
◆ Cameron ◆

Clan Cameron New Zealand; founded 1935, incorporated 2000

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The Cameron Highlander Memorial in Inverness

-- see page 3

From "The Clan Cameron" by John Cameron 1894



Photo: Bill Cameron

Ben Woodham (12), the youngest Cameron piper competing at the Turakina Highland Games, with slightly older piper Rex Cameron of Te Puke

A young man in a Cameron kilt at the Waipu Games



Our First Lighters -- Updates and messages (Continued from last issue)

Astie 2000



I am currently working as the Environmental Co-ordinator at the Rio Tinto Alcan aluminium smelter in Lochaber, "the BA". Essentially I am responsible for the sustainable management of the smelter, Kinlochleven power station and associated hydro schemes and estates. This includes managing all emissions from the site, the monitoring of these emissions and any impacts on the local environment, liaising with local and national governmental & non-governmental environmental organisations, and with the help of the hydro team managing the abstractions and impoundments on our hydro scheme. This list is by no means exhausted and the diversity of the role and of course the location, makes it a very enjoyable position to hold within the company.

Over the last few years life has changed dramatically for me, I was married to Tracy Bradshaw, who grew up in the Bay of Islands and still has family in New Zealand, in 2003. We had a daughter Nina-Yves in 2005 and a son Alan Hugh Jason in 2008. We have also been busy building a house in Achnacarry at the bottom of the River Arkaig on the shores of Loch Lochy and have received an impressive warm welcome into the village community.

Along with Bill, I have been continuing the running of the First Light Exchange programme over here in Scotland and have been helping with the plans for the gathering later this year. I look forward to meeting up with those who will be attending the gathering and hopefully in the not too distant future return to New Zealand for a holiday with my family.

Well the holidays are quickly drawing to a close....yes, I am still on holiday! One of the perks for teachers Auckland has sure put on a great summer, starting with a very warm Waipu day for the Highland games on January 1st. I have also enjoyed having the time to relax with a few good books, watch some great cricket games and go on a few bush walks.

Last year I decided I had had enough of traveling half way across Auckland for work, so I am now teaching in Hillsborough, a lot closer to home. It was quite a big change moving from a low decile, high resourced school with predominately Pacific Island and Maori cultures to a mainly European, high decile school. There

were certainly different challenges but I had a good year learning new things and working with a great bunch of people. On the fun side of things I finished a couple of cross-stitches and took a cake decorating course, which was a lot harder than I thought it would be!

This year I have been appointed as a Senior Teacher, leading a syndicate of 7 teachers. So, I'm sure there will be many new challenges to come and it will keep me fairly busy. Last week it was great fun to catch up with Shona Cameron for a day while she was transiting through Auckland, but I was not at all envious of her return to the freezing Scottish winter!

Heather 2005



David 2003



After visiting New Zealand last year David returned to his work with TNT in Inverness but, following a visit from his girlfriend Karen from Australia, he decided to return to Australia. After some difficulty initially in obtaining a working visa, he was eventually sponsored by a company called Bartercard.

David's mother Florence has already been out to visit and intends to visit again at the end of February, followed by a visit to New Zealand to look up her many friends here.

David says "I am living in Western

Australia with Karen - we actually live in a small town called Bunbury which is 200km South of Perth. The beaches are lovely and the people are friendly. Karen is a Kiwi from Invercargill who only moved over to Australia five years ago.

Well, fellow Clan Cameron friends, I am indebted to you all as were it not for the First Light I would probably never have experienced New Zealand and the exciting travels that I have had. So thank you and should you ever be in Western Australia we would love to see you".

Kimberley 2006

"Kim Walker, New Zealand's First Lighter in 2006, has been living in Wellington for the past year. During this time, Kim has been working with the Department of Labour on the Immigration Business Transformation programme. She plans to transfer into a career

in business development and hopes to travel in 2010 - 2011.

While Shona Cameron, Scottish First Lighter in 2005, was in New Zealand Kim was able to meet with her before Shona travelled to Palmerston North to visit members of the Manawatu branch."



Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Bay of Plenty Branch

Donald O'Sullivan (Taupo)

Auckland Branch

Donna Cameron (Auckland)
John Berridge (Albany)
Allan MacDonald (North Shore)

Manawatu Branch

Richard Steedman (Taihape)
Tony Woodham (Raumati)
Jacqui Barnes (Carterton)

Hawkes Bay Branch

Nicola Cameron (Hastings)

Hawke's Bay News

by Helen Shaw

Seventeen members gathered at the Clansman Motor Lodge On the 18th December for pre Christmas drinks. Our Hosts Leigh and Maree Cameron did us proud with some lovely food. A very pleasant few hours was had by those who attended. (*photo next issue - Ed*)

On the 1st February we held an afternoon tea at Shane and Tony East's new home at Bridge Pa. On Easter Saturday and Sunday we will be having our Gazebo/tent at the Highland Games at Lindisfarne College.

Waipu Highland Games

by Don Cameron

The Camerons made a brave showing among the major events of the 138th Waipu Highland Games on January 1 -- the only clan to reach double figures for the grand march which was the mid-day highlight of the Games. Neil and Ruth Cameron are Waipu veterans, Donald and Valmar are recent additions, Chris Lines showed up again with his youngsters Cameron and Caitlin, and this year Heather Cameron, a First Lighter some years ago, Bryan and Jenny Haggitt, plus Bryan junior, joined in.

Once again the Games superb organizers arranged summer weather, if a little on the warm side early in the afternoon.

And once again the Northland newspaper, the Northern Advocate, gave the Games splendid written and photographic coverage before and after Waipu's big annual event.

Andre Hueber was the man with the words this year and Chris Ruisdale took the pictures which were spread 13-deep over an inside page.

One of the notables among the photos was Lewis Turrell, MBE, one of the several world-class pipers New Zealand has produced. In 1958 he became the first overseas piper to win the Highland Societies gold medal at the Northern Meeting in Inverness -- and he also won the Strathspey and Reel, and the jig, at the same event. Lewis and his wife Kaye are regular Games visitors with their House of Scotland business, and this year Lewis had the honour of performing the official opening of the Games.

Realising that some clans may not attend the Games because of shortage of time or numbers, the organizers are planning ahead. The idea is next year to have a 6 x 3 metre tent shared among four clans or societies who might only have one member available to answer the frequent and earnest questions asked by interested Games-goers.

Manawatu Branch News

by Mary Barber

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Manawatu Branch John Cameron was elected as Branch President, on the retirement of Joy Cameron as President

John is a long-standing and enthusiastic member of Clan Cameron, and while we regret the retirement of Joy as President, know that he will work keenly as our new President. We thank Joy for her years of service and are very pleased that she will retain her involvement with our Branch and Clan Cameron.

In December our branch held our usual stall at the Jenny Mair Square Day, where we supplied our usual haggis sandwiches, barbecue sausages, and drinks.

We were pleased that recently, Shona Cameron, the previous First Lighter, spent a short holiday in New Zealand, and stayed for two days in Palmerston Nth where she met up with some of the Manawatu members. It was great to meet with her and hear her news. The Branch is planning a barbecue picnic on March 15 beginning at 4 pm when we hope some of the other branches can attend. The venue is Ashhurst Domain.

Branch subscriptions for 2009 are now due at \$25 per family. Please send to Mary Barber 5 King St Feilding 4702.

Wishing all members of Clan Cameron a successful and prosperous New Year



The Cameron Monument

The Cameron monument in Station Square in Inverness commemorates those who died in military campaigns in Egypt and the Sudan between 1882 and 1885. It was erected by the 79th Cameron Highlanders to honour their comrades. The monument was unveiled by Lochiel on the 14th of July 1893.

Interesting to note the small sphinx sat behind the soldier, obviously connecting to those who had fallen in Egypt. The bottom image on the front page shows the unveiling ceremony, I believe the Lochiel of the day is center left. The top image shows the monument today.

The image of the monument above is from the book "Inverness and District" by Nigel Dalziel and John MacKenzie 2005

by Bill Cameron

A message from our President



Dear Clan Cameron Members,

Many of you will have had the opportunity to wind down and relax. At this time of the year we tend to look positively at the good things in life and remember the great many people trying to make

the world a better place. Rarely does a day go by that we do not remember our family members for their presence, ability, friendship and experience. Our thoughts at this time of the year go out to the family and friends.

