



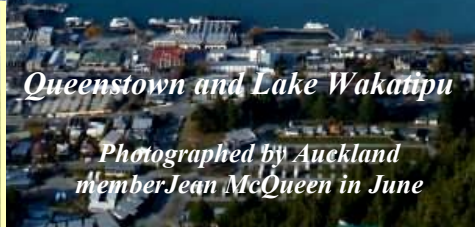
# Cameron

*The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.*

*Vol 47 No 4  
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2013*



*Loch Arkaig Photo: Jenny Haggitt*



*Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu*

*Photographed by Auckland  
member Jean McQueen in June*



*Loch Arkaig Photo: Bill Cameron*



**Loch Arkaig  
Stories  
inside**

*Achnacarry in June - looking from  
the grounds to the River Arkaig*

*Photo: Jenny Haggitt*



# "Cameron"

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

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(This has links to other Clan Cameron sites)

Printed By

## A message from our President.....

Dear Clan Members,

It's newsletter time again so I must get a few thoughts together. You will see in the newsletter coverage of Lochiel's daughter wedding. I have been busy, as always, but was able to spend some time with secretary Tanya the other day to discuss a few new ideas.

I have had contact with Heather about First Light matters - these will be reported on at the next Council meeting. Tanya has suggested that it would be a good idea to put together as a record all the articles written for the newsletter by First Lighters, both from New Zealand and from Scotland.

Mike Topham has had me updating my family genealogy records. I find that my age is less than I thought as my date of birth is recorded as 30th February 1930! This must have been an unusual year to be born. One has to be careful when recording dates of births, weddings, and funerals not to omit brothers and sisters and other family details.

I have received an email from Duncan Cameron, president of Clan Cameron Scotland, to say they are updating 'The Camerons', history of Clan Cameron. I have asked Denis to update the New Zealand details. Thank you, Denis.

Elaine and I have recently attended the Bay of Plenty Winter Christmas Dinner at the Tauranga RSA. It was a very good meal and get-together, the haggis was definitely up to specification. The ceremony by Ray Crafts was well received and toasted too. Later we toasted a wee drop to Lochiel.

During the weekend I took time to contact Roz Grant of the Manawatu branch to try to straighten out the proposed council meeting in September, which has been causing some concern. The intention is that the council meeting will be held at 9am on Sunday 29 September, finishing at 12 noon, luncheon at 12.30 pm, then home later in the day. I hope this will suit all travelling members.

There will be some costs but it is hoped these will be kept at a manageable level.

Fraser



## Coming Events

**Saturday 10 August 2013**

**Auckland Branch Annual Dinner**

Quality Hotel. Gladstone Rd, Parnell

6.30pm

\$55 per person (\$50 for financial members)

Enquiries to Neil Cameron 09 446 1177

**Sunday 18th August, 2013**

**Hawke's Bay Kirking of The Tartan**

St Columba's Church Havelock North

10am. Please encourage local members and

Clans to attend with banners and tartans.

Your support appreciated - they put on a

great morning tea afterwards.

Enquiries to Mike Topham 06 879 8215

**Saturday afternoon, 14 September, 2013**

**The annual Hastings Blossom Parade.**

Here's a chance for Clans and Societies to

march with banners, flags and tartans. We

had a small number of participants last year

- let's try to get more this time. Please

encourage local members to join in. Easy

walking pace, on the flat, so no real

hardship!! : Les Hewett, Clan Johnston/e,

Napier. ljhewett@ihug.co.nz

**Sunday 29th September 2013**

**The National Executive Council meeting and a Lower North Island Lunch,**

to meet our President Fraser Cameron, will be at the Chalet, Centennial Drive, Palmerston North.

Executive meeting 9.30am

Lunch 12.30 pm

Lower North Island branches, please note in your diaries. Further information will be forwarded to branch Presidents.

**Thursday 4th October 2013**

**Gisborne Branch Meeting**

Tatapouri Sports Fishing Club

12pm - 2pm

Lunch then meeting following.

