

Cameron

Volume 40, Issue 6

December 2006



A Merry Christmas and a Very
Happy New Year to all our Readers



New Year in the Highlands. A scene looking towards Eigg, photographed by First Lighter Heather in January 2005.

International Gathering of Clan Cameron 2009

Message from Lochiel

I am delighted to announce that an **International Gathering of Clan Cameron** will take place at Achnacarry in late July or early August 2009. I hope to welcome many clansfolk from around the world at that time and we will do our utmost to arrange an interesting, worthwhile and happy few days.



Congratulations to Sheila Cameron

*Proud Manawatu Branch members
Sonia and Shaun Cameron pose
with daughter Sheila and
grandsons Callum and Huon in the
Waikato District Law Society
Library*

Back Row:

*Sonia Cameron, Sheila Cameron
and Shaun Cameron*

In Front:

Callum and Huon Cameron-Fraser



On April 28th, Sheila Cameron graduated from Waikato University with the degree of Bachelor of Law with First Class Honours. She was also the recipient of the Waikato District Law Society's Gold Medal Award as the top graduating student of the year.

The award was presented to her in the Law Society Library at an afternoon tea hosted by the Law Society on 26th May. The celebration was attended by members of the Law Society, University Staff, friends and family members. Sheila achieved this result while, at the same time, caring for her two sons. Previously she had gained a Bachelor of Science Degree from Victoria University, Wellington and a Post Graduate Certificate in Ecology from Massey University in Palmerston North in 1996.

With Jessie Annabel she also compiled the History of the Manawatu Branch of Clan Cameron.

Sonia Cameron

Cameron Cards and Jigsaws for Sale



Christmas Special - 20% off

The limited edition Cameron Jig-saw is available for a limited time at only \$20 plus \$5 P&P.

There are two 500 piece puzzles in one box and show Ben Nevis and Achnacarry Castle. This will make a great Christmas present.



Cameron Cards

No text - ideal for Christmas Cards
Two designs in Cameron tartan, showing either the Cameron Crest or the thistle.
\$10 for pack of 10, \$6 for pack of 5
Add postage of 90c for up to two packs

All of the Jig-saw money and profits from the cards go to The First Light Exchange Scheme. Both may be ordered from Neil Cameron (editor). Address on page 7.

Turakina Caledonian Society Inc

143rd. Annual Highland Games
EST 1864

New Zealand's Oldest Highland Games

Turakina Domain - Cameron Road
Turakina

Saturday 27th. January 2007

**Solo Piping & Drumming
Highland, National
& International Dancing
Pipe Bands**

**Field Events Adults & Children
Annual Turakina**

**Harrier Road Race - Hill Race
Clan March & Children's Games**

**Guest Piper - Iain Robertson
Guest Drummer - Glen Rodgers
Evening Ceilidh**

Food - BBQ - Licensed booth - Stalls
Adults \$5
Children Under 15 Free
Free Parking

For further information

The Secretary, Tullochgorum,
R.D. 11 Wanganui - PH 06 3273861
E-mail tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz

Camping available on the grounds

Games commence 8.30am

Clan Tents
Clan March at Lunch Time

Can we help save The Highlanders' Museum?



The Highlanders' Museum at Fort George is under threat of closure. The museum is widely seen as a permanent memorial to the thousands of Highlanders and Scots who have served in the Queen's Own Highlanders, Seaforth Highlanders, Cameron Highlanders and Lovat Scouts since the regiments originated in 1788.

An urgent International appeal has been launched to secure its future as a vital part of our Highland Heritage. The snag is that the museum collection does not generate significant income. Although Historic Scotland charges fees to visitors to the fort, this is all used for the fort's upkeep. The museum is not allowed to charge its own entrance fee and lives under constant threat of defence cuts removing its staff. It costs 70,000 pounds a year to run the museum and this is obtained by various fund raising events.

Angus Fairrie, who as museum curator, initiated the appeal, said that they aim to establish an endowment fund of 2 million pounds, so that the Collection will be safe for the foreseeable future and will pass on to future generations. "We are confident that with the characteristic generosity of Scots, and the support of Clan Societies, we will succeed in perpetuating the history of our regiments, from which so many people across the world derive their Highland roots.