I am very proud to be part of this wonderful community-minded organisation, and look forward to 2009 and the challenges ahead. There are a few examples of the way in which our area connects at a community level to achieve positive outcomes for our organisation. I am looking forward to continuing to build on these relationships in the next few months. May the months ahead bring you joy and all the happiness we all desire?

“I see the future first and work backwards. If I could only sow the seed of compassion among people, then I could say I have left my footprint in the sand of time and my life would have been worthwhile” So says **Getrude Matshe**. There are no limitations in life, except in your mind. What wonderful words from a wonderful woman who migrated from Zimbabwe to come and live here in New Zealand.

Some of the things we want to do can't be achieved in minutes, days or even months and years. They take a long ranging view and I want to deliver to Clan Cameron over several years. Something like a highway can't be built in six months.

Time for some change of our own – new attitude can bring a host of benefits to our relationships. Time for change... but to what? But what does time for change mean to me? To you? To the way we live? To the way we relate? Is it really time for change.

There may be little that we can do about the state of our country, but with the time for change can come the time to sharpen our practical skills for solving problems. Most likely we will need to increase our resilience to emerge stronger from the difficulties ahead. We need a new spirit of collaboration in the developing a long term future of Clan Cameron - New Zealand.

There is no doubt that a life informed by pleasure can bring wellness and a greater sense of competency. It can help us become more resilient in times of stress and increase our ability to make good things happen. I just received this from a friend and want to share it with you all.

*Happiness keeps us sweet
Trials keep us strong
Sorrows keep us human
Failures keep us strong
Success keeps us glowing
But family and friends keep us going.*

We are Clan Cameron with one common goal – to foster interest in our hereditary past and to be united by the common bond of our name. We have resource material for people wishing to research their past history; we have social functions to meet with others from a similar heritage. **Let us unite** or “let us be united”

Finally, I do value our relationship and I look forward to working with you in the coming year. I wish you a New Year filled with peace and prosperity and hope that the holiday season was blessed with the true meaning of Christmas.

As we begin 2009, we do not know what this year may bring. However let us all remain **positive** and hope that the year 2010 may become: Annus Mirabilis; a “year of wonders”.

“Leis gach deagh dhurachd and Slainte mhath”
[With every good wish and good health]

Denis Cameron

Auckland Welcome for President of Clan Cameron Scotland

Alan Cameron, president of the Clan Cameron Association of Scotland, and his wife Elizabeth will be visiting Auckland on February 19-20, and the Clan Cameron Auckland branch is planning a welcoming barbecue to mark the occasion.

This is a rare chance to greet and meet the distinguished guests, and to strengthen the ties among the Auckland members at a very comfortable venue, with ample parking.

Date: Friday February 20

Time: 4 pm

Place: Parnell Cricket Club, Shore Rd, between Ayr St and Portland Rd. Best to approach Parnell club entry from Parnell-Ayr St.

Food: Steak and sausages provided. Guests to bring a plate -- salads, savoury eggs, vegetarian dishes, any favourite food, olives, sauces, mayonnaise, etc, desserts, puddings, fruit salads, ice cream, cream (refrigerator available) Guests please liaise **before February 13 if possible** with Don or Valmar Cameron (phone 5200716, email valdon@xtra.co.nz) to confirm numbers and ensure a varied spread of food.

Refreshments: BYO

Dress: casual with something Scottish.

Visiting Camerons are very welcome

Camerons of Dunedin

I am looking for any descendants of Angus Cameron and Flora, nee Cameron from Port Glasgow or Greenock. I know some of them came to Caversham, Dunedin about 1867. Others in the family may well have come to New Zealand about that time. I have found the deaths there of Flora, her eldest son John and his wife Isabella McIntyre. What I know of the family is displayed in the Cameron Genealogies on www.clan-cameron.org.au in the Angus24 family. I am hoping a descendant will have information that will prove or disprove any relationship with my own forebears.

