

Cameron

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Cameron Ale

The traditional "March of the Cameron Men", has a spring in its step thanks to the brewing up of a specially produced Clan beer. The Clan Cameron Association Scotland has commissioned several dozen cases of Cameron Celebration Ale, from the recently established Islay Brewery. The bottles, certain to become collectors' items, are to mark this month's (August's) 60th birthday of Cameron Chieftain, Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel - and the attaining of his 30th by his son, Donald Andrew, in November.

The man behind the idea of this limited edition is Alan Cameron, former head teacher at Ellon Academy, who is now an Aberdeen councillor. Lochiel was presented with a case of the ale at a birthday party/ceilidh at Achnacarry Hall - just across the road from his clan seat.

The recently approved Clan Cameron Association coat of arms is featured on the bottle label, along with a Lochaber axe and targe. The Gaelic wording on it - "Aonaibh Ri Lochiall" - translates as "Unite with Lochiel". One of the clan's Lochaber historians, Willie Cameron, Inverlochy, said yesterday : "With 2006 being a year of special birthday celebrations for the Lochiel family, the Association reckoned that one way of marking these was to produce a special ale.

Message from Lochiel

I would very much appreciate your passing on my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who sent cards and messages for my 60th birthday. I was very touched by the goodwill shown and the sentiments expressed and felt extremely honoured. I don't really feel my age especially as I now have a 3 month old black labrador puppy called Merlin which my children presented to me - very lovely but, like a baby, needs endless attention and love! We had a great ceilidh in the village hall with many clansfolk and lots of people from round about. I even sang 'Donald where's your trousers' which I feared might clear the room!

On Saturday 16th September, I am in Glasgow for a very exciting day in that the Provost of Glasgow is hosting a reception and, in recognition of the Gentle Lochiel saving the city from being burnt by the Jacobites in December 1745, is arranging for the bells of the Tolbooth to be rung in my honour. It will be a truly memorable day and one which the Association in Scotland has been closely involved. The Provost is called Liz Cameron which helps !

So I had a wonderful birthday and one which I will never forget so many, many thanks to all who contributed - I am deeply grateful.

Very best wishes

Lochiel

So The Cameron Celebration Ale has been specially brewed, albeit it will not be at its best till New Year time!

"The price includes a small donation to benefit the work of the Association - at home and overseas.

By Ian Abernethy — "Lochaber News"

Photo below by Iain Ferguson — "The Write Image"



In Search of Kiwi Family

by Kat Walsh



*Shona Cameron of Lochaber, Scotland, and Fraser Cameron of Opotiki present Opotiki Library chief librarian Nethia Morgan with a copy of **Clan Cameron New Zealand**, a chronicle of the clan's extensive history in different parts of New Zealand.*

The Bay of Plenty branch of the family has already presented copies to libraries in Tauranga and Te Puke. "We thought we'd give the librarian something to read for a day," Mr Cameron joked.

One question I have is, why is a cabbage tree called a cabbage tree?

Trading Scottish sunshine (if such a thing exists) for New Zealand frosts might not sound the most appealing way to spend three months, but for Lochaber's Shona Cameron visiting the Opotiki Camerons, there was plenty of compensation.

Miss Cameron, who had spent the first two months of her visit in Auckland and Manawatu, travelled to New Zealand as a participant in the Cameron Clan First Light youth exchange programme, aimed at stimulating young people to have interest in their family history. Her trip to visit family members in New Zealand has been successful in that light, she said, "I think they'll have me for life," she laughed.

The exchange has led Miss Cameron to swap her summer for our winter - making it three winters in a row - but there have been other changes to adjust to as well, she said.

Our left-turning road-rule took some getting used to, as well as our climate - "I can't get over how green it is here in winter," she said - and the different aspects of nature in New Zealand really came into focus on a visit to the Hukutaia Domain.

The 18-year-old said a walk through the forest at the domain had solidified her interest in the different flora to be found in New Zealand, and she had lots of questions remaining from her experience. "One question I have is, why is a cabbage tree called a cabbage tree?" she joked.