**All Welcome**

**Sunday 13 October 2013**

**Turakina Kirkin "O" the Tartan**

The service will be held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at 2pm. Get out your tartan & wear it to Turakina.

Enquiries to Roz Grant

tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz

**Weekend 28-30 March 2014**

**Annual Gathering and AGM**

Next year's Gathering will be in Tauranga on the confirmed dates above.

**Next Magazine Deadline is 15 September**

# Welcome to the following Member who has recently joined us:



Canterbury Branch  
Claire Squires

Christchurch

*Ceud Mìle Fàilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes*

## History Corner *by Fiona Cameron*

### Old electoral rolls

#### *Rummaging through the Rolls*

So your forebears were eligible to vote and should appear in the old New Zealand electoral rolls. How can you track them down? Arm yourself with any information you have about where they may have been living and, for the most part, head to your local library (well at least its main branch)!

While larger libraries such as Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington (including National Library) and Dunedin will hold a full set of old electoral records, other smaller libraries may have some covering their local area.

Early rolls are on microfilm or microfiche and then in bound volumes (from around 1980). Rolls were only published annually from 1980, so this will be years missing or skipped over prior to this.

The Electoral Rolls do not have an overall index (apart from a few exceptions), meaning you must check each individual electorate. Indexes have been created for the 1881 roll (on microfiche) and the 1893 roll when women are listed for the first

time. These indexes list all electors alphabetically by name with address and electorate. So it does help to have a general idea of which part of the country your ancestors may have lived.

To make things even trickier, the names and boundaries of electorates have changed hugely over the years. A useful tool if you have problems is the *New Zealand Electoral Atlas (1989)*. This wonderful set of maps can track the electorate history of any place in New Zealand. Again your library may have a copy.

Recently, the task of tracing family members through New Zealand electoral rolls has become a little easier. Ancestry, one of the major players in online genealogy databases, recently added New Zealand Electoral Rolls from 1853 to 1981 to its subscription collection. Many rolls are indexed – including all the rolls from 1935 – 1981. You must pay to access this information, although Ancestry does offer some free trials. Again, check with your local library! Many libraries subscribe to Ancestry for their members – so you can get free access to these databases (usually only within the library) as part of your library membership.

On a small footnote, electoral rolls can help you find more than just where your ancestor lived and their occupation. Once you have located your person, check that surname to see who else was living at that address. In the days where most children stayed at home until marriage, this can be a great way to trace parents or siblings.

## Letter to the Editor *(from Erina Wood)*

I was rather shocked and saddened by the photo of the Cameron coat of arms shown in the February newsletter, or rather what is now left of it. As you will see, there has been quite a bit of detail lost in the recent years since 2009. It seems a great pity that having stood there for so many years, it is just being allowed to disintegrate.

After the 2009 Clan Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry and the rest of the tour had departed, four of us stayed on for another week, ending up at Ballachulish to stay the weekend with Denis Cameron's friend Rob Watt.

Rob took us to some local historical sites - the McDonald Glencoe Memorial, the site close to the Ballachulish bridge where James Stewart was hung, the Cameron Mausoleum, and Callart House. He even made arrangements with the chap who now owns Callart House and is gradually repairing it, to show us around inside.

I remembered brief parts of some of the history behind most of these places, but not the mausoleum, so with thanks to Google learned much more about it after we were home again. That last weekend in Lochaber, was just the icing on the cake of an absolutely incredible time in the auld country.



2009 (Erina)



2012 (Bill)

## Yvette Morrissey *by the Editor*

Yvette was a prospective candidate for First Light but when she discovered that we would not be sending anyone this year, she decided to go ahead on her own, raising the money herself. She is passionate about her Scottish heritage and will be writing a book about her travels and about Clan Cameron history. Yvette has received some financial assistance from the Manawatu and Auckland branches.

Yvette will be in Scotland from August until November and we hope to be able to print something of her experiences there.

We wish her a safe and interesting journey.

To follow her travels visit: <http://www.massivemagazine.org.nz/blog/category/blogs/blogs-2013/travel-blog/> or Yvette's Travel Blog on Facebook.

