

# Cameron

Volume 40, Issue 4

August 2006



## Happy Birthday

Our Chief, Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel, celebrates his 60th birthday on the 2nd of August. We send our loyal greetings and best wishes to Lochiel and his family at this time. When you read this you may wish, at the first opportunity, to raise a glass to 'Lochiel'.

Clan Cameron Scotland are holding a Ceilidh in the Achnacarry Village Hall to celebrate his birthday. This will be on Saturday 5th August and, as it is being organised by First Lighters Astie and Bill, promises to be a memorable occasion.



### Fort William Landmark Destroyed by Fire

In a devastating High Street blaze early in June, the well known restaurant and nightclub, McTavish's Kitchens, was destroyed, together with the two adjoining shops.

Luckily, no one was injured but the fire will mean the loss of over 60 jobs, including those of several self employed musicians, and it is a great loss to the town's tourism industry. First Lighter Bill worked at McTavish's part time and he regarded it as a second home.

Built as Fraser's Caf  in 1929, the building had been McTavish's Kitchens since 1970 and held many romantic memories for the people of Lochaber. Visitors from around the world, including, I am sure, many Camerons, will be saddened at the loss of such a wonderful venue of Scottish entertainment.

When in Fort William for the late Lochiel's funeral I dined there and will always remember the spoken and sung tribute to Lochiel by the musicians.

Editor

### Flower of Scotland

In a recent online poll conducted by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, *Flower of Scotland* was voted the most popular candidate to be sung as the Scottish National Anthem. It received 41 percent of the vote, with *Scotland the Brave* the runner up on 29 percent. The official *God Save the Queen* is not universally popular in Scotland.

*Flower of Scotland* was written by the late Roy Williamson of the Corries in the 1960s and remembers the battle of Bannockburn. *Scotland the Brave*, thought to be the favourite, was written by Cliff Hanley in the 1950s to an old bagpipe tune. It was used to salute the winners at this year's Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

NZ Herald/Reuters

## Welcome Shona

**Shona Cameron**, our First Light exchangee in 2006, is an eighteen year old from Spean Bridge in Lochaber. She is the younger daughter of Margaret Cameron, our liaison in Scotland. Shona was born in Inverness, grew up in Invergarry until her family moved to the Spean Bridge area a few years later. She was educated at the local Kilmonavaig school and attended the High School in Fort William, where she gained eight Standard Grades and four Highers.

After her stay in New Zealand, she will be attending Glasgow University, where she plans to study Physiology, Sports Science, and Nutrition.

Shona arrived in New Zealand June 15th. She spent a few days with Heather Cameron, our 2004 First Lighter, then travelled to the Manawatu, where she is being hosted by the Manawatu Branch.

She is staying with some members of the Branch, and is working at the Massey University Library while here. She has visited Mt Bruce Bird Sanctuary, Te Papa, and has been sightseeing around the district.

She plans to visit family friends in Nelson, attend the Rugby Test in Wellington, and meet Clan members from Wellington, Wanganui and Hawkes Bay, and attend the Manawatu Branch dinner on August 5th, while in the Manawatu.

When she leaves Manawatu, she will visit the Gisborne, and Bay of Plenty Branches before returning to Auckland in time to welcome her mother and Florence Cameron. Florence is the mother of a previous First Lighter, David. They will attend a Clan Dinner in Auckland before setting off to tour New Zealand.

Shona leaves New Zealand September 9th, and begins study at Glasgow in October.

*Mary Barber*

Visit Shona's Blog Site: [shonanztrip.blog.co.uk](http://shonanztrip.blog.co.uk)

## Where are our other First Lighters ?

### **Astie Cameron.** (2000)

Astie is married to Tracy and has a lovely daughter Nina Yves. He is making excellent progress with his house on the shores of Loch Lochy. On the Clan Cameron Scotland Council, Astie is Regional Councillor Lochaber and First Light Representative.

### **Shona Cameron.** (2001)

Shona continues her work with the Edinburgh City Council and has recently taken over more senior responsibilities. Her new role involves dealing in issues of tourism, business and development opportunities for the city. Part of this is doing some of the communications for Edinburgh's Christmas and Hogmanay celebrations. Also she deals with Property Management and Emergency Planning. This means keeping an eye on the buying and selling of all Council property and issues of public safety. A newer part of her job is being a press officer for the Council Leader—the equivalent to the mayor. Shona has recently enjoyed a holiday in Tuscany and made a pilgrimage to Marinello—the home of Ferrari.

