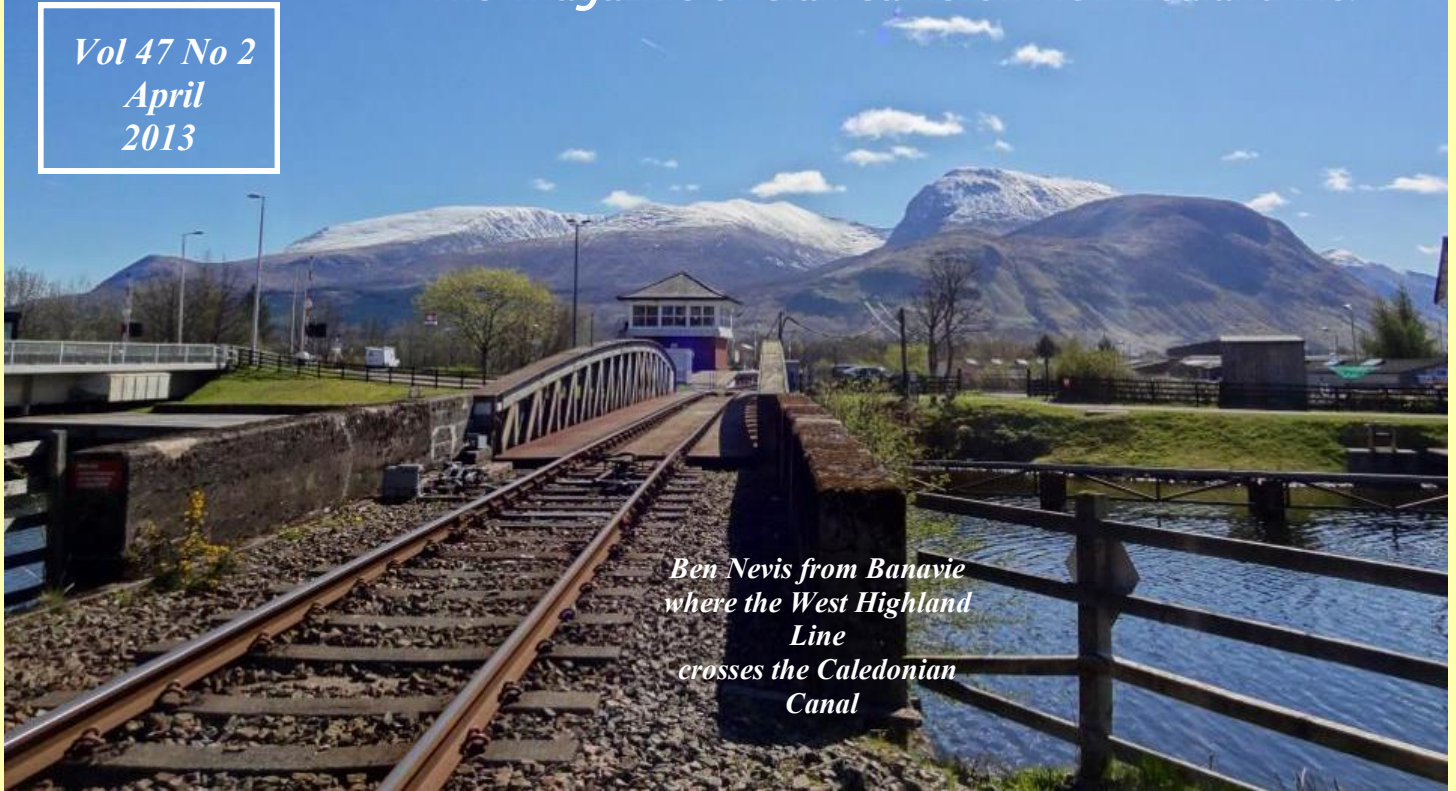




Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

*Vol 47 No 2
April
2013*



*Ben Nevis from Banavie
where the West Highland
Line
crosses the Caledonian
Canal*

**The Lochiel Marching
Team**



**Astie Cameron
The First
First Lighter**



*Astie plays the pipes at the Cameron
marker - Culloden 2011
Photo: Clan Cameron Scotland
- Alan Cameron*

A message from our President



Dear Clan Members,

I have been very busy since the last newsletter and have just finished, for the mail, the Constitution, First Light and Vivienne McConnell banner details for branches to view and discuss.

