



Cameron



Since First Lighter Tristan's departure from Lochaber, Astie and Tracy's daughter Nina-Yves has taken over the task of trying to catch a fish for dinner

Photo: Astie Cameron



It was suggested to me at the Gathering that we should do more pictures and stories of the younger people in our clan.

I have started the ball rolling with a picture of Nina above.

If you have a story and/or photo of our young clansfolk you would like published please send them to me. *Editor*

Congratulations and Welcome to our new National President Fraser Cameron

seen receiving his badge of office from Denis

The AGM and Gathering in Hastings

The Hawke's Bay Branch View — by Helen Shaw

The many months of planning came to fruition at Easter with the 46th A.G.M. being hosted for the first time by the Hawke's Bay branch of Clan Cameron. All events were on the Campus of Lindisfarne College Hastings. We were lucky to have a fine mild weather which certainly went a long way towards the enjoyment of the weekend. Mitchell House was fully booked and from all reports, once the hot water in the showers was sorted out, all occupants were very comfortable for their short stay. The gifts on the pillows added an extra welcoming feature and were most appreciated.

The weekend began with the Executive Council meeting on Friday night in the Staff common room. This ended with supper of Hot Cross buns and Shortbread at 8.50p.m. Saturday began with morning tea in the school dining room and we were treated to scones, jam and cream by the Lindisfarne chef Carl. Registration pre-ceded the Meeting which commenced at 11a.m. It followed the usual format and tributes were paid to Denis Cameron for his leadership for the last five years and Fraser Cameron was elected unanimously to be the new National President. Flowers were presented to Denis and Joy on behalf of those present in appreciation of Denis's 5 years as President. Lunch followed the meeting and visitors were encouraged to visit the Highland Games on the football field and to visit the Clan Cameron tent from Auckland which Neil Cameron kindly brought down for the weekend.

The evening began with "Happy Hour" followed by the Haggis Ceremony. Then Dinner was served. We were joined for the evening by some visiting Clan's people from New Zealand and Australia who were from the MacNicol, Nicholl, Buchanan and Kennedy Clans. The Australian contingent have been quoted as saying the evening was the highlight of their trip to New Zealand. The entertainment which followed the dinner was excellent and a break away from the usual Scottish fare. A presentation of excellent keyboard playing and songs old and new was given plus a monologue of Albert and the Lion made famous by the late Stanley Holloway. The evening ended with the singing of Flower of Scotland and Auld Lang Syne.

An Outside View — by Don Cameron (Auckland)

Members of Clan Cameron New Zealand had a different and intriguing experience when they attended the 46th annual general meeting at Hastings over Easter. These meetings are usually based on some club or headquarters which can handle the meetings and the Saturday night dinner, with the visitors scattered among motels in the area.

This year the Hawkes Bay Branch based the whole three-day meeting on one site, the Lindisfarne College on the fringe of Hastings. This college, the name based on Scottish religious history and introduced by local Presbyterians, began in 1953 on 30 acres and has grown steadily down the years, now catering for 480 7-13 grade schoolboys.

A sizeable proportion of those are boarders quartered in hostels on the western side of the property, now considerably larger than the original 30 acres. Visitors from

outside Hastings thus had the unusual experience of living in a boarders' hostel, vacated for the holiday weekend.

Now schoolboy boarders tend to be quartered in buildings with all the usual toiletry necessities and large dormitories. Lindisfarne has, instead, very neat single rooms that become very useful when finding sleeping quarters for mixed visitors. The showers and toilets were in a longish line of individual units. Perhaps some of the older married couples found these facilities a little strange at first. But with a very modest daily charge, a third of going motel rates, the hostel accommodation was extremely good value. For some of the older men the hostel brought back memories of their boarding school days, in conditions much more primitive than the compact catering at Lindisfarne.

And, in terms of catering, Lindisfarne was a furlong or two ahead in the food provided. There was a first-rate continental breakfast of four-star quality, a splendid snack lunch on the Saturday and excellent food for the dinner on the Saturday evening. The host delegates had obviously worked like beavers to cater so well for the visitors, with 81 attending the dinner.

And there were nice touches, such as the warm welcomes from Helen Shaw and Mike Topham, and the packages of biscuits and chocolates which Trish Topham placed on the boarders' pillows. Features of the dinner were the farewell speech by Denis Cameron, whose five-year reign had ended at the annual meeting that morning, and the greeting of the new president Fraser Cameron of Bay of Plenty.

There was a nice historical family touch when Fraser's grand-son Tristan, recently returned from his First Light stay in Lochaber, also spoke at the dinner.

Highlights of the Gathering — by the Editor

- The election of Fraser Cameron as President. The Senior and Junior Vice Presidents are Helen Shaw and Nick Cameron respectively. All other office bearers were re-elected.
- A presentation by Ken Cameron on the new documentation for First Light. This is a living document which will meet our needs for years to come. This will be available on the web site.
- Changes to the Constitution were presented and will be taken to the branches for discussion before ratification at the next AGM.
- The next AGM and National Gathering will be hosted by the Canterbury Branch in 2012.



Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Gisborne Branch

Janet Bayley

Gisborne

History Corner *by Fiona Cameron*

Saving your Stuff

Recent disasters across New Zealand and around the world have highlighted to me how I store my precious family records, photos and other paraphernalia. It's all very well filing it away for safekeeping, but what would happen if my computer crashed (or was stolen), the house flooded or worse.

So what steps can you take to be prepared?

- *make regular copies of all computer files to disc or other storage device.*
- *have a backup stored elsewhere (I sometimes even send a copy to a friend out of town to hold)*
- *consider uploading them to a file storage website. Some websites offer a certain amount of storage for free – others charge. Before you upload anything though, check what their security is like and whether the website company can access your files*
- *either photocopy or make computer scans of important documents or photos*
- *keep some sort of inventory of what you hold*

Remember though that digital copies do not last forever – formats and file types can change and discs can get damaged or corrupted. Digital NZ has some tips and guidelines for transferring your precious photos and records to digital formats.

For more information, Christchurch Libraries have a guide on their website <http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/FamilyHistory/FamilyPapers/> or check out the National

Library Preservation pages <http://www.natlib.govt.nz/services/get-advice/preservation>

A Query from Cyprus

I write to you from Cyprus in the Mediterranean from where I am endeavouring to piece together the genealogy of a Cameron family from up north - Kawakawa, Kaitaia, Kaikohe areas. They were a farming family.

The oldest member of the family I have information on was Paul William Cameron, who married Sarah Jane Alexander in 1895. Paul died in 1946 and Sarah in 1952. They had 7 children that I am aware of.

Would you please be able to help me? Do you have any members from the Northland or Whangarei areas I might be able to make contact with to locate descendents of this couple?

Karen McLeod
karenmcleod@cytanet.com.cy

Paul William Cameron
b. 1871 Mangawai
d. 20 January 1946 Kawakawa
married Sarah Jane Alexander 2 May 1895
b. 2 October 1877 Kawakawa
d. 14 May 1952 Kawakawa

Children

- Alice May b. 30.01.1896 married 1926 David Ormond Hughes*
- William John b. 14.09.1898*
- Alexander Louis/Lewis b. 27.03.1901*
- Mary Helen b. 01.11.1903 married David William Holden 1926*
- Paul Bertrand b. 08.09.1906*
- Norman b.1911/12*
- Leonard b. 1917/1918 d. 1945*

Canterbury Branch *by Rae Magson*

Our President, Nick Cameron attended the Annual General Meeting of Clan Cameron held at Easter time in Hastings. Otherwise not much has been happening for Canterbury lately, guess we are all coping with the earthquakes in the best way we can.

However, do not let them put you off attending the Annual General Meeting to be held in Canterbury next year. Plans are being made for this event.



President Nick Cameron and Pipe Band



Secretary Rae Magson and Canterbury Banner

These photos were taken at the Scottish Cultural Festival at Riccarton Bush. Rae Magson / John Atkinson

Meet our new National President Fraser Logan Cameron

By Mike Topham (Gisborne and Hawke's Bay)

Fraser descends from John Cameron of Corrychoillie (1781 – 1856) who had four sons who emigrated to New Zealand between 1855 and 1860. They were:- **William** (1821 – 1898) to Port Chalmers 1855, **Robert** (1836 – 1924) to Port Chalmers 1857, **Donald** (1818 – 1883) to Port Chalmers 1859, and Fraser's Grandfather **Ewen** (1841 – 1929). Ewen landed at Auckland in 1860 from the "Chariot of Fame". He joined the Militia and later served with the Government Snagging Party, clearing the Waikato River. By 1865 he was engaged in farming activities near Napier and in 1870 he purchased land which he named "Toanga" at Matawhero, near Gisborne.

Fraser was born at Gisborne, the second of seven children of Ewen's son Rymer Corrychoillie Cameron and Charlotte Redpath. Raised in the Ormond district, he attended the local Primary School and then Te Karaka District High School. He then trained as an electrician with Jas J. Niven at Gisborne. Fraser next joined The New Zealand Shipping Company as an electrician on the "Rangitoto". For three years, 1951 – 1953 he sailed on the Rangitoto between Auckland and London via the Panama Canal, a 28 day voyage. He would spend three weeks in London and three weeks in New Zealand between voyages. In 1954 he took an appointment as the electrician with the Whakatane Board Mills and in 1955 he moved to Opotiki where he was employed by the Bay of Plenty Electric Power Board. In 1959 he established his own company Fraser Cameron Ltd. based at Opotiki.

In 1942 Fraser commenced playing the bagpipes with the Gisborne Pipe Band. His father imported a set of pipes for him and those pipes are now being played by his grandson Tristan Sanders, who, whilst in Scotland on the First Light Exchange was tutored by Astie Cameron.

Fraser and Elaine married in 1953 and they are the proud parents of Shona, Mary Anne, Vivienne and Stuart. They have eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. The name Corrychoillie continues in the family with Stuart's son Quinton Corrychoillie Cameron.