### **William (Bill) Cameron.** (2003)

Bill lives in Inverloch Village, on the outskirts of Fort William from where he continues to study and practice industrial design, as well as writing on various aspects of design theory. Bill's plans for the future are to continue living and working amidst the ever changing landscape of Lochaber. Bill is very interested in the Clan and often contributes to this newsletter.



*Above: First Lighter Shona was met at Auckland Airport by Camerons; Ruth, Heather, Don and Neil. Taking the photo was Valmar Cameron*

*Below: Shona with Roz and Ewen Grant outside Te Papa*



### **David Cameron.** (2003)

David has been working for two years with T.N.T. (a parcels firm) in Inverness. He bought himself a new home there late last year. David is very keen on travelling and has recently visited several European countries, Tunisia and Hong Kong. He has applied for a visa for Australia so hopes he may visit us next year.

### **Heather Cameron.** (2005)

Heather is still teaching in South Auckland and has an energetic class of five and six year olds. Mostly they are Maori and Pacific Island children. A highlight for them recently was being able to find New Zealand and their home country on a globe. This term she will introduce them to the other side of the world. Having enjoyed the dancing at this year's AGM, Heather has joined a Scottish Country Dance club which she finds lots of fun and, as well as challenging her fitness level, where she has met some lovely people. Next time she is in Scotland she will be looking forward to a ceilidh.

**To continue this very worthwhile scheme your financial help is needed. If you are able to donate, even in a very small way, please forward your cheque (payee Clan Cameron NZ) to the Treasurer or the First Light Con-**



## People of Rangitikei 1870-1906

### Poems and Songs By *Backwoodsman* (Louis McLachlan)

The poems of 'Backwoodsman' are being collected by the McPhail Family, Roz and Ewen Grant, Robert Amies and Bruce Cameron and brought together in a book, edited by Maisie Earle.

Louis McLachlan lived in the Rangitikei District in the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was born on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1849 in Wellington and moved to the Turakina district as a small child. He was the son of Dugald McLachlan and Jane Cameron who had moved from the Highlands of Scotland to New Zealand. He married Alice Cameron at the Turakina Manse in 1877. He died in on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1906.

He used the name 'Backwoodsman' for his poetry. The poetry was mostly unpublished but there was some printed in the local paper and as a broadsheet.

His obituary in a local Rangitikei paper says: "He was a kindly genial soul, very popular with his acquaintances, and they were numerous, for everybody knew "Loo". He was a noted athlete in his time, and won many wrestling, jumping and running contests on the Coast. The late Mr. McLachlan was a ready and prolific writer of verse, and several of his poems have the true poetic ring. Many a man with less ability has achieved fame and fortune as a writer of poetry; but "Backwoodsman" was satisfied if he obtained the applause and approbation of his friends. He was deeply attached to the district in which he lived so long and its people."

He was obviously a very active and interested observer of the local scene, also of women, love, marriage and baptism, and death (the comings and goings) and the anniversaries (half way between). He was also enthusiastic about horses and horse racing and there are poems on races both in NZ and in Australia.

*His poems are about the people and the district – as he saw them and thought about them. So in many ways, the poems are a personal historical record of how people lived and their relationships with each other.*

We want to include as many of his poems as possible in the book. If any Camerons have information on Louis McLachlan or have copies of any poems written by Backwoodsman, could they please contact Maisie Earle (tel no. (06) 357 5587) Or e-mail [Mary.Earle.1@uni.massey.ac.nz](mailto:Mary.Earle.1@uni.massey.ac.nz)

### Congratulations to

Ewen Cameron of Christchurch who won a copy of Loren Teague's Scottish historical romance novel "Highland Rebel" in the special draw.

