



Clan Cameron New Zealand; founded 1935, incorporated 2000

# Cameron

Volume 43, Issue 4

August 2009



Photo: Jean McQueen



Ben Nevis from Treslaig Photo: Bill Cameron



View from the Monument Photo: Ed



Eas Chia-aig Photo: Bill Cameron

## By Spean Bridge

by the late Barbara McPhail

By Spean Bridge a piper plays  
A lament for the grief of ancient wrongs,  
In this wonderful land of memories  
Where Deirdre lived and sang her songs,  
Where the deer and the eagle have their home  
And the skylarks singing overhead,  
The shining lochs and the tumbling burns,  
By Spean Bridge he remembers the dead.

He wears the kilt of the Cameron Clan,  
Fierce and proud in Lochaber lands,  
Ancestral home of the great Lochiel,  
And above on a hill a memorial stands –  
It honours the memory of those who have  
gone.

For freedom and justice so many have died  
For king and country they gave their lives,  
And the piper plays with sorrow and pride

By Spean Bridge a piper plays  
O' dauntless heroes of long ago  
Who fought for their land and fought for the  
right

Against all odds, come weal or woe –  
Sir Ewen, Doctor Archie, "the Gentle  
Lochiel",

Great fighters, great leaders, great chiefs of  
the past,

And all those fine ones of the Cameron Clan  
They have left us a spirit that ever will last.



In memory of

Barbara  
McPhail

1919-2009

## Bay of Plenty News

The sun gods shone on us on 14 June as members gathered at Denis and Joy Camerons' home for the Annual General Meeting. Everybody took the opportunity to peruse, enjoy and study the Clan Cameron – Audrey Rosoman Genealogy Collection and all were completely overwhelmed and excited at the work involved in developing such a collection. This was followed by a wonderful Pot Luck Luncheon and then the Annual General Meeting. Fraser Cameron was returned as our President unopposed along with the existing officers and committee. A special presentation was made to Ray Crafts for all that he has done for the Clan both here and overseas.

On 4th July, our Branch hosted the second Bay of Plenty – Waikato region's Tartan Day, with visitors from Auckland, Te Kuiti, Hamilton, Rotorua and Opotiki. It was a crisp but fine morning as all the Clans gathered and marched to the Wesley Hall from the grounds of the Tauranga Boy's College for the day's celebrations. We are much indebted to the College for their permission to use the field near by.

Ray Crafts, our Bard, and his entertainment committee organised a great day. All the Clan Presidents or Clan representatives were led into the hall by their banner bearer and were given the opportunity to tell us a little about their history and current activities. This was followed by the haggis being piped in and a wonderful address was done by Jim Carruthers with his lovely broad Scottish accent.

One hundred and twenty Clans-people were present and were given a wee dram to toast the haggis; the wearing of the tartan and the playing of the pipes. This was followed by a great pot luck luncheon and the Ceilidh. The heavens opened as we concluded the day and there were many favourable comments as everyone departed. Until we meet again.

Our thanks to all who helped make this a memorable day. A raffle incorporating prizes donated by Ray and Janet Crafts, Hazel Cameron and Denis and Joy that included a lovely wooden tray, a Scottish recipe book, a bottle of wine and a Clan Cameron Jigsaw were well received. The jigsaw was won by BOP member – Wilma Glen.

On a sad note, on 4th June we lost another of our Life Members – Lindsay Cameron. Lindsay was at the inaugural meeting in 1959 when the BOP Branch was formed. He became a committee member, and later served as President for a period. He was an enthusiastic member and very interested in all things Scottish and the wearing of the tartan. Lindsay's son David, his wife Brenda and their family are members of the Hawke's Bay Branch, and his daughter Robyn and her husband Hamish are members of the BOP Branch. We extend our sympathy to the family.

### Subscriptions:

If you have overlooked these please forward your \$25.00 to the treasurer, Joy Cameron, 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa 3118. Thank you.

by Joy Cameron

## Manawatu Branch News

It has been quiet in our branch since the AGM. Thanks again to Alan and the Wanganui / Taranaki Branch for a great weekend. We have had a couple of meetings to make plans for our Pot Luck Hogmanay, which is now to be held on 10th October at the Awahuri Hall, on State Highway One between Palmerston North and Bulls. All branches and our friends from other clans are very much welcome to attend.