New Zealand fauna had been a surprise as well. "Yes, I've not seen as many sheep as I expected," she said. And the people to be found here were pleasant, she continued. "I've found that everyone's been very welcoming," she said. Staying with family here in Opotiki and in other parts of the country had given her a different perspective than if she had stayed in hotels, she believed, and had given her a greater appreciation for life here in New Zealand.

Returning to New Zealand was a definite desire, she said, "I do hope so - maybe in summertime next time though." Her experience here had taught her a lot, and she felt she would be returning to begin her Honours course in physiology, sports science and nutrition at Glasgow a much more confident person, among other things.

"If nothing else," she said, "being here for two months has given me a much greater appreciation of Rugby."



Pictures by Kat Walsh

Reprinted with the kind permission of Kat Walsh and the Opotiki News

Vale

We are sorry to report the death at Waitara, on August 24, 2006, of **Ben Brooking**. Ben and his late wife Jean were strong supporters of the Gisborne Branch from 1989 to 2002 and promoted the Clan by their attendance and their contribution to projects undertaken by the branch. Ben moved to New Plymouth soon after Jean's death in 2002.

Auckland Annual Winter Dinner

The longest of long-shots added a touch of good humour -- and mock indignation -- to the finish of the annual dinner of the Auckland clan branch last month.

Joy Cameron, wife of Denis Cameron, the new president of Clan Cameron New Zealand, was given the honour of drawing the first prize number in the raffle -- and picked her own number.

When the third prize number belonged to Denis Cameron there was more laughter, then applause as Denis asked that the prize be re-raffled.

The raffles, including Famous Grouse and Milford whiskeys, raised over \$300 for the Clan's First Light appeal, which gave added appeal to the presence of three Lochaber lasses at the dinner.

Shona Cameron is the recent First Lighter in New Zealand, and she was joined at the dinner by her mother, Margaret, and their good friend Florence Cameron, who had arrived in Auckland by way of Glasgow-Heathrow-Hong Kong-Sydney four hours before the dinner started. Florence attended the dinner three years ago when her son David was a First Lighter. On that night Florence was a champion raffle-ticket seller, and she repeated her ticket-selling skill at last month's dinner.

The evening was a lively mixture of the formal and informal. Denis Cameron was installed as the national commissioner as well as New Zealand president of the clan, and later he proposed an eloquent tribute and toast to Lochiel. He also completed the formal election of Neil Cameron, the previous national commissioner and president as a life member of Clan Cameron New Zealand.

Neil was elected a life member at the national annual meeting earlier in the year, and his certificate, signed by Lochiel, was presented to him -- with his wife Ruth by his side -- at the dinner. After the dinner Shona gave an interesting talk about Lochaber.

Andrew McQueen, a piper with the Saint Kentigern College band which recently toured overseas, touching base at Fort William, was the piper for the night and performed splendidly. As did his young sister Sarah whose highland dancing flourished once her father Duncan, who also did a great job as MC, tweaked the electronics and produced the right music.

Matthew, the third young McQueen, formed part of a youthful escort for the haggis ceremony. The address was made by Jack Bunt, and Bryan Haggitt, Matthew and Andrew McQueen formed the escort.

The aim here was to involve the younger clan members in the traditional ceremonies, and it was highly successful.

The new management at Romfords, on the edge of the Waitemata Harbour, may even have exceeded the high standard of recent years, especially in the variety and quality of the food for the three-course meal.

The usual piano accordionist was dispensed with this year, and replaced with Scottish music on CD, plus a DVD "Here's tae Lochaber," which had some superb scenery and music of the Lochaber area and (pausing for a commercial) Neil Cameron has some available at \$35.

Sadly, the singer asked to lead the singing could not attend, and one or two part-time replacement warblers may be a stage short of *N Z Idol* ranks at the moment.

Donald Cameron

"Here's tae Lochaber"

A celebration of Scotland in film and music

3 copies of the DVD (see Aug. issue) are available and may be purchased from the editor for \$35 each (includes postage)

Manawatu News

The Manawatu First Light committee met on Tuesday 29 August to meet Margaret and Florence and to welcome Shona back to the Manawatu for a few days.

