



Clan Cameron New Zealand; founded 1935, incorporated 2000

Cameron

Volume 43, Issue 5

October 2009



Achnacarry 2009

Right:
The international group at the welcome. In the foreground are Lochiel, Lady Cecil, Donald Andrew and bride to be Sarah. Also Bill Cameron and CC Scotland President Alan Cameron.
The New Zealanders are right at the back.
Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image - Lochaber Below:
The New Zealand group (including some Trans Tasman Camerons) pose with Lochiel in front of the Castle.
Photo: Erina Wood



Auckland News

by Don Cameron

The Clan Cameron Auckland Branch gave their annual dinner a new gloss with the announcement that Alison North, a new member when the branch was reformed in 1986, is to be its next life member.

The actual life membership will start from the annual meeting next year, but the Auckland committee decided the announcement should be made at the dinner in August and ratified next year.

This meant that many of Alison's close family -- husband, five daughters and 14 grandchildren -- were able to attend the dinner. There were 15 members of the family there who knew of the announcement, yet everyone managed to keep the secret from Alison until the announcement.



Miriam and Maida Cameron

Other highlights at the dinner were wide-ranging talks and photo-shows on the recent Cameron Gatherings at Edinburgh and Achnacarry by our New Zealand president Denis Cameron, and the tour organiser John Cameron.

The dinner, again held at the well-equipped Fairway Lodge in Glenfield, made a small profit and the raffles brought in \$270-odd as a donation to the First Light fund.

Duncan McQueen had little time to organise the dinner as he also led a St Kentigern College group to Scotland during the winter, but made a splendid job of the arrangements, and in doing the MC work during the dinner. His children were also busy -- Sarah with excellent dancing, Andrew as the piper and they were joined by brother Matthew for the haggis ceremony, rousingly conducted by Bryan Haggitt junior.



Photo by Valmar Cameron

Bryan Haggitt Jnr giving a stirring address to the Haggis

Wellington Wairarapa News

Planning is well advanced for the 2010 AGM and Gathering for which the Wellington/Wairarapa Branch is the host. Outline details are as follows:

45th Annual Gathering and AGM

Copthorne Hotel & Resort Solway Park,
High Street, Solway, Masterton, Wairarapa
16, 17, 18th April 2010

Friday 16th April

7.00 pm: Executive Council Meeting.

Saturday 17th April

10.00 am: Registration, morning tea.

11.00 am: Annual General Meeting.

12.30 pm: Lunch.

1.30 pm: Two or three minibuses available (12 passengers each) departing to;

- Paua Factory, Aotearoa Stonehenge and Gladstone Vineyard, or

- National Wildlife Centre at Mt Bruce, machinery museum and cheese factory and model train complex.

- Returning 5pm to Copthorne Hotel

Note: If the buses are full, you are free to follow in your own vehicle.

Some of the above attractions include an admission charge.

6.00 pm: Pre dinner drinks and a mingle.

7.00 pm: Dinner preceded by Grace and The Ode to the Haggis

8.30 pm till 10.30pm: musical items, dancing, piping, singing, socialising, etc.

11.00 pm: Close

Sunday 18th April

9.30am Church service at St Luke's Union Church.

The full programme and registration form, including costs, will be in the next newsletter and you will be able to download additional copies from the Clan Cameron New Zealand website, www.camclan.orconhosting.net.nz. A list of accommodation in the Wairarapa will also be shown.



Photo: Lorraine Cameron

The Planning Committee at work. From left: Warren Cameron, Don Cameron, Sonja Cameron, Maureen Cameron, Bruce Cameron, Clarice Cameron, Marilyn and Ken Cameron, Graeme and Hazel Cameron, Shirley-Anne Thomson and Rob Cameron.

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Hawke's Bay Branch

Marilyn Cameron (Taradale)
 Narelle Cameron (Cambridge)
 Apologies to Elizabeth Whenmouth for the incorrect spelling of her surname last issue - Ed

Bay of Plenty Branch

Melanie Short (Rotorua)

To President Denis from Maurice Gibson, Regimental Secretary to the Highlanders. Fort George

"On behalf of the Trustees and Management of the Highlanders Museum [housing the Queen's Own Highlanders Collection] I would officially like to thank you as President and members of the Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand Inc for their most generous donation, which has been forwards to me for banking by Colonel Angus Fairrie.