Fraser joined our Bay of Plenty Branch in 1980. He was on the Bay of Plenty Committee from 1985. He was elected President in 2000 and has continued in this position

till the present day. He was the Bay of Plenty Liaison Officer, involved in the establishment of our Gisborne Branch 1986/1987. Fraser's brother John Corrychoillie Cameron (1926 – 2003) was a foundation member of Gisborne and was Branch President from 1992 till his death in 2003. Fraser's sister Marion Lewes was also a foundation member of Gisborne Branch and remains one of our strongest supporters.

Counting spouses, there were 21 of the Corrychoillie family at Lindisfarne supporting Fraser's nomination for National President.



Fraser, watched by Denis, presents a mini lambskin to Catherine for Lochiel's first grandchild. Ph: Bryan Haggitt.

Manawatu News *by John Cameron*

Since the CCNZ AGM we have had a meeting to report on the AGM at Hastings and to organize our annual dinner and ceilidh on the 30th July at the Hokowhitu Bowling Club. (See Coming Events)

Not long after the AGM, Michael Imber D.Sc. one of our members, passed away after a short illness. The clans condolences go out to Meriel and family.

I attended the Wellington branch AGM and really enjoyed my afternoon with them.

We who attended the AGM from our branch all commented on the great time we had at Lindisfarne. Well done Hawke's Bay branch - a great weekend.

Next branch meeting 7.30pm 4th July at Jessie Annabell's residence.

Vale

It is with sadness that we note at left the passing of Michael Imber and we join John in passing our condolences to Meriel and the family.

The Auckland Branch and the Piping Community have lost a valued friend with the death from cancer of Lewis Turrell MBE. Lewis was a founder member of the Auckland Branch—our early meetings were held under his 'House of Scotland' in Mt. Eden Road. He was always available to pipe for us and to help, advise and encourage us in our activities.

Lewis was a Queen's Piper and was the only non-Scottish piper to win, at Inverness, the Highland Society Gold Medal.

Our sympathy goes out to Kaye and the family.

.....and Farewell to Denis

Dear Clan Cameron Members,

I would like to thank the members of Clan Cameron New Zealand, for all the wonderful experiences that you have given me as your President. It has been such a wonderful journey for both Joy and I over the past five years.

It has been a pleasure visiting the various branches and meeting all our members has been just wonderful. I can assure you that your hospitality and good cheer will never be forgotten. It has been a busy time but very satisfying for both of us, and we do hope that you have enjoyed our journey as much as we have.

One of the most memorable journeys we had was when we went on the tour with the members from New Zealand and Australia to Scotland. We became part of the Scots from all over the world; who had gathered in a most famous venue – the Holyrood Castle grounds for the “Welcome Back the Clans”.

This was the second time, that the Clans from around the world had been invited to come back home to Scotland. We were delighted to be part of this contingent, where we were able to mix freely with so many other Scots from around the world. There were 150 other Clans present during that weekend. It was just amazing seeing all their tents lined up in all their splendour.

The following weekend, we were privileged to be part of the International Clan Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry. It was wonderful to be greeted by our Chief Lochiel, Lady Cecil and their family. We would like to thank Lochiel and his family who were so approachable to the Camerons from throughout the world. This is something we will never forget.

I am delighted, that our First Light Exchange Programme is humming along and to see our young people participating in this great adventure. This is such a good programme and we must never let this programme lapse.

My sincere congratulations to those Camerons, who in 1998, decided to establish and maintain a two way exchange link between New Zealand and Lochaber. This has turned out to be a most gratifying programme. You started something that our next generation of young Camerons have something to aspire to.

The First Lighters who have already been over; have shown much fortitude since they have come home – thereby showing just how successful this programme has been by bringing them closer to their heritage and develop lifelong links with both Clan Associations.

We have seen many changes during our time together and we should be heartened with the effort that we have made to make our Clan the envy of the world. May it never stop!

I am very grateful to Lochiel, for all his encouragement and support in all that we do to further the aims and sentiments of our Clan Cameron Association here in New Zealand.

I thank you all for your continual support over the last five years. These years have been very enjoyable.

To Joy – thank you for all your wonderful support over the years. I can only hope that you have enjoyed this journey as much as I have.

And now the final curtain comes down on an enjoyable 5 years and to see my successor safely into the Chair of Clan Cameron – New Zealand.

On behalf of our Clan members - I have much pleasure in wishing our new President - Mr Fraser Cameron - the very best of good wishes in the years to come. I will continue to support him in any way possible.

**Here's tae the heath, the hill and the heather: the bonnet,
the plaid, the kilt and the feather.**

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

Tapadh leibh [Thank you]

Denis Cameron

Retirement

It's time for me to take life easier now
And watch the world go by.
And perhaps to sit under the willow tree
And watch the fantails fly.
But whatever it is that lies ahead,
Perhaps it's already been mapped out.
We've really enjoyed the time we've had
With life we've had with Clan Cameron.

With my sincere thanks and best wishes to you all

Denis & Joy Cameron



Denis chairs his last AGM as President



Denis and Joy with their grandchildren on their 50th
wedding anniversary in Christchurch
From Left: Alexander, Nicholas and Sarah Cameron,
Denis and Joy, Tom Taylor, Charmaine Cameron,
Sophie and Sam Taylor

A message from our President



To the members of Clan Cameron New Zealand,

Thank you for the honour of electing me to become your President of Clan Cameron New Zealand, following the resignation of Denis Cameron due to family commitments.