## Man's Highland Outfit on Offer

*I have been asked by the widow of a former piper to advertise for sale the following:*

- Kilt in Taylor tartan, W - 90cm, L - 58cm
- Black Jacket, size 38 - 40
- Tie in Taylor tartan
- Glengarry, 58cm
- Leather Sporrán
- Pair of red flashes.
- Ghillie Brogues, size 8
- Pair of hand knitted cream hose

*Further details and photos may be obtained from the editor. The Taylor tartan is based on the Hunting Cameron.*

*Offers for the above should be made to the editor (kncam@pl.net 09 446 1177) who will pass them on to the lady concerned.*

# From the Branches....

**Wellington/Wairarapa** by Graeme Cameron

## Shirley-Anne Thomson

Shirley-Anne leaves for Scotland on 25 July to attend the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. This year she is attending as a guest of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Attending as a guest will be in recognition of her long support of this organisation and of the New Zealand Highland Dancing community.

A brief summary of Shirley-Anne's involvement with Clan Cameron, the New Zealand Academy of Highland and National Dancing, the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing, other Scottish organisations and her own dancing career follows: - (this is brief because she has been very active with Clan Cameron and many other Scottish interest groups over a very long period of time).

1953. Danced for the Queen in Wellington with the Wellington City Pipe Band.

1971-83. First New Zealand Clan Cameron Newsletter Editor.

1995. Carried the New Zealand banner at the Achnacarry Clan Gathering.

1996. Organised the Highland Dancing for the City of Wellington Scottish Festival as the President of the Cairngorm Club.

2000. Organised and accompanied over 200 dancers for the Edinburgh Tattoo held in Wellington. (This was the first time the Edinburgh Tattoo had been held outside of Edinburgh). A publicity photo for the Tattoo in Wellington was taken of Shirley-Anne, her daughter Amanda Simpson, and her granddaughter Alexandra Thomson dancing together. (picture below - Ed)

2002 – 2004. President, Wellington-Wairarapa Branch of Clan Cameron. Was also Senior Vice President of New Zealand Clan Cameron.

2002. Organised and accompanied 16 NZ Highland Dancers to



join the Commonwealth Team to dance for the Queen at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

2005. Organised and accompanied 46 NZ Highland Dancers to perform at a special performance commemorating the Battle of Trafalgar at Edinburgh Castle. (Lunch with Princess Anne, and also met King and Queen of Norway at their Garden Party held at Redford Barracks).

2006. Organised and accompanied 52 NZ Highland Dancers at the South Korean Military Tattoo in Wonju, Korea.

2007. Organised and accompanied 20 NZ Highland Dancers to join the Commonwealth Team at the Edinburgh Tattoo.

2008. Organised and accompanied 2 NZ dancers to the Malaysia Tattoo and International Schools.

2009. Attended the Achnacarry Clan Gathering.

2010. Organised and accompanied 32 NZ Highland Dancers to join the Spring Dancers for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. (Lunch with Princess Anne).

2010. Organised 6 senior NZ Highland Dancers to perform at the Robbie Williams Show in London for the Big Charity Concert for the Forces.

2010. Organised and accompanied 15 NZ Highland Dancers to the Wonju Tattoo in Korea.

2013. Acting President of the Victoria University Scottish Interest Group.

We wish Shirley-Anne all our very best wishes and God speed on her forthcoming visit to Scotland.

## Canterbury

 by Rae Magson

One Sunday recently 14 members of Clan Cameron Canterbury attended the Tartan Day luncheon in Christchurch organised by the Scottish Heritage Council. This was a happy event attended by approximately 60 people of many different Clans. The event started with the haggis ceremony and there were some items as well. One member had organised a quiz on Scotland, the winning team had a little help with the questions from an i-phone, however they did share around the chocolate they won for their efforts! The meal was excellent, much better than staying at home cooking a Sunday roast.

After the lunch the Clan Cameron Canterbury executive had a quick meeting to organise events coming up. We are having a tent at the Hororata Highland Games on 9 November. Last year our haggis give-away was extremely popular. We also have the Annual General Meeting coming up in November.

