



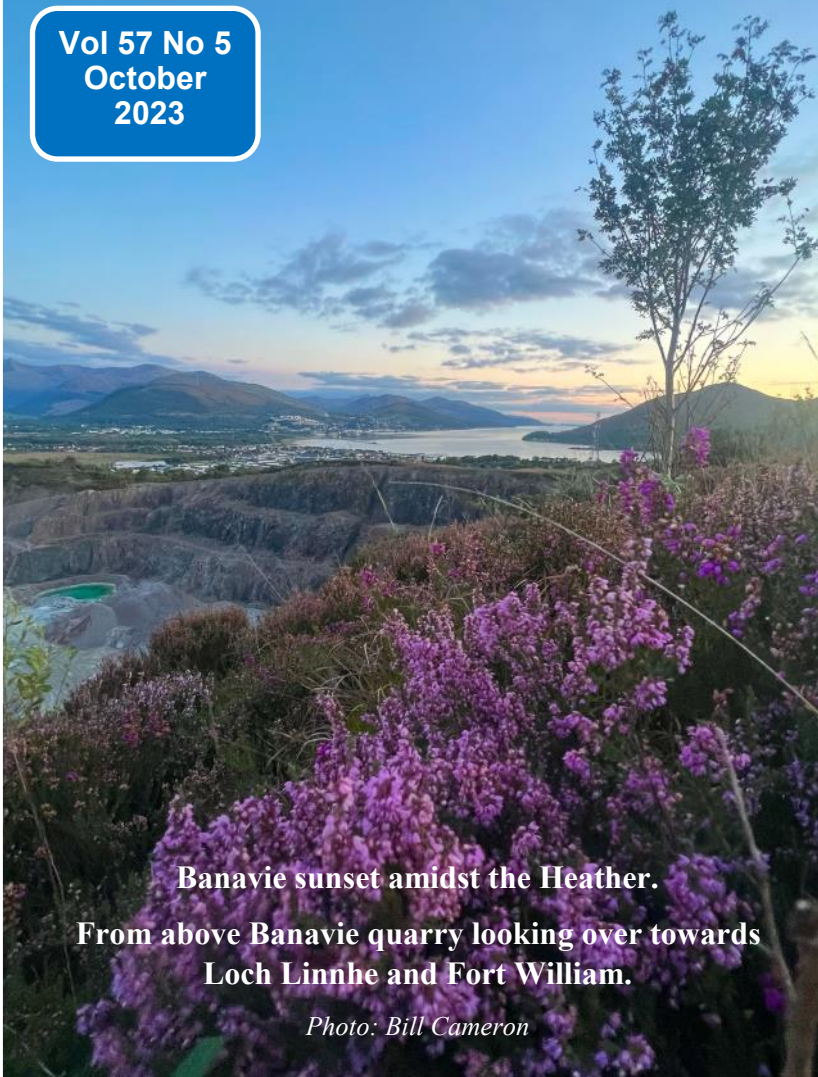
Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



The Executive Committee meet at Turangi. *Photo: Cass Hakaraia*

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**Banavie sunset amidst the Heather.
From above Banavie quarry looking over towards
Loch Linnhe and Fort William.**

Photo: Bill Cameron



**Our next First Lighter, Sarah McQueen,
Speaks at the Auckland Annual Dinner**

Photo: Neil Cameron

“Cameron”

is the magazine of the
Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand Inc.

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A Message from our Commissioner...

Naumai haere Mai, Failte, Welcome.

We have emerged from a wet winter (wet summer and autumn as well in Auckland) so its great to seeing some good Spring weather. It's this time of year that we look optimistically to the year ahead. Last weekend we drove to Turangi through the green countryside and our spirits lifted. At Turangi members of the executive council met to discuss all things Clan Cameron. We have been holding meetings there for decades now and it's a solid part of our association's heritage. The beautiful location I am sure creates the right atmosphere for important deliberations.

We have been talking about how we can continue to develop and improve our organisation. We need to review our approach, adjust our rules and set some new goals. We are very keen to recruit new members and focus on what matters. When we look at what we have achieved since we were first founded in 1935 we can very proud of that. We were also starting a strategic planning process that will continue to be worked on across the year. Our first step was to write a purpose statement, or a one line expression of what we are here to do. More on this elsewhere in our newsletter.

We are always interested in new ideas about what we can do together. If you have any suggestions please don't hesitate to make them.

One special item at the executive meeting was to appoint two honorary pipers for Clan Cameron New Zealand. Congratulations Nick Cameron and Rob Cameron who both make outstanding contributions to our Cameron heritage.

It was very exciting to farewell our latest First Lighter Sarah McQueen at the Auckland Dinner in Parnell. Sarah has been a very active member of Clan Cameron and started attending events as a child. Now she has just graduated with her PhD from Otago and will be travelling to Scotland at the end of October. We wish all the very best and we are sure to follow her adventures with interest.

