Topham

Fraser had been a member of Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty Branch since 1982 and during that time he has held a number of positions - this including being the Bay of Plenty Branch Co-ordinator for the Eastern Bay of Plenty. He attended their meetings on a regular basis.

In 1942 Fraser commenced playing the bagpipes with the Gisborne Pipe Band. His father imported a set of pipes for him and those pipes are now being played by his grandson Tristan Sanders, who, whilst in Scotland on the First Light Exchange was tutored by Astie Cameron.

Fraser was fully involved with the Gisborne Branch at its inaugural meeting on 7 March 1987. Present at this meeting were the New Zealand Clan Cameron President, Donald Cameron of Wellington and Denis Cameron as the New Zealand Secretary. Fraser's brother John Corrychoillie Cameron (1926 – 2003) was a foundation member of Gisborne and was Branch President from 1992 till his death in 2003. Fraser's sister Marion Lewes was also a foundation member of Gisborne Branch and remains one of our strongest supporters.

Fraser descends from John Cameron of Corrychoillie (1781 – 1856) who had four sons who emigrated to New Zealand.

Counting spouses, there were 21 of the Corrychoillie family at the National AGM in Gisborne supporting Fraser's nomination for National President in 2011.

He was the Vice President of the Bay of Plenty Branch from 2000 – 2001 and then became the President of the Bay of Plenty Branch in 2001 until 2011.



For many years, Fraser has been one of the Bay of Plenty Branch Delegates at the New Zealand Clan Cameron Annual General Meetings and Executive Council Meetings, which are held throughout New Zealand.

From the year 2011 until 2015, Fraser was the President and Commissioner of Clan Cameron New Zealand.

In this important position, he was the New Zealand Representative for the Chief of Clan Cameron, Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel, Lord Lieutenant of Inverness, Scotland.

For the past 2 years, Fraser has been the Patron of the Clan Cameron Bay of Plenty Branch.

At the National Conference in Masterton in 2017, Fraser was made a Life Member of Clan Cameron New Zealand.

Fraser has always been very proud of his Cameron Heritage and involved his family in many Cameron activities.

When Clan Cameron New Zealand, made their visit to Scotland in 1989 to help celebrate the Golden Wedding of Sir Donald and Lady Cameron of Lochiel, Fraser took two of his daughters and a very young grandson on the tour.

In 2008, Fraser Cameron was in charge of organising the National Conference of Clan Cameron which was held in Opotiki.

Once again, in 2009, he joined the tour for the Clan Cameron International Gathering at Achnacarry with several of his family, which included Elliott, another grandson, who was 13 at the time.

We will miss his easy manner and his interest in anything associated with Clan Cameron.

As Denis says "Rest in Peace My Friend"

### Register of active Clan Pipeband Members.

Clan Cameron frequently gets requests for pipers to play across the country at special occasions such as weddings or funerals and we would like to be able to provide names of Camerons who are available in their area. To do this we are creating a register of names and contact details.



If you are able to perform for these events, could you please indicate your interest to Rob Cameron (Auckland) by email to [robcameronnz@gmail.com](mailto:robcameronnz@gmail.com).

Pipers and drummers welcome.

### Turakina Kirkin' O' the Tartan

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of October

At St. Andrews Presbyterian Church  
Turakina at 2pm.  
With the 'Blenheim' Pipes.  
Come and celebrate the wearing of  
the tartan.

Afternoon tea to follow the Piping in of the Haggis

Information contact Roz & Ewen Grant  
06 327 3861 - [tullochgorum376@gmail.com](mailto:tullochgorum376@gmail.com)

### Coming Events:

**Saturday 9 November 2019**  
**Hororata Highland Games**  
Hororata Domain, Canterbury  
Clan Cameron will be there.  
[www.hororata.org.nz](http://www.hororata.org.nz)

**Saturday 9 November 2019**  
**The Wellington-Wairarapa Branch** will be holding a lunch at the Gladstone Inn, 571 Gladstone Rd, Gladstone, Wairarapa on Saturday 9 November 2019 commencing at 12.30 pm. A flyer will go out to Branch members later in October. Anyone else interested please contact Graeme ([glcameron@outlook.com](mailto:glcameron@outlook.com)).

