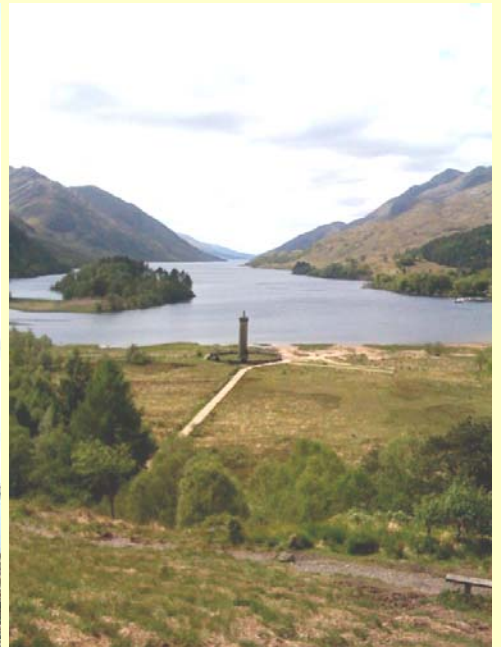

◆ Cameron ◆

Clan Cameron New Zealand; founded 1935, incorporated 2000

Volume 43, Issue 3

June 2009



The shores of Loch Shiel and Glenfinnan

- recent photos by Bill Cameron

See "A Chair for Prince Charlie" on page 6



Photo: Editor

Descendants of John Cameron of Corrychoillie pose for a group photograph at the Hawera gathering

A Weekend in "The Naki"

A View of the Annual Gathering by *Trish Topham*

In spite of our disbelief, a year had passed since our last AGM for Clan Cameron, which was held in 2008 at Opotiki. These days a year passes like the blink of an eye...

This year we were to gather at Hawera, Taranaki on 17, 18 and 19th April.

After a pleasant drive from Hastings we arrived mid afternoon and checked into our motel. Later, other Cameron's from various parts of New Zealand began arriving. Most of the "usual suspects" were there and as always it was good to catch up with our friends from the extended Cameron family and to meet members previously unknown to us.

After a pleasant dinner at a Bistro Bar across the road we made our way to the Hawera Club to attend the Executive Council Meeting. Following the meeting we met and mingled over drinks and coffee where our Host of the Club and Clan Cameron member, Alan Drake, really turned on the V.I.P treatment. A nightcap for some back at our motel ensured a good night's sleep!

Next day, Saturday, we again met at the Club and enjoyed the lavish morning tea provided. It was a good time to meet new members and find out a little more about Taranaki and Hawera in particular. Situated about 70km southeast of New Plymouth, Hawera boasts a population of just over 8,000. The weather was perfect. Soon after we held the A.G.M., attended by approx. 55 members. This was followed by a very nice lunch. The remainder of the afternoon was leisure time for us to do as we wished.

Having heard about and seen the advertisement on T.V. about the acclaimed Tarawhiti Museum, it was decided that a visit would be a good way to spend the afternoon. With Ruth and Helen aboard we set off for Tawhiti Museum - "approx. 4 kms from Hawera township".

Yes! Well! After a leisurely drive and some 20kms later, we finally convinced the driver that indeed we must have missed the signpost for Tawhiti Museum - never mind Mike - thanks for the pretty rural drive anyway. Arriving at the

Museum we found other Cameron's were visiting also. What a STUNNING place Nigel Ogle has created. The former Tawhiti Cheese factory has been completely transformed and takes you on a visual and nostalgic reminder of our heritage. The brochure says Nigel coerced friends, relatives and local people into allowing Nigel to make a casting of their features for his models - my favourite was the coal miner at the very first part of the museum - SO lifelike, and the lines around his eyes and expression was amazing.