Our members were saddened to learn of the death of one of our members, Dr Hugh Burry, he was a keen member of the Clan. I knew he had been an All Black, but I learnt many things about Hugh from reading his obituary. He will be missed.

## Taranaki / Wanganui

 by Shona Wallace

Our branch met at Ashley Park at Waitotara on 30th June where we enjoyed a light lunch followed by a meeting. Attended by 10 members with apologies from several others. Not a very nice day weatherwise, but sitting near a roaring fire made it worthwhile. Our members send their best wishes to our Treasurer Don Cameron who has been languishing in Hospital in Sydney after an operation. Hopefully, he is now on the mend. Our wonderful Chef Alan has now left the Hawera Club and now living the life of a Gypsy and thoroughly enjoying himself. We will meet again in early October.

## Manawatu

 by Jessie Annabell

The Manawatu branch held a very pleasant midwinter dinner on June 29<sup>th</sup> this year at a small but cosy venue in Palmerston North.

The traditional haggis ceremony and midwinter Christmas cake were extra touches to a very nice meal provided by the caterer.

Neil Boyd spoke to us about the Scottish Borders and up-and-coming young piper Sebastian King gave us a real treat with his excellent playing. A name to watch out for.

It was also a fine opportunity to present Yvette Morrissey with cheques from the Manawatu branch and the Auckland branch. Yvette has organised her own trip to Scotland in August along with her own accommodation, and the cheques from the two branches were generous donations in lieu of First Light not operating this year.

## Gisborne

 by Mike Topham

### Charlotte Marian Lewes

Marian, the loved wife of Donald Lewes passed away at Gisborne on 17 May. She was the daughter of Rymer Corrychoillie and Charlotte Helen Cameron.

Marian was educated at the Ormond Primary School and Waikohu College, Te Karaka. She trained as a Schoolteacher at Wellington Teacher's Training College in 1957/58. Her first teaching appointment was back at the Ormond School. Her next appointment was as Physical Education Teacher at the Central Hawke's Bay College, Waipukurau. In 1961 Marian travelled to the U.K. where she taught at schools in London and Dundee. On her return to New Zealand she joined the staff of Gisborne Girl's High School.



Marian married Donald Lewes in 1964. She was Mother and Mother-in-law to Claire and Hamish McDonald, David and Jocelyn Lewes and special Grandmother to Char, Duncan, Finlay, Harry and Camryn.

Marian was fiercely proud of her Cameron heritage. Her Grandfather, Ewen Cameron (1840-1929) came to New Zealand on the "Chariot of Fame" in 1860 and in 1870 settled at Matawhero, near Gisborne. Ewen was a son of John Cameron of Corriechoillie. In 1985 Marian was a member of a small group who set about establishing the Gisborne Branch of Clan Cameron N.Z. The first official function was held at the residence of Marian and Don Lewes in February 1986 to host Sir Donald and Lady Margaret Cameron of Lochiel, during their New Zealand visit. At the time an invitation was extended to all local Cameron's to attend, and the success of this gathering led to the establishment of the Gisborne Branch. Marion seldom missed a branch function. She served as Branch Secretary and on the Committee. Her organising skills were evident when Gisborne Branch hosted our National A.G.M's in 1992 and 2000. Her brother John was also a foundation member of Gisborne Branch, and President from 1992 – 2003. Her brother Fraser is our National President.

Marian was a keen sportswoman, regularly competing in Masters Swimming competitions and social tennis.

She was also involved in U3A ( University of the third age ) " A learning co-operative for the older person. The pursuit of learning for fun rather than for qualification".

Marian's loyalty and enthusiasm was an inspiration to the members of the Gisborne Branch and she will be greatly missed.