As a descendant of Ewen Cameron, an original settler in the Poverty Bay district, it is my

intention to foster the recovery of the Gisborne and Wanganui branches. The Wanganui branch is an area where my Uncle Knowles resided. My respects to the late former Branch President Douglas Cameron who travelled to the 1989 gathering at Achnacarry at a very elderly age.

The successful 2010-11 adventures of our First Lighter Tristan Sanders, who has now returned, is showing the rewards by wishing to travel with me on branch visits. It is hoped his piping will be advanced thanks to Astie's encouragement while being his foster father. Thanks also to Tracy and the children for making his stay so enjoyable. Regards also to the Rugby Club of the area. Eliot Fenton, our other successful piper, will be leaving for Brisbane, Australia, in the New Year and it is hoped to secure a family set of

bagpipes for his continued interests. In closing this report to date for the newsletter, my thanks go to Denis for his help during the changeover of duties, and I wish him well in retirement from office.

The First edition now has to be amended due to progress within the ranks thanks to John Grant and cousin Donald Cameron. We are of the opinion that Wanganui will be up and running - this is a nice welcome effort for the Clan. As it is my intention to travel to Manawatu at the end of July, I hope to make a diversion to Hawera on the way home, just to check on action to date.

With regards to the Gisborne branch it is hoped to arrange a genealogy day to raise some interest from the descendants of the area. Another letter to the editor of the Gisborne Herald might ignite the effort. August could be a good time as Auckland has moved to September for their clan dinner, so it would be possible to visit everyone.

To date I have received good wishes from the many Commissioner's in the world of the Camerons, plus the appointment by Lochiel to be his Commissioner in New Zealand. I now have to educate my life to the Email world - in this son Stuart will have to help as Elaine is the operator of the present Email address.

Thank you all for your trust in my appointment to the office of President and be assured of my best efforts to cover my duties as requested.

Yours faithfully,

President Fraser L. Cameron

Captions for 'Back Page' pictures

- A. Fraser's extended family. *From left:* Vivienne, Kendra, Tristan, Zailie, Fenella, Rhys, Elaine, Eliot, Shona, Douglas and Mary-Anne.
- B. Fraser after receiving the badge of office
- C. Martin, Anthony, Nicholas and Alison Jordan with Jean Barker.
- D. Jessie and John Annabell
- E. Great entertainment
- F. Kay Little and Ian Cameron
- G. Mary-Anne Cameron swings to the music
- H. Shane East and Robyn Vuleta
- I. The man of the evening: John Pryce
- J. Shane East and Joy Cameron
- K. Joan and Hamish Cameron
- L. Tristan Sanders talks to Fraser and Elaine
- M. Piper Ken MacMillan. (new President with halo!)
- N. Host Branch President Helen Shaw
- O. Trish Topham
- P. Norman Cameron
- Q. Piper Eliot Fenton
- R. The dining hall prior to the dinner.
- S. Rex and Erina Wood flank Marilyn and Ken Cameron
- T. The end of a wonderful evening!

There will not be an issue of 'Cameron' in August as the Editor will be overseas.

The next issue will be in September



Photo: Duncan Cameron

Tristan with Duncan Cameron, President of Clan Cameron Scotland, at the 120th anniversary, in Glasgow, of the Clan Cameron Association's founding. Some excellent photos of this event are in the summer edition of Scots Heritage Magazine.

We hope to complete Tristan's story in the next issue.



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 September issue:

15 August 2011

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Coming events

Sunday 12th June 2011

Bay of Plenty Branch Annual General Meeting
The AGM will be held at 8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa at 1.15 pm.
This will be preceded by a Pot Luck Finger Food at 12.00 noon.
Enquiries to Denis or Joy Cameron [07] 575 4659

Saturday 25 June 2011

Scottish Clans Assn. Auckland District Inc. Annual Tartan Day Celebration
Greyfriars Church Hall, 544 Mt Eden Rd, Auckland 11.30am—3pm. Includes lunch and Ceilidh.
Enquiries to Murdock McDonald 09 298 4802

Saturday 2nd July 2011

Waikato – BOP Combined Clans Tartan Day Celebrations
Agora Centre, Kent Street, Frankton from 11.00 am to 3.30 pm
Admission - \$10.00 per person, school children free.
Street march at 11 am east end of market on Commerce Street [Main Street]
Haggis Ceremony will be followed by Pot Luck lunch at 12.00 – 1.00 pm
Enquiries David McLachlan [07] 829 8440 – Lachlan@wave.co.nz
Or Denis Cameron [07] 575 4659

Sunday 10th July 2011

BOP Branch Mid - Winter Luncheon
Tauranga RSA Building, 1237 Cameron Road, Greerton 11.30 start – 2.00 pm.
Cost \$17.00 [Seniors] \$19.00 [Adults] Haggis Ceremony @ 12.30 pm. Enquiries to Hazel Cameron [07] 578 1346 or Ray and Janet Crafts [07] 577 9562
Do wear some tartan please. All welcome.