Shona and Margaret both expressed their pleasure in the arrangements made for Shona's stay.

On the following evening members who had hosted Shona while in Palmerston Nth met to say farewell to her at a tea evening.

It was a pleasure to have hosted Shona and her visit increased interest in the First Light Exchange.

Manawatu will participate at the Turakina Highland Games on January 27th, and a picnic is planned for late February or early March at Mt Lees Reserve.

(See also "Coming Events" on page 5.)

Mary Barber



Donald Cameron welcoming guests at the Auckland dinner

Scots Abroad

Over 100 Scottophiles attended a three-day conference in Wellington at the beginning of July. Hosted by the Irish-Scottish Studies programme of Victoria University's Stout Research Centre, it brought together distinguished overseas scholars, researchers working on the stories of the New Zealand Scots, those with clan or family associations and all with an interest in Scottish migrant studies. Several Clan Cameron members attended including our Commissioner Denis Cameron who interrupted his family holiday in order to be present.

Amongst the 30-odd speakers were Marjory Harper, (the author of *Adventurer and Exiles*), Eric Richards (probably the foremost authority on clearance studies) Malcolm Prentis (a scholar of Australian Scots history) and Michael Vance from Halifax, Nova Scotia. One of the most memorable and indefatigable speakers was Kenny MacAskill, the shadow minister for justice for the Scottish Nationalist Party in the Scottish parliament.

The dinner on Saturday night was held in the National Archives and Bruce Cameron played his pipes, to the very evident delight of all. It seemed that all those who attended drew fresh enthusiasm from an invigorating three days, which surely augurs well for the international study of Scots migration

Jessie Annabell (Manawatu)

A message from our President



Dear Clan Cameron Members,

I have been very lucky to have attended a three day Conference on the “Scots Abroad - The New Zealand Scots in International Perspective” held at Victoria University from 6 – 8 July 2006.

This was the inspiration of the Irish – Scottish Studies Programme at Victoria University, implemented by Dr Brad Patterson and his small team of researchers and enthusiastic helpers.

The best available estimates indicate that the Scots-born accounted for up to one quarter of all migrates to New Zealand to the late twentieth century. It has also been suggested that Scottish influence have been more pervasive in this country than in any other outside Scotland. Yet the Scots remain the least studied of New Zealand’s major ethnic groups. Scottish migration to New Zealand and the customs and traditions brought with them by the migrants – in areas as diverse as religion, politics, education, the arts, language, folkways, even landscape appearance – have to date been subjected to little sustained examination as the opening **salvo** supplied in the application form.

Mighty words indeed and as we all know - very factual. This will all change, as we Scots, at long last, are now going to be recognised in New Zealand.

This conference was seeking to bring together researchers known to be working or have worked on the New Zealand Scots, those with Clan or family associations, and all with an interest – from whatever viewpoint - in Scottish migrant experiences. It was to seek to establish the current state of Scottish Studies in New Zealand and to identify new directions in which further research might proceed.

Five distinguished overseas scholars had been invited to present keynote papers enabling New Zealand Scottish experiences to be placed in an international perspective.

They were: Marjory Harper [University of Aberdeen] Eric Richards [Flinders University of Adelaide] Malcolm Prentis [Australian Catholic University of Sydney] Michael Vance [St Mary’s University of Halifax] and Lecturer Supreme; John Mackenzie [University of Aberdeen].

“— that Scottish influence has been more pervasive in this country than in any other outside Scotland. Yet the Scots remain the least studied of New Zealand’s major ethnic groups”

Professor John Mackenzie was also invited to give the “Stout Lecture – 2006” on the Thursday night. He was one of the most capable speakers I have heard for a long time and I came away from this lecture, as you could say fizzing with enthusiasm.

Other guest speakers were; Mr Kenny MacAskill; MSP for Lothian’s from the Scottish Parliament; H.E. George Fergusson, British High Commissioner to New Zealand, son of the late Brigadier Sir Bernard Fergusson, New Zealand’s Governor General. There were other distinguished speakers from New Zealand and throughout the world.