One other exhibit which is worthy of mention was the "long drop" outdoor toilet. The door was closed and a notice on the outside wall invited you to open the door and inspect same. I was keen to show this to Ruth, who fell for it hook, line and sinker! (Just as I had). Gingerly Ruth opened the door to find a man sitting on the long drop reading the newspaper with his trousers around his knees and as Ruth called "Oh!" - the man lowered the newspaper and his jaw dropped and nearly hit the floor. I must hasten to add the "man" was indeed another wonderful model. The look on Ruth's face will stay in my memory forever. Priceless!

After a shower and a change of clothes we then set off again to The Club for our dinner and beforehand were treated to some excellent piping prior to the Haggis ceremony. A very nice meal with lots of laughter when members of the Drake family won a great share of the five raffles. We were SO pleased as it was Alan's sister's 50th Birthday and there were about 14 members of their family there to swell the numbers which was excellent.

A nightcap back at the motel and it was bedtime after midnight again.

The next morning we returned to the Club to say our farewells only to find Alan had cooked a cordon bleu breakfast for us all! Alan must have been running on pure adrenalin after such a busy weekend. We must take this opportunity to thank Alan for his hospitality and attention to detail - superb organisation Alan thank you. Safe travels on your journey to Scotland. Our visit to "the Naki" and Hawera in particular, was memorable and great fun.

To all our other Clan friends thank you for your company, and before you know it, another blink of the eye and we will be meeting in Masterton.

More on the Clan Gathering in Hawera.....

I spent my first 62 years in Hawera so it is always a nostalgic trip for me. What a wonderful and happy gathering the clan get together was and sincere thanks to all concerned.

How many realised they were meeting under the shadow of the water tower which was designed by the borough engineer Mr. J.C.Cameron and built in 1914. When it was almost complete Hawera was jolted by a sharp earthquake. No structural damage but a surveyor later noticed a 90cm list to the west. This was kept secret, even from the council, and Mr. Cameron arranged a gang to work one night to rectify the fault. The secret leaked out later and caused great consternation. However an indiscernible list of 12cm remains. Another Cameron success.

I did climb the tower that weekend and am proud of that.

By Jean Barker-Drake (nee Cameron)



The writers of the two stories on this page. Jean Barker-Drake on left and Trish Topham on right



Joy Cameron with new members Shona and Neville Wallace from Hawera

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Auckland Branch

Mary Major (Waitakere City)

Canterbury Branch

Mark and Louise Cameron (Dunedin)

Taranaki/Wanganui Branch

Shona and Neville Wallace (Hawera)
Megan and James Bevan (Hamilton)
Murray Drake (Upper Hutt)

Bay of Plenty Branch

Paul Clark (Papamoa)

Introducing Fiona Cameron our new Historian

Photo: Valmar
Cameron



Clan Historian

After many years faithful service Dorothy Cameron-Gavin has stepped down as the Clan Cameron New Zealand historian. We are indebted to her for her painstaking work and the legacy of "Clan Cameron New Zealand" - a history of the Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand.

Dorothy has been replaced by Fiona Cameron, daughter of the Auckland branch committee members Valmar and Don.

After many years in back-of-the-camera television production work for such shows as *Shark in the Park*, *Hercules* and *Victorian House*, Fiona decided to follow her eagerness for historical reference work. This led to a Bachelor of Arts course in medieval history with extra-mural study at Massey University, followed by starting a library career at the bottom of the pecking order as a library assistant at Grey Lynn in Auckland.

Over the next five years Fiona gained her librarian diploma, and at present is specialising in local history and reference work at the Mt Roskill library, the largest community library in Auckland.

Along the way she has developed expert computer skills, and is on constant crisis call when her parents get their bytes mixed up.

The Kaiwarra Camerons

Marc Ulyatt has written a history of the family of Donald (the weaver) Cameron and his wife Christina, who arrived in Wellington on the *Blenheim* in 1840. The history covers the fifty years from 1840 to 1890. He has been urged by many family members who have seen it to publish the history in book form, so he is going ahead with a limited edition. The number printed will be limited to the number of people who commit to paying for a copy.