Saturday 30 July 2011

Manawatu Branch Annual Dinner and Ceilidh
Hokowhitu Bowling Club, Albert street Palmerston North. 6.00pm start \$30.00 per head.
All very welcome. Enquiries John Cameron 063580417 RSVP 20th July.

Saturday 3 September 2011

Auckland Branch Annual Dinner
Fairway Lodge, 7 Argus Place, Glenfield. 7pm start.
Cost expected to be \$50—the same as last year.
Early advice of attendance would be welcomed.
Enquiries and offers of help to Bryan Haggitt 09 524 5254 bchecho@xtra.co.nz

Useful Websites

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

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

Clan Cameron NZ Webmaster:
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w.lcameron@xtra.co.nz

My Family's Connection with Mary MacKillop *by Sheila Cameron*

My family in New Zealand have always known that our cousin, Mother Mary of the Cross, was a Saint. We are the descendants of Mary MacKillop's cousin Thomas Ross Cameron, himself the youngest son of Samuel "Ban" Cameron and Mary MacDonald of Cranachan. This Mary was the great-aunt of Mary MacKillop, being the sister of Donald MacDonald. He was the grandfather who died when Mary MacKillop was five years old, leaving her quite desolate.

We know little of Samuel and Mary apart from the bare details. They held the tack at Ardachy in Stratherrick until the end of the 1840s, where they farmed. This land had been Fraser country before the clearances began, and was near to Whitebridge where Mary's other brother, Angus MacDonald, kept an inn. Inn keeping was a profession of choice for the MacDonalds of Cranachan. Mary MacKillop's grandfather Donald had kept the inn at Highbridge for several years. Another cousin – Long John MacDonald – founded the Ben Nevis distillery at Fort William. In Australia Donald's son Donald married Long John's daughter Eliza, and they also kept hotels.

Samuel and Mary raised six children at Ardachy – Mary, Alexander, Angus, Hannah, Ranald and Thomas Ross. They named their last born son after Thomas Ross, a Presbyterian Minister of the Kilmonivaig Parish in Lochaber, even though this Cameron family was Catholic. The Catholic faith was inherited from the MacDonalds of Cranachan, who came from Glen Roy in Brae Lochaber and were part of the Keppoch clan.

By 1851 the Cameron family had lost the tack at Ardachy and immigration was in the air. All four Cameron brothers immigrated to Victoria in Australia during the 1850s, where their some of their MacDonald cousins were already living. Alexander and Angus settled at Kyneton. Ranald, Thomas Ross and his wife Annie McDonell went to Victoria in 1851. Their motivation was to farm again eventually, sweetened by the lure of the goldfields. In 1854 Ranald, Thomas Ross and Annie came to New Zealand, to the Rangitikei where Annie's brother James McDonell was already farming.

People often become a little puzzled when I explain my family's relationship to Mary MacKillop. The link is through the mothers of Thomas Ross and Mary MacKillop, who were both MacDonalds of Cranachan. Mary MacKillop explained the connection in a letter to her brother, Father Donald in this way: "*Mind, they are both grandpa's sister's children – thus your Mama's first cousins.*" Her mother's family were important to Mary. She adored her grandfather Donald MacDonald. His son Donald MacDonald was her favourite Uncle. From her uncle Donald and his wife Eliza Mary learnt many stories of the Keppoch clan in Scotland. In turn Mary considered Thomas Ross Cameron to be her uncle Donald's favourite cousin.

The home of Mary's uncle Donald MacDonald would have been one of the first ports of call for Ranald, Thomas Ross, Annie and baby son Archibald when they disembarked in Melbourne in 1851. The voyage from Scotland had been dreadful. Three months long on 'The Sea' as assisted

immigrants. Thomas Ross and Annie always insisted that they paid their own way. Their first years of labour in Australia would have required repaying the fare out before any money could be found for their own farm. Their pride would also have insisted on repayment of the fare.

Staying with Donald MacDonald at that time were Flora MacKillop and her children. Mary was the oldest at around 9 years. This was during the time when Alexander MacKillop had abandoned his family to accompany a friend to Scotland, mortgaging the family home to his brother to do so. Donald MacDonald took his sister and her children in, after the mortgage came due and there was no money to pay it. When Mary MacKillop had confronted Alexander to demand that he stay he had entrusted his family to God's

care. In reality that meant that relatives such as Donald MacDonald had to step in, where Alexander MacKillop could or would not.

We know that Thomas's wife Annie McDonell helped care for young Annie MacKillop during that time. She already had baby Archie on her hands, and more children were on the way. The eldest daughter, Mary, had been lost in Scotland. Another daughter Mary was born and died in Australia. Then came baby Annie, baby Sam born at Kyneton, followed by Flora (named for Mary MacKillop's mother), James, Hannah, Ronald, and Elizabeth.



Photo sent by Mother Mary to Thomas Ross - it has Mary MacKillop, Father Donald MacKillop and Annie MacKillop. Photo held by the writer.