All donations, big or small, will be greatly appreciated".

On the left is an excerpt from President Denis Cameron's Heritage Appeal, the full text of which may be found on the Clan Cameron NZ web site.

Lochiel has contributed to the appeal but, as Fort George was built to control the Northern clans, does not feel the Clan should make a huge effort to raise funds. However he agrees it is a wonderful place with strong connections because of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and, in his view, it is the choice of the individual as to whether to contribute. This is very much in line with the feelings of the Executive Committee but it was decided by them to ask your views and also seek a response from the world-wide Cameron Clan, and also from other clans.

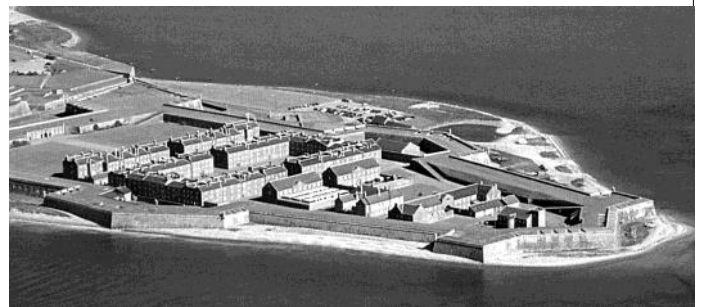
The appeal, of course, has been launched to protect the future of the museum collection, not the Fort itself.

What do you think?

Should we contribute as a Clan Society or leave it to individuals?

Please let Denis know your views.

Donations to the appeal may be sent to the Clan Cameron NZ Treasurer and will be acknowledged in our newsletter.



Clan Picnic

You are all invited to a picnic, organised by the Auckland Branch, on Motuihe Island in the Hauraki Gulf, on **Saturday 20th January 2006**. A ferry will leave Auckland at 8.45am, leaving Motuihe at 3.30pm to return. About a 20 minute trip in sheltered waters. If there is enough demand from North Shore Camerons it may also call at Stanley Bay.

Motuihe has a long history of Maori settlement and more recent history as a quarantine site, prisoner of war camp (remember Count von Luckner), health camp and the Naval training establishment HMNZS Tamaki (well known to some of our members).

It is now being restored with native trees and native birds as a DOC managed recreation reserve. It has many walking tracks and beautiful sandy beaches. It will be a great day for all the family

We hope to arrange a guided walk through the historical areas and some energetic activities for the young and young at heart. Ferry cost will be \$19.50 per person and \$12 for age 5-15. A very reasonably priced barbecue lunch will be provided by the resident Ronnie Harrison, founder of the Motuihe Trust, for \$7 each

As the ferry is not routine, we need 45—50 clansfolk to ensure provision of the ferry at the above prices. The ferry company, Kawau Kats, must have the trip confirmed before the Christmas break if so we would be grateful if you let Neil Cameron know by **15 December**, or preferably earlier, if you are able to come.

We hope Camerons holidaying in Auckland may join us for an interesting and fun day. Contact Neil for more information or if you can help.

The Ringing of the Bells - Glasgow Honours Lochiel.

The Civic Reception to honour Lochiel on his official visit to Glasgow was held in the City Chambers on Saturday 16 September. After meeting and being greeted by the Lord Provost, Liz Cameron, in George Square and listening to the ringing of the bells, Lochiel and some 60 Camerons enjoyed a reception and excellent meal in the Banqueting Hall.

Below is the Lord Provost' Liz Cameron's address, transcribed from CCA Scotland's Newsletter No. 11, with the kind permission of President Alan Cameron.

Further pictures may be found on the CCA Scotland web site: <<http://www.ceolnancraobh.org.uk>>

"Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honour and privilege to be here today and to welcome Cameron of Lochiel and the Clan Cameron in such time-honoured fashion. As a Cameron myself, and first citizen of this great city, I find it fascinating to delve into the past, searching for those hidden gems within our shared history.

But you can imagine my horror, ladies and gentlemen, when I discovered the ancient roots of the surname so many of us here share. The name is thought to be derived from the gaelic "cam-shron" which means crooked nose. But instead of screaming out for the nearest plastic surgeon, I think it wise to recall the earliest records, where "Cambron" may indicate that it originated in Camberone (from the gaelic "cam brun" meaning crooked hill). I'm sure you will agree with me that the latter is altogether more agreeable!