Recently I attended the Bay of Plenty branch meeting at Harold and Betty Cameron's residence. Another most enjoyable meeting.

I would like the Taranaki/Wanganui branch to give some thought to background history for the Turakina 150th celebrations, so that Lochiel can be informed about the area as a Cameron foothold. If this could be available for the AGM, it would be very much appreciated. Discussion there could cover our thoughts and ideas as to what the Association could assist with.

I must apologise for the delay in delivery of the Turangi council meeting minutes in October - the e-mail for verification had a hiccup and would not print off for me.

We have supported the Lochiel Marching Team as requested. Last weekend I received a personal report of the team's expertise. We wish them well in their displays to come.

Enough rambling for now and trust we will enjoy our gathering in Auckland for the Annual General Meeting.

Regards to all,

Fraser

Cameron- Drake

Fraser Logan and Moira Elaine were married at Waerenga A Hika Church, Gisborne on the 12th March 1953.

Both parents of the bride and groom were in attendance. They were Rymer Corrychollie and Charlotte Helen (Redpath) Cameron and Stuart Armyn and Lucy Elizabeth (Grayson) Drake. At the time of the wedding, Fraser was employed as an electrician on the "Rangitoto" owned by the New Zealand Shipping Company, whilst Elaine resided in Gisborne.



*Congratulations
to our President
Fraser and to
Elaine on
60 years of
marriage*

*"lang may yer
lum reek!"*

"Cameron"

The magazine of the
Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc)

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 June issue:

15 July 2013

Please send to:

*Neil Cameron,
Newsletter Editor
28 Oxford Terrace, Devonport,
Auckland 0624*

Phone: 09 446 1177

Email: kncam@pl.net

Printed by

Contact Directory

Hereditary Chief and Captain of Clan Cameron Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel,

Lord Lieutenant of Inverness,
Achnacarry, Spean Bridge,
Inverness-shire, Scotland. PH34 4ES

New Zealand President and Commissioner Fraser Cameron

P.O Box 180 Opotiki 3162.
Ph. (07) 315 7105. Fax (07) 3158527
fl.me@xtra.co.nz

Secretary

Tanya Cameron
360 Kawerau Rd, RD2, Whakatane 3192
Ph. (07) 323 8581 info@rossengineering.co.nz

Treasurer

Alison Jordan
53 Scantlebury St, Tauranga South, Tauranga 3112
Ph. (07) 577 9061 thejordanfamily@clear.net.nz

Genealogist and Historian

Fiona Cameron
33A Roseman Ave, Mt. Roskill, Auckland 1041
Ph. (09) 828 2097
clancameronhistory@gmail.com

First Light Exchange Convenor

Heather Cameron
2A Lynmore Drive, Manurewa, Auckland 2102
hthcameron@gmail.com

Branch Presidents

Auckland

Donald (Dj) Cameron
34 Aldred Road Remuera, Auckland 1050
Ph. (09) 520 0716 valdon@xtra.co.nz

Bay of Plenty

Denis Cameron
8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa, Tauranga 3118
Ph. (07) 575 4659 Fax (07) 575 4661
camisky@clear.net.nz

Gisborne

David Cameron,
885 Wharekopae Rd, RD2 Gisborne. 4072
Ph. (06) 862 7803 camerondvd@xtra.co.nz

Hawke's Bay

Helen Shaw
3/33 Avondale Road, Napier. 4112
Ph. (06) 844 8398. locaber@xtra.co.nz

Taranaki/Wanganui

Neville Wallace
275 Turuturu Road, RD 14, Hawera 4674
Ph.(06)278 6005. neville.wallace@xtra.co.nz

Manawatu

Russell Cameron,
c/- TRC Toyota, 32-38 Aorangi St, Feilding 4702
Ph. (06) 323 7423 camfamily@clear.net.nz

Wellington /Wairarapa

Rob Cameron
114D Willow Park Drive, Masterton
Ph. (06) 377 0377 opakirob@gmail.com

Canterbury

Nick Cameron,
322 Auchenflower Rd, RD1 Darfield 7571
Ph (03) 318 8721 nick.cameron@xtra.co.nz

Webmaster:

Warren Cameron
w.lcameron@xtra.co.nz

Clan Cameron New Zealand website

<http://www.camclan.orconhosting.net.nz>

(This has links to other Clan Cameron sites)

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Auckland Branch

Anne Cameron
Jean Fletcher

Titirangi
Mt. Eden

Andrew Fletcher

Westmere

Ceud Mile Fáilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes

Donald Cameron talks of his early life and childhood memories to 'The Braes' monthly newspaper of Lochaber

“I was born on the croft at Swordland, on the north shore of Loch Morar, one of a family of eight - four boys and four girls and I was 3rd oldest; I'll be 90 this year so I must have been born in 1923. My father's people came from Roy Bridge and mother belonged to Tarbether people had moved there in the 1880s from

the head of Loch Nevis, at Finiskaig or thereabouts. The croft was productive—everybody had hens and a house cow besides a few other cows, and the sheep, of course.