I am delighted that Colonel Angus was available to give you all a guided tour of the Museum on July 20th when you visited Fort George. Colonel Angus was the architect of the Museum all those years ago, and it is fair to say no one knows more about the history and artefacts on display than he.

It is testament to your Clan Cameron Association that Member of your party are direct descendants of soldiers who fought with such distinction during the Peninsular Wars, Quatre Bras and Waterloo. Fantastic!

It is vitally important that we Upgrade the Museum over the next 2 1/2 years and thereby maintain the "Collection" for the foreseeable future. In this way we will keep history alive and available to all.

We have a responsibility to "educate" both current and future generations and our expansive Upgrade will be imaginative thought provoking and relevant. "Heritage of Heroes".

Your donation is very much appreciated and will be put to good use as part of that same said Upgrade process. Very many thanks".



Denis presents a cheque to help with upgrading the Highlander's Museum to Colonel Fairrie. John Cameron of Manawatu looks on.

First Light Exchange

Within the next year there is an opportunity for a New Zealander to visit Scotland as part of this sponsored exchange programme.

During your three months in Scotland you will have the chance to work in your chosen career and to explore your Cameron history and other areas of personal interest. You will be hosted and well looked after by members of Clan Cameron in Lochaber and around Scotland. This exchange is a fantastic experience and is open for young people between the ages of 18 and 28.

Visit the New Zealand Clan Cameron website to find out more information and how to apply (www.camclan.orconhosting.net.nz), or email Heather Cameron if you have any questions (heath_piglet@yahoo.co.nz).



Lochiel's Granddaughter Alice Henrietta Trotter is held by her father with her mother and Lochiel in the background. Notice the Buzzy Bee given by CCNZ. Photo: Denis

Gaelic and English Phrases

In each edition from now on I will publish some phrases from Mary MacKellar's delightful little book which is published by the Clan Cameron Museum. Mary MacKellar, who died in 1890, was very involved in the formation of the Clan Cameron Association. She was Bard to the Gaelic Society of Inverness.

Gaelic: Ciamar tha sibh an diugh?
Pronunciation: Kemmer ha shiv un dew?
English: How are you today?

Gaelic: Tha gu math, ciamar tha sibh féin?
Pronunciation: Ha gu mah, kemmer ha shiv fayn?
English: I am well, how are you?

With thanks to the Clan Cameron Museum

Editor

A message from our President

Dear Clan Cameron Members



We are all back home again, hopefully fully recovered from the 'jet-lag' that some of us had. We were very impressed with the Emirates Air Bus, that took us from Auckland to Dubai and just how quiet the noise from the

engines were – the seats were wonderful and wide and gave us much comfort with plenty of room for our legs and arms.

May I pass on our sincere congratulations to Alan Cameron and his wonderful band of willing helpers, who made the 2009 Clan Gathering one to remember. Lochaber was swamped by Clan Cameron visitors. The papers reported that up to 1,000 members of the Clan had gathered to celebrate the 'homecoming' in fine style. A series of events were held at both Achnacarry and Fort William.

We were warmly welcomed by Lochiel and his extended family; we saw Highland dancing, piping, clay bird shooting, falconry, sheepdog and duck demonstrations, march past by the Lochaber Schools Pipe Band, tug o' war, Jacobite weaponry and chainsaw carving.

The recently planted Cameron Oak Grove Plantation was opened and dedicated; these young oak trees have been planted near the front of the main entrance to Achnacarry Estate. The Clan Cameron New Zealand's Oak Tree is Number 21.

“The papers reported that up to 1,000 members of the Clan had gathered to celebrate the ‘homecoming’ in fine style.”

Meanwhile in a huge marquee, clan history and genealogical displays were mounted, along with local craft and food. We mounted a photographic display at Edinburgh and Achnacarry pertaining mostly to First Light that was received with much interest.