Highland Rebel can be purchased direct from [www.whiskeycreekexpress.com](http://www.whiskeycreekexpress.com) or NZ bookshops. More details can be found on [www.lorenteague.co.nz](http://www.lorenteague.co.nz)

### Can you help?

#### Another *Blenheim* Cameron family;

Ewen and Maria, from Trislaig with their 10 children, Mary, Jane, Marjory, Flora, Charles, Sarah, Allan, Donald, Ann, Catherine, arrived on the *Blenheim*, it has been suggested that Ewen was a brother to Donald [Bane – Cooper] Cameron from Invercaddie – Charles went back to the UK, one daughter married a McQuarrie then a Perry, Donald had been in the Hokitika and Tauranga areas, [from John Cameron papers] – does any one know of this family? Please contact Roz & Ewen Grant – R.D.11 Wanganui, 06 3273861, [tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz)

#### Request from Australia

I am doing some research for my sister's husband and I am stuck on a Cameron name from Lyttelton, Canterbury. was wondering if someone in your society could help me. I am looking for an **Agnes Isobella Ulavaria Cameron** who married William Stevens Cleary (a master mariner from Nova Scotia) on 16 Aug 1871 in Lyttelton. The family has carried the Cameron name through all the way to my brother-in-law, James Cameron Cleary. I suspect the Cameron family has been quite significant in NZ and the Canterbury region. I was wondering if you have any leads as to Isobella's origins.

Ian Thomas, [i.thomas@bigpond.net.au](mailto:i.thomas@bigpond.net.au)

## Hawkes Bay News

In late January, Hawkes Bay members of Clan Cameron met for lunch at the River Valley Café. It was a great gathering with two special guests. Sonia MacKenzie, Lieutenant for Clan MacKenzie NZ, talked to us about her involvement with Te Papa who are putting together an exhibition on the migration of the Scottish people to NZ. The exhibition will last for two years. Our second guest was Doug Thorenson who played the pipes for us. Doug was Pipe-Major of the City of Hastings Pipe Band as a young man. He now lives in Australia with his wife Hettie and fortunately for us he was visiting his friends Mike and Trish Topham who are members of our Chapter. Doug's piping was beautiful and he played mostly Cameron tunes, starting with "The march of the Cameron men" as members arrived at the luncheon. We were delighted to meet three new members, Elizabeth and Bruce Head of Waipukurau and Greg McGuire of Havelock North.



by Shane East.

Left: Piper Doug Thorenson

## *A message from our President*



**Dear Clan Cameron Members,**

When I take a look at the names of the Presidents who have been at the helm of Clan Cameron, New Zealand, it is very humbling to be able to follow in their illustrious footsteps. They were Dr Percy Cameron OBE [1935-1939] Ian D Cameron MBE,

OBE, JP [1959-1983] Donald R Cameron [1983-1992] M Harold Cameron MBE, JP [1992-1997] Dr Maisie [Cameron] Earle OBE [1997-2001] and K Neil Cameron MBE [2001-2006].

Perhaps, our vision this year could be a **challenge** to all our Clan members, to make a supreme effort to recruit at least **one** new member into our illustrious Clan. In that short time it would double our numbers and this is one way to make sure that our Clan will grow in numbers and survive in these turbulent times.

Here again, perhaps we should emphasise on the “**Younger Cameron’s**” who are in the age bracket of below 30, plus 30-40 and those who are 40 plus. We should not stop at that age group and any person who fits the bill should be encouraged and be **invited** to join.

We should never forget the members of the Cameron Septs who are also eligible. For example such names as Clark, Clerk, Clarkson, Martin, MacChlery, MacGillonie [my original family name] Mackail, MacMartin, Paul, Sorley and Taylor to name just a few.

We have had a call from Mary Barber, the First Light Conventor. She would like the various Branches to do some fund-raising for the First Light as they need to raise more than \$1000 to send the next exchangee. The First Light relies heavily on individual donations and donations from the Branches to stay ahead of their continuing costs.

We would like to welcome Shona Cameron from Lochaber, who had already arrived in New Zealand and we hope she enjoys herself and will go away with wonderful memories of her stay here.

\* We are delighted to advise all Clan Cameron members that Heather Lowes will continue in the position of Secretary of Clan Cameron New Zealand.

The members of Clan Cameron should also look to their own family members who are in the appropriate age bracket, who may like to be part of the First Light Scheme, becoming our New Zealand Ambassador on an exchange trip to Lochaber.