There was a good garden that gave us potatoes and vegetables and of course there was always fish in the loch. The family have been crofters there since 1905 and they survived an outbreak of TB that killed all but one of a neighbouring family.

Shopping came from the wee shop in Morar or Mallaig; mother sent a note of what we wanted and we paid at the end of the month. There was no electricity, of course, so we had tilleys and paraffin and peats.

Breakfast was porridge and, if you were lucky, an egg or something; we made our own bread and there was always scones or oatcakes and a piece for lunch at school.

I first went to school over the hill at Tarbet, about a mile away. My birthday was in June but I went to school early at Easter; if the numbers fell below three, the school would have closed, so I went early when I was four and, there I was until I left at 14. The schoolroom was in the vestry of the church and there were two sisters, the Misses MacMillan from Uist who were the teachers. I remember mass was once a fortnight in summer and once a month in the winter. A big treat each year was a children's party in the summer in Morar given by Mrs Shaw Stewart from Traigh; all the children would be asked - from Morar, Bracora, Meoble, Tarbet and all the outlying places-- and we had ice cream and cakes and treats.

We never really saw much of the Lovat family who were our landlords; they would come over in the summer on holiday and maybe to the hotel on rent day—the rents were low- maybe £2/10- a half year. The family was always well regarded.

“So, Donald, at 14 it was out into the wide world.”

“Well not really. After leaving school, I worked at Meoble, just across the loch, which was owned then by Sir Berkeley Sheffield. It was mostly deer; there were five stalkers, Sandy MacDonald was head stalker, his brother, John, Ronald MacDonald, Angus Gillies and a man, MacDonell. There were also three boatmen, gardeners, domestic staff and a handyman or two.

I stayed there until I was 17 when I joined up—Meoble was taken over by the army—and I joined up on 14th May, 1941 in what was called the General Corps and went off to Plymouth for three months basic training—the first time I'd ever been away from Lochaber! After that I was drafted into the 2nd Royal Warwickshire Regt. And I don't think there was another Scotch boy in the whole squad. I had five or six months and at Company Details it came out that they were wanting volunteers for the commandos and the captain said to me 'On you go, you'll be right up in your own part of the country.' Ach well, I thought, nothing venture, nothing gain, so off I went and found myself at Spean

station with a full pack. Eight or nine of us got off the train - all English lads - and they must have known we were coming because there was a man shouting and bawling, saying he was going to sort us out and we didn't know what was coming to us. The outcome was that we marched in full kit to Achnacarry.”

Thank you to The Braes newspaper and to Richard Sidgwick, former factor at Achnacarry, who collected and edited the recorded interview above.

This interview will be continued in our next issue. -Ed

Lochiel Marching Team - Lochiel Book

Lochiel has been at the forefront of New Zealand Marching drill in excess of 45 years and have won the NZ Championship title on 30 of the 32 occasions they have challenged for the title.

Each year the team is invited to participate in overseas events and military shows such as the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Due to the popularity and success of the teams first display at the 1978 Edinburgh Military Tattoo, further invitations were received and Lochiel returned to Scotland in 1983, 1993, 1997, 2008 and now 2013. This year before the Edinburgh Tattoo starts the team have also been invited to perform at the Border Union Show in Kelso, Scotland, to meet the clans which for the girls is a great honour.

To celebrate Lochiel's 6th Edinburgh Tour, we are producing a commemorative Lochiel book showcasing the current team and will include anecdotes from past Lochiel team members, and an array of photos displaying the team throughout the years.

All books sold will entitle purchasers to enter a draw to win a return flight to Edinburgh, a ticket to one of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo performances as well as \$1000.00 spending money (special conditions apply)

*To order your book just simply email lochieldrillteam@gmail.com
Books \$20.00 each*

Also check out <http://www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/lochieltoedinburgh>

Clan Cameron New Zealand have supported the Lochiel Marching Team by placing a \$250 advertisement in the above book.