**Saturday 23 November 2019**  
**Auckland Highland Games.**  
Ellerslie Event Centre  
Come and support us in the Cameron tent.  
[www.ahg.org.nz](http://www.ahg.org.nz)

(Note emended date)

## From the Branches....

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

### **Auckland** by Norman Cameron.

I was not able to attend the EC meeting in Turangi due to family illness and the branch was ably represented at that meeting by Rob Cameron and Bryan Haggitt.

With Bryan and Jenny Haggitt, Allan and Morea Cameron and Rob Cameron I attended the Scottish Clan's Association Dinner on September 14th.

Earlier, at the Scottish Clan's Association AGM, Rob Cameron had been re-elected as Vice President. Congratulations, Rob.

We were sorry to see our National Treasurer Alison and her husband Malcolm move to Coromandel. In the short time Alison and Malcolm have been here they have attended all the clan dinners and various other functions.

As we hosted the National Gathering in April this year we will not be holding a mid-winter dinner. However we would like your views on future activities. We would love to see you at the Auckland Highland Games.

### **Manawatu** by Anne Walker

Clan Cameron Manawatu held our annual mid-winter dinner on Saturday 10th August.

Clan members came from the length and breadth of New Zealand for this event. Members and friends joined together for a grand evening of convivial company, delicious food and great entertainment, once again held in Wharerata, one of Palmerston North's historic homesteads. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Russell Cameron, President of Clan Cameron Manawatu. We were thrilled and honoured to host Nick Cameron, Clan Cameron NZ President and Commissioner, and Julie Cameron, join us from Christchurch for the evening. Tania Cameron represented Tauranga branch. Bryan Barber conducted the haggis ceremony. The haggis, prepared by Roz Grant, was delicious 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, and dessert.

Guests were welcomed to Wharerata by pipers from the Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band. Under the guidance of piper Ainsley Watson, talented youth pipers Reuban Bilsland and Scott Orange delighted the audience when they entertained during the evening. A highlight of the evening was Ainsley Watson playing an item on the Blenheim pipes. These pipes came to New Zealand on the ship 'Blenheim' around 1840, have been lovingly cared for since, and are currently in the care of Roz and Ewen Grant, Turakina.

Finally, our guest speaker Linda Stewart, CEO of the Manawatu Central Development Agency. Linda gave us an interesting and encouraging overview of the current economic development advances in our region.

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. Photos taken by Dean Cameron during the dinner can be viewed on Clan Cameron Manawatu Facebook page.

### **Hawke's Bay (1)** by Helen Shaw

Hawkes Bay Members of Clan Cameron are deeply saddened with the passing of Mike Topham and

extend our deepest sympathy and love to his wife Trish. Mike was secretary of the branch from its inception in 2003, although he did remind us from time to time that he was a Gisborne member.

His enthusiasm and knowledge of things "Cameron" will be spoken of and written about for years to come. He was ably supported by Trish who spent many, many hours typing for him when he was working on stories or someone's genealogy.

He was also a piper and member of the Hastings pipe band and organized H.B. Cameron members to concerts by the band which were held from time to time at Lindisfarne College.

His Legacy to the Branch is a wonderful scrap book of members past and present and activities they were involved in. He worked on this despite his health failing him with help from Trish with typing. This is a marvellous record for future members.

### **Hawke's Bay (2)** by Hamish Cameron

On 1<sup>st</sup> August, members agreed to take on the positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary of Clan Cameron Hawke's Bay Branch. This came about due to the continuing health problems of Helen Shaw (President), Shane East (Treasurer) and the passing of Mike Topham (Secretary). These positions had been held for many years and with the possibility of the Branch going into recess, members rallied round and all positions were filled. We extend our grateful thanks to Helen and Shane for their sterling work over many years in their respective roles and for their valued assistance at the Highland Games. Thankyou ladies!