### *Bay of Plenty* by Joy Cameron

The Bay of Plenty Branch of Clan Cameron held their Mid-Winter Luncheon at the Tauranga RSA on Sunday 14th July. There was a good muster present with some members travelling from Opotiki, Rotorua, Kawerau and of course many locals. It was great to see Aidan Pratt, grandson of Jessie Scott, who is a primary school student at Green Park School in Tauranga. He was most enthusiastic as he raised his glass in the toast to Lochiel (even though it was only water)

The Haggis was piped in by Ray Crafts and he was ably assisted by Fraser Cameron, Blair Gardiner, and Rhys Fenton. This was followed by a great variety of dishes - from soup, sea-food, roast ham and roast vegetables, and many other salads and side dishes. The array of desserts were also popular and this was followed by tea and coffee. Betty Kearney was busy selling raffle tickets - a welcome boost towards funds.

The room took on a very "Scottish" appearance with our Clan Banner, the flag of Scotland, the Lion Rampant, and tartan table runners. Our thanks once again to Ray and Janet Crafts and the entertainment committee, for organising the day and we look forward to our next gathering..

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## The Loch Arkaig Treasure

by Vanessa Martin

*The Loch Arkaig treasure was sent to Scotland to finance the Jacobite rising in 1745 and legend has it that the treasure was never found and is still hidden at a secret location somewhere along Loch Arkaig.*

On 30 April 1746 two French ships, the *Mars* and *Bellone*, dropped anchor in Loch nan Uamh, Arisaig and unloaded seven casks of gold coins intended to fund the Jacobite cause and Bonnie Prince Charlie's last attempt to regain the British throne for the Stuart dynasty. However, the gold arrived two weeks after the Jacobite surrender at Culloden and shortly afterward disappeared. One cask was immediately stolen, but the remaining six were brought to Loch Arkaig where they were buried.

The secret location of the treasure was first entrusted to the chief of the Clan Cameron, Donald Cameron of Lochiel and eventually ended up in the care of Macpherson of Cluny. After 1746 there is no clear record of what happened to the gold. Bonnie Prince Charlie had by this time escaped to Europe and was anxious to be reunited with his treasure.

In 1753, Lochiel's brother, Dr. Archibald Cameron was sent to Scotland to locate the treasure. However, Cameron was betrayed by the infamous Hanoverian spy 'Pickle' and arrested. In June 1753 he was sentenced to death in London for his role in the 1745 Jacobite rising and became the last Jacobite to be executed.

Clan Cameron archives record that before Dr. Cameron was arrested he "hid the Prince's gold at the Callich burn while Hanoverian troops were hot on his heels coming from Murlaggan private burial ground where they hid it for a time among loose soil from a newly opened grave."

Stuart records show that The Prince's treasure produced charges of disloyalty, theft, and forgery among the exiled Jacobites. A letter written by a contemporary to the Prince's secretary at Rome on 2 May 1753 states "I wish with all my heart the Government had got it at the beginning, for it has given the greatest stroke to the cause that can be imagined; it has divided the different clans more than ever; and even those of the same clan and family." Bonnie Prince Charlie even accused Cluny of embezzling the treasure, because in 1750 Cluny could not account for all the gold.

After the 1750s the treasure disappears from history until the 1850s when Clan Cameron records mention some French gold coins found buried in woods near Loch Arkaig.

In 1897 the historian Andrew Lang published his book 'Pickle the Spy' which told 'the sordid tale, and the involvement of both the Prince and his father in trying to locate the monies'. Lang for the first time

revealed the identity of 'Pickle' the spy. He noticed that 'Pickle' and Alasdair Ruadh MacDonnell of Glengarry had the same handwriting.

Justin Pollard in his 2009 book "Secret Britain" concludes that the notorious Hanoverian spy Agent Pickle, also known as Glengarry, had stolen the treasure. Pollard argues that Glengarry a once loyal Jacobite had been captured by the English and imprisoned in the Tower of London.

Destitute and in poverty, Glengarry was recruited as a spy. Pollard believes that Glengarry stole the gold. "Perhaps those involved with Glengarry wondered how a man who was penniless in 1749 had become wealthy just a few months later. In fact Pickle had forged the signature of the Old Pretender (father of Bonnie Prince Charlie), and the last custodian of the secret hiding place had handed over to him the gold."