Coming Events

Friday 19 - Sunday 21 April 2013

Clan Cameron NZ AGM and Gathering

Quality Hotel 10-20 Gladstone Rd, Parnell, Auckland.

If you are coming please register - it is not too late if you do it now.

Registration forms are available from the Editor or may be downloaded from the Clan Cameron NZ Web site.

We would love to see you.

From the Branches....

Auckland by D J Cameron

Not so long ago an Auckland Branch mid-winter dinner became a major event when it contained the nomination of Alison North, one of the foundation members, as a life member -- joining Neil Cameron. This dinner attracted many members of Alison's family and it was one of the more memorable of the Clan branch's dinners.

The following Auckland annual meeting contained the confirmation of Alison's election as a life member, which included a special certificate designed by the Auckland clan genealogist-historian Fiona Cameron -- and Alison completed the event with a charming speech of thanks.

So there was no surprise when Alison, now needing a small wheelchair for transport, should complete her hat-trick by attending the March 1 clan branch annual meeting, and helping to make it an equally special event.

This time, however, the spotlight fell more upon Angus Fletcher, a member of the remarkable Fletcher building concern which has contributed to the development of New Zealand. Angus had given a vivid and sometimes amusing speech at an Auckland branch winter dinner, accompanied by his daughter Jean and son Andrew.

An Auckland branch committee meeting late last year queried the fact that we did not have a Patron -- and why not. Various candidates were mentioned, and Angus Cameron soon headed the queue. Angus said he was flattered to be invited, but asked for time to consider the matter.

The Auckland branch members were familiar with the Cameron-Fletcher connection going back to the family wedding in Dunedin in 1911, and saw this an opportunity to maintain the kin-ship between the two families.

Fortunately, this thought had earlier interested Angus and a few days before the Auckland annual meeting he said he would be delighted to attend, and to be considered for the position of Patron. It was a nice touch when the motion that Angus Fletcher become Patron was formally proposed by Neil Cameron, and seconded by Alison North -- the present life members.

Angus thanked the meeting and added the thought that the bond formed 102 years before should be sustained -- and he would have his daughter and son included in the clan membership.

Another new member was Anne Cameron, from the Border district in Scotland, and she was elected to the committee.

Twenty-five members attended, including Andrew and Matthew McQueen, who again expertly attended to the preparation of the following barbeque to add to the generous spread organised by Jenny Haggitt.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

There have been no activities in the last couple of months, mainly due to life getting in the way, and a little ill health. We do have some ideas in mind though for the winter months, so these are being planned. The Scottish Festival was held in Christchurch in February but members were not able to attend, although our President Nick was there playing in the Pipe Band. Apparently this was a successful day

Did you know that there is a Loch Cameron near Twizel?

If you know the origin of the name please contact me. I will try to publish a photo of the Loch in the next issue. Ed.

Manawatu by John Cameron

Hi fellow clan members, my last newsletter report. Following our recent AGM a new president is now at the helm of our branch - Russell Cameron, who has been an enthusiastic member for many years. He will now guide the clan though an exciting and busy couple of years.

Since my last report we have had only two events. The Turakina Highland Games were held on the 26th January. The day turned out to be a beauty, hot with no wind. There was a smaller crowd than usual, but a good turn out of solo drummers and pipers and a really good number of members and visitors to our Clan tent (gazebo), with the Grant Clan again sharing our site. The tent at times had a mass of people talking and looking at our display etc. Neville and Shona Wallace with John and Val Grant came over to see how it was done so that eventually their branch can takeover. A successful day with one new member signing on - David Moore from Otaki. We welcome him and wish him well for the future with us.

On 24th February, at Sonia Cameron's residence in Hunterville, we held our AGM with a smaller than usual attendance of members. There was only one change as shown above. It was a good meeting with lots discussed and ideas floated for the coming year and was followed by afternoon tea. We discussed having a dinner and it will be on the Saturday 29th June. Venue etc will be advised as soon as possible.

It has been an enjoyable four or so years as president and I wish Russell well. He can be sure of my support during his time as president.

(Photo of Russell Cameron on back page - Ed)

Hawke's Bay by Helen Shaw

At the end of January we farewelled Robyn and Pat Vuletta who are moving overseas to Sri Lanka. Some of the committee gathered at *The Clansman* for a drink and nibbles to hear of Robyn and Pats' plans for the next two years.