On 6<sup>th</sup> September, together with my wife Joan and Trish, we travelled to Turangi to attend my first Executive Council Meeting. It was pleasing to be personally introduced to those members I had not previously met. After dinner at Parkland's we congregated in our unit and partook of a few drams of Chivas Regal as provided and requested by Mike Topham. It was a very pleasant and special hour and a fitting ending to our evening. The following day the Meeting went well and there were some wonderful tributes paid to Mike. We were sorry that Neil and Norman Cameron couldn't be there and we trust their wives Ruth and Jill are making good progress.

The Meeting ended at lunchtime and after a group photograph we chose to travel to Taupo before returning to Hastings. An enjoyable weekend.

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

On the Queens Birthday weekend just been, our own Patron Fraser Cameron was awarded the Queens Service Medal for service to his community and all the work he does there whether paid or unpaid. Unfortunately our beloved Fraser Cameron from the BOP Branch passed away on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2019. He was remembered through a service at the Opotiki Deluxe Theatre where he was a Trustee in a 400 seat theatre that was full. He has worked hard in his personal and business life and always there for the Clan and his family. We will miss him dearly.

I enjoyed attending the Manawatu dinner and catching up with everyone in Palmerston North at the dinner. It is always interesting to meet the new attendees and catch up with those I already know.

I attended the National Executive meeting in Turangi in September and we had a blast on the Friday night at dinner with the assembled bodies, including Trish Topham who brought with her the new Hawkes Bay President Hamish and Joan Cameron. David Weston from Iar and Rob Cameron



from Auckland came down for the day on the Saturday. We had an informative meeting.

Our branch will be holding gatherings in the near future to make decisions around the National AGM next year.

Stay warm and well.

### Canterbury by Rae Magson

We are due to have our Annual General Meeting soon, also to organise our tent at the Hororata Highland Games. This is always a great day, and a way to let people know that we exist.



However it does seem we are not well known and I do not know how to do anything about that. The other night I was at a function and was introduced to a person with the surname of Cameron. When I mentioned Clan Cameron Canterbury she had obviously never heard of it before, so I told her about it. I am delighted to say she has decided to join.

### First Light Exchange Update

Last April at the Clan Cameron NZ's AGM I reported that, despite several attempts to revive exchanges, we had reached an impasse.



We have been waiting for several years for the Clan in Scotland to send a young Scot to New Zealand and until they do so, under the terms of the Exchange, we cannot send anyone to Scotland. There it lies.

At the AGM I explained that the Otaki Scholarship has been responsible for young Scots travelling to NZ for the past 75 years and, in return, young New Zealanders visit Scotland via the Sander Scholarships. These exchanges are between Robert Gordon College, Aberdeen and Otaki College here.

It was suggested that the Clan looks to replacing First Light Exchanges with a form of scholarships to enable reciprocal visits between NZ and Scotland to resume and there was some positive discussion at the recent Executive Meeting at Turangi.

Commissioner Nick noted that a couple of young pipers, surnamed Cameron, are performing with great credit at Pipe Band contests in Scotland and could be worthy scholars. A trip to NZ to pipe at, say, the National Pipe Band Championship could be a suitable award with a requirement to visit the various NZ Clan branches.

Then, a suitable NZ Cameron will need to be found – a top school leaver, university graduate or farm cadet perhaps.

The First Light Exchange Trust is holding some funds which could enable initial scholarships to be awarded providing Trustees grant permission. Meantime, I am open to receive suggestions and, if at all possible, will put together protocols for consideration at our AGM next April.

## The Ben Nevis Race

By Bill Cameron

*“What do you do with a mountain? There are several schools of thought, some may gaze peacefully at its changing scenery, through white-coated winter and snow-capped peaks to its summer colours of green, greys, russets and browns. The second group are immediately seized with the idea of climbing it, partly for exercise, partly for the view, providing mist and climatic conditions allow, and some because it is the right thing to be able to say I have climbed that mountain. There is, however, a third group springing up, who are possessed with the thought of how fast they can get to the top and back. This seems particularly the case with Ben Nevis. When the original idea first entered the minds of Scotsmen is lost in antiquity, but some records do exist.”*

This extract was taken from a Ben Nevis Race programme in 1956.