In 2005 a fascinating letter found in 2003 in Winchester, England was passed to the West Highland Museum in Fort William. The letter dated 1746 details the deathbed confession of Neill Iain Ruairi, who claimed to have passed the loch as the treasure was being buried. The letter, written in English, had originally been discovered by Dr Alex Campbell in a house in Kylesmorar, Loch Nevis on 17 June 1911. The confession claims that the dying man had been hiding in the trees, he waited and watched, and when the clansmen finally retreated he helped himself to a bag of gold coins. In his last breaths he whispered: "A bag of gold coins is buried near Arisaig, under a black stone, with a tree root springing from it." Unfortunately, upon testing, the letter could not be authenticated and a search of the area described in the letter failed to locate the gold.

The legend of the treasure persists to this day. In June 2012 an amateur search team sponsored by the Scottish Sun newspaper embarked on another unsuccessful treasure hunt to Loch Arkaig armed with metal detectors.

There are many conflicting theories as to what happened to Bonnie Prince Charlie's gold. Was it stolen in the eighteenth century, by Glengarry, Cluny or another Jacobite? Or, is the treasure still out there buried and waiting to be found!

*Many thanks to the Lochaber monthly newspaper 'The Braes' for this article.*

*By Editor* - For interest, although there are conflicting stories, both of the French ships mentioned were later captured by the Royal Navy, *Le Mars* (*God of War*) becoming *HMS Mars* and *La Bellone* (*Goddess of War*) renamed *HMS Bellona*. A succession of ships with those names served in the Royal Navy; the 7th *HMS Mars*, a Majestic Class battleship, served in WW1 and the 8th *HMS Bellona*, a light cruiser, in WW2.

This *Bellona* became *HMNZS Bellona* in 1948 and was the ship on which I did my sea training in 1950.

# HMS Loch Arkaig

by the Editor

The Loch Class frigate *Loch Arkaig* was one of a large number of this class, prefabricated so they could be built in smaller shipyards not used to naval work. Designed to combat the submarine threat, *Loch Arkaig* was completed in November 1945, too late to serve in the war. She served in the Home Fleet and in the Training Squadron before being laid up in reserve in 1952 and finally scrapped in 1960.

In 1946 she sank two German submarines! These were two of a large number surrendered by the Germans in May 1945. They were disposed of by sinking in the Western Approaches. The ship is of interest as she is named after the loch in Cameron country on which Achnacarry is situated. She was the first and only ship of that name to serve in the Royal Navy.

The ship's crest (shown left) is of the Cameron 'five arrows' on a sea and sky background.

In all, around 100 of these vessels were ordered. Of these 28 were completed as the Loch Class. A further 26 were completed as Bay Class, an anti aircraft version with more guns, and the remainder were cancelled with the end of the war.

New Zealand bought six of them in 1948, to be renamed *Taupo*, *Tutira*, *Pukaki*,



HMS Loch Arkaig on trials 1945

*Kaniere*, *Hawea* and *Rotoiti*. On the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, two of these frigates were on their way to the war zone within four days of the United Nations request and there were always two RNZN ships on station until the cease fire in 1953.

I did a twelve month Korean deployment in *HMNZS Kaniere*, formerly *HMS Loch Achray*. Being designed for the North Atlantic, these ships were good sea keepers but very basic and austere. Life then in the Navy for ratings was hard compared to today. However we had great confidence and pride in our floating home - and the ship itself, together with my experiences as a 21 year old in a wartime setting, are fondly remembered.

Last month (27 July) we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the cease-fire in Korea - and a chance for us old salts to talk about and remember our Loch class frigates.

## Jenny Haggitt's Diary

*Jenny and Bryan recently had a few days in Lochaber. Here are some entries from Jenny's diary which will interest anyone planning a similar trip.*

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** The first stop was Culloden, paid a fortune to enter the place and we were there such a short time. It really needs 3 or 4 hours to do it justice. However, we got the feel of the place. As Lochiel remarked later "What a stupid place to have a battle!" Then we set off on the drive on the A82 through Inverness and down the Great Glen, stopping to look for Nessie at Urquhart Castle, with no luck. We arrived at Inverlochy around 6pm to a very warm welcome and a wonderful dinner from Florence Cameron.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June** After buying the train tickets to Mallaig, we went to the town and did a spot of shopping, and sussed out the shops for tomorrow's purchases. The train ride was interesting, full of people like us who wanted to do the "Harry Potter" trip but not on the "Jacobite train". We saw lovely country side and the train slowed right down over the Glenfinnan viaduct so everyone could take photos. Mallaig was interesting, not much more than gift shops and cafes but the locals were friendly, and the sun shone. We got back to another of Florence's superb dinners and in the evening Bill Cameron came to visit and we spent the evening catching up on all the news.