I am looking forward to seeing you at upcoming Highland Games, the first being Hororata in Canterbury. I attended for the first time last year and loved it. I can highly recommend it, you will have a great day out.

Aonaibh ri Cheile

Dale Cameron Bailey



Clan Cameron Gathering. Achnacarry, Scotland.

August 1st - 4th 2024

Accommodation is often difficult in Fort William at that time of the year so early booking is essential. It would be nice to have a strong representation from NZ.



Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Nov 2023

Printed By

Travel to Scotland for the 2024 Gathering

by Dale Bailey

Have you thought of joining us at the next international gathering at Achnacarry Scotland?

Its being held 1-4 August 2024 and members from across the World will be there. Around 12 New Zealanders are already committed to going so you will see some friendly faces. It will be a great chance to explore our heritage and enjoy all that Scotland has to offer.

We don't have a group booking underway but a number of us are working with a shared travel agent. He is based in Auckland and comes highly recommended and already across the details of the gathering and travelling in Europe.

Antony Myers is with the Travel Brokers and is based in Ellerslie in Auckland.

antony.myers@thetravelbrokers.co.nz 021 759555

Antony advises it's a good time now to secure your airfare. Accommodation in Fort William is tight so would be very good to lock something in. Also the Paris Olympics are on at this time so there will be a lot of European tourism at that time. You don't need to use this agent if you prefer to use your own.

Contact Dale if you would like to talk about coming along. You will be sure of a warm welcome in Lochaber. If you have some younger members of the family already in the United Kingdom or Europe they may like to visit Scotland at this time.

Let us know how to contact them and we will send them an invite, be wonderful for anyone on their OE to come and join us. We can even shout them a drink when they get there.



What is our purpose?

by Dale Bailey

At some recent meetings we have been reviewing and thinking about what Clan Cameron New Zealand is and could be. One way to start clarifying that is to write a purpose statement.

Your purpose is an organisations reason for being. When your purpose is clear and strong every decision becomes intuitive. Purpose is not time bound, it should be aspirational but worthwhile. It should define what you do for other people. The "Why" should be self evident. Purpose statements are used by many businesses and organisations. Here are a few examples from the corporate world.

Nourishing families so they can flourish and thrive
(Kelloggs)

To make the best products on earth and leave the world
better than we found it (Apple)

We help small businesses thrive worldwide (Xero)

For those who make the World (Stanley Black & Decker)

After a short exercise the following initial suggestions were made by members at the (including one a bit provocative see if you can guess which one?).

Our Cameron heritage in New Zealand

Uniting New Zealand families

Let's make Clan Cameron great again

Cameron; our family

Cameron; our family, our Scottish heritage

Unite our Camerons,

Uniting our Camerons

Getting it together

Uniting our Cameron families

Camerons; from Scotland to New Zealand

Common themes emerging are family, using our motto and celebrating our Scottish heritage in New Zealand.

We are still working on it, so you are most welcome

How about having a go at one for Clan Cameron New Zealand for yourself?



A recent photo of Achnacarry Castle by Bill Cameron

Coming Events

Saturday 14 October 2023

Scottish Clans Assn Ak Annual Dinner

The Parnell, Gladstone Rd. Auckland.

christine60r@outlook.com

Saturday 11 November 2023

Hororata Highland Games

The Cameron tent will be there.

www.hororata.org.nz

Monday 1 January 2024

151st Waipu Highland Games

Clan Cameron will be Host Clan, so we

would like lots of support.

Our tent will be there. A great place to meet Cameron visitors from overseas.

www.waipuhighlandgames.co.nz

Saturday 27th January 2024

159th Turakina Highland Games

Cameron Road, Turakina.

Great country games.

<https://turakinahighlandgames.co.nz/>

Saturday 10th February 2024

31st Paeroa Highland Games

Join us in our tent. Enjoy the piping and Tattoo.

<https://paeroahighlandgames.co.nz>

Sat / Sun 15/16 March 2024

National Pipe Band Championships
Auckland.

The Cameron Tent will be there.

Further details at a later date.

Saturday 4 May 2024

Clan Cameron NZ Gathering and AGM

Hawkes Bay Club, Napier.

1st to 4th August 2024

Clan Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry

A very full programme is being arranged which will include all the traditional gathering events - plus a lot more.

From the Branches....

Auckland by Rob Cameron

Since the executive AGM in Masterton, Dale has been running some zoom meetings to help work out how to move forward with the clans membership. I have attended these on behalf of our branch. It is great that Dale has started this as initiative not only to help our branches with low numbers but ensuring our clans longevity in New Zealand. Even though the Auckland branch is quite strong now, we are going to have to change with the times at some stage if we want to continue into the future.



There was quite an Auckland branch representation at the Clan Cameron Executive meeting in Turangi over 8th and 9th of September. Dale, Hillary, Bryan Haggitt, Neil and myself travelled down for the meeting and joined the Friday night dinner.