We also discussed the good and the bad at our recent AGM. Thanks, Auckland, for the very nice letter Mary Barber received thanking her for her involvement in First Light.

Now, on a more serious note, a reminder for our branch members that subs are overdue by those who have not yet paid.

During the next few months our committee will be busy organising our usual annual events - Square Day, Turakina Highland Games and more social functions.

By John Cameron



Wilma Glen and Janet Crafts show great interest in part of the Clan Cameron-Audrey Rosoman Collection.

This wonderful collection needs a custodian.

Are you interested?

## Hawke's Bay News

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our branch. Elizabeth Whenworth from Hastings and Robert and Catherine Cameron from Dannevirke.

Like most of the country we are experiencing a very cold winter. Jerseys which haven't been worn for a few years have seen the light of day this year. Although the sight of snow on the Ranges looks pretty it isn't pleasant walking in the icy wind.

Despite the cold wet day sixteen members gathered at the Hibernian Club in Hastings on the 5th July for a hot three course mid-day meal. It was a very pleasant occasion and good to see those who were able to come.

(Photo on back page)

by Helen Shaw



## Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



### Hawke's Bay Branch

Elizabeth Whenworth  
Robert and Catherine Cameron

(Hastings)  
(Dannevirke)

### Bay of Plenty Branch

Alison Jordan (Tauranga)

### OBITUARY

## Barbara McPhail

1919 - 2009

By Maisie Earle

Barbara was a Foundation Member of the Wanganui Branch of Clan Cameron NZ. and served for many years, almost continuously, on the committee and as the assistant secretary when required. Her work in the Wanganui Branch was acknowledged by the presentation of Branch Life Membership in 1999.

Although sport, mainly hockey was her prime interest in her youth, a passion for painting became her most demanding occupation, and it is in this field that she is renowned. Born and educated in Wanganui, and a teacher until 1969, she has exhibited her work continuously, with many merit awards, winning the Hughes- Johnson Memorial Art Award in 1991. In 2003, she held an exhibition of her work over the past

years.

But it is as a poet that Barbara is renowned in Clan Cameron NZ and also Clan Cameron worldwide. In 2003, she won the international Cameron Prize for Poetry. The winning poems chosen by an international panel of judges were: 'By Spean Bridge', a striking tribute to the heroic men of Lochaber written by Barbara McPhail and 'The People of 'The Blenheim,' the heart-felt story of Highlanders immigrating to New Zealand by John Grant. Honourable mention for third place also went to Barbara McPhail for her poignant work entitled 'The Disgruntled Wife'. These three poems are now in the Cameron Archives.

[www.clan-cameron.org/archives.html](http://www.clan-cameron.org/archives.html)

Other poems by Barbara were published in 'Camerons Remember'. As Denis Cameron said 'Barbara will be missed for her sincerity and quiet humour' but also for her enthusiastic participation in

Highland activities including speaking Gaelic.



Photo: Nikki Williams - Wanganui Chronicle

Above: Barbara McPhail reads from her grandmother Mary McLachlan's poems at the launch of "Backwoodsman's Rangitikei" in Turakina

## Dorothy L. Cameron-Gavin

Historian Clan Cameron NZ 1998-2009

Dorothy was the 6<sup>th</sup> Historian and the longest serving. She and her uncle Charles A. Cameron served 21 years, in the total 28 years of Historians in Clan Cameron NZ. Dorothy had already written several histories, for example St. Kentigern's College 1953-1988, before becoming Clan Historian.

Dorothy's great achievement was to bring together the History of the Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand from 1935 to 2000, published in 2003. For long it had been a dream to record the history for future generations of Camerons in New Zealand but the task seemed too hard. However, Dorothy brought together a

large team of people in the Clan to write not only the general history but also the history of the different Branches and the stories of individual Camerons. She combined this extensive material into a readable book 'Clan Cameron New Zealand'. \* We are all grateful to Dorothy for this source of a great deal of information, so that we can not only remember the past but also build for the future. She collected and printed other material, for example a summary of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Shipping Lists to record the arrivals of Camerons in New Zealand, and also a songbook of Cameron and Highland songs. Her activities in Clan Cameron were much wider than as Historian. She was secretary and is a committee member for the Auckland Branch, of which she was a founder member, and a representative of the Auckland Combined Council of Scottish Societies and a member of Comann Gaidhlig, Inc

\* Copies of the History can be purchased from the Treasurer CCNZ, the Editor, or Branch secretaries.