Although Mary MacKillop was not a Cameron, many of her relatives were. Both of her parents came from Brae Lochaber and had Cameron relatives. The MacDonalds and Camerons had been intermarrying for generations, and continued to do so in Australia and New Zealand at first. Mary's godmother was Sarah Cameron, a relative of the Camerons at Penola. Mary's grandmother was a Kennedy – possibly from the Leanachan family who lived between the Keppoch MacDonalds and the Camerons.

Politically, the Camerons and Keppoch MacDonalds had been allies as well as in-laws for centuries. At the battle of Mulroy in 1688 the Keppoch MacDonalds and their cadets, some MacDonells of Glengarry and the MacMartin Camerons had joined forces under Coll of the Cows to keep their lands in Brae Lochaber from Clan Chattan. These tribes were also at the forefront of every Jacobite rising until final defeat at Culloden in 1746.

Throughout Mary's life she retained a great love of her family and her Highland origins. When Mary travelled to Scotland and New Zealand she sought out her relatives to meet and to stay with. In a practical sense, Mary was a connecting point within an extended family that had begun to lose touch with each other as they migrated to Canada, Australia and New Zealand, whilst others remained in Scotland. My family were no exception - losing knowledge of our relatives overseas but retaining the link with Mary

MacKillop. Mary visited and stayed with Randal and Thomas Ross Cameron in New Zealand. She also encouraged some of her siblings to do likewise – writing to Father Donald MacKillop during the 1890s that: *“If you go via New Plymouth to Palmerston North on the way to Wellington your train will stop at Feilding where cousin Ronald Cameron is. Thomas Cameron lives at Kerere, some stations south of Palmerston North on the way to Wellington. If you send a few lines to Ronald, addressed to Feilding a few days before you pass that way he will either meet you or send to meet you. Do the same to dear old cousin Thomas – Uncle Donald [MacDonald]’s favourite cousin... Thomas’ wife is a confirmed invalid but a dear old lady – she was quite a mother to Annie [MacKillop]. They are very poor but you won’t mind that. Hannah their daughter and her husband Rod MacDonald live at Levin.”*

Mary’s sister Annie MacKillop also visited the family in New Zealand, becoming godmother to Thomas and Annie’s grandson James Quarrie (Jim) Cameron. My cousin Mary Barber will write more of her father’s connection with Annie MacKillop.

Mary MacKillop bestowed the name “Sheila” within our family, on Archibald Cameron’s daughter, Sheila Farr. Mary chose the name Sheila, after Sheila or Silas MacDonald of Keppoch. In 17th century Highland society Silas had been famous as a bard and Jacobite. Her Gaelic poetry is still in publication today. Silas was also a musician and sister of the intrepid cattle reiver Coll of the Cows, 15th Chief of the MacDonalds of Keppoch. Silas MacDonald was clearly not a woman who compromised her beliefs or her message for the sake of expediency. 200 years later she inspired Mary MacKillop to name a baby girl in New Zealand during the 1890s. In 1970, my parents named me after my cousin Sheila Farr.

When my sister Monica Olsen travelled to Scotland 20 years ago, she relied upon our connection with Mary MacKillop to find our relatives still living in Glen Roy. Monica was welcomed into the home of the Campbell family at Bohuntin who are also descendants of the Cranachan family. In Rome I was delighted to meet the Campbells in the days following the canonisation. By this time Ronnie Campbell of Bohuntin had seized the day and was being touted as Mary MacKillop’s “oldest and nearest living relative in Scotland”. Ronnie was chosen to carry flowers to the altar during the canonisation ceremony, holding a staff with a Jacobite rose, and looking very fine in his kilt.

Ever since Mary’s death 100 years ago, our family waited for the formal recognition of her sanctity by the Church in Rome, as the belief that she was a Saint had been passed on in the family from those who knew her. When the canonisation was announced last year I was determined to attend, as I knew that very few of my family would be able to. In Rome I met my cousins Eileen and Bob Henderson the night before the canonization ceremony. Eileen and Bob kept our seats secure when we were running a little late on the big day and 20,000 other pilgrims had got to St Peter’s Square ahead of us. Even in Rome, ‘Cameron time’ could not be completely controlled.

In Rome I discovered something of Mary MacKillop’s pilgrimage to that city during the 1870s. Mary needed ratification of her order from the Pope to assure the

autonomy of her work, having already been ex-communicated by Bishop Sheil. There were many issues on which Mary MacKillop and the Irish Bishops in Australia could not agree, including that Mary did not restrict the work of her order to educating and supporting Catholics, or to working solely in the Australian dioceses.

Times in Rome were politically dangerous, as the Italian state had just wrested control of Rome from the Catholic Church. Mary travelled to Rome as a private citizen, as ‘Mrs MacDonald’. She was accompanied on the voyage to Italy by her Uncle Alexander “King” Cameron of Penola and his second wife. Once in Rome Mary went to Scots College – where young men from the Highlands trained for the Priesthood. The Rector at Scots College, Dr Grant, supported Mary’s mission. With his support doors opened for Mary at the Vatican. Within a few weeks Mary had met the Pope, and persuaded him to support her cause. Formal ratification of the Sisters of Saint Joseph duly followed.