**“— our vision this year could be a challenge to all our Clan members, to make a supreme effort to recruit at least one new member into our illustrious Clan.”**

We have had a plea from Neil Cameron, our Newsletter Editor who is asking for any material that could be included in the Clan Cameron Newsletter. Do you have a meeting coming up or perhaps a happening that your branch is planning that could be included?

When we proud Scots lose touch with the Clan that calls to every able Scot to acknowledge and be a part of our heritage of the past, we deny them the opportunity to enter into a larger family and to exchange our joy and kinship with them.

As our motto says: “**Aonaibh Ri Cheile**” or “**Unite**” and those who unite together, will always prosper and grow strong and go forward in strength.

Yours in kinship

**Denis Cameron**

### **“Here’s tae Lochaber” - the DVD**

The beauty of Lochaber, both in terms of its geography and the art of its native musicians, has finally been captured on DVD. “**Here’s Tae Lochaber,**” is a magnificent production that will warm the hearts and tickle the ears of anyone with a love of Lochaber – “Cameron Country.”

Produced by **Billy McIsaac**, all profits from the DVD go to Lochaber Hydrotherapy, of which Donald Cameron of Lochiel is a patron.

An excerpt from Billy McIsaac’s story on the making of the DVD:

*—I started thinking about the commercial implications and felt that we would need to include more local material in the film. I then approached Heather Moore who conducts the Kilmallie Singers, Ingrid Henderson who is involved with the Lochaber Ceilidh Trail Band, Margaret McMaster who*

*works with The Lochaber Schools Pipe Band and Sandy MacKenzie, Pipe Major of the Lochaber Pipe Band. Nick Turner from Watercolour Music in Ardgour spent a day recording them all in a church in Caol. The Kilmallie Singers did marvellous versions of Highland Cathedral whilst the “massed” Lochaber Pipe Bands nearly blow the church roof off with their stirring versions of “The Green Hills of Tyrol,” “I See Mull” and “When the Battles O’er.” The Lochaber Ceilidh Trail Band performed two sets which made you just want to dance.*

The DVD may be ordered direct from:  
[www.musicscotland.com/lochaber](http://www.musicscotland.com/lochaber) Price £9.58 plus postage

By Editor: I have seen the DVD — the scenery is magnificent and the music inspiring. It will bring a throb to the throats of many Camerons.



## Aonaibh ri Cheile

'Cameron' is the newsletter of the Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc) and is published on or near the 1st of each even month of the year

Deadlines for articles are on the 15th of the month before publication. Items of importance or urgency may be accepted later.

Articles about Camerons, Branch activities with photographs, and advice of Coming Events are especially welcome.

**Deadline for next issue:  
15 September 2006**

**Please send to:**

Neil Cameron,  
Newsletter Editor  
28 Oxford Terrace,  
Devonport,  
North Shore City 0624

Phone: 09 446 1177  
Email: [kncam@pl.net](mailto:kncam@pl.net)

**Printed by**

## Contacts Page

### Useful Websites

**Clan Cameron New Zealand website**  
<http://camclan.orcon.net.nz/>

**Clan Cameron Online**  
<http://www.clan-cameron.org/>

**Lochiel, our Chief**  
<http://www.lochiel.net/>

**Clan Cameron Scotland**  
[www.clanccameron.org.uk](http://www.clanccameron.org.uk)

**Clan Cameron DNA project**  
<http://www.clan-cameron.org/dna/>

**Clan Cameron Australia**  
<http://www.clanccameron.org.au>

**Lochaber Life**  
<http://www.lochaberinternet.co.uk/life/>

**Fort William Online**  
<http://www.visit-fortwilliam.co.uk/>

## Coming events

*Please support these upcoming Clan events. They are a great way to introduce friends and family to our Cameron heritage.*

**Saturday 26 August at 7.30pm**  
Auckland Branch Dinner at Romfords, Tamaki Drive. This annual event is a great occasion and worth travelling to Auckland for. Cost \$45 per head. Book now and avoid disappointment.

It is hoped that new First Lighter Shona Cameron, together with Margaret Cameron, First Light convenor in Lochaber and mother of Shona, and Florence Cameron, mother of First Lighter David Cameron, will be our guests.

Contact Don Cameron (09) 520 0716 for information.