The cost (plus postage) will be in the order of \$25, depending on the number printed.

If you are interested please contact Marc before June 30 at: 181 Omokoroa Road, RD2 Tauranga; email marc.ulyatt@ihug.co.nz; or phone (07) 548 2474.

Kilt for Sale

Kilt in Clan Cameron tartan in perfect condition. 26inch waist, 28inch length. Made in Scotland. Valued a few years ago at \$220. Offers to Liz Scott, 09 424 5128

Hawke's Bay Branch News *By Helen Shaw*



Shane East, Ian Cameron and Helen Shaw at the Cameron tent in Hastings

Once again Hawkes Bay Clan Cameron members were at the Highland Games at Lindisfarne College at Easter. The weather was fine warm and windy. Crowd numbers were down, but as it was the first weekend of the School Holidays it wasn't surprising. Out of town visitors to the Gazebo were Jean and Sarah McQueen (Auckland), Nick Cameron (Canterbury) and Muriel and Michael Imber. Local members to visit were John and Roslyne Pryce, Beth Walls with lovely Cheese scones for the workers and Kathy Mckee. Helpers Ian Cameron, Joan Cameron, Shane East, Mike Topham and Helen Shaw. Our fund raiser raffle was won by a local farmer. Helen Shaw and Mike and Trish Topham went to the A.G.M. in Hawera.. Thank you Wanganui and Taranaki for a well run weekend. The visit to the Tawhiti Museum certainly was a Highlight.

A message from our President



Dear Clan Cameron Members

On behalf of the Camerons who made the trip to Hawera for the Clan Gathering, I would like to thank Alan Drake, our fine host for such a wonderful reception and full programme for us to enjoy.

Alan is the Manager of the Hawera Club, situated in the middle of Hawera and close to the activities for the town. I think Alan told me that the Hawera Club was built around 1902, and apart from a few alterations over the years, the Club has remained the same. It has plenty of character and was used by the Clan for all our meetings and social events.

Alan made sure that we were well catered for on the Friday night; the morning tea before the AGM followed by lunch. There was coffee and tea available at all times of the day. In fact, we have much to thank the members of his family who were at the door to welcome us and to hand out the registrations. I believe that there were 14 of Alan's family present at the gathering, all varieties in ages. This is truly magnificent and show how families can work together.

His ability to make us feel welcome was wonderful and then on Saturday night we discovered that he was to be our 'master' cook for the buffet meal. Again this was an excellent occasion; then to have a couple of pipers from the Hawera Pipe Band for the night's entertainment was a real gem. They also were part of the Haggis ceremony. Our thanks to Warren Cameron who had brought his side drum to really make things complete. On the Sunday morning we were treated to breakfast before we left for home.

At this moment we have thirty-nine people coming on the tour to Scotland. This will be a golden opportunity for our members to travel together and learn more about our Cameron heritage; to be able to visit and participate in two extraordinary events on the way. Our thanks to John and Susan Cameron for their well planned and very interesting itinerary. I do know that quite a few of our members have told me they are going over to Scotland and we look forward when they can become part of our New Zealand contingent who will be marching past Lochiel on the Saturday while we are at Achnacarry. This should increase our New Zealand contingent to over fifty.

The CCNZ have donated money to purchase an Oak tree that is planted in the Oak Wood at Achnacarry, which will be dedicated during the Gathering to the memory of Camerons past. These Oak trees have been planted for some time and should be a sight to see when we arrive for the dedication.

Also we will be taking over the donation from the individual Camerons of New Zealand for the Fort George Appeal and I was delighted when it was passed at the AGM that we double this donation from the Clan Cameron – New Zealand.

Our congratulations to Donald the Younger of Lochiel and Sarah Maclay, who have recently announced their engagement, to the delight of Lochiel and Lady Cecil, from all our New Zealand Camerons.