But today's welcome with so many marching through the city, is steeped in history and tradition. Often described as "fiercer than fierceness itself", the Camerons originally consisted of three branches in Lochaber. It grew quickly and the 12th chief united the clan under charter into the Barony of Lochiel in the early 16th Century. From the Battle of Harlaw in 1411, through to the Battle of Killiecrankie in 1689 and the Jacobite uprisings in 1715 and 1745, life and limb were lost as the nation progressed through turmoil and war.

Ewen of Lochiel was too old to fight in the 1715 uprising, but sent his son and the clan to assist the Earl of Mar. Sir Ewen's grandson was known as "The Gentle Lochiel" and is still regarded as one of the noblest of all Highland Chiefs. He was persuaded through loyalty to the crown and the persuasive words of Prince Charles Edward Stuart to support the 1745 Jacobite uprising. During the Jacobite retreat, Lochiel prevented the Highlanders from sacking Glasgow and, to this day, when Cameron of Lochiel enters the city, the bells of the church are rung in his honour. (*Alan Cameron tells me that the bells of Tron Church were rung because the church is beside the city chambers, but understands that the Tolbooth bells were also rung - as is the tradition. - editor*)

The people of Glasgow had taken a prominent role against the Jacobites and the incensed Commanding Officers of the Highlanders were determined to put the city to fire and sword. It was only through the threat of Lochiel withdrawing his clan, that this severe penalty was commuted to a severe fine levied upon the citizens.

In token of their gratitude for this deliverance, it is said that the city magistrates decreed that bells should toll whenever the Lochiel entered Glasgow. And here we are, many centuries on, still paying grateful thanks for the deliverance of the city."



Lord Provost Liz Cameron, Lady Cecil and Donald Andrew the Younger of Lochiel with Lochiel at the Reception.

Photo: Alan Cameron

In his reply, Lochiel referred to the connections between the family and Glasgow and how pleased he was to keep up the tradition. He referred to the fact that his grandfather had been requested to recruit a Battalion of soldiers for World War 1. So esteemed was the Lochiel name in Glasgow that he managed to recruit three Battalions. In a witty and informative speech, Lochiel also reminded us that "the name Cameron is in fact an anagram of ROMANCE, and indeed through the ages, there has been a great deal of romance associated with the clan and its activities. Nevertheless, it is with great affection that we remember our ancestor, The Gentle Lochiel - described as a man of true nobility and the greatest of the Highland Chiefs whose loyalty to Prince Charles Edward was the turning point in the uprising of 1745.

'As we Were.' - Some Excerpts From the Newsletters of 20 Years Ago.

"We had been reading about the many Clan Branches and Associations throughout the World, having a tent made available at their Highland Games, so we decided we should have one also.

We put up our tent, which was kindly loaned by executive members, at the Tauranga Highland Games and Military Tattoo, which was held on the 24th January 1987. We invited Clan Gunn to share our tent, who with us were able to put on a static display of interest to anyone who had Scottish blood in them.

Our tent was ably manned by Mrs. Audrey Rosoman, our Branch Secretary, and Mrs Frankie Glendenning, a staunch supporter and Cameron. Several Clan Badges were sold and throughout the day our ladies were peppered with questions about the Scottish influence. Our visitors book had 100 signatures by the end of the day - people from all walks of life who had filed through for a chat, a cup of tea or coffee, or some other refreshments.

Branch President Denis Cameron was kept very busy as he was Chief of the Games, circulating amongst all the events and being host to the many dignitaries in attendance.

With our first attempt at anything like this, I think we can be very proud of our efforts."

Denis Cameron Bay of Plenty.

"As some members of the Clan already know, my son Donald and I are embarking on an exciting project to establish a Clan Cameron Museum at Achnacarry. The museum will be housed in a building known locally as 'The Old Post Office', which is about 400 yards from Achnacarry Castle. This building is the oldest on the estate - probably dating back to the 17th century - and is a 'List B Building, which means that it must be preserved.