Although saying goodbye is not easy we were excited for them and will be eager to hear reports of their new lives. Robyn was a very good committee member and both will be missed at our outings. They were presented with a book on Hawke's Bay to show the Sri Lankans what life is like here.

(Photo on the back page - Ed)

Wanganui / Taranaki by Neville Wallace

Our branch has had quite a reasonable year up to the point where we had to organize the AGM. Organising was the easy part of the AGM. The response was very disappointing in as much we were unable to get the numbers for a quorum. So Taranaki/ Wanganui Clan Cameron has postponed their AGM. As well as sending out our news letter, our AGM was also advertised in both News Paper and on Radio I put this down to the age of members trying to cope with the fact that time is creeping up on us all, and to a lot of us it's a new experience. I heard the B Gees song "staying alive" that I'd like to quote." Well now, I get low and I get high. And if I can't get either, I really try." Any initiatives must come from our members and while Shona and I can think of many, this is not the time to divulge them. But I will conclude with a quote from another B Gees song "Don't forget to remember"!!!

Wellington / Wairarapa by Rob Cameron

No news from Wellington/Wairarapa apart from the fact that we are very dry and probably about to be declared a drought zone. We have a committee meeting coming up shortly and are looking at arranging a guided tour through the hangers holding the vintage aeroplanes at Hood Aerodrome in Masterton next month.

Cath and I were caravanning at Bowentown recently and walked down to the beach below the camping ground. A cove had been set up for a wedding with seats, flowers, and a table. It looked lovely with a cliff and driftwood as the backdrop. The guests had already arrived and as we watched, the bridal party arrived. The bride looked beautiful and the flower girls were cute. Anyway we wandered off and were talking to a fellow ex-Lincoln College student we met at the camping ground and he knew the brides family and informed us that she was a Cameron!!

A small world and there are Cameron's everywhere !!!

Don (D J) Cameron

Ruth and I were honoured to be asked to attend the 80th birthday luncheon for Auckland President Don Cameron. It was wonderful occasion, attended by some 50 family, friends and colleagues and it showed the affection and esteem held for Don and Val.

I asked Don Pearce to tell us something of Don's earlier years. -Ed.

“Don Cameron is truly a man for all seasons and a credit to Clan Cameron in his words and deeds over the past 80 years.

His name has been a byword in Auckland for colourful writing, scrupulous journalism and a humanity that belies the reputation of the craft for cynicism and downright malice.

A man for all seasons firstly because of the length of his service to his principal employer, the New Zealand Herald, through revolutions in the newspaper industry.

When Don first covered sports events, there was no TV to succour the stay-at-home pundit, no internet to provide the instant result and details and no email to speed the reporter's message from the ground.

Covering a rugby game in Taupo at 3 pm, Don would have driven to the ground from Auckland, obtained the team lists from reluctant coaches in the bowels of the dank changing rooms and watched from the sidelines, exposed to the elements and relying on a sharp eye and quick note to establish the scoring.

Deadlines were pressing back in Auckland and the match report would have to be typed quickly on a manual typewriter. It would be delivered to the Post Office, which had to be specially opened after hours, where a teleprinter operator would laboriously send it on to the Herald.

Back at base the press telegram would be edited, gain a headline and again be retyped into lead slugs on a linotype and fitted into a sports page for the next day.

By the time Don had driven back to Aldred Rd his report would be ready to roll off the presses for the next day's paper. Multiply all this by 10 and you have some idea of the complexities of filing cricket and rugby from Port of Spain, Calcutta or Toulon.



Don and Val at Don's 80th birthday celebration at the Cornwall Cricket Club

And yet, whether it came from the outposts of Empire or merely Dominion Rd, Cameron copy was welcomed by editors and sub editors because it would be crisp, colourful and, above all else, on time.

A man for all seasons secondly because, unlike his famous predecessor at the Herald, Terry McLean, Don covered both rugby and cricket. The commitment of time and effort was huge and it is a tribute to wife Val and his family that they shared their clan chief with the Herald's widespread circulation.

And when his body cried enough, Don took note, fought his way back to fitness and carried on much as before. Who can forget those spindle-shanks powering an exercycle as he saw off ill health and rebuilt the muscle to swing the kilt in Cameron style!