"The Clan Cameron Heritage Trail" draft booklet, which includes photographs and maps to enable a self-guided exploration in Lochaber, has been drafted. This booklet will be produced shortly and will be of great help to our Camerons while in Lochaber.

We have great oversight from our branch committees, who are well linked into their communities and are strategic thinkers and pioneers in Cameron history. They are very passionate people who carry a significant responsibility. They also share the same philosophy. It takes a whole team to bring their skills to the table to enable the organisation to flourish. Remember it is a team effort, not a 'one-man band'.

"Leis gach dhurach and Slainte mhath"
[With every good wish and good health]

Denis Cameron



President Denis and Club Manager Alan Drake

Clan Genealogist and custodian of the Clan Cameron - Audrey Rosoman Collection

Clan Cameron is seeking an enthusiastic person, with an interest in Clan history and a passion for genealogical work, to apply for the position of Clan Genealogist. Initially this will involve taking custody of the extensive collection of records compiled by Audrey over many years, building on them and answering any genealogical queries members may have. At an early stage, perhaps with assistance from a dedicated team, a start will need to be made to back up this invaluable collection to computer and disc.

The collection is currently stored in the garage of Denis and Joy Cameron and consists of 30 metal card index cases which contain an estimated 10,000 names on cards, and over 150 folders on four bookshelves. It will be important to keep the material dry and in good condition. A small dedicated room or office would be ideal but stored along one wall of a double garage, as they are now, would be satisfactory.

This is an unpaid position (although approved expenses would be covered) but would be very rewarding with the job satisfaction experienced from preserving and recording the ancestry and history of members of the clan in New Zealand. The value of this work to Clan Cameron cannot be over emphasised.

If you are interested and would like to learn more or view the collection, please contact President Denis.



Aonaibh ri Cheile

Cameron

is the magazine 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 the August issue:

15 July 2009

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Rob Cameron
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Ph. (06) 377 0377 dungallan@gmail.com

Canterbury
Alex Cameron,
1/1 Dumfries Drive, Riccarton Park, Christchurch
Ph (03) 342 5467 alex.cameron@xtra.co.nz

Coming events

Sunday 14 June 2009

Bay of Plenty Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa at 2pm. This will be preceded by a 'Pot Luck Finger Food' luncheon at 12 noon.

Take this opportunity to see the 'Clan Cameron-Audrey Rosoman Collection' - (Genealogy) which will be on display.

Enquiries to Denis Cameron (07) 575 4659

Sunday 14 June 2009

Canterbury Branch Mid -Winter Dinner.

Enquiries to Alex Cameron.

Sunday, 28th June 2009.

Annual Kirkin O' the Tartan Service.

Scottish Clans Association - Auckland District Inc. Clan Banners Muster at 0930 Hours. Service commences at 10.00 Hours.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Lower Symonds Street, Auckland City.

All Clan Societies and Kinsfolk Welcome. Morning Tea after service.

Information: Murdock McDonald Phone 09 298 4802.

Saturday 27th June 2009

Tartan Day Ceilidh

Scottish Clans Assn. - Auckland District. Details to be advised. Contact Murdoch McDonald 09 298 4802

Saturday 4 July 2009

Tartan Day

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

Saturday 22 August 2009 7pm

Auckland Branch Annual Dinner

Fairway Lodge, Glenfield. \$45 per person

Contact the editor for a copy of the flyer.

(copy enclosed for Auckland members)

Enquiries to Duncan McQueen 09 577 5443

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.clancameron.org.uk>

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

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

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

Cameron Artifacts

By William A. Cameron

A Chair for Prince Charlie

In this the second in a series of articles looking at Cameron related objects held within the West Highland Museum - I hope to examine the background to a piece of furniture with Cameron connections and its 'alleged' presence at The 1745 Raising of The Standard at Glenfinnan.