In August 2007 and up until 2010, we will be able to visit the Te Papa’s Museum static display, where we Scots, will be able to visit and feel immense pride, as we take a look as to whom we once were and to whom we are now.

“Leis gach deagh dhurachd”,
[With every good wish].

Denis Cameron

***At the Conference
(from left)***

*Roz Grant, Jessie Annabell,
Ewen Grant, Bruce Cameron,
Denis Cameron, Maisie Earle,
and Kenny MacAskill, Member
of the Scottish Parliament*

Photo from Dr. Brad Patterson



See also Jessie Annabell’s report on page 3



Aonaibh ri Cheile

'Cameron'

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

Deadlines for articles are on the 15th of the month before publication. Items of urgency or importance may be accepted up to 10 days later.

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

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

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Coming events

Saturday 7 October at 11am.

The annual Waikato / Bay of Plenty Clan Gathering will be held at the Wesleyan Church Centre, 100 Thirteenth Avenue, Tauranga starting at 11am. Clan Davidson will be Host Clan. The Clan March will start just down the road on the Tauranga School grounds. Likely cost will be \$5.00 per person. Enquiries to Denis Cameron.

Saturday 14 October at 11am

Clan Cameron New Zealand Executive Council Meeting at the RSA Clubrooms, Turangi. Morning tea at 10.30am. Please bring a plate for shared lunch.

Saturday 18 November.

Auckland Highland Games. Three Kings Reserve. A wonderful day—and it's free! Official opening around midday but some competitions start at 9am. The Cameron tent will be there. Enquiries to Donald Cameron

Sunday 19 November pm.

Clan Cameron Manawatu AGM at the home of Mary & Harry Lampen-Smith. Enquiries to Joy Cameron

25 November—3 December 2006

Scottish Heritage Week in Sydney, Australia. A very interesting and varied programme. If you are likely to be there contact the editor for a flyer or see: <http://scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au>

Sunday 26 November at 10am

"Kirkin' o' the Tartan" St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Symond Street, Auckland. Enquiries to ed.

Saturday 9 December

Square Day in Palmerston North. As usual, Manawatu Clan Cameron will be holding a stall selling a sausage sizzle and haggis sandwiches, always popular. Enquiries to Joy Cameron

26—28 January 2007

Canterbury Branch weekend in Blenheim. Contact Alex Cameron for details.

Saturday 7 April 2007 (Easter Weekend)

Clan Cameron AGM and Gathering at the Hornby WMC Christchurch. Full details in our next issue.

Useful Websites

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

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

Clan Cameron Scotland
www.clanccameron.org.uk

Clan Cameron Australia
<http://www.clan-cameron.org.au>

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

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

Camerons Gather at Achnacarry to Celebrate Lochiel's 60th

On Saturday the 6th of August, Camerons from across Scotland and further a field travelled along the winding loch-side road towards Achnacarry, where a lively evening of Ceilidhing was planned to celebrate Lochiel's 60th Birthday.

Arriving at the distinctive Cameron gates, marking the entrance to the Lochiel Estate, the gates had been wonderfully decorated with balloons, banners and birthday wishes, including, "Happy Birthday Lochiel" and "60 Years Young".

Waving at us in the breeze, the balloons and banners continued along the roadside trees down the hill, past the Museum and Castle until we reached the Village Hall itself where the Ceilidh would take place.

Located a short distance up the road from the Castle, Achnacarry Village Hall resembles a rather small elongated cottage from the outside, however, its deceptively large interior accommodates seating around the dance floor, with plenty of dancing space in the middle, as well as a raised stage platform at the end of the hall where the musicians set up camp.

I should like to mention at this point, the dance floor in Achnacarry Hall is well known in the area for its 'springy' nature. This unique quality made some people a little wary of trying anything too energetic at the beginning of the evening, however, its rebound qualities were soon appreciated and tested at length as the Ceilidh progressed.

As is the relaxed tradition with Ceilidhs in these parts, there is no fixed start or end point; although having said that, the hall started to fill up just after eight o'clock, no doubt due to the arrival of infamous Highland midges who were also Ceilidhing in large clouds around the front door of the hall.