Cheques (payable to Clan Cameron Auckland) should be sent to Neil Cameron (address on left)

**September (date to be confirmed)**  
Wellington/Wairarapa Branch visit to Stonehenge Aotearoa.

Contact Rob Cameron for details.

**Saturday 16 September. 6.30pm for 7.**  
Scottish Clans Association—Auckland & Districts Dinner. Alexandra Park Raceway. Cost \$50 per head. Cash Bar (no BYO)  
Contact Murdock McDonald 52 Cargill St. Papakura. (09) 298 4802

### Hereditary Chief and Captain of Clan Cameron

Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel,  
Lord Lieutenant of Inverness,  
Achnacarry, Spean Bridge,  
Inverness-shire, Scotland. PH34 4ES

### New Zealand President and Commissioner

Denis Cameron  
8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa, Tauranga. 3118  
Ph. (07) 575 465 9 Fax (07) 575 4661  
[deniscameron@actrix.co.nz](mailto:deniscameron@actrix.co.nz)

**Secretary**  
Heather Lowes,  
45 Newnham Rd, RD2, Te Puna, Tauranga  
Ph. (07) 552 4952 [hlowes@hotmail.com](mailto:hlowes@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer**  
Graeme L Cameron, 4 Karamu St,  
Ngaio, Wellington  
Ph. (04) 4796250 [glcameron@clear.net.nz](mailto:glcameron@clear.net.nz)

**Genealogist**  
Audrey Rosoman  
106 Mansels Rd, Greerton Tauranga  
Ph. (07) 5784562

**Historian**  
Dorothy Cameron-Gavin  
70 Main Highway, Ellerslie 5, Auckland  
Ph. (09) 5797543

**First Light Exchange Convenor**  
Mary Barber  
5 King Street Fielding  
Ph. (06) 323 5906 [mbarber@clear.net.nz](mailto:mbarber@clear.net.nz)

**Branch Presidents**  
**Auckland**  
Don (DJ) Cameron  
34 Aldred Road Remuera  
Ph. (09) 520 0716 [valdon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:valdon@xtra.co.nz)

**Bay of Plenty**  
Fraser Cameron  
P.O Box 180 15 St.John's Rd., Opotiki.  
Ph. (07) 315 7105. Fax (07) 3158527

**Gisborne**  
David Cameron,  
885 Wharekopae Rd, RD2 Gisborne.  
Ph. (06) 862 7803

**Wanganui**  
Neil Corballis,  
Marangai, R.D.2, Wanganui.  
Ph. (06) 345 0261. [ngcorb@clear.net.nz](mailto:ngcorb@clear.net.nz)

**Manawatu**  
Joy Cameron,  
814 Rangitikei Line RD5 Palmerston North  
Ph. (06) 3549365

**Wellington/Wairarapa**  
Rob Cameron  
26D Willow Park Drive, Masterton  
Ph. (06) 377 0377 [dungallan@gmail.com](mailto:dungallan@gmail.com)

**Canterbury**  
Alex Cameron,  
91 Foreman's Road, Hornby, Christchurch  
Ph (03) 349 5467 [madscottnz@clear.net.nz](mailto:madscottnz@clear.net.nz)

**Otago (Contact)**  
Patricia (Tricia) McLean  
98 Argyle Street, Mosgiel, Otago  
Ph. (03) 489 8230 [triciamclean@hotmail.com](mailto:triciamclean@hotmail.com)



## A Sojourn in Scotland



**By Carolyn Vaudrey**

My sister and I have just returned from five weeks in the UK. The highlight for both of us was a visit to Scotland and the meeting of Lochiel. We had written to him to see if he would be in Achnacarry in March and the reply was he would be there 10<sup>th</sup> through to the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We landed at Heathrow and spent a few days in London doing the tourist thing. This was my 4<sup>th</sup> visit to Britain and the 1<sup>st</sup> for my sister Christine and as it was her first visit we wanted to see as much as possible. We had booked a rental car and picked that up at Heathrow. We are Garlands on our fathers side and one of our Great Uncles had been wounded in France during WW2. He had been taken to a NZ Hospital Unit in Brockenhurst where he later died. So we wanted to visit his grave. We spent a couple of days there and as we had to be in Fort William by the 11<sup>th</sup> we had a long drive up through England. Also it was Christine's birthday on the 12<sup>th</sup> March so combining that with a visit to Achnacarry was high on our list. Our last night in England before crossing over to Scotland was in the Lake District, then it was on to Bonny Scotland.