It also includes details of the first recorded run up and down the mountain by local man, William Swan, in September 1895. Running from the Post Office building on Fort William's High Street, up to the summit of Ben Nevis and back down in an impressive time of 2 hours and 41 minutes.

Fast forward one hundred and twenty four years to 2019, and the Ben Nevis Race now attracts well over 600 hundred entries from runners applying from across Britain and beyond, in order to get a much sought after place in a capped entry list of 500 runners.

The race is organised by the long-standing Ben Nevis Race Association which is made up of a dedicated team of local folk with a keen interest in maintaining this established running event. The organisers also work in close collaboration with the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team in providing marshals at various points on the mountain.

As the terrain is notoriously demanding underfoot; including sharp boulders, smooth boulder steps, loose scree patches, fast flowing streams and boggy ground. Injuries often occur on the route and medical assistance is provided by the marshals. In the past some runners have had to be helicoptered off

the mountain for treatment at the local hospital.

The Ben Nevis Race is always held on the first Saturday in September, a time when the mountain is usually snow free on the summit and can occasionally be sunny, however, it's often a case of running up in to the clouds.

The field of 500 runners is largely made up of participants from out with Lochaber, however there is still a large contingent of local runners who take part in the race as members of the Lochaber Athletic Club. Their white vests with two horizontal blue bands easily distinguish them as Lochaber runners.

In 2019, over 50 members of the Lochaber Athletic Club took part in the Ben Nevis Race.

Over the past century, the starting point has moved twice, each time taking it a little closer towards the entrance to Glen Nevis and the foot of the mountain. It's base at Claggan Park attracts many spectators who come to see the runners set off up the mountain, and return, usually a little worse for wear a couple of hours later.

In the summer months leading up to the race, many local runners look up at the Ben with a heavy sigh, realising that they will now have to put in more serious hill training, and at least one or two practice runs on the Ben - just to remind themselves how demanding a run it can be on their body.

In order to qualify for entry to the race, all runners must have completed a minimum of three A class hill races of a similar length and gradient.

On the Saturday morning of the race, most runners cautiously look out of their windows in the early morning light to see if the Ben is visible from the clouds, and what the weather is likely to be for the run.

With race cards in hand, registration takes place from 10 am onwards at Claggan Park, which sits at the entrance to Glen Nevis. Runners are issued with two race numbers which must be displayed on their front and back during the race. They are also issued with a rubber band which has their race number on it, and which must be handed over to the marshal on the summit of the Ben.

Even though the race maybe run in sunny conditions at sea level, all runners must take a running pack with waterproof jacket, trousers, hat, gloves and whistle. The weather often changes as you go further up the mountain and the waterproof kit will protect those runners who sustain an injury until help arrives.

Continued on page 9



Images from the Manawatu Branch Dinner



Above: The haggis is addressd by Bryan Barber. Right: Nick tries out the 'Blenheim' Pipes.



Left: The 'Blenheim' Pipes. Right: Scott Orange and Reuban Bilsland from Manawatu Grade 3 Pipe Band

Tanya Cameron with Nick Cameron



Left: Marion Cameron and Julie Cameron. Right: Ewen Grant talks about the pipes



Left and Right

Jo and Dean Cameron's son Daniel's 21st Birthday. The key was made by Larry Cameron, Whakatane or, as he is known, Rustic Metal Art.