We have approached various bodies, such as the Historic Buildings Association, the Regional Council and other organisations, to see what grants might be available and we are likely to receive from them a small amount towards the cost. However, a large sum has still to be found if we are to proceed, and my son and I are therefore asking members and friends of the Clan throughout the world if they would be willing to make a contribution towards the cost.

We hope that, owing to your generosity, the museum will grow in stature and content over the years and that you will find this idea as exciting and as attractive as the Lochiel family do."

Donald Cameron of Lochiel

"In November 1986 Neil Cameron convened a meeting to revive the Auckland Branch which had been in recess for a number of years. The President, Donald Cameron, attended this meeting. The attendance was rather disappointing, however with the apologies received and the enthusiasm of those present it was obvious that a viable Branch could operate. A steering committee was appointed and an Annual General Meeting is to be held in 1987."

Rodney Cameron Newsletter Editor

"We found our Chief and his lady very friendly, relaxed and eager to answer all manner of questions put to them, especially by the young people when we had a young persons question and answer group on the Saturday morning 1st March. The champion Lochiel Marching Team were also present on this occasion which aroused great interest, particularly for Lochiel and Lady Cameron.

On Friday 28th February, the British High Commissioner invited our guests to lunch at his residence 'Homewood'. This brought back many happy memories for Lady Cameron, as this house once belonged to her Grandmother, and she had lived there for a time when she was young."

John Cameron Wellington.

"Alec Cameron invited interested clansfolk to a meeting at his home on Bushmere Road on 7th March 1987, to consider the formation of a Gisborne Branch and how it would operate. Donald Cameron, Denis Cameron and Fraser Cameron were present and between 26 and 30 clansfolk attended. After some discussion it was decided to form a Sub Branch of the Bay of Plenty Branch as the first step. Alec Cameron was elected President, with Mrs. Marion Lewes as Secretary / Treasurer. There was considerable interest in family history among those present and this enthusiasm must ensure that this Branch prospers."

Rodney Cameron Newsletter Editor.

"In November 1986 a meeting of the Executive Committee was held at Turangi. It was the first time this committee had met for a number of years and proved to be well worthwhile. The exchange of thoughts on Branch activities was useful and should result in better co-operation between Branches. Also investigations are underway into the feasibility of providing better contact with our members through issuing newsletters more frequently."

Donald Cameron. National President.

The Reverend Bryan Cameron Haggitt

At a moving ceremony in Holy Trinity Cathedral on Saturday 25 November one of our Auckland members, Bryan Cameron Haggitt, was ordained as a deacon in the Anglican Church, along with 9 others and a further 7 who were ordained as priests.

Bryan's parents, Bryan and Jenny, have been strong supporters of Clan activities in Auckland, as have Bryan Jr. and his fiancée Abbie. He has an interest in all things Scottish, plays the pipes and has 'Addressed the Haggis' during his time at Saint Kentigern College.

Bryan's calling is to work with young people in the Church. He says that God has blessed him in many ways, allowing him to grow and develop his understanding and skills for ministry and the need of inclusive ministry with young people as they explore their faith.



A message from our President

Dear Clan Cameron Members,



Since our last newsletter, there has been plenty of activity in Clan Cameron. The Auckland Branch held their Annual Winter Dinner on Saturday 26th August. We were very happy to be in attendance with about 75 members and friends who congregated at the Romford Lounge in Auckland.

Joy and I would like to thank members of the Auckland Branch for their very warm welcome that was accorded to us when we arrived at the venue. The evening was great with plenty of fine food, good company and a celebration of our Scottish Heritage. The evening was well planned and we were privileged to meet our visitors, Florence and Margaret Cameron from Lochaber. We would like to congratulate Duncan McQueen [MC] for the way in which he kept the evening running so well. In fact we have a lot to thank the McQueen family with Andrew [Piper] and Sarah [Dancer] to entertain us. We would like to congratulate President Donald and his committee for a well run evening and for inviting the other Clans of Auckland.

It was wonderful to have Shona Cameron, the First Light exchangee to stay in New Zealand. She was a delight to meet and was always happy to be escorted to the various functions to give a speech or show photos of Lochaber. We wish her well in her chosen academia subjects in Edinburgh. We hope that she has enjoyed her experience and we see her again in the not too distant future.