The picturesque scenery around Glenfinnan has featured on the world's cinema screens over the last couple of years, mainly due to the film adaptations of J.K Rowling's Harry Potter stories. In which we see Glenfinnan at its best with snow capped mountains sloping down into the dark waters of Loch Shiel and The Hogwarts' Express puffing its way across the Glenfinnan Viaduct carrying carriages of mini magicians.

Aside from Glenfinnan's picture postcard landscape and movie connections, there are of course historical links with Prince Charles Edward Stuart, or Bonnie Prince Charlie as he is most commonly known.

It was at Glenfinnan on 19th of August 1745 that Prince Charlie raised the Stuart Standard, launching what would become a bloody and ill fated Jacobite campaign to gain control of the British throne with the support of various clans; many of them Camerons - headed by their Chief, Donald Cameron of Lochiel - The Gentle Lochiel (1695 - 1748).

The Glenfinnan Monument is a permanent reminder of this campaign and is visited by thousands each year. Erected in 1815 by Alexander MacDonald of Glenaladale, it commemorates the many clansmen who fought and fell for the Jacobite cause. Today the monument is a popular tourist attraction, offering great views down Loch Shiel and an elevated point from which keen Harry Potter train spotters wait for the perfect picture as the Hogwarts' Express makes its way along the West Highland line and over the Glenfinnan Viaduct.

In 1974 The West Highland Museum trustees received word that they had been bequeathed a number of items from the estate of a lady living in Edinburgh. Amongst these items was a

rather grand oak chair with an engraved brass plate that declares.

"Sent by Lochiel to Prince Charles on the occasion when the Royal Standard was unfurled to claim the Crown of his Ancestors at Glenfinnan on 19th August 1745"

There is little doubt about the major influence Clan Cameron had on events that took place in Glenfinnan, as well as the following battle of Culloden. Prince Charlie knew that if he managed to gain the support of Lochiel, this most influential of Highland Chiefs, then other clans and clansmen would follow. He was right, they did.

Lochiel's brother, John Cameron of Fassifern, had tried to persuade his brother not to follow the Prince. However, Lochiel's allegiance with the Prince was set, pledging both himself and his clansmen to the Jacobite cause.

Trying to determine whether the oak chair was present at the time of the '45 is difficult to prove. Examining its structure, we see that its dark turned sections of oak have been carefully proportioned. Its carved handrails display quality craftsmanship and both its seat and back panels shows what appears to be genuine patina built up over many years of use. No doubt it would have been an expensive piece of furniture to buy at the time.

Having looked at the historical documents that deal with the chair's provenance, I remain unsure of its authenticity. Like so many things from the past, unless artifacts are well documented, or have been passed down through a family lineage, then it is difficult to be certain of an objects true provenance.

What is interesting about this particular piece of furniture is thinking about why such a substantial chair as this would be sent to Glenfinnan for the Prince? Was it a token of respect and admiration for the Prince from Lochiel? Was it intended to represent a throne-like symbol for the Stuart line? Or is it just an old chair with a brass plaque declaring that it was at The Raising of the Standard, when in fact it may never have actually been anywhere near Glenfinnan? And how did it end up in Edinburgh?

In February this year, a local historian claimed to have recovered 'The Jacobite Boulder' or 'Glenfinnan Stone' with a man made hole in which

he believes the standard staff was set when the flag was raised. This particular artifact has created much debate amongst local people, as well as those from further afield who question its authenticity. The stone currently resides in the West Highland Museum, along with other 'alleged' items connected with Prince Charlie, including: locks of his hair, bits of tartan worn by the Prince and of course the Oak chair he is believed to have sat upon at Glenfinnan.

What is remarkable about the oak chair, along with the other artifacts connected with Prince Charlie is that they continue to create great interest with the general public 264 years after the Raising of The Standard.

Such well-preserved artifacts allow us to connect with a distant time in history, providing tangible links with which we can use our mind's eye to imagine Prince Charlie seated on a chair at Glenfinnan, unaware of what lay ahead of him, or the brave clansmen who gave their lives for the Jacobite cause.