Robert S. Cameron, rcam1111@bigpond.net.au

(Robert is President of Clan Cameron Australia - Ed)



Aonaibh ri Cheile

Cameron

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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 the December issue:

15 March 2009

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Coming events

Saturday 14 February 2009

Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo
8.30am till 9pm The Cameron tent will be there.
Join us for the Clan March to the town centre at 11am.
Full programme and details on the website:
www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

Friday 20 February 2009

Auckland BBQ to meet President of Clan Cameron Scotland
See page 4

Friday 6 / Saturday 7 March 2009

NZ Pipe Band Championships,
Agricultural Park, Christchurch.

Friday 17 - Sunday 19 April 2009

AGM and Annual Gathering
Hawera Club, Hawera.
See enclosed registration form.

Saturday 4 July 2009

Tartan Day - Preliminary Notice
Wesley Methodist Hall, 100 13th Avenue, Tauranga.
Hall open 9.30, assemble at 10am for short march.
Lunch, concert pm. Finish 3pm.
Enquiries to: Denis Cameron (07) 575 4659 or
Ray Crafts (07) 577 9562

Useful Websites

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

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

Clan Cameron Scotland
<http://www.clanameron.org.uk>

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

Scottish Clans Association Auckland District
<http://www.scottishclans.co.nz>

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

Ordnance Survey site listing Gaelic place names and meanings

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/freefun/didyouknow/placenames/gaelicglossary-a-b.html>

Scottish Music for sale
<http://www.musicscotland.com>

Clan Cameron NZ Webmaster:
Warren Cameron
camcraft@orcon.net.nz

The Camerons of Otunui

By *Margaret Steedman*

This is something I found that my Mother wrote about the Cameron's of Otunui, near Taumarunui . . .

"In 1906 Willie Cameron (William John Cameron) and his two eldest sons Archie and George left Bunnythorpe on horseback and after about a week or more of riding through bush and rugged country they arrived in Taumarunui to take up two sections of land in the Piopioea West Riding. His wife Margaret Eleanor and the rest of the family followed. Jeannie the eldest then (Archie & George who were already there) – Kate, Annie, Duncan, Vera, Sarah & John the youngest. Willie and his two sons lived in a large tent pitched at the meeting of the Otihirakau Stream with the Whakamaro Stream. Later a large house was built – probably with pit sawn timber from local miller Tommy Shepherd and with the help of a neighbour Norman Lyon. The chimneys were built by Mr Westh (another neighbour) who was a meticulous carpenter and bricklayer.

It was not long before the Cameron's opened a store and depot which also acted as a Post Office for the area. Young John at the age of 9 or 10 years had 6 pack horses with which he packed in supplies and mail for the store from Taumarunui 10 miles away over the Kururau hill, very rough and deep mud during the winter. As can be imagined this store was a focal point for the settlers from a circumference of ten or twelve miles. On Sundays they would congregate at and accept the hospitality of the Cameron homestead returning to their next weeks work with mail and supplies.

The older Cameron boys were employed in felling bush on their sections - up the Whakamaro Road at first and then Duncan and John further afield later on. Jeannie married Mr Alex McCandlish from Raurimu. They had three children, Margie, Ailie and Cameron. Kate married Harry Hill another early settler in Otunui. Annie took up teaching in Otunui and Sarah taught music in Taumarunui for some years. Duncan married a Miss Walsh and settled on a farm at the head of the Whakamaro Valley. John eventually took up a farm on the Otunui North Road which had originally belonged to Mate and Daisy Richardson. He married Joan the daughter of Harry & Edith Atkins who were also settlers in the district. Vera & Sarah married cousins Hasard and Jack Turner respectively. Vera settled in Tokirima (not too far from Otunui) and Sarah in Tauranga. Annie wed Sandy McKenzie and they also lived in Tokirima for years before retiring to New Plymouth.

Archie and George went to serve their country as soon as the 1914-18 war broke out as did many other young men from Otunui. They were fortunate in returning when peace was declared and were able to take over their farms again which in the mean time had been cared for by their Father Willie and two younger brothers Duncan and John. Archie & George never married."