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June.** In the morning we went to the High Street and bought souvenirs. Back to Inverlochy for lunch, then we set off to Achnacarry, along the B8004, the scenic road with expansive views of mountains, especially Ben Nevis and the Grey Corries: and the Canal and River Lochy as they wind through the Glen.

We arrived early for our appointment with Lochiel, so spent some time at the museum. Lochiel drove up whilst taking his dog for a run, and encouraged us to spend some money in the museum shop!

We went along to the house at the appointed hour, and we were greeted again by Lochiel. After a quick tour of the ground floor - which included the stack of leftover wine from his daughter Lucy's wedding the previous Saturday, we adjourned to his study for an informal chat, topics including Culloden, Christchurch earthquakes, Scottish independence and of course, First Light. We left after one hour and took some photos of the grounds before making our way back to Inverlochy and a meal at the Glen Nevis Restaurant with Florence. The days seem to last forever, it's light until nearly 11pm

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June** On the way back we drove to Balcaldine, where we could find no evidence of a house in which



Callart House today. photo: Jenny Haggitt

Duncan Roy Campbell might have lived. (He was the aforementioned John Cameron's maternal grandfather.) We continued back to Ballachulish and drove around Loch Leven, stopping for refreshments at Kinlochleven. A quick call to Jenny, partner of John Strachan of Callart

House meant a visit twenty minutes later, and Jenny kindly gave us a tour of the house and grounds. We had been given an extensive tour four years ago during the Great Homecoming, and were able to see some of the changes. We spent a very enjoyable couple of hours there, and arrived back at Florence's house after a bite in Fort William. Bill Cameron came again and he and Bryan had a very pleasant walk to Inverlochy Castle and the River Lochy, before saying goodbye with hopes to meet again soon. This was our last evening in Scotland, and we decided next time it would have to be a longer stay with a visit to Mull.



# Clach Shomhairle - Somerled's Stone *by Bill Cameron*

The timeless beauty of Glen Nevis is admired by many visitors to Lochaber every year, many of them basing themselves in the glen to climb Ben Nevis or tour around the area.

Used as a film location for a number of Hollywood blockbusters such as Highlander and Braveheart. The glen was most recently used as a back drop in the series of Harry Potter films where scenes of the quiddich game were shot - showing a superimposed golden snitch flying around Glen Nevis with wizards on broomsticks in hot pursuit.

The glen is often viewed as valley that has been free from human habitation, particularly in its upper reaches. However, a few remnants of the glens past show us that this was not the case. Centuries before the dramas of the silver screen were invented the glen was filled with its own real life dramas of its then many inhabitants. Amongst the many families living in the glen at that time were the MacSorlies, or to give them their Gaelic patronymic, Sliochd Shomhairle Ruaidh - The race of Somerled the Red. The MacSorlies later become a cadet family of Clan Cameron, although from reading some historical accounts, they appear to have been distinctly independent of thought in relation to the wider activities of the clan.

The long standing connections with Glen Nevis and the many Camerons who have lived in it over the generations can be seen in the old graveyard in the glen. Appropriately described in Gaelic as Tom-eas-an t'slinnean - 'Knoll of the Waterfall of the Shoulder'. This old graveyard looks out on to the upper slopes of Ben Nevis, commanding some of the finest views of the glen and no doubt contains the remains of descendants of red haired Somerled. Clach Shomhairle - Somerled's stone is located near the entrance to Glen Nevis. Measuring around two and a half metres wide by just under two metres tall. As a well known landmark in Lochaber it is

also referred to by most locals as the Wishing stone - Clach nam Miann Somerled's Stone. Another reference to Somerled can be found near the top of the glen in the form a cave bearing his name Uamh Shomhairle - Somerled's cave.