I began reading Cameron more than 50 years ago without knowing it, because the Herald didn't allow personal bylines. The anonymous writer finally became D.J. Cameron and D.J. will always be my man for all seasons.”

** Bob Pearce, a former sports editor of the Herald, worked with and around Don Cameron for more than 40 years.*

Diamond Wedding

Many of you will remember the visit to New Zealand by Charles and Felicia Cameron to represent Lochiel at our International Gathering in 2005..... (Ed)



Charles and Felicia Cameron, recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding. Charles, the youngest son of the 25th Lochiel, married Felicia Macdonald from Tote House, Isle of Skye, at Morar on the West Coast of Scotland on 14th February 1953. They celebrated their diamond wedding with a family lunch party for 22 people at their daughter Johanna's house in Auchterarder. Their son Kenneth had come from Australia especially for the occasion.

Drinks before lunch were held at Charles and Felicia's house nearby, where everybody had a glass of champagne and listened to speeches. Guests included nephews and nieces - one of whom was Donald Cameron of Lochiel. The youngest bridesmaid, Catriona Leslie came from Skye, the Best Man, Robin Graham came from Suffolk and Jack Shaw Stewart, Felicia's first cousin who had also been at the wedding came from Arisaig, near Morar.

One of their grandsons, accompanied by a great nephew, played the bagpipes during the ceremony. Like the wedding sixty years before, it was a beautiful sunny day with snow on the hills. There was also the same trepidation that all the guests would make it on the day, as there had been heavy snow the day before. However, they all managed to come and everyone said they had a most enjoyable afternoon and a happy celebration.

Col Charles joins his two older brothers the late Donald Hamish, XXVI of Lochiel, and the late Major Allan Cameron of Allangränge in having achieved 60 years of married life. Congratulations from us all!

Contributed by Johanna Wilson, daughter of Charles & Felicia

Reprinted from Clan Cameron Scotland newsletter with thanks. Ed



Charles addresses NZ clansfolk at the 2005 Gathering

What our First Lighters are doing

Astie Cameron (Lochaber) 2000

Alasdair (Astie) Cameron. An environmental scientist and experienced piper, Astie worked with a water treatment company whilst in New Zealand.

Travelling throughout the north and south islands, Astie managed to collect a range of old and new pipe tunes on his travels for clan pipe tunes book. Climbing some of the New Zealand's highest peaks en route, he even managed to play a pipe tune or two on the summits

“It is now rapidly approaching 13 years since I packed my bags ready for my trip across to New Zealand, just in time for the AGM in Gisborne. It's hard to believe that so much time has passed since my trip. I have many fond memories of the experiences, challenges and friends I met during my 3 month trip and often open my book of photographs and remember another story that I need to tell my children. Like the rest of the First Lighters I have faced many new adventures since my return home from my trip, be it personally or professionally, some of which have been challenging and others truly incredible.

Prior to heading across to New Zealand, I met my wife to be, Tracy. Tracy is originally from Auckland, growing up in the Bay of Islands before she decided to travel eventually reaching Lochaber and settling at the foot of Ben Nevis. We were married at the Duncansburgh Church in Fort William in 2003. We have 3 kids, albeit that one is grown up and moved on to further his studies, my step-son Alex (19), my daughter Nina-Yves (7) and my son Alan (5). Hopefully one day we will manage to take our small part of the clan over to NZ to visit our family and friends.

Not long after were married we started to build a new house at Bunarkaig, Achnacarry, renovating what was previously the kennels for the estate. After a few years of hard work at weekends and holidays we finally moved in in 2008.

As some of you may remember, I worked for the New Plymouth District Council and helped write an environmental impact assessment for some improvement works that were planned for the city's water treatment plant.

Since returning to Scotland I have continued to work in the environmental field - initially with Arjo Wiggans at the paper Mill in Fort William, then the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency both in Elgin

(covering the many distilleries in Speyside) and Fort William (where we worked on all aspects of the environment in the Western Highlands). After leaving SEPA I moved across to work for Rio Tinto Alcan at the “B.A.” looking after the plant's Health, Safety & Environmental aspects. After 7 years in this position I have moved on to set up an environmental consultancy firm with my colleagues at Thistle Access NDT Ltd, and have also become a full member of the Institute of Environmental Sciences.