**At Fraser Cameron's Funeral**  
 Left: *Pipers Colin Cameron (Fraser's nephew), Tristan Sanders, Eliot Fenton*  
 Right: *Eliot Fenton, Tristan Sanders, Emmett Sanders on his dad's shoulders, Mary-Anne Cameron, Colin Cameron, Shona Cameron, Tanya Cameron*



Above: *At the Honours Investiture, Fraser's son Stuart collected Fraser's QSM. Elaine and daughters Mary-Anne and Shona are shown after the ceremony.*  
 Below Right: *Also present were Stuart's wife Irene and Mary-Anne's daughters Kendra and Fenella Fenton.*



Left: *At the Combined Clan's Dinner in Auckland Rob, Allan and Morea Cameron, Bryan and Jenny Haggitt and Norman Cameron*



# Fraser Logan Cameron QSM

*Eulogy read by Fraser's daughter Mary-Anne at the funeral.*

Fraser was born in Gisborne on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 1930 he was the second son of Charlotte (Redpath) and Corry. He was one of 7 children. At the time of his birth Corry wanted to call him Ewen. Charlotte was not happy about this and stopped Corry in his stride before registration was official.

Fraser grew up in Ormond Gisborne, he attended Ormond primary school and later Te Karaka high school. As a child dad had an imaginary bus with 47 children on it and he would zig zag slowly to the cow shed. He would be busy delivering milk, helping folk and weaving his way across the lawn in his own time, while a very impatient dad called for him to get to the dinner table. Dad told us he received the strap on a regular basis for talking too much.

Fraser was bought up in a very strict environment and there were chores to be done. Fraser and his older brother John were hard workers and had a good work ethic. In later life their mum, our Gran, lay in her bed and would plan holidays so she wouldn't dwell on having made her boys work so hard with little time for pleasure.

In August 1945 aged 15 years old He started working with Jas J Niven & company the only branch with an electrical department. His apprenticeship was delayed because he had taken a commercial pathway with thoughts of doing accounting and he lacked algebra and geometry. He attended night school three nights a week to complete electrical plus mathematics. Finally satisfied, the authorities deemed him suitable for an electrical apprenticeship. He moved from the retail section to the electrical department. He was with Niven's engineering company for 5 years.

As an apprentice he rode a bike to jobs balancing a ladder under one arm and steering with the other. According to Elaine he had a knapsack for the tools. A memory from his days there; was dad and a co-worker had to man the generator overnight during Sir Apirana Ngata's tangi, they were offered a bottle of gin to appease the bitterly cold night. At the end of his apprenticeship dad got the Gold medal for the highest trade exam results in New Zealand.

He was taken to Auckland by his father, for an interview for the NZ Shipping Company. Dad joined the Rangitoto ship as an electrician and worked from 1951 – 1954. When he arrived to join the ship in Wellington he nearly missed the first voyage because he hadn't paid his union fees. Quickly sorted, he began his first of many 3month tours. The ship went to Tilbury dock via the Panama Canal; on the return trip they would drop supplies to Pitcairn Island. The wooden flying fish and a walking stick were memorabilia from his visit. The Rangitoto was a cargo passenger ship and dad in his role as an officer had to play tennis and badminton with the passengers in his spare time. Fraser also had to dance with passengers at dinners; he was a dapper dresser and very good mover.

When he first disembarked off the ship in the Panama he was greeted by a lady of the night, for a green young man it was a bit of a shock. On one occasion he didn't feel he had anything to get off the ship for but having the threat of a job loss he quickly disembarked. He was always suspicious of men who bought their



wives flowers because, in his experience there were unmentionable stories behind the gift. During his time at sea he became friends with Frank Quinlan from Wimbeldon. He would take food parcels from Gisborne friends and family to England. Mum said blocks of cheese were popular.

His interest in photography, the cinema, and 8mm film began in his teenage years when he helped Mr Tavenau doing movies at Patutahi. He photographed every engine, pipe, electrical cable on the Rangitoto. He was a fiercely passionate about his family, recording events and all his other interests of which this theatre was one of them.