It's also ironic that J.K Rowling's books, having been filmed in Glenfinnan have such titles as 'Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone' and 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince'



Oak chair presented to Prince Charlie by Lochiel at Glenfinnan 1745

The Clan Cameron Heritage Trail Booklet (see Presidents message)

This booklet will be launched by Lochiel at the Achnacarry Gathering and will be on sale at the museum. It will be then be available for download.

Fort William.. a portrait of the town Pt 3

Adapted, in a series of four articles, by Ian Abernethy

John Cazabon's commentary continues: "...Jimmy Cameron's grandfather was one of a band of young Highlanders who, in 1793, walked from their native village to Fort William to volunteer for the new Regiment of Camerons.

"It was a long march, but they had a piper to lighten their step. It is a sobering experience to listen to a man who can give you a family account of an event like that, and Jimmy Cameron's story will certainly be one of my lasting memories of Fort William. Strangely enough, it didn't altogether end there. "Jimmy had told me about a diary which had been handed down to him by his father Angus Cameron, and which his father had used to record some of the main events of his soldiering days. "The diary has been lent to Bill Murphie to help him with some details for historical pageant, and it was in his house in Inverloch Place that I got a chance to see it."

Bill Murphie: "This document has a special meaning for me. You see, Jimmy Cameron didn't quite complete the story of his family connection with the Cameron Highlanders. "His own son, who had been a pupil of mine at Fort William Senior Secondary School, was a commissioned officer in the Camerons during World War Two and was killed in Burma. "I knew him well and, and like everybody who knew him, I had a great respect for him. The story written by his grandfather (old Jimmy's father) expresses the spirit of the whole family. "In fact you could say that, in a way, it speaks for all the Highland lads – from Lochaber and other places – who left their homes to soldier in foreign parts. "To anybody interested in history the whole story would be worth quoting, from his first-hand description of battles in the Crimean War to his account of the ordinary soldier's conditions of living 100 years ago. "But for me the main interest of the story isn't in these facts – it's the feeling of getting acquainted with a great man. "Not that Angus Cameron ever saw himself as a great man. There isn't a trace of pompousness or false pride

anywhere in this story. "But, without meaning it or realising he was doing it, I think he was speaking for all his own people when he tried to express his feelings about what he had seen and done during his service. "He says at the end of his story: 'As soldiers we can say we have lived to do our duty, always ready to follow our chief wherever he might lead, and if we have not added anything to the laurels of the Regiment, I am proud to say we have not diminished them'. "And there are thousands of men from Lochaber who would be entitled to say the same thing about their own service in the wars since Angus Cameron's time."

John Cazabon : "Yes, there's somebody else here who was saying just that to me the other day. "She's a very well-known figure in Fort William, and she's been a school teacher here or hereabouts for... maybe I shouldn't say just how long, but quite a long time - Miss Muriel MacFarlane."

Muriel MacFarlane: "Yes, I was telling you to look at the names on the War Memorial in the Parade, especially the names of the lads who went away with the Camerons in the First World War – and didn't come back. "They were nearly all very young and full of promise, and I don't think this town has really recovered from the loss of them."