By Maisie Earle



We all in Clan Cameron New Zealand admire Dorothy for her enthusiasm, dedication, and the sheer hard work and time she has devoted to the Clan. Thank you., Dorothy. We are in your debt.

## *A message from our President*

Dear Clan Cameron Members

### What is a Battle?

What exactly was a "battle" in 1815? The most acute description is given by Carl von Clausewitz in the fourth book of

his treatise *On War*, published posthumously in 1832 - 1835. In the following passage, the Prussian theoretician was not describing Waterloo in particular, but rather the general idea of a Napoleonic battle, which he knew well both from direct personal experience and from many hours spent in reflection. Clausewitz wrote:

What generally takes place in a major battle these days? Great masses of troops calmly position themselves in rank-and file-order. A relatively small proportion of the whole is sent forward, and these men are left to expend themselves in a fire-fight of several hours duration. Now and again, combat is interrupted and displaced a little this way and that by small, isolated blows; infantry attacks, bayonet assaults, cavalry charges. If the engaged troops gradually wear themselves down in this way and lose some of their fighting spirit, then they are withdrawn, and other troops take their place.

Thus the battle burns on slowly, with moderated intensity, like wet gunpowder, and when night spreads its dark veil and all grows calm, because no one can see anymore and no one wants to entrust himself to blind chance, then the estimates and evaluations begin; how many usable forces [that is, how many masses of troops not yet collapsed like blasted volcanoes] remain to one side and the other, how many territory has been won or lost, how secure is the rear. The impressions of courage and cowardice, cleverness and stupidity that individual officers believe they have gathered, both from their own men and from the enemy, are assembled into a general impression and combined with the results of the foregoing evaluations to arrive at a decision; either to abandon the field, or to renew the fighting the following morning.

Although in the case of Waterloo a sense of defeat overcame the French army before reaching its commanders and the decision to abandon the battlefield was taken by the troops themselves, more spontaneously and chaotically than Napoleon would have wished. Clausewitz's sketch corresponds better than one might think to the events of 18 June 1815. In fact, an earlier version of the definition of battle given above can be found in the book Clausewitz wrote before *On War*, entitled *The Campaign of 1815 in France*, which dealt specifically with the Waterloo campaign:

In every contemporary battle, the opposing forces are worn down during a long period of mutual destruction along the front line, where the forces are in contact. This phase of the conflict lasts for several hours, and the fire-fight results in minor oscillations, until one of the two sides finally receives a visible preponderance from its reserves – that is, from fresh troops – and thus is able to deal the decisive blow to the already wavering enemy.

A little further on in the same book, Clausewitz wrote:

Our battles last between half a day and an entire day. For what is by far the major part of the entire struggle, there is a slow attrition, a slow destruction of the two armies, which are in contact at points all along the battle line and which, like two incompatible elements, destroy each other at those points of

contact. Thus the battle keeps burning slowly, moderately, like wet powder; and it's only when the major part of the forces on one side or the other has been consumed and rendered useless that a decision can be reached with the remaining troops.

Then chief of staff to Thielemann's corps, Clausewitz had seen hard action at Ligny and found himself in Wavre that morning of 18 June, where he would remain all day long.

His analysis is indispensable to our understanding of the way in which Napoleon conducted that Battle of Waterloo.

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

Denis Cameron

### 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.



Bay of Plenty members Helen Renner and Jean Barker-Drake looking at the CCNZ-Audrey Rosoman Collection



*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 October issue:**

**15 September 2009**

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## Coming events

**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 in last issue)  
Enquiries to Duncan McQueen 09 577 5443

**Saturday 12 September 2009**  
**EC Meeting at Turangi.**  
RSA Rooms. Morning tea at 1030, Meeting starts at 11am.

**Spring 2009**  
**Clan Cameron Canterbury** is organising a luncheon in the Spring. The date is not yet determined but members will be advised

**12 and 13 March 2010**  
Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Championships at Masterton. Accommodation may be hard to find. Contact Warren Cameron: [camcraft@orcon.net.nz](mailto:camcraft@orcon.net.nz)

**Saturday 28 November**  
**Auckland Highland Games.** Three Kings Domain. A great day out - and it's free!  
Come and visit or help at the Cameron tent.