While at the dinner, I was delighted to meet some of my new relations. We had met Karen Guy earlier, but it was still quite emotional for Karen and me to meet Miranda Horrobin for the first time. Their great grandfathers were Charles Banks Cameron [Karen] and Robert Thomas Cameron [Miranda] who were brothers of my grandfather, Albert Colin Cameron. It was just wonderful to speak with them and to meet more of the descendants of the Strone and Camisky Cameron's of the South Island.

On 24 of September, we made a trip south to meet with the Wellington – Wairarapa members on a guided tour of Stonehenge – Aotearoa which is near to Carterton. We were blown away with this amazing attraction and came away with much appreciation of how hard these people had worked to design and build this complex. To someone who knows very little about the galaxy system, I came away from Stonehenge, full of admiration. I thought the visit was most rewarding and very educational. It took over 1,000 hours of surveying just to make sure that everything was correct and in order. Remember, most of this work was done by volunteers. Our grateful thanks to Rob and the members of the branch for their kind invitation to attend. It was just great to meet some of their members I have not seen for many years.

The Executive Council Meeting, held at Turangi on 14 August was well attended and we do thank our members for taking such an interest in the running of the Clan. As always

there were members from Wellington to Auckland and all points in between present. All went off extremely well and we spoke on a variety of subjects that was on the agenda. We had a discussion on the Highland Heritage Appeal Project – more elsewhere in the newsletter. If anyone has a suggestion as to how we can help this project, please do get in touch with me. We already have some ideas which were fully discussed and much appreciated. A very successful day and we went away with some delegated suggestions, all very positive.

Another visit, that Joy and I have planned, is to participate in the Square Day that will be held in Palmerston North on 9th December. We are looking forward to our visit and to meet the members of the Manawatu Branch.

Please, do not forget to **ask** any of the Cameron's you meet in your travels who are not members of our Clan, to **sign** up and **join** and come along to our social events. I am sure they would enjoy the experience. Please don't **forget** to ask the younger Cameron's.

*Joy and I would like to
wish you all a Happy
Christmas - and may you
all have a wonderful
New Year*

As this year is rapidly coming to an end and Christmas is nearly upon us, Joy and I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas with lots of quality time with your families and enjoy your time together and may you all have a wonderful New Year. Do make the most of your family and friends over the festive season – they are so important in our lives. Do take care everybody and **drive** safely.

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

Denis Cameron

Annual Gathering 2007

The 2007 Annual Gathering will be held in the Hornby Working Mens Club and MSA, Carmen Road, Hornby, Christchurch over the weekend 13 - 15 April.

(Note the changed date.)

The Executive Committee Meeting will be on Friday 13th at 7.30 pm. Registration will begin at 9 am on the Saturday and the AGM will commence at 10 am. Lunch will be at midday.

In the afternoon workshops will include a History of the Pipes, including the Small Pipes and Highland War Pipes, and a talk on Spinning and its History.

The evening Dinner will be at 6.45 pm and a Church Service will be held on Sunday.

The Canterbury Branch are looking forward to seeing you for what promises to be a most enjoyable weekend.

Full details and a Registration Form will be included in the February Newsletter.



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 January 2007**

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Coming events

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

31 December

Hogmanay. Have a wonderful night.

1-2 January 2007

Waipu Highland Games. Two wonderful days of competition, music and dance. Cameron tent will be there and we would love to see you. The Waipu Genealogy Group will have a tent on Clan Row with much information on 'The Clans of Waipu'. This will promote the fact that the Whangarei District is one of the most Scottish areas in New Zealand. Enquiries to Neil Cameron.

20 January 2007

Auckland Branch picnic on Motuihe Island. See Page 3 for details.

20 January 2007

Robbie Burns evening and dinner at Galbraith's Alehouse, 2 Mt. Eden Rd, Auckland. 7pm for 7.30. Arranged by the Scottish Clans Assn. Enquiries to Don Cameron. An informal fun evening.

27 January 2007

Turakina Highland Games. See page 2. Come and have an enjoyable day and meet old friends.

27 January 2007

Canterbury Branch gathering in Blenheim. Programme includes Wine Tasting, Rock and Mineral Club presentation, Highland and Scottish Dancing, an evening Dinner with all the trimmings and a church service. Contact Alex Cameron or Ray Alexander, 27 Cubitt Street, Blenheim for details.