We drove along the banks of Loch Lomond which was really lovely, then on up over the Black Mountains. I really wasn't prepared for the stark beauty of the scenery. There was plenty of snow around which for us coming from Auckland where it doesn't snow was exciting. We came down from the mountains and drove along the upper banks of Loch Linnhe to Fort William, and on to our B&B just out of Spean Bridge. The next day we went back into Fort William to the Museum there and spent an interesting time looking around. There is quite a bit of Cameron history there. I bought a book called Romantic Lochaber, Arisaig and Morar. Plenty of Cameron History in there as well. The next day was the 12<sup>th</sup> which is Christine's birthday and we woke up to find that there had been a good dumping of snow over night. There were a lot of road closures in the area so we weren't able to drive anywhere. Our host very kindly offered to drive us to Glenfinnan for a look see. Earlier in the day I rang Lochiel to let him know that we had arrived and to make a time to meet him. Unfortunately he told us that his mother had passed away in

*Carolyn's picture of the drive leading to Achnacarry, showing the snowdrops which were so much in evidence at the time of Lady Margaret's funeral.*

the small hours. I immediately told him that under the circumstances we understood that it wasn't possible to visit him. But being the gentleman he is he insisted that we had come such a long way that we could visit the following day.

We drove to Achnacarry the next day, which was really lovely. We finally figured out how to open the gate and drove up to the front door. Caroline, Lochiel's sister met us at the door and invited us in. Lochiel himself made us feel really relaxed and we had a cup of tea with him and then showed us a couple of the big rooms overlooking the river. We couldn't stay long as he was busy making funeral arrangements and was expecting the Vicar. Also we didn't think it appropriate to take any photos of him. We wanted to attend the funeral but at the time he wasn't sure what day it would be and that it was going to be about another week. We did leave a condolence card.

After that we stayed at Spean Bridge for another couple of days and used it as a base to travel around. Went to places like Balmoral and over the Crampian Mountains back to Spean Bridge. After that we left that beautiful part of Scotland and drove all the way to Dunnet Head, which is the northern most point on the mainland. It was very cold up there with the wind I'm sure coming off the Arctic. One of the must sees was Culloden. There is really something moving about that place. We found the Cameron stone and that was very special. I was very sorry to be leaving Scotland but we had more places to see so then we started making our way down the East coast and on back through England where we had made arrangements to meet more of our Garland family. But the Highlands are very special and the history and the grandeur will remain with us both always. Who knows, maybe I will get to go back.



*Carolyn beside the Cameron Stone at Culloden*

## Scots in New Zealand: An Exhibition at Te Papa, 2007

The fifth Te Papa community exhibition to be staged in the Community Gallery area of Te Papa will profile New Zealand's Scottish community and is scheduled to open in mid-late 2007. The exhibition has a proposed duration of approximately 2.7 years, closing early in 2010. The Community Gallery explores the experiences of different ethnic and cultural groups in New Zealand and provides a forum in which different communities can tell their own stories.

This exhibition is being developed in partnership with the Scottish Community Advisory Group (CAG). This group of seven people was formed from a much larger meeting of representatives held in December last year. Three members of Clan Cameron are involved – Roz Grant, Bruce Cameron, and Maisie Earle. Roz brings her extensive knowledge of Scottish Settlement in the Rangitikei, particularly Turakina, Bruce his knowledge of piping and piping history, and Maisie represents recent immigrants.

This exhibition is primarily focused on New Zealand rather than Scottish history. The CAG have endorsed the overarching theme of 'contributions' for the exhibition and the main storylines. CAG feedback is being taken into account throughout the progression of the exhibition.

The exhibition is still being formed, though three main segments are confirmed. These will focus on Migration and Settlement, Contributions, and Maintaining Identity. A touchscreen interactive map is one of the main interpretive tools being considered for the small Migration and Settlement area of the exhibition. The Contributions segment will

act as a touchstone for various achievements and contributions of Scottish New Zealanders, and in Maintaining Identity there is more of a focus on contemporary New Zealand stories. The exhibition will include some audiovisual elements.