During his merchant navy career he was able to be in London for the Queen Elizabeth's coronation and met up with Millie Cameron and Mary Arthur (cousins). He visited his maternal Walker Aunts near Elgin in Scotland. And he always thought Glasgow was the only stop he did not enjoy - he found it rough. For years he kept his shipping uniform under the bed in a leather suitcase and I wore the shorts to a ship wreck dress up while Stuart and Tony Howe dyed some of them for beach wear.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1953 Mum and Dad were married at the Wairenga-a-Hika Church in Gisborne. Dad loved his time on the ship but he came home to take a managerial position at Nivens which fell through. Mum and dad moved to Whakatane. He worked as a fault man for the Whakatane board mills and Shona was born in 1954. Mum loved Whakatane but Dad needed a challenge, so in 1955 he took up a position at the power board in Opotiki. Their first house was 109 Richard Street next to the pole yard. Stuart was born in 1955. In 1958 our brother Darryl was born on the 20<sup>th</sup> August and passed the next day. This was a great sadness to dad, his stoic nature kept him at work.

Dad was disgruntled with his job at the power board and while out on a job he ran the truck into Mr Stevenson's vehicle. In opposition to what was expected, a good friendship ensued. Stevie as we knew him encouraged Fraser to start his own business. In December 1959 dad and mum moved to 15 St John Street. All dad was interested in was that the property had a pit and it was above the 1948 flood level. Fraser Cameron Ltd became his lifelong business interest In 1960 Mary Anne arrived and dad's fashion changed to the classic white overall.

In 1963 Vivienne arrived and was 5 months old when the 1964 flood occurred. We were all trapped by the flood water at 15 St. John street while Dad & Monty Williams were at the Church street shop (now Aladdins) They had radio contact with Elaine at home. Monty and dad were able to get a pack of steak out of the shop freezer. The power was on so they grabbed an electric fry pan. Monty was complaining about the lack of options to go with the steak when a bag of onions miraculously floated in from Jim Lawrence's fish and chip shop (now Double Lucky). At some stage Jan Meikle was bought into the shop, he was shocked and cold so dad and Monty wrapped him in an electric blanket to keep him warm.

Being an Electrician was Dad's livelihood. He was available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Fraser Cameron Ltd and staff went everywhere- Matawai, the East Cape, Waimana. We had to man the phones, take messages, and communicate with him via radio telephone. Q11 to Q13. In later years we got a bit cheeky and would answer the phone "Cameron waterworks which drip do you want to speak too"? If we couldn't find him we would contact the telephone exchange girls and they knew where to locate him. Family time was a Sunday afternoon drive. It was time for ice cream and Geordie the dog would get a small tub. He wore stubbies, had a rotary hoe, dug the turf and grew vegetables. Once Vivienne and I got into the garden and started to eat the peas (these were really good) Dad came home and wasn't very pleased he sent us to bed without any dinner. Lucky mum and dad had to go somewhere and while they were gone we feasted on peanut butter sandwiches.

Dad was passionate about his heritage. In his youth Dad was a member of the Gisborne pipe band and for the Whakatane band. Consumed with his work, the pipes stayed in their case under the bed until he was able to pass them on to his grandson Tristan. We tried once to get them out and give them a blast all we got was sore lungs, very little noise and a poorly inflated bag.

Shona told Dad about Clan Cameron in 1984. Tony Donkin saw a Clan Cameron event and thought Bob maybe keen, but he showed no interest. Dad and his older brother John joined.



Dad was dedicated to clan activities. At every opportunity he encouraged us to join in both national and international. In 1989 Shona, Coralie, Vivienne, Arwyn and dad went to the international gathering. In 2009 Shona, Eliot, dad and I were able to travel to make the 2009 Homecoming celebrations. While in Scotland at Achnacarry Dad in his role as the National president of the NZ Clan Cameron presented Lochiel's first grandchild a sheepskin rug. On the way home we went via Canada where he visited his youngest sister Alison.

Fraser was a gentleman, kind in nature and he invested in his community he loved Opotiki. He took any opportunity to help. He would often pick up hitchhikers, there was always an extra potato in the pot, He supported his younger brother Bob and Stuart into the trade. Also local and overseas people He was part of a government scheme for immigration due to labor shortages. There was always somewhere to go but if he couldn't attend he would organize for someone else to be there.