Weekend 13 - 15 April 2007

Clan Cameron AGM and Gathering at the Hornby Working Men's Club, Christchurch. Details on page 6.

Useful Websites

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

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

Clan Cameron Scotland (New Site)
<Http://www.ceolnancraobh.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/>

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

Lochaber Lines

On this page are some (rather tongue-in-cheek) articles from the 'Lochaber Lines' column in the Oban Times which may be of interest to Camerons -transcribed with the kind permission of the writer, Stewart MacKenzie.

Stewart tells me his grandmother was a Cameron - he and his son have played shinty for the Cameron team at two Clan Cameron Gatherings - and his son currently works at Achnacarry as a deer stalker. He has an interest in all things Cameron.

We hope to bring you more in future issues—editor

"FRIENDS and clansmen had a great time last Saturday night in Achnacarry Hall when they gathered to celebrate the 60th birthday of Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel, 27th chief of Clan Cameron.

The dancing and singing was 'just great' according to a very hoarse Inverlochry resident we spoke to on Sunday morning. (*A correspondent tells me this may have been Florence Cameron - ed*)

Now if we had been there we might have got an answer to a question which has been vexing us.

We have always been proud of our Cameron connections and of several theories to the origins of the name we have always subscribed to the 'crooked nose' one.

In Gaelic we have always seen this written as Camshron except in the case of the clan's rallying song

The March of the Cameron Men. In this song Cameron becomes Chamrain.

However when it comes to the new street signs in Cameron Square and Cameron Road the noblest of names becomes Chamshroin in the Gaelic.

Champing on we may be but we can't help wondering whether the language of the Gael is becoming bastardised, or whether our local street signs have been doctored.

Of course it is possible we could be wrong and that there are many ways in Gaelic to spell Cameron.

Could some Gaelic scholar put us out of our misery?"

Oban Times 10 Aug

An Update from First Lighter Bill

I have just finished my third week at Lochaber High as part of my (PGDSE) Post Graduate Degree in Secondary Education. The first week was quite strange as I hadn't been back to my old school since I left back in the early ninety's. As everyone says, when they return to their old school, it seemed much smaller than I had remembered; I suppose I've just grown a little taller? There are still quite a few teachers at the school from my time; needless to say I found it a little strange sitting in the staff room drinking coffee and calling them by their first names.

I have been teaching all ages from first year up to sixth year. This is the first year the school has run the new Higher Product Design course so I have spent quite a bit of time working in this area, as most of my colleagues come from a more traditional woodworking background.

The school placement has been a very rewarding experience and I look forward to the final three weeks here in Lochaber before I head back up to Aberdeen University. I will do another two school placements during 2007 and may in time return to teach in Lochaber?

"CONSERVATIVE leader David Cameron appears to come up with new initiatives every day but we have to express doubts about their originality.

For example look at his plan to ditch the party's logo of a torch to one of an oak tree.

Now where did cousin David get that from?

Could it be taken from the oak on the Cameron badge

The oakwoods of Achnacarry were a frequent and valued source of revenue for the clan chiefs in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Be prepared in the coming weeks for the leader of the Conservative and Unionist Party to adopt the Clan Cameron motto—'Unite' (Aonaibh ri cheile).

However the PR boys in Tory HQ will balk at any suggestions to stir the electorate with the Cameron rallying cry of 'Son of dogs, come hither and get flesh'. (Chlanna nan con thigibh a so's gheibh sibh feoil).

Meanwhile speculation has it that Tony Blair wishes to change the Labour Party motif to a bush."

Oban Times 24 Aug

"MUCH has been written in this column and elsewhere about the doubts of correct spelling of the Gaelic street signs around the Gearasdan, or should that be Ghearasdain?

Interestingly exactly a century ago the correspondence column of the Oban Times was full with letters from readers who were exercised by variations in the Gaelic spelling of place names.

One writer prophetically urged the correspondents to calm down with a suggestion that the language was constantly evolving and in 100 years the spelling would be different from 1906."

Oban Times 24 Aug



Two photos of the nameplate at Cameron Square in Fort William.

Top: three years ago, bottom: today.