More than six months after returning home from Mary of the Cross’s canonisation, I am still reflecting on Mary MacKillop’s influence within our family and the contributions of her Highland culture to her life’s work. She came from a lineage that



Sheila Cameron in Rome

somehow kept the Catholic faith in the Highlands of Scotland despite all adversity and upheaval – religious, political and economic. There is still a Mass stone on the hill at Cranachan in Glen Roy from the time when Mass had to be consecrated in secret by our ancestors. Eventually it was the unending economic adversity that drove Flora Macdonald, Alexander MacKillop, Thomas Ross Cameron, Annie McDonnell and their families from Lochaber to new homelands in Australasia during the 19th century. But when leaving Scotland they did not intend to abandon their culture, their family or their religion regardless of circumstances in the new world.

It is little surprise then that Mary named herself “Mother Mary of the Cross” as adversity is as indicative of the life our family had experienced upon emigration to Australia and New Zealand, as the personal troubles in Mary’s own life. The phrase also reflected the reality of our ancestors lives for centuries prior.

For all that, it is fair to say that some of us are still a little puzzled as to how this dynamic and godly woman emerged from our family. My father once suggested that perhaps she makes up for the sinners in the family? Or perhaps it is simply that Mary MacKillop combined the best aspects of her Highland inheritance and then carved her own path with a singular vision and powerful belief that God was with her. Her charisma was such and the need being met by the Sisters of St Joseph so self-evident, that hundreds of women followed her.



Model T on Ben Nevis

By Bill Cameron (Lochaber)

There's a long held tradition that says when there is no snow left on Ben Nevis, then the lands of Lochaber will no longer be held by the Cameron clan. A more recent tradition involves one of the first mass produced cars and a lot of effort by many people to take it to the highest point in Britain.

On Wednesday the 18th of May, 2011, seventy seven volunteers traversed through snow, sleet, rain and gale force winds to recreate a journey made a century earlier in a Ford Model T to the summit of Ben Nevis.

Back in 1911, Henry Alexander drove his Ford Model T from Cameron Square, up the then much flatter tourist path on Ben Nevis with the assistance of a large party of helpers and horses, over a number of days until they finally reached the summit.

Such a pioneering achievement was, and still remains, a great feat of human endeavour. Quite literally a trail blazer for today's extreme 4x4 off road vehicles often filmed in remote locations to add an adventurous spirit to their brand.

In many ways, this inspiring piece of product placement could be seen as a well considered publicity stunt for Ford, particularly as Henry's father had the principle Ford dealership in Edinburgh at that time.

As part of a week long Model T rally in and around Fort William, the highways and byways of Lochaber took on a nostalgic feel as a variety of Model T's and other vintage cars tootled and beeped from A to B at a more civilised pace.

Earlier in the week an attempt was made to drive a Model T up to the half way Lochan, however, due to poor weather conditions the car had to be taken back down - allowing all involved to appreciate the efforts of the 1911 ascent. Astie Cameron, the first first-lighter, was involved in overseeing this attempt in his position as health, safety and environment co-ordinator at the Rio Tinto Alcan plant - with the route traversing over the works land on its way up to the halfway lochan.

Hearing about the attempt to take a car up to the summit only a few days earlier, and having seen the photographs of the first ascent in 1911, I was suddenly taken by the idea, and purely by chance, became quite involved in what was a memorable adventure. My initial involvement was to send a few images of the event to the Lochaber News from the summit - which was incidentally going to press a few hours later. However things didn't quite work out as planned.

A collaboration of local mountain guides, Model T enthusiasts, volunteers and descendants of Henry Alexander gathered at Achintee at the foot of Ben Nevis at 6:30am. Nearby, a careful arrangement of parts making up a Model T lay heavy on the ground, like a grown up's meccano set - waiting to be played with.

Registering with the mountain guides, the leader looked me up and down and said "you look young and strong enough to carry that" - pointing at the thick wooden framed chassis of the car. At this point any intentions to just go up to photograph the event were now secondary. Along with two other local men, we would carry the chassis of the model T

up to the summit, walking over boulders, scree, recently installed large steps (that would have prevented the car from being driven up) and eventually over thick snow as we reached the summit plateaux just before midday.

As we trundled across the snow capped summit, the wind and sleet made for slow progress as we headed towards the remains of the old weather observatory, where Henry Alexander had sat a hundred years earlier in his Model T, albeit in much better weather!

With everyone keen to unload the various heavy parts they carried up the mountain, we let the small group of Model T enthusiasts quickly assemble the parts of the car as driving winds and snow blasted us from all sides. Having something to eat and drink, whilst walking around to keep warm, the Model T was soon assembled in just forty minutes.

For various reasons, the engine was not taken up to the summit, so a few of us managed to push the now assembled car close to the observatory where history briefly repeated itself. Neil Tuckett, one of the leaders of the event took a well deserved seat behind the wheel and thanked all involved for their efforts. After this, there followed a series of memory catching moments as most of the volunteers clambered on board to get their photograph taken in the car.