The above is what was written by my Mother, Joan Cameron nee Atkins. I would like to add a bit about our own family . . .

William John (Willie) was the son of Archibald

Cameron and Mary Cameron nee Laird and his Grandfather was John 'Mor' Cameron. Margaret Eleanor was the daughter of Duncan Cameron and Alice Cameron nee Patrick and Granddaughter of Angus Cameron.

I am the eldest of John and Joan's offspring – Margaret followed by Alice Katherine, Judith Mary, Beverley Edith (deceased) Susan Joan, John Harry (deceased) and Andrew Robert. Of course we all have children, grandchildren and some have great grandchildren. This little part of the family that came to Otunui seems to have expanded to a great degree and we are very proud to be Cameron's especially now that we have found out some information re our ancestors and feel part of the history of this country and Scotland.

My sister, son Richard, his wife and I visited Scotland in 2004 and went to the Cameron museum where we actually found out something about our family history. It was most exciting and we were very surprised to think that we had to go all the way to Scotland to find these things out. On returning to New Zealand we contacted a few people and it has been great to find out a bit about our heritage.

When we were young we heard stories about these, to us, mythical people. There was an Angus who was large (32 stone) and strong, breaking the neck of a bull with his bare hands on one occasion. He fell into the big trough at Cameron Park in Turakina on another occasion. The story of the old man (John) who lived to be a 100 years old and his wife who also lived to a great age and how he sat on his verandah to watch the funeral procession of his wife go by.

There was always a picture of the Blenheim on the kitchen wall at home in Otunui and we were told how our ancestors had sailed on it to New Zealand. One person I remember being mentioned was Waxy McPhail, probably because of the unusual name. We loved the stories, they were magical and romantic but being children there wasn't too much interest about the facts of them all.



George and Archie Cameron up the Whakamara Road, loading the packhorses with grass seed. Taken between the wars.

Parts 2 and 3 of this story will be published at a later date

Fort William... a portrait of the town *Adapted, in a series of four articles, by Ian Abernethy*

Many of us will admit to being old enough to remember the town celebrations to mark Fort William's "First Tercentenary" in 1954.

Strictly speaking the occasion was the 300th anniversary of the building by Cromwell's emissary, General Monck, of the fortification which he named the Garrison of Inverlochy (Inverlochie). However the year 1990 also heralded a tercentenary - of the construction of the actual fort of Fort William.

To observe the 1654-1954 connection, several local events were arranged during June, 1954. including fancy dress parades, dances, and ceilidhs.

A historical pageant was written by William Murphie, English master at Fort William Senior Secondary School, and "Fort William : A Portrait of the Town", scripted by John (ny) Wilson, featured as a 45 minutes wireless broadcast.

The pageant was presented on three nights in the Town Hall; the radio programme, relayed from the Masonic Hall, went out on the Scottish Home Service.

Three days earlier, in Fort William Parade, Provost John Carmichael had formally unveiled a monument, topped by a sundial, as a lasting tercentenary tribute.

And now let's take a trip down Memory Lane, harking back to that third week of June, 1954.

Three days of rehearsals led up to the live radio transmission between 7.05pm and 7.50pm on June 25.

The broadcast was billed as "an attempt to sketch a portrait of Fort William as seen through the personalities who live there now".

Here are some adapted excerpts from what every An Gearasdan resident heard on the wireless that night :

* "This is the Scottish Home Service (Pipe Band plays 'The March of the Cameron Men').

"This music comes from Fort William, where some of the local people are gathered to join us on a visit to places of interest in their town, and its neighbourhood, and to tell us something about their life and work....."

* Guide, John Cazabon (An Australian who worked for BBC over four decades): "I haven't been very long in Fort William, but long enough to realise that there's a certain significance in the fact that Messrs Cromwell and Monck were Englishmen, and that when the soldiers came here first they weren't so very welcome visitors.

"Not all the locals agree that the arrival of the English garrison was in itself a good thing, but they do agree that the growth of the town is very much a matter for celebration."