I was very privileged to be the first First Lighter. Not until my meeting with Maisie Earle in Greenwich to discuss my participation did I realise just how amazing an opportunity the exchange is, a realisation that was enhanced tenfold as the exchange went on. The exchange is undoubtedly a truly remarkable concept for developing the interest, understanding and friendship in the clan global community.

There are many people who helped make my visit to New Zealand the success it was and I can never thank you all enough. From the minute I stepped off the plane to the time I re-boarded, and all the adventures in-between your hospitality was second to none, a fantastic experience and I look forward to returning to NZ to meet you all again.

2000 was also the year I became piper to the Clan Association here in Scotland with my first role being to play for our members on their march out to the cairn at the memorial service in Culloden. Some time later I was also asked to be Lochiel's piper. An honour that has led me to playing for the Queen upon her visit to Culloden, a day which I am very proud to have been part of. Queen Elizabeth was the first monarch to visit the Culloden battlefield since the battle which we remember today. I have also had the honour of playing at Lochiel's 60th birthday and his father's 90th birthday and the weddings of Catherine & Henry and Donald Andrew & Sarah.

Since taking part in the exchange I have also continued to research pipe tunes associated with the Clan Cameron and have developed quite an extensive list of tunes. Now for the hard part to gather them all together and where possible the stories associated with them... My aim for the

future is to compile these tunes and release them in print and hopefully also record some of my favourites. So I'm always open to hearing about any tunes you may know of and the stories behind how they came into being.”

Left: Astie plays for Lochiel and members of Clan Cameron Scotland at the Culloden memorial service.



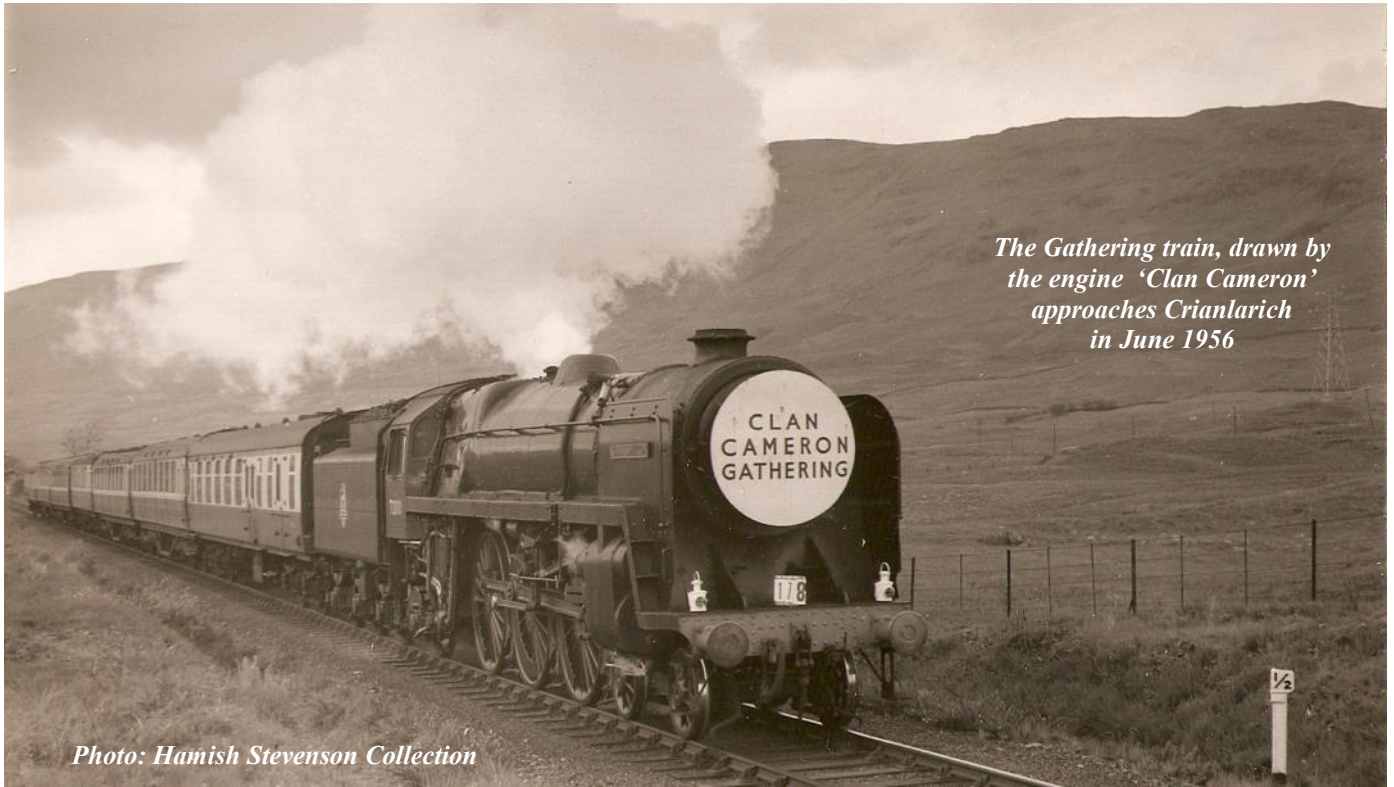
Astie first piped at Culloden in 2000 prior to coming to NZ