Keen to make their way indoors, the gathered crowd consisted of many Camerons from near and far, people from the Estate and the surrounding area, as well as Lochiel's friends and family. Although there was no head count taken on the evening, we reckon there was well over a hundred folk in attendance at the height of the Ceilidh.

Dancing to the well-known local dance duo George Smith and Annabel Gillan, regular performers at First Light Ceilidhs; the Ceilidh was soon underway with a number of introductory sets, danced by those brave folk who knew all the right moves and were not afraid to step out and lead by example. As all the seats around the edge of the hall quickly filled up, the crowd soon spilled through into the foyer, where Astie and wife Tracey were kept busy at the bar, dispensing generous measures of beer and spirits, all of which had been kindly donated by Lochiel for the Ceilidh.

After a number of sets, the music paused for a while as Donald Andrew welcomed everyone to Achnacarry to celebrate his father's 60th birthday. Raising a toast to his father, Donald informed us of some of the evening's

performers, including himself on guitar, Astie on the pipes and a song or two from his father – describing it as an 'Achnacarry-oke'. Before handing the microphone over to Lochiel, everyone joined Donald Andrew and the band in a hearty rendition of Happy Birthday. Sitting with Lady Cecil just in the front of the stage, Lochiel thanked everyone for coming up to Achnacarry to share in his birthday celebrations. He said, "I couldn't wish to be anywhere else but here at Achnacarry, surrounded by all my friends and family". Thanking all those who had been involved in organising the evening's entertainment, Lochiel also thanked a number of people in the hall from Achnacarry who he had grown to know very well over the years, helping him reach this milestone in his life.

Handing the microphone on to Alan Cameron, President of the Clan Cameron Association Scotland. Alan wished Lochiel Happy Birthday on behalf of all the Camerons in the hall, as well as the many other Camerons scattered around the world.

After his speech, Alan handed the microphone on to Duncan Cameron a senior member of the association who presented Lochiel with a special birthday gift on behalf of the Clan Cameron Association.

The special gift consisted of a box of limited edition 'Cameron Celebration Ale' commemorating Lochiel's 60th birthday, as well as marking Donald Andrew's 30th birthday later in November.

Duncan proceeded to inform the audience of the story behind the Cameron beer. (More information on the Cameron Celebration Ale is included elsewhere in the newsletter.) Margaret Cameron, (First Light organiser in Lochaber and Mum of First Lighter, Shona) presented Lochiel with a bottle of New Zealand wine on behalf of all those involved in First Light here in Lochaber.

Lochiel was given a black Labrador puppy from his family, which I believe he has since named Merlin.

A member of the Estate staff presented Lochiel with a caricature of himself and his new dog, along with a bottle of champagne.

After all the speeches and presentations, the music was turned up a gear or two with a couple of old favorites, including; a strip the willow and a Canadian barn dance. After the assembled crowd had worked up a sweat following a good few dances, the Ceilidh paused once more, this time for supper.

Supper, or should I say, 'extensive late night feast' had been prepared by Astie, Tracey and fellow Bunarkaig resident - Christine Edmonds. Between the three of them, we were treated to all sorts of wonderful sweet and savoury dishes, which they had obviously spent a lot of time preparing during the day.

Following the supper interval, we returned to the hall once again, a little heavier than we had left it - thanks to Tracey's tasty baking!

With another couple of dances we then moved on to the

performers.

First up was Alan Cameron who gave us a rousing rendition

of that old Clan favorite 'The March of the Cameron Men', backed up by all the Cameron women and men in the hall.

Donald Andrew then gave us a couple of well-known Scottish



tunes on his guitar including 'The Wild Rover', backed up once again with a lot of vocal participation from the crowd.

Lochiel's turn at the microphone and an accomplished rendition of 'Campbeltown Loch', a song close to many a Scotsman's heart in wishing a Loch would indeed turn into the water of life – whisky.

Next, a very apt song for a man called Donald wearing tartan trousers, none other than Andy Stewart's classic, 'Donald where's your trousers' which was again accompanied by most of the hall.