Fraser always looked after himself but in his 80s his heart decided there were challenges to be had. On one occasion when Dad presented to A and E in his white overalls he was met by a

Doctor who suggested it was time to retire. There is always a solution - Fraser hung up the overalls and chose mufti attire to return to work. He worked really hard, he was proud to be an electrician, and he did his last day of work on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

Before I give thanks to you all I want to reflect on how connections and love bring us together. Dad's coffin is draped with a cloak. This cloak is special it about unity it's about whanau it's about whanaungtanga. Roka Cameron married to Kerry Cameron is related. Through my mother's side the Savage/Bastings/Drake Roka has woven the cloak on a floor loom with the harakeke and woven into the Cameron tartan blends the blood lines of two cultures.

Our dad Fraser has lived a really long life, we have been privileged to have him and share him. On behalf of Elaine, and our family we want pass on our gratitude to all of you who have fed us, visited, been dad's friends and for all the theatre crew who have made this all possible. Fraser would be humbled and appreciative of your kindness. He would have been really chuffed and silently honored.

## The Ben Nevis Race *continued from page 5*

Standing at a height of 1,345 metres (4,411 ft). The total length of the race amounts to around 9.5 miles, however, its steep gradient make it both a physically and mentally demanding run for even the most accomplished of hill runners.

In order to complete the race within set times laid down by the Ben Race Association, all runners must reach the Red Burn just above Loch Meall an t-Suidhe in less than one hour. They must then reach the summit in under two hours, and return to the finishing line in under 3 hours and 15 minutes.

These times are to ensure that runners are able to complete the run within a good time and enable the marshals to come off the mountain after standing in often cold, wet and windy conditions. Failure to meet the times will disqualify runners from the race and possibly from future Ben races.

Just before the one o'clock start, hundreds of runners are piped up to the start line in Claggan Park, a nervous series of stretches and jumps take place in order to fit in a last minute muscle work out. Runners are then counted down 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 - Bang - as the starter pistol signifies the start of the Ben Nevis Race. Now it's all over to the runners and the mountain.

It is a remarkable site, as hundreds of runners stream up the mountain, initially following the tourist path, then going on to rough ground and onwards to the halfway check in.

Ben Nevis attracts hundreds of walkers and climbers on an average summer day, and this in itself can prove demanding when trying to run past slow moving traffic. Fortunately, after the Red Burn, the runners line is pretty much vertical to the summit, with only small amounts of zig zagging across the mountain and this route is not taken by walkers.

The ascent from halfway point up to the summit requires lots of stamina and dogged determination. Not looking up too often and taking one step at a time, most runners run in a crouched position, with their head on the same level as the heart, thus making breathing slightly easier. Rocks and loose scree can be a hazard on both the ascent and descent, and can result in some runners injuring themselves.

The fastest time recorded for the Ben Nevis Race stands at 1 hour and 25 minutes. This record was set in 1984 by Kenny Stewart and has come close to being beaten in recent years.

Back in September 1955, another record was broken when 16 year old Kathleen Connochie from Fort William became the first female runner to take part in the race. Her record time of two hours and twenty minutes was a ground breaking run which would see her feature in the Guinness Book of records. Kathleen is still involved in the Ben Race on race day, handing out the race time sheets to many runners who are unaware of her pioneering run on the Ben.

In 2019, local man, Finlay Wild, achieved an unbelievable tenth consecutive win of the Ben Nevis race. His winning time this year was 1 hour and 32 minutes. Finlay is an accomplished athlete, competing in high level running events across the world. When he is not running up mountains he works as a GP in the Lochaber medical centre.

Since William Swan first ran up Ben Nevis back in 1895, thousands of runners have followed in his footsteps, challenging themselves both physically and mentally against Britain's highest peak.

As runners descend the mountain, their legs are like jelly, their bodies badly shaken from the pounding up and down on uneven rocky ground. The last mile of the race takes them back along an undulating and unforgiving tarmac road towards Claggan Park. Many locals stand alongside, wishing all the runners well and clapping them onwards to the end.

At this point the runners have to dig deep and muster the last remaining energy to keep their momentum going and get over the finish line.

Entering the grassy confines of Claggan Park, the finish line is almost in sight - with what seems like a never-ending lap of the park. It's not unusual for some runners to try a last minute sprint to get a personal best, or just knock a couple of seconds of their time from last year.