Those of Scottish descent are a major group in the New Zealand population. Through this exhibition Te Papa hopes to show visitors that Scottish culture is a pervasive influence in contemporary New Zealand culture. The achievements of Scottish New Zealanders will be celebrated, and links to various websites will provide an opportunity for visitors to make personal associations with their Scottish heritage.

Objects for display are currently being chosen from the collections of a range of organisations. Te Papa will also work with CAG to source further information on possible objects for selection, especially those that may be held in private collections.

Te Papa's Community Relations Manager, Sue Superville, sends out a quarterly newsletter to Advisory Group members, representatives of the broad Scottish community, lenders and contributors to the exhibition. The newsletter contains updates on significant exhibition developments, related events and key dates throughout the year. The first newsletter relating to this exhibition will be ready in late July.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for the newsletter please contact Sue by Email on: [susans@tepapa.govt.nz](mailto:susans@tepapa.govt.nz)  
Fax: 04 381 7170, or phone on 04 381 7281.

### N.Z. Highland Dancing Competitions 2006

I had the pleasure and honour of presenting the **Mr and Mrs I.D. Cameron Cup** at the N.Z. Highland Dancing Championships in Auckland held 7-9 July 2006.

My pleasure was in seeing that there were such large numbers, 190 young New Zealanders performing, hearing the buzz of excitement in the theatre, seeing the high standard of dress, and watching the swirl of their kilts as they crossed smartly across the stage. The discipline and self confidence of these competitors was a credit to their teachers, judges and the organisation of this competition. Of course behind each dancer is a dedicated family and hours of hard work by the performers but on the day one sensed real enjoyment and challenge.

It was also my pleasure to meet again some of those whom I had known during those hectic years when my parents were working with passion to develop the Royal Academy of Highland and National Dancing.

As a child I accompanied my Mother when she judged Highland Dancing in the 1930s and 1940s. It has been documented that these were the "years of discontent" and in 1945 "It was found that often judges had no qualification to Judge, and indeed had never had dance tuition". I remember that "discontent" upsetting my Judging Mother as there

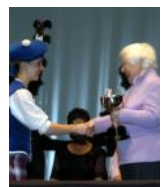
were no set standards for dress or dance. This made comparisons difficult and sometimes irate teacher or family would challenge results of competition. There was a need for standards of dress and dance steps.

In 1945 the N.Z. Academy of Highland and National Dancing was born in my family home. Two Foundation Members, May Wilson [Thorn] and my Mother Fassie Cameron [McDougall] were appointed. Both were outstanding dancers, teachers and judges. For weeks they discussed and analysed every dance and every step; often in the midst of cooking a big roast meal, these two would stop to dance and check techniques! Out of "discontent" came challenges accepted by more and more dedicated teachers and judges. Always encouraging them was my father, Ian Cameron who was passionate about preserving our Scottish Heritage.

My childhood was filled with the sound of 'the Pipes', the swirl of the kilts, the spring in the steps of fine dancers, and the lilt in the Scottish dialect spoken so it was thrilling to see large numbers of enthusiastic, skilled dancers performing. In their care our Scottish traditions are alive and well.

*Alison North (nee Cameron)*

*See larger photograph on back page*







# Aonaibh ri Cheile

Volume 40, Issue 4

August 2006  
Clan Cameron  
New Zealand  
Neil Cameron  
28 Oxford Terrace  
Devonport  
North Shore City 0604  
New Zealand



## In This Issue...

What the *First Lighters* are doing — and we welcome *Shona* to New Zealand.

## Cameron connections



Photo: Professional Photography Australasia Ltd

**Left:** The Mr. and Mrs I.D. Cameron Cup was presented to Shelly Reid by Alison Cameron at the NZ Highland Dancing Championships. This cup is awarded for the most points in Highland Reel, Reel O' Tulloch and Irish Reel.

**Below left:** Shona with Graeme Cameron in Wellington

**Below:** Auckland member Andrew McQueen and First Lighter Bill Cameron in front of the memorial to the 25th Chief of Clan Cameron in Fort William on July 4th. Andrew is a member of the Saint Kentigern College Pipe Band which was competing in Scotland last month.