Finally, Astie had composed a commemorative pipe tune to mark the occasion called 'Lochiel's 60th Birthday March' which he played to great applause.

After a good number of fast dances, mother time signalled her approach towards the witching hour and so we gathered once again, forming a large circle to sing 'Auld Lang Syne' and 'He's a Jolly Good Fellow'.

At that our weary legs retired out into the dark Achnacarry night, drawing to a close a most memorable celebration of our Chief's 60th Birth

by Bill Cameron

My Hobby of Genealogy

Royal roots on every family tree was the headline in the Christchurch Press on Saturday 8 July, 2006. "Millions of people have provable descents from mediaeval monarchs" said Mark Humphrys, a genealogy enthusiast. By the same token, for every king in a person's family tree there are thousands and thousands of nobodies whose births, deaths and lives went completely unrecorded by history. We'll never know about them, because until recently vital records were a rarity for all but the noble classes.

The article was interesting but to find the Royal roots is not the real reason why most people spend so much time on their family history. Of course, if we find them, that is exciting too, but genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts. Rather it is to tell the family story, after all if these ancestors had not lived we would not be the people we are today. If only we could go back in time – if only! The next best thing is to research and learn about the lives they led, their triumphs, their difficulties, the times they lived in. However, usually we can only scratch the surface of our ancestors' lives and find the significant events. But these are not just a collection of names and dates. They're real people. They're not a distant name on a cold tombstone – they're our family, our ancestors. We share their DNA, which means that a piece of them is with us always.

Our Clan Cameron President, Denis Cameron is my second cousin, and has done much research on our Cameron family tree, and I have been trying to add to that. What a fascinating journey through Scotland it is. So many prominent names seem to feature on the tree and what times they lived in. Boring, it is never. What would life have been like for Mary Banks after her only daughter came to New Zealand? In the 1871 British Census Mary was listed as being blind for 16 years, eventually she went to live with a person we believe was her niece. Some ancestors had

colourful lives, such as Thomas Cochrane, he is recorded as having received an award of five guineas from the Justices of the Peace for his assistance in preserving the Ship 'Dolphin' which was stranded in the Port of Penzance, Cornwall, in 1765. Then we have Frances Hay who married Thomas Cochrane, her ancestors led fascinating lives. Sir John Foulis married Margaret Primrose, their grandson was Archibald Primrose, who was executed on 15 November 1746 for treason. I could go on and on. Each of these people has stories to tell. Some of the names are Lindsay, Keith, Wishart, Douglas, Forrester, Graham, Crawford, Auchinleck, Boyd, Maxwell and many more, still waiting to be found.

A dry collection of bones? Never!

What would my grandmother Elizabeth Cameron say when I quote a Campbell? When I was a child she told me that the Camerons used to fight the Campbells,

However I must agree with Thomas Campbell in *Hallowed Ground* when he tells us "To live in hearts we leave behind, is not to die".

The History of the Camerons, with Genealogies of the Principal Families by Alexander McKenzie (1884)

This rare book has been reprinted by Stewart Publishing and Printing and costs \$50, plus Surface post \$15, Airmail \$28 (all Canadian Dollars) Hardback, 482 pages. Limited printing.

Details on: http://stewartbooks.com/browse/Cameron/history_of_the_camerons.htm



Aonaibh ri Cheile

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October 2006
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In This Issue...

A Wonderful Birthday Ceilidh— and Shona shines in Opotiki

Cameron connections



Clockwise from top Left:

A group from the Otago Branch meet Denis and Joy at Mosgiel on 10 July. More news from the Otago Branch next issue.

Fraser Cameron, Harold Cameron, Denis Cameron and Ray Crafts, with Shona, present the Clan Cameron NZ History to the Te Puke Head Librarian Merren Gillingham.

Farewell. Shona, Margaret and Florence at Auckland Airport 9 Sept.

President Denis, and Joy Cameron at the Auckland dinner

A Lochaber Quartet. Margaret Cameron, Heather Lowes, Florence Cameron and Shona Cameron at the Auckland dinner.