Photos by Bill Cameron

Confused?

The two signs above show variations in the Gaelic spelling of Cameron Square.

Bill Cameron consulted a teacher of Gaelic at Lochaber High School about the different spellings. She said both were correct - they were just different ways of saying "the square belonging to the Camerons"

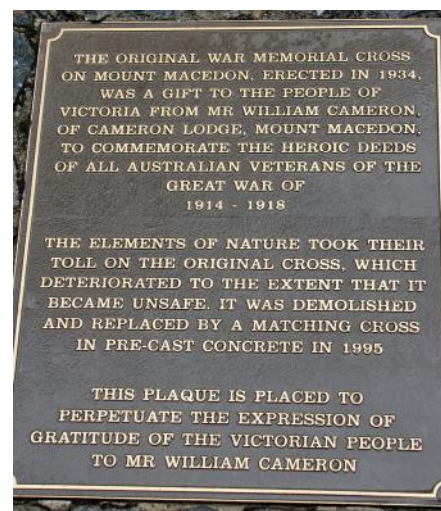
The Cameron Cross

In early November Ruth and Neil Cameron visited Melbourne as part of a trip to Australia. On their last morning they were driven to visit Mt. Macedon, some 70 kms inland, from whence, they were told, good views of the countryside to Melbourne could be obtained. Unfortunately the whole area was shrouded in low cloud and visibility was about 25 meters. They were intrigued to notice a sign saying 'Cameron Picnic Ground' and were determined to find the Cameron connection. A little further on more signs loomed out of the mist announcing that they were in the Macedon Regional Park and close by was the Memorial Cross Reserve. A board said that the reserve contains the 21 meter high Memorial Cross, originally constructed in 1934 by **William Cameron** in memory of those who served in World War 1. It is Victoria's second most important war memorial after the Shrine of Remembrance. The cross platform gives panoramic views of Melbourne and surrounds and, illuminated at night, is visible from that city. No views for these Camerons, however – it was hard enough to find the cross.

Who was William Cameron? A little research discovered that he arrived at Mount Macedon in June 1916 and purchased the property 'Rahiri' which he renamed 'Cameron Lodge', after the name of his family home in Petersburg, USA, where he was born in 1868. The family had come to the USA from Inverness-shire, Scotland, and had many interests there, including tobacco. William came to Australia in 1890 to take up a position with the British Australasian Tobacco Company and subsequently became Chairman of its Board of Directors. William was very interested in local affairs and was a benefactor to many local projects, including sewerage and water works. He is remembered here by the Cross, which was replaced in 1995, and the picnic ground.



Having brought a picnic lunch, Ruth and Neil's hosts thought it would be nice to have it at the Cameron Picnic Ground. Something they won't forget – a cold lunch with iced water, no one else around, eerie silence, shrouded in mist and with an outside temperature of five degrees. Not really being dressed for that situation, it took some time to warm up afterwards.



News from Taranaki / Wanganui

At a Branch AGM held in the Rutland Hotel, Wanganui, on 9 November, Neil Corballis indicated that due to ill health, he wished to stand down as President of the Branch. A vote was passed thanking Neil for the work he has done for the Branch.

Neil has been President from 1996 - 2000 and again from 2002 - 2006. Prior to this he served for many years as a committee member and Vice President. His hand on the helm will be missed.

Martin Brown, of Hawera, was elected as President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Best Wishes

As we move into the holiday season, let us spare a thought for members of Clan Cameron, throughout the country, who are suffering from illness or poor health.

May we mention Neil Corballis, John Gavin, Bob Barber, Colin Cameron, Derek North and Alex Cameron and think of any other clansfolk who may have the misfortune to be unwell at this festive time. I am sure the whole Clan joins us in wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a speedy and full recovery.

The Executive Council Meeting at Turangi



Members of the Clan Cameron New Zealand executive held their six monthly meeting in Turangi on 14 October. This was very well attended and it was a pleasure to meet recently elected Branch Presidents David Cameron, Don Cameron and Rob Cameron. We also warmly welcomed back Heather Lowes as Secretary. It was a short, friendly meeting and a chance for everyone to get up to date with what the branches are achieving.