Stopping for a break at the halfway lochan on the way up, I got speaking to the grandson of Hendry Alexander, Mike Munro. Spotting him huddled in the remains of the

observatory on the summit, I asked if he would have a photograph taken in the car for posterity. It turns out his grandson and nephew were also with him, so all three were photographed in the car.

The Model T was assembled for just under an hour, after which it was quickly taken apart as the wind and snow continued to blast everyone on the summit. Soon the various parts of the Model T were strapped to peoples backs

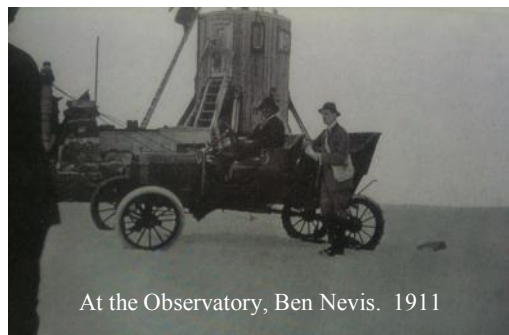
as they headed off the summit and the tyre marks were soon covered in a thick layer of snow, as if nothing had ever been there.

Having taken photographs for the local paper 4,406ft below. I was the last one to leave the summit, waiting patiently to get a strong enough signal on my phone to send the images down to meet the two o'clock deadline. Images sent, I soon caught up with the rest of the group and resumed my sherpa duties.

The various parts of the Model T made it back down the mountain in around three hours, much to the relief of the cold, wet, tired but happy volunteers.

Later that day, the Model T club gathered in the Alexandra Hotel as part of their week long meeting to celebrate the days achievement. There, to their amazement, local journalist, Ian Abernethy, arrived just after eight o'clock to hand Neil Tuckett a copy of the Lochaber News (printed in Inverness - 65 miles north) with pictures and a story of the Model T on the summit hours earlier. There's a lot to be said for the lack of our distinctively laid back West Highland time - sometimes!

The same Model T that was taken up the Ben was later reassembled in the West Highland Museum - where its bonnet was signed by all seventy seven volunteers, concluding the recreation of an adventure that had begun in Cameron Square 100 years earlier. □



At the Observatory, Ben Nevis. 1911



Astie and the first attempt



Meccano Set?



At the top



In the Museum

All photographs by Bill Cameron

The New Zealand Connection to St. Mary McKillop.

By Mary Barber

Descendants of Thomas Ross Cameron and his wife Annie McDonnell, many of whom are members of Clan Cameron New Zealand, and particularly of the Manawatu branch, attended a celebration of the life of Mary McKillop recently. Mary was canonised by Pope Benedict as St. Mary of the Cross McKillop last October.

Thomas Ross Cameron was a second cousin of Mary McKillop. He and his wife and two sons emigrated to New Zealand in 1853 and settled at Turakina. In later life he lived with his daughter Flora, Mrs JR McDonald at Heatherlea, near Levin. His son James managed the Heatherlea Estate for his brother in law, and his grandson, James Quarrie Cameron was the founder of the Manawatu branch of Clan Cameron.

While living at Heatherlea Mary McKillop and her sister Annie (who was James Quarrie Cameron's godmother) stayed several times with the families there.

Mary McKillop established a school at Penola South Australia in 1864 using a new and radical method of teaching children, which was later adopted throughout Australia and New Zealand. Her first school in New Zealand was in Arrowtown and she established other schools throughout New Zealand, staffed by young women who joined her order of nuns, the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

James Quarrie Cameron attended Koputaroa School, and on one occasion Mary McKillop spent a day at Koputaroa School with him.

During World War 1 James joined the Wellington Mounted Rifles and when his troopship docked at Port Phillip Bay Melbourne, he visited his godmother Annie McKillop. She pinned Mary McKillop's medals on his tunic,

and which he wore throughout the war.

He always credited the medals for saving him from any injury during the time he served overseas.

These medals are buried with his father and lie in the Feilding Cemetery.

Members of the Thomas Ross Cameron family are very proud of the connection with Mary McKillop and grew up with the knowledge of her life.

Manawatu President John Cameron is a descendant of Archibald the eldest son of Thomas Ross Cameron.

Research is under way to see if Mary's medals can be identified.

Mary Barber

Great granddaughter of

Thomas Ross Cameron and member of Manawatu Branch

"St Mary MacKillop Beneath A Cross Of Stars"

by Andrew Chinn & Jill McLoughlin, RSJ

Illustrated by children from Catholic Primary Schools across Australia and New Zealand

It has a CD with a read along version & 3 songs on it party inspired by St Mary

A percentage of the profits from the book will be donated to the Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission

It tells Mary's story & has lots of children's drawing in it

The cost is approx \$30 plus postage

Can be ordered from "Paige's Book Gallery" Box 274, Whanganui 4540

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they are able to get 4 other books on St Mary if any one is interested.



Aonaibh ri Cheile

'Cameron' June 2011

The Back Page

The Hastings Gathering and AGM
Pictures by Shane East, Duncan McQueen and
Editor.
Captions on Page 6