The decision to have the Ceilidh in the marquee was indeed a very good choice. We were treated to a rare display of young talent from Lochaber, youngsters who could play musical instruments such as the bagpipes, accordions, violins and singing odes and folk songs. It was truly just wonderful and one had to be there to appreciate it. Our group put on a few songs with John and his brother Stewart taking the leading role, with the backing of the tour choir.

We must congratulate John Cameron and his brother Stewart from Brisbane, who made our tour something special. It was a truly memorable experience. The places we saw were fabulous; we were given a very good lesson on many aspects of Scottish history. There was much variety, whisky tasting, plenty of ruins, bus tours at each of the places we stayed, Cameron history at places like the Regimental Museum Collection at Fort George, Culloden Battlefield, Inverlochy Castle, Bannockburn, Stirling Castle, the Great Glen, West Highland Museum, the Isle of Skye, Eilean Donan Castle, Glenfinnan, Rosslyn Castle, Kilmallie Church, Cille Chorill Church, Glencoe and the Commando Memorial.

At Edinburgh, we were part of one of the largest Clan Gathering in Scotland which has not been seen since the one

that Sir Walter Scott held in the last century. The Clan village was the heart of the Gathering, with every conceivable form of culture and active pursuits of music, dancing, and athletics along with genealogy, history and storytelling.

We were part of a crowd of 30,000 people, who mingled together with 125 colourful Clan tents, and around 8,000 kilted Clansfolk was something to behold.

On Saturday night, the Clansfolk took part in a very historic march along the Royal Mile. We had to fight our way between the Edinburgh crowds, who were standing 8 and 10 deep. We carried the Silver Fern flag and were cheered and clapped as went along. It was just wonderful. The Clan Pageant at the Edinburgh Castle was called "Aisling's Children" or the Tales of the Homecoming. This took the journey from Arbroath through the experience of her children, the momentous events which have shaped Scotland and the traumatic times which forced many of Alba's sons and daughters to leave their homes for new lives in lands far away.

We made a presentation to Donald Andrew and his lovely fiancée Sarah Maclay, of a very large and creamy lamb-skin couch-throw that looked magnificent as it was draped over the stage. This was well received by the happy couple. And at the Church Service, we presented the devoted parents, Catherine and Henry Trotter, with a mini lamb-skin rug and Buzzy Bee to our little 'princess' Alice Henrietta Trotter – this too was well received and will be put to great use.

Today, I have much pleasure to announce that John Cameron of Operatunity Travel has donated \$1000 to the First Light Trust. John also donated an Oak Tree on behalf of the tour group. John, please accept our sincere thanks and appreciation. You have shown the Trust the belief you have in our exchange of the young people between Scotland and New Zealand. Thank you again from Clan Cameron - New Zealand. .

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

Denis Cameron:



*Alan Cameron, President of Clan Cameron Scotland,
Denis Cameron, our President,
Dr Bob Cameron, President of Clan Cameron Australia
Duncan Cameron, Clan Cameron Scotland.*



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 bumper December issue:

15 November 2009

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Coming events

* * *

Saturday 3 October 2009

BOP/Waikato Combined Clans Day Huntly
10am. Assemble with banners in public car park at Super Liquor - North end of Main Street.
10.30am Parade to Huntly Civic Centre
11am. Welcome etc
12am. Haggis Ceremony, followed by lunch and Concert
\$5 entry - a food plate for the shared luncheon would be welcomed.

This is an opportunity to invite Waikato Camerons into our membership. Members from Auckland and the BOP are asked to support this gathering.

Enquiries to: Shirley Boyde. 027 494 6715 or email: sboyde49@xtra.co.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.

Sunday 29 November

The Annual General Meeting of Clan Cameron Canterbury will be held on Sunday 29 November 2009 at 11.30am at the Academy Lodge Motel, Corner West Street and Racecourse Road, Ashburton. This will be followed by a luncheon at Robbies Restaurant, West Street, Ashburton probably about 1pm.

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

15 - 17 April 2010

Clan Cameron Annual Gathering and AGM.
See page 2

Useful Websites

Clan Cameron New Zealand website
<http://www.camclan.orconhosting.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 NZ Webmaster:
Warren Cameron
camcraft@orcon.net.nz

Callart House

on Loch Leven, Lochaber

by Bryan Haggitt (Auckland)



One of my aims, on going to Scotland for the Gathering, was to find out more about my Cameron ancestors and to understand something of their way of life way back before Great Grandfather John Cameron emigrated to New Zealand on the “*Blenheim*” in 1840.