Scottish Weather Forecasting. Spotted by Bill Cameron on the island of Berneray in the Outer Hebrides

### 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.clanclan.orcon.net.nz>

**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](mailto:camcraft@orcon.net.nz)



## A New Zealand Coincidence

by Bill Cameron

A fortnight or so back I was up at Achnacarry attending a gathering meeting. Cycling up from the Fort, I arrived a little early and so headed over to the museum to sit in the sunshine. Shortly afterwards a car pulled up and a couple got out. The museum was not open at the time so the gentleman came up to me to ask if I knew the area. I said yes and asked what he was looking for. Detecting a New Zealand accent - I asked the gentleman which part of New Zealand he hailed from. Oh he said its a little place near Auckland, you'll not have heard of it. I said well I have been to New Zealand three times and travelled quite a bit throughout it so I might. It was Waiheke Island he said. A place where I had spent a week on holiday and remarkably, I stayed on Oneroa beach, the very same place as where the couple hailed from. The gentleman, Frank MacMillan, couldn't get over the coincidence of coming to this relatively remote part of Scotland and meeting somebody who had stayed on Oneroa beach. I was able to talk about the two books I had read whilst staying on the island, Whacker Macracker's cafe and Whacker Macracker's vineyard as well as the sculpture on the gulf exhibition. The Macmillans were looking for lands of their MacMillan ancestors which are located up at the top of Loch Arkaig. I was able to tell them of places of interest to see on the way up the loch and so we left each other each knowing a little bit more about Waiheke and Loch Arkaig.

## Achnacarry Gathering 2009

The final programme for the Gathering includes the following:

**Thursday 30 July:**  
Opening of Heritage Trail.  
Walks through the estate.



**Friday 31 July:**  
Five talks in the Marquee over the day.  
Reception in Fort William hosted by Clan Cameron Scotland



**Saturday 1 August:**  
Lochaber Schools Pipe Band, Highland Dancing Displays, Clan Parade, Falconry Displays, Demonstration of Jacobite Weaponry, Chainsaw Carving, Tug of War etc.  
Ceilidh in the Marquee in the evening.

**Sunday 2 August**  
Church Service in St Ciaran's Church  
Shinty Match - The Camerons v The Frasers in Fort William  
On completion: Survivor's Barbecue.

*We hope to bring you stories and pictures from the Gathering in our next issue. Impressions and photos from those who attended would be very welcome.*

## A Talented Cyclist

by Raymond Cameron

Wanganui teenager Cassie Cameron, daughter of Raymond and Janine Cameron, has recently returned from Adelaide in Australia after representing New Zealand in the Under17 road cycling squad. Out of a field of 15 girls, Cassie came in 4th place overall, and was the first New Zealand girl home. Cassie also has numerous track cycling medals under her kilt, including a silver medal for a national track cycling event held in Invercargill last



March. Cassie began cycling in a professional manner two years ago, and the only concern her trainer has is trying to slow her down during her training sessions. One of her favourite movies is 'The Flying Scotsman' and Cassie intends building her own bicycle in the near future.

## Journey Through India

There was a very interesting article in the Dominion Post Indulgence magazine of May 23 2009 about Andy Cameron and two friends who completed a 3900 km journey by rickshaw through India. This is a two-week, twice-yearly adventure drive for charity.

Andy is the son of Clan Cameron members Shaun Cameron, of Rata, and Sonia Cameron, of Hunterville.



Part of the money raised went to Indian charities and the remainder to Invercargill based Orphan's Aid International. Sponsor Vodafone matched the total raised.

Andy's group called themselves "Team Kiwi" and their three-wheeled 150cc rickshaw (what I remember from service days as a "Tuk Tuk" -ed) was called "The Beast." They faced a challenging time from traffic, heat, breakdowns, local food and curiosity.

We hope to be able to tell you more about this trip in a future issue.

*With acknowledgement to The Dominion Post*

# Fort William.. a portrait of the town Pt 4

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

**M**iss Muriel Macfarlane, schoolteacher, and Dr Isaac MacIver, GP, continue their good-natured “argument” about the Fort’s character – and characters.

*Dr Maciver:* “Maybe I shouldn’t be entitled to an opinion about this because, after all, I’ve only been here for 30 –odd years – so I’m still an incomer.”

*Miss Muriel MacFarlane:* “But surely, you’re bound to agree that the Fort hasn’t so much character nowadays?”

*Dr Maciver:* “I’ll agree it hasn’t so many CHARACTERS!”