Astie at Glenfinnan



The 1956 Clan Gathering, some Cameron Locomotives and other Musings by the Editor



The Gathering train, drawn by the engine 'Clan Cameron' approaches Crianlarich in June 1956

Photo: Hamish Stevenson Collection

The special train (above) from Glasgow to Spean Bridge was arranged to bring clansfolk to the first post war Clan Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry on 18 June 1956. Lochiel, (Lt. Col Donald Hamish Cameron) was, for many years, a member of the Scottish Region Area Board of British Rail. The engine was the Pacific Class No. 72001 named 'Clan Cameron', which, although not designed for the steep inclines and curves of the West Highland Line, coped well although perhaps not happy with some of the curves. The driver, fireman and guard all bore the surname Cameron and some 200 Camerons were on the train, which was cheered at every wayside station.

What a wonderful way to come to an Achnacarry gathering! The scenery must be some of the most spectacular in Britain.

The engine on the right, LNER class K4 No. 61995, named 'Cameron of Lochiel', which was designed for that line, was on standby at Crianlarich, but was not needed. An engine of this class, No. 61994 'The Great Marquess', privately owned by John Cameron, can, I believe, still be seen pulling special trains on the network.

The Gathering was attended by 1000 clansfolk from around the world. the Clan Cameron Association in New Zealand had lapsed but NZ was represented by Ian D Cameron from the Wairarapa. He was asked by Lochiel to revive the NZ Association. On his return he proceeded to do so by writing to clansfolk around the country, re-forming the first of the branches in Auckland in 1958.

The Gathering took very much the same form as recent ones, but the dress was much more formal. There were Scottish Country Dancing, sheep dog trials, tug-o-war, the march past and the pipe band. The band was from the 4/5 Battalion (TA) of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. A short film clip is available on the internet of the Gathering by British Pathe News. Look up www.britishpathe.com/video/clan-gathering. The band looks

absolutely splendid! - and there are some great shots of the 26th Chief of Clan Cameron.

I notice there was mention of the dress of the clansfolk who were not in Highland Dress, and how it had not changed since the beginning of the century. We must remember that Britain, and much of the world, had gone through two world wars and a depression. Rationing had only ceased two years before and many goods were still in short supply. It was still a land of austerity but the gathering gave clansfolk a great opportunity to let their hair down, celebrate their heritage and draw hope for the future.

I well remember those times in Britain. I had arrived in Devonport, Plymouth, just before Christmas 1955, on the cruiser *Bellona*, which we were returning to the Royal Navy in exchange for the modernised cruiser *Royalist*. We spent Christmas and New Year there - and was it cold! We were berthed alongside the battleship *Vanguard* and I remember the long icicles hanging from her guns. Everything was very drab - the buildings, the people and the food - and

there was still considerable bomb damage visible. The locals, however, made us antipodeans very welcome and the local rough cider (scrumpy) was only 8d a pint!

I went on to Portsmouth in January for a 5 month radar course and experienced similar conditions there (chips with every meal!) - finally joining *Royalist* in early June 1956, leaving almost straight away for the Mediterranean to join the British fleet preparing for the invasion of Suez.....thus I missed the chance of attending my first Achnacarry Gathering.

I am indebted to Colin and Isabel Cameron, Dian Gorrie and John McGregor for research and permission to reprint the above photos. Also used for reference were 'Clan Cameron New Zealand' by Dorothy Cameron -Gavin and the 'Railtour Files'.

What were you doing in 1956? Please let me know - Ed



Engine no.61995, 'Cameron of Lochiel' at Fort William

Photo: Hamish Stevenson Collection