Amongst old photos was the one above of Callart House and, following

the church service at St Ciaran’s, Jenny and I went hunting for it. We had heard it was now a “dump” and my expectation was that we would find just a pile of rubble in a paddock.

Turning left from Ballachulish along the north shore of Loch Leven, we only had to ask directions once before we found the house – unbelievably, looking at first glance, much as in the photo.

Closer inspection revealed that the near wing was inhabited but that there was scaffolding behind. The owner, John Strachan, greeted us warmly and, on showing him the photo, invited us in and then enthusiastically outlined his, and his wife’s, plans to renovate and restore the building. It is a major project but, whilst most of the interior is very dilapidated, the “bones” are wonderful and some of the internal oak panelling is superb. Help is coming to the Strachans from the Highland Buildings Preservation Trust – it will be interesting to return in a year or two to see progress.

The house is also in an idyllic setting. Above the road from North Ballachulish to Kinlochleven, one looks through huge, aged trees – limes, oaks and, perhaps elms – to the Loch. Beside the driveway, a stream tumbles down from the hills.

On our return home, more research and, thanks to cousin Jill Collier and Google, I now know that the Callart Camerons lost the land following Culloden, regained it in 1784 and then sold it to Ewen Cameron of Fassifern 3 years later. It was his son, Sir Duncan, who built the house around 1835. On his death, it was sold to an English family, the Lucys. So, my ancestors never lived in this house, only in its predecessor which was destroyed by the Duke of Cumberland. The site was important being on the route to Glencoe Pass and if their abode was as substantial as Sir Duncan’s later version, then they would have lived extremely well in one of the world’s loveliest places.

Photos below by Bryan Haggitt



Callart House today



Jenny and John Strachan look at panelling



The view down the driveway

Lochaber Homecoming Hub

By W.A. (Bill) Cameron (Lochaber)

Throughout 2009, various Homecoming events have taken place throughout Scotland, encouraging visitors from overseas to come home to Scotland. Whether ex – patriots, or those with distant family connections. The Scottish Parliament has been welcoming the far-flung diaspora scattered throughout the new world to come home and re-establish connections with the Old country.

In order to provide a Highland welcome in Lochaber throughout the summer months, a group of local volunteers led by Margaret Boyd (former Lochaber First Light convener)

established the Homecoming Hub at Lochaber College from June through till mid August.

On a purely voluntary basis, the group managed to provide a great variety of activities for visitors coming to Lochaber. A few of the activities included, historical talks with strong Lochaber connections, Ceilidh evenings with an array of local musicians, demonstrations of craft skills and above all genuine Highland hospitality for visitors to the area.

The facilities for the homecoming Hub were generously provided by Lochaber College as a satellite centre of the University of the Highlands and Islands network.

Throughout the summer the Homecoming Hub attracted over a thousand visitors and locals alike. The

final Ceilidh evening also witnessed the inaugural World Cloutie Dumpling Championships, with over 35 entries from all parts of the country.

The Homecoming Hub also aimed to cater for the many Cameron’s visiting the area after the homecoming events in Edinburgh, and the Clan Gathering at Achnacarry the following week.

The Homecoming Hub provided a much-needed focal point for many visitors to the area and from its weekly Ceilidh’s amassed funds from raffles and donations, which were later split between various local charities - including the Lochaber First Light Exchange Fund.

Well done to Margaret and the working group who made this event such a success.

The Clan Cameron Gathering 2009

by W.A (Bill) Cameron (Lochaber)

Since the first clan Cameron gathering back in 1938, Camerons from around the world have made their way to Lochaber - Cameron country; the clan lands at the foot of Ben Nevis where most Camerons can trace their ancestral roots.

After a number of centuries of forced or chosen emigration to the new world, Camerons can now be found all over the world, from Russia, America, Japan, New Zealand and Australia.