*Miss Macfarlane:* Well, that’s the same kind of thing. D’you not remember Donald Reamhar the Town Bellman, Donald Ski, The Bideach, and their cronies?”

Guide, John Cazabon (bewildered): “Excuse me – but would somebody mind translating?”

*Provost Carmichael:* You see, everybody at that time had what we call

a byname, a sort of descriptive nickname. For instance there were so many called Donald Cameron that they needed bynames so that if people were mentioning them, they could distinguish who they were talking about.”

*Miss MacFarlane:* “Yes, like Donald Rua (Red Donald), Donald Dhu (Black Donald), Donald ‘Danger’, and so on. Of is course the Donald Reamhar we mentioned earlier was Donald MacDougall. “When there was news to be spread around the town, Donald would be out with handbell going round High Street, Middle Street and Low Street, shouting at the top of his voice.”

*John Cazabon:* “What kind of news would he carry?”

*Miss MacFarlane:* “Och, it might be anything – a ceilidh, a dance, or it may just be that a boat had landed hat the slip with a fishing of herring for sale. I can still remember Donald’s voice shouting ‘Loch Linnhe herring, sixpence a dozen!’ I wish I could still listen to him telling us they were for sale at that price today!”

*John Cazabon:* “Tell me. Is the tourist

trade a new thing here?”

*Miss MacFarlane:* “Oh, no, we’ve always had tourists arriving, big numbers of them, since the coming of the railway in 1894. Och, yes, and even before that. “Did you know that Queen Victoria nearly made Inverlochy Castle her Scottish home instead of Balmoral? Whether it was the Lochaber rain or the midges that put her off, I don’t know.”

*Dr Maciver:* “Now Muriel, don’t be giving away too many secrets – we’re surely not admitting that it ever rains in Fort William?”

*John Cazabon:* “I’m trying to be tactful, but I must admit I had heard you get the occasional shower.

*Miss MacFarlane:* “Dr Maciver knows we were all born web-footed here. That’s how doctors recognize anybody who belongs to the Fort. “We’re like the ducks – we’ve had to adapt ourselves to our surroundings. But the rain doesn’t keep visitors away. “However, getting back to our characters, everyone knew everyone else. I’m sure I even knew every dog and cat in the place by name. “It was leisurely and more sociable then, of course, and maybe the fact that whisky was only 3/- a bottle had something to do with that!”

*Dr Maciver:* “D’you remember the old rhyme – Dugald Ski and the Bideach and... ‘Who else was it?’”

*Miss MacFarlane:* “It went something like this – ‘Dugald Ski and Bideach, the Duke and Bonny Anne, They were the jolliest company that ever drank a dram. When Dugald gets his pension, we’ll have a grand soiree – Bramble jam and Braxy ham, and Georgie’s shillingny tea’.”

*Featured in Lochaber Life February 2009*



Muriel MacFarlane pictured with her pupils of Banavie School Gaelic Choir at the Lochaber Provincial Mod of June 1947: (back row, from left) Jessie Flannigan, Margaret Lauder, Mary Campbell, Peter Cameron, Jean Russell, Annabel MacEachin, Jean Macintyre; (middle row) Marjory Paterson, Helen Livingston, Ann Fraser, Minnie Livingston, Muriel MacFarlane, Barbara MacEachin, Ann Colquhoun, Mary Cameron; (front row) Iain Fraser, Sandy Cameron, Greta Carmichael, Ronnie Ferguson, Alistair MacDonald.





# Aonaibh ri Cheile

'Cameron' August 2009

## The Back Page



They're Off - Tour Group leave for Scotland



Tour leader John Cameron with Patricia Duncan and Hazel Cameron



Some of the Gatherings Tour group at Auckland Airport before departure Ed



Joy and Sonia Cameron with the tour mascots



Hawke's Bay members pose for a photo after lunch at the Hibernian Club photo: Helen Shaw



Above: BOP members lead the Clan Parade on Tartan Day  
Right: BOP members Shirley and John Baillie play on Tartan Day.  
Photos: Denis Cameron



Fish and Chip Shop on Stornoway Bill Cameron



Wellington/Wairarapa member Warren Cameron and his wife Lorraine visited the Victoria Highland Games in Canada in May and took this photo of the current World Champion pipe band - the Grade 1 Simon Fraser University Pipe Band.