One item discussed was the Highlander's Heritage Appeal, which is covered on page 3. Denis talked about the Te Papa exhibition and this has been reported in our August newsletter. One other proposal was that the newsletter be enlarged for the final issue of the year and it was decided that this present issue would be a trial. Please let your committee or the editor know what you think - and whether we should continue it each December.



Back Row from left: Fraser Cameron (BoP), Donald Cameron (Ak), Mike Topham (Gs/HB), Denis Cameron (BoP), Harold Cameron (BoP), Andrew Lowes (BoP), Graeme Cameron (W/W), Valmar Cameron (Ak), Ruth Cameron (Ak), Colin Cameron (Man).
Front Row: David and Ann Cameron (Gs), Trish Topham (Gs/HB), Joy Cameron (BoP), Heather Lowes (BoP), Joy Cameron (Man), Mary Barber (Man), Hazel Cameron (W/W). **Not Shown:** Rob and Catherine Cameron (W/W) (on errand of mercy), Neil Cameron (Ak)



North Eastern Representatives: Fraser Cameron (Opotiki), Mike Topham (Hastings), David and Ann Cameron (Gisborne) and Trish Topham (Hastings).



Enjoying a morning cuppa: Mary Barber, Ruth Cameron, Joy Cameron and Valmar Cameron.

Photos: Neil Cameron

Wellington/Wairarapa News

Visit to Stonehenge Aotearoa

About 25 members of the Clan spent an interesting couple of hours at Stonehenge Aotearoa on the afternoon of Sunday 24th September. The local members were very pleased to welcome Denis and Joy Cameron to our area for the occasion.

Stonehenge Aotearoa is located in the Wairarapa countryside approximately 15 minutes drive from Carterton.

Stonehenge Aotearoa, a full-scale working adaptation of Stonehenge, is intended to inspire New Zealanders to explore



and experience for themselves how technologies of ancient times were used, and still can be used, to give practical and detailed information on the seasons, time and navigation.

For millennia people have gazed in awe at Stonehenge, often totally unaware of how structures such as this were used. Stonehenge Aotearoa is not a replica of the ruin on Salisbury Plain in England. It is a complete and working structure designed and built for its precise location in the Wairarapa region of New Zealand. The henge stones, viewed from the centre, mark the daily rise and set positions of the sun, moon and bright stars. The henge also forms a Polynesian star compass marking the bearings taken by Polynesian sailors to and from Aotearoa.



The obelisk identifies the position of the south celestial pole, the altitude of the Sun, the meridian (noon), true north and south. The structure also includes a zodiacal causeway, so that the shadow thrown by the obelisk shows the date, seasonal changes, and the constellation the Sun is moving through. Plaques name important stones and provide information on how to use the henge and obelisk.

By Graeme Cameron

(with acknowledgement to www.astronomynz.org.nz)

Christmas Function



Dana Neary

On Sunday 12th November 2006 clans members from the Wellington and Wairarapa areas gathered at the home of Anna and John Vaughan to socialise and celebrate the eminent arrival of Christmas. There was a good turnout of old and new members. In the beautiful setting of tall shady trees, beautiful lawns and neatly cared for gardens the group gathered, chatted and were entertained by some wonderful piping and dancing. The piper, Callum Cameron and the dancer Dana Neary were excellent practitioners of their arts and this was appreciated by all on the day. A bar-be-cue lunch was prepared and everyone enjoyed a great meal. There were a few speeches of thanks to the entertainers and hosts, then people dispersed in various directions.

This was the last function for what has been quite an active year for the Wellington Wairarapa Branch.

By Rob Cameron



Callum Cameron

Photos by Graeme Cameron



Aonaibh ri Cheile

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Lochiel honoured in Glasgow and 'Can we save the Highlander's Museum'

Cameron connections



Clockwise from top left:

Canterbury members Ngaire, John and Bev with Joy and Denis.

Wellington/Wairarapa Christmas Function at the home of Anna and John Vaughan.



Auckland Branch Piper, Lewis Turrell MBE, leads the banners out of the kirk following the annual Kirkin O' the Tartan at St. Andrew's Church, Auckland, on 26 November 2006.

Auckland members outside the church. Neil, Ruth, Pam, Brian and Don Cameron with Lewis Turrell.