The re-forming of the old clan system into what is now the Clan Cameron Association is due to a few forward thinking Camerons living in Edinburgh in the late 19th century. One of those founding members was Mary Mackellar (nee Cameron) a native of Lochaber. Educated in the Gaelic traditions of song, poetry and folklore by her grandparents at Kinlocheil-side. Mary would eventually go on to produce many notable literary works whilst living Edinburgh. However, it is as founder of the Clan Cameron Association that she is remembered in this instance. Had it not been for her enthusiasm in maintaining the many links of common kinship, then the many hundreds of Camerons from around the world may not have come together for the recent Clan Cameron Gathering in August 2009.

The four-day gathering at Achnacarry had been planned almost a year and a half in advance, allowing Camerons from overseas to link in with the major homecoming celebrations taking place in Edinburgh the previous week. The last Cameron gathering at Achnacarry was back in 2001 and the first International Cameron gathering outside Scotland took place in Auckland, New Zealand in 2005.

With most of the events taking place within the grounds at Achnacarry, the first day got off at a leisurely pace with the launch of the Cameron Heritage Trail book at the Cameron Museum. This was followed by three different guided walks around the estate looking at sites of historical interest as well as recent developments including the converted stable block and the major renovations taking place at the castle.

With a large marquee set up on



The Gathering Field at Achnacarry

the field in front of the castle, the second day of the gathering saw large numbers gather for a series of talks throughout the morning and early afternoon. The talks covered a variety of topics from famous Camerons through the ages, genealogy and the running of the Lochiel estate.

Another Cameron related book 'The Lochaber Compendium' was launched at the museum. In the evening, the Clan Cameron Association Scotland held a reception for visiting Camerons in the Nevis Centre where Lochiel and the president of the Clan Cameron Scotland addressed the crowds. Donald Andrew the Younger of Lochiel and his fiancée Sarah Maclay were also presented with wedding gifts from the various Clan Cameron associations from around the world.

With a day-long variety of events for the main day of the gathering, things started off with a march past from the Lochaber Schools Pipe Band. This was followed by the opening and blessing of the recently planted 'Cameron Clansmen's Oak Wood'. Alongside the various stalls within the main marquee; there was also activities out on the field, including: clay pigeon shooting, chainsaw carving, a demonstration of Jacobite weaponry, falconry and an amusing display of trained ducks known as 'the quack commandos'.

In the early afternoon the various Camerons gathered in their respective countries to be piped across the field for the clan march past. This was followed by an address from Lochiel.

In the evening a lively Ceilidh was held in the marquee with headline act Skipinnish, alongside many other local musicians and performances from overseas branches of clan Cameron.

On the final morning of the gathering a church service was held at St. Ciaran's Achnacarry.

In the afternoon, the final event witnessed the Camerons take on the Frasers in a clan shinty match. I am glad to report that the Camerons were victorious on home ground - beating the Frasers 4-0.

After a busy four day gathering, many old and new Cameron connections were made. In every respect the gathering lived up to the Cameron motto - **Aonaibh Ri Cheile** – Unite.



Blessing of the Oak wood by the Rev. Douglas Cameron. Lochiel in front.

Both pictures this page by Bill Cameron



Aonaibh ri Cheile

'Cameron' October 2009

The Back Page



Photographs from the Gatherings
look for more photos in the next edition.



Photo: Bryan Haggitt

Sarah and Donald Andrew replying after receiving wedding gifts. The lambskin rug from NZ Camerons is shown at right. Lochiel is in foreground



Lochiel's piper First Lightner Astie Photo: Bryan Haggitt



Holyrood Park ready for the Gathering of the Clans
Photo: Duncan McQueen



New Zealand Camerons in the Clan Parade Photo: Denis Cameron



Fraser presents the mini lambskin to Catherine Photo: Bryan Haggitt



Patricia and Rex Cameron at Achnacarry. Photo Pat Cameron



The Cameron Tour Party at the Cameron Stone, Culloden. Photo: John Cameron



Ready to march in the Clan Parade

Photo: John Cameron



At the Achnacarry Ceilidh Photo: Pat and Rex Cameron



Bryan and Jenny Haggitt with Lochiel Photo: Bryan Haggitt



John Cameron and Hazel Cameron at the Commando Monument
Photo: John Cameron