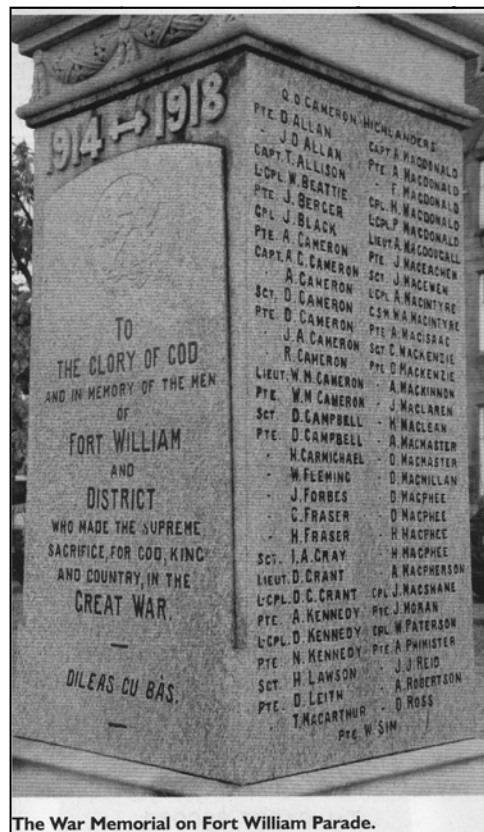
Bill Murphie : "Of course you must have seen many other changes too."

Muriel MacFarlane: "Oh yes, the place has lost a lot of its characters since my young days."

Dr Isaac Maciver: "Och, no, I don't think that's right at all! I think the Fort has still as much characters as it ever had, despite all the changes."

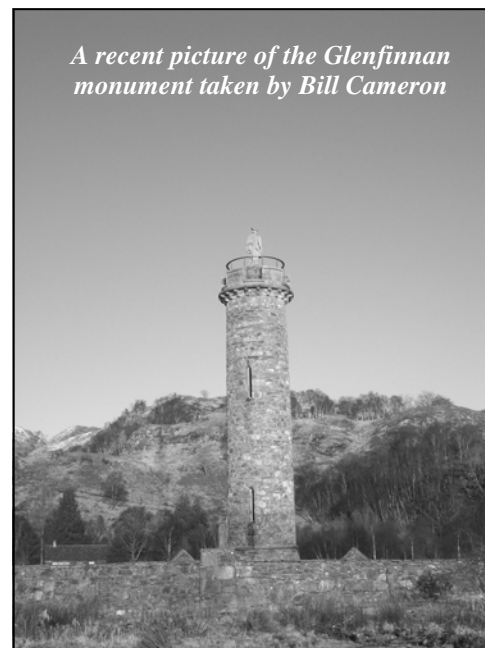
John Cazabon: "Well, this seems as if it might be the beginning of an interesting argument - so I'll leave Miss MacFarlane and Dr Maciver to it...!"

Continued in Pt 4 - next issue



The War Memorial on Fort William Parade.

A recent picture of the Glenfinnan monument taken by Bill Cameron



Congratulations

**To
Lochiel,
Catherine
and Henry
From us all**

*Lochiel's first grandchild, Alice
Henrietta Trotter, born to Catherine and
Henry 12 May 2009*



photos not acknowledged are by editor



Musical Interlude - Robert, Warren and Bill



Alan Drake with Katie Bevan



*To the Haggis!
Mike Topham, Warren Cameron, John Cameron*

Photo: Neville Wallace



Warren & Lorraine Cameron with Judy & Martin Brown



Left: Joy Cameron and Helen Renner

Right above: Jessie and John Annabel



Mary and Harry Lampen-Smith



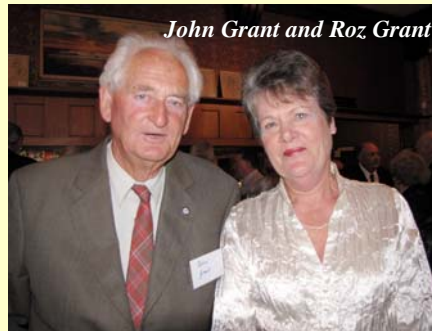
Sonja and Bruce Cameron



Happy Birthday, Alison



Auckland members stop for coffee at Whangamomona on the way home



John Grant and Roz Grant



Martin Jordan with Jean Barker-Drake



Retiring First Light Convenor Mary Barber

Thanks, Mary, for all your hard work



*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face
Robert Colville addresses the haggis*

Photo: Neville Wallace



Erina and Rex Wood