As a large erratic boulder it was deposited by the retreating glaciers that gouged out the glen thousands of years ago. It had been lying where it was deposited further down the glen next to the river nevis until about twenty years ago, when it was relocated by road contractors a little further into the glen on the opposite side of the road.

It is believed that if you walk round the boulder three times then make a wish it will come true. A much older custom is believed that Somerled's stone spins on its axis three times at certain times of the year and that should you witness this you can have any three questions answered. Many locals and tourists still take part in this wishful thinking.

How the wishing stone or cave came to be directly associated with Somerled is still not entirely clear. However centuries have past and the legend of Sliochd Shomhairle Ruaidh has withstood the ravages of weather and time.



## Lochiel's daughter Lucy weds

What could be a more joyous occasion than a wedding? Donald and Lady Cecil Cameron of Lochiel must have been thrilled as they watched their 3rd child, Lucy Margot Therese, marry her tall, accomplished Prince Charming: Lt.-Col Richard Maundrell of the Grenadier Guards, and lately the Equerry to the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip.

From the day they announced their engagement in Dec. to their June 1 wedding date in Lochaber, the couple had much to plan.

They chose to marry at St. Margaret's Church in Fort William, and celebrated their reception at Achnacarry Castle, the ancestral home of the chiefs of Clan Cameron. The setting was one of history and one of hope.

The church was filled to capacity: HRH Princess Anne, godmother to Lucy, and Sir Jackie Stewart, the world champion race car driver, were two of the 200+ special guests of the couple.

Lucy, born in July of 1980, works for a specialist travel company for Chinese tourists, after having spent three years living in China. Richard has headed the Queen's University of Belfast's Officer Training Corps and served in Afghanistan. He is a tutor at Sandhurst Military Academy.

*"Lucy's marriage to Lt.Col. Richard Maundrell on June 1st - we had an amazing day: sunny, no midges, great food and drink, a lovely marquee, lots of friends, wonderful flowers and a beautiful bride! All in all we couldn't have wished for more.*

*Lochiel"*

*Thank you to the Rocky Mountain Piper for the above article*



*Photo courtesy of the Braes newspaper of Lochaber*

## COACH TOUR OF SCOTLAND

Summer 2014

After recently discovering my ancestors came from Scotland in the 1860s, I decided Scotland is one of my must see destinations.

I would like to get a group together to join a Coach Tour of Scotland next summer 2014.

Anyone interested or to get more information, please phone Auckland Clan Cameron member, Elaine Ebbett, 09 523 3994.

*Cameron August 2013*





**Aonaibh ri Cheile**

*The Back Page*



Jenny Haggitt with Lochiel and Merlin at Achnacarry. Photo: Bryan Haggitt



At Manawatu Branch Mid-winter Xmas Dinner: Russell Cameron makes presentation of cheques to Yvette Morrissey and (below) Yvette cuts the Xmas cake. Photos: Ewen Grant



Auckland member Margaret Cameron from Dunedin Her 90th birthday last year was celebrated with an afternoon tea for family and friends.



12 year old piper Sebastian King entertains the gathering. (He has only been learning for 12 months) Photo: Ewen Grant



Right. Canterbury Tartan Day Luncheon  
Back row - Rex Tarbotton, Pat Tarbotton, Anna Tarbotton, Rebecca Haggitt, Sharon Wallace and John Atkinson.  
Front row - Ngaire Power, Isabel Cameron, Colin Cameron, Nick Cameron and Rae Magson



Absent from photo but shown above: Bryan and wee Bryan Haggitt



Bill Cameron and Sarah McQueen in front of the Harry Potter train at Fort William. Sarah was in Scotland with the St. Kentigern Pipe Band and was about to board the train to Mallaig.



Left: Some of the Auckland committee plan the coming Mid Winter Dinner at the home of Elaine Ebbett.



Thistle by Bill Cameron