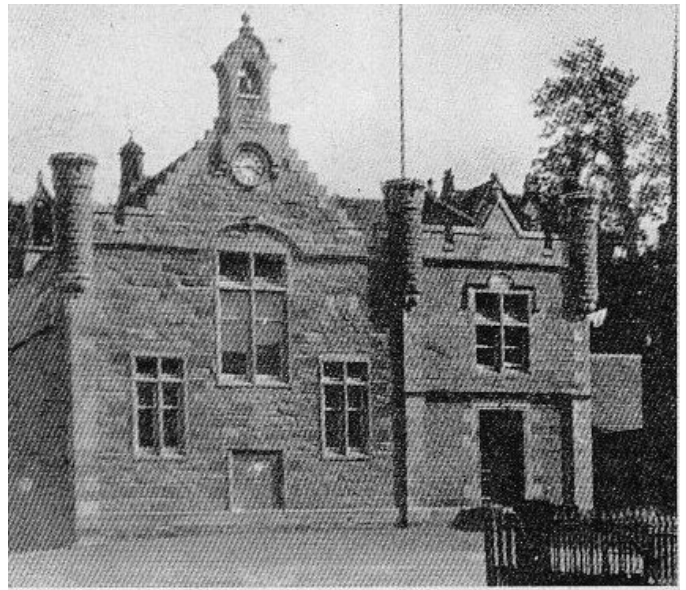
* Provost John Carmichael : "It maybe seems a bit strange for Highlanders to be celebrating the founding of a fort by English soldiers, but that's not really the way we look at it.

"We're proud of our town, and if these English soldiers had anything to do with the founding of it, well that's one good turn Cromwell did for Scotland, whether he meant to or not.

"In any case, the real story of the town is quite independent of the Fort.

* John Cazabon :: "I discovered that the population of the burgh is around 3,000. "Also, you don't see much of Ben Nevis from the town itself.

"But, right at the foot of it I did observe something I didn't expect - a large aluminium works which employs



Fort William Town Hall as it was.

about 1,000.

"A little further along was the kind of industry I did expect - a whisky distillery.

"It didn't come as any surprise, either, to learn that the tourist industry is very important to the town, and employs more people in and around Fort William than anything else.

"At the station I heard the names of the places the train would be calling at, not only in English but in Gaelic too.

"I wasn't leaving Fort William, however, and I'd noticed some posters announcing an event called a Mod.

"I had no idea what it was, but I found out - and I wasn't disappointed.

"One of the places I'm sure people will make for is the West Highland Museum in the town square.

"I was lucky enough to be shown round some of the exhibits by Miss Edith Macgregor, the secretary, and it wasn't long before the subject of this man Cromwell and his fort came up again!.

"This week visitors to Fort William have had some further glimpses of the town's history, because for the last three nights a Pageant has been presented in the Town Hall, dramatising some of the main events from the town's past.....

To be continued

This nostalgic script came to light thanks to a chance find among family papers by Frances Whyte, Glenfinnan, whose mother, Mrs Madge McDougall, was for some time secretary to Fort William Town Clerk, Robert Dow.

Fortunately Mrs McDougall had the presence of mind to retrieve and retain a foolscap copy, and we are able to quote from it.

This article was first published in *Lochaber Life* in October 2008



Left: Auckland Camerons at the Waipu Highland Games on 1 January 2009

Right: First Lighters Shona and Heather in Auckland on the day Shona left for home



Left: Cousins and Clan Cameron members Matthew McQueen (far left) and Callum Cameron (left) compete in individual events at the Highland Games at Waipu and Turakina respectively. Matthew is in the Saint Kentigern College Pipe Band and Callum in the Scots College Pipe Band



HB President Helen Shaw with Kay Little and Ian Cameron at the HB afternoon tea. Ian had brought along beautifully framed completed Cameron jigsaws - they looked stunning.



Above Auckland member Chris Lines with daughter Caitlin and son Cameron at the Waipou Highland Games.

Left: Hawke's Bay and visiting Camerons gather at the home of Shane and Tony East in Hastings on 1 Feb 2009 for a well attended afternoon tea. The temperature was well into the thirties.

Below: A group photo of some of the many Camerons who enjoyed a great day at the Turakina Highland Games on 31 Jan 2009

All photos this page: Editor