And that is it. Your time is called and you've crossed the line. Time to stand still, or more realistically hit the deck.

After your lungs settle back into a normal rhythm of breathing and a couple of cups of water have been swallowed, or thrown over your own head to cool you down. It's possibly one of the best feelings in the world. You took on the mountain and you survived. You may not have won the race, yet you pushed yourself to the limits and you now feel happily exhausted.

Then, after a couple of minutes, your thoughts might turn to next years race and how you could run faster.



An early photograph of Ben Nevis Race runners taken in the 1930's.

*More photos on back page*







**Photograph 2:** This area was once a productive farm on partly basaltic soils but in the 1930s the Forestry Commission of Scotland thought that a Sitka Spruce conifer plantation was of greater economic benefit. We now have this barren- monoculture. So this is Achnagauna (or today Achadh nan Gamhna). Many of the trunks are covered with a brilliant green lichen.



**Photograph 3:** Besides the lower road up to the sheep fank there were many piles of lichen-covered cut logs that are now slowly degrading. It seems that the Forestry Commission could not sell this stock. Now, according to Forestry's website, a Sitka Spruce tree is the 5th largest conifer in the world, regularly reaches 55m in height, can reach 100m in height and can live for 600 years - oh dear! One can clearly see the gloom and darkness into which these trees appear to disappear in the background.

'Fiunary' Forest. And then we walked up to the sheep fank, which was easily seen on Google earth. We walked past conifers where those closest to the forestry track had their trunks covered in brilliant green lichen (Photograph 2), then we walked past many piles and stacks of cut logs, all lichen-covered and presumably rotting slowly in situ (Photograph 3). We then came to what I first thought was the ruin of a croft (Photographs 1 and 4 to 7), so I set about producing a plan, being under the impression that this was where Big John had lived. After some pace and compass measurements and sketching, it didn't look like a croft; no windows, several doors opening out onto a large mapped sheep enclosure, no obvious central fireplace/cooking area and a rounded room at one end. And where does one keep 12 or more children?

Chris Doak, the Clan Cameron historian in Glasgow, having reviewed an earlier version of my draft drawings,

commented:

*The drawings of the surviving stone walls at Achnagauna are also interesting, but I think that they are the remnants of a Sheep Fank, rather than a residence. They are attached to a very large field enclosure for sheep, and the fank would have been used for lambing, shearing, and separating the tups, gimmers, ewes etc. for transportation. The earliest detailed Ordnance Survey Map ... shows the big field enclosure at Achadh nan Gamhna, but also, when you blow the area up, shows three small rectangular structures a few hundred metres to the south east. I suspect these unroofed structures might have been the farmhouse. Doubtless they are now long gone, and destroyed by the later forestry plantation.*

Doak (pers. comm., 2017)



**Photograph 4:** Looking east through the doorway on the western wall with Room 'C' to the left and Room 'B' to the right. So, my great great great grandfather and my great great grandfather both walked through here many times. I was at last walking where my ancestors had walked.



**Photograph 5:** A view south down the internal axis of the sheep fank (or sheep fold) - through Room 'B' to Room 'A' at the end.

*To be continued*





Top: Hamish Cameron, Tanya Cameron, Shona Wallace, Graeme and Hazel Cameron, John Cameron, Bryan Haggitt, Trish Topham, David Weston, Joan Cameron, Rob Cameron, Nick Cameron. Below: Graeme and Hazel Cameron, Shona Wallace and John Cameron. Inset: Neville Wallace, photos



The Ben Nevis Race.  
Left: Lochaber Athletic Club runners before the 2019 Ben Nevis race. Image Iain Ferguson. Can you spot Bill?



Left: Finlay Wild in the 2019 Ben Race. Winner of the Ben Nevis Race for ten consecutive years. Image John O'Neil. Centre: Kathleen Connochie in the Ben Race back in 1955. Right: Bill Cameron with Kathleen Connochie and Bill's mother at the 2016 Ben Nevis Race.