We held our Annual dinner on Saturday 16th September, which was another great evening. Originz returned as our main entertainment followed by folk singers Noel Armstrong and Paul Brown. The clan took in over \$2000 in raffle sales and a live auction for a one-off corrugated kilt and sporran art piece done by Auckland Branch member Jeff Thompson. The dinner was also a celebration for Sarah McQueen who will be the next First Lighter travelling to Scotland at the end of October.

The 14th of October is a big day, not only is it election day, but there is also a miniband competition hosted by the Papakura Pipe Band, and the Scottish Clans Association have their annual dinner in the evening.

The Waipu Highland Games committee has asked Clan Cameron to be the host clan for the Waipu Highland Games January 1st 2024.

Manawatu by Anne Walker

We have enjoyed following on-line the success of Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band during their piping in the world championship in Scotland. It is great photos of the band in their Cameron tartan, and to see them pipe so well. Pipers from Manawatu Scottish are regular pipers at our annual dinners, and the Manawatu Branch have regularly financially supported the bands travel fund which enables them to travel to these competitions. We look forward to celebrating the bands centenary in 2025.



John Cameron represented our Branch at the recent executive meeting in Turangi, and our Committee meet in early October to prepare for a busy summer of events. The highlight of which will be attendance at the Turakina Highland Games on January 27th 2024."

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

There is nothing quite like the first showing of spring to awaken one's optimism for the future. After so much devastation and continually inclement weather, to finally string some sunshine days and warmth together is positively rejuvenating. A revived feeling of optimism and enthusiasm was exactly what was needed at the Executive Council meeting held recently at Turangi, where the major topic was to be Clan Cameron's constitution.



Recent New Zealand law changes, to become effective in the near future, will require us to slightly alter some of the written intent in its current form -- not major but prudent.

The constitution also defines how our Branches operate

and in what structure they are to be formed. Smaller Branches have nearly always found this rigid adherence to a formal and defined order of office holders a hindrance --- to the point of not always being able to fill those positions. So the big question ----- is the current branch structure what our membership want or expect. ----?

A lot of homework to be done on this subject before next years A.G.M. in Napier I think ---

This topic has been bubbling away in the background of a lot of membership driven meetings for sometime, and the fact a great deal of constructive comments and ideas came from this particular meeting was probably due to the painful realisation that the All Blacks has just been beaten by France in their opening World Cup game And nobody wanted to talk rugby-----

The All Blacks also have some urgent homework to do - -----

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Clan Cameron BoP have had their AGM and kept the same officers for another year.

We have decided that our branch can not continue as it is and although all financial members would like to continue getting their magazine and go on outings, few turn up and with fewer of the members on the books actually paying their membership each year, it is becoming expensive to maintain.

In future we are hoping to have some version of a central branch or membership only set up to allow members to continue to get their magazine regardless of belonging to a regional branch.

I have notified to National Executive of our intentions and after the National AGM next year in May we will have our AGM and close up the books. Any thoughts please let me know.

I will be ringing around to follow up with those who would like to continue to receive their magazine and we will have a final AGM next year to disband in June.

Thank you to those who attend and continue to keep us afloat.



Canterbury by Rae Magson

There have been no activities for sometime but we are still here. Hopefully some event to report next time.

I have been reading an interesting book, and the name of John Cameron jumped out at me. The book was first published in 1960, called Married and Gone to New Zealand, edited by Alison Drummond. It is an old rather tattered copy that I found at the back of one of my cupboards, long forgotten about.

Anyway, it is excerpts from letters written back home by wives of early settlers, what brave, amazing women they were. This chapter was written by Jessie Campbell of Wanganui, her husband was Captain Campbell and they arrived out here in 1841, but he had a partner called John Cameron.

John's name features in the chapter several times, said he was a blacksmith who came out in the Blenheim. He sleeps on the sofa in the sitting room, made his bed every evening and in the morning cleared everything away and often the room. He would be seen with a scrubbing brush cleaning his canvas trousers, or in the evening mending them. He could patch very neatly. He seemed to be very handy in other ways too, working the churn for Jessie.



Clan Cameron Iar has been very quiet . We have not had a meeting for a while due to illness (mine) and Alan being rearended and having no car for a while. We only have 6 active members and all senior so not a lively bunch sadly. Neville and I will not be able to attend the Exec meeting in September due to other commitments so please accept our apologies.



Vale. Janet Horn 15.12.1932----2.7.2023

Janet and her late husband Lloyd were both long time members of Clan Cameron Iar. They only attended one function several years ago but due to ill health were not able to attend any others but remained steady support members until their deaths. Janet celebrated her 90th birthday last December at a function in Auckland where she was delighted to have Finlay Cameron attend and play for her. When she arrived home she rang me to tell me and was so excited to have had this experience. God speed Janet and rest in peace. You will be missed.

Wellington—Wairarapa by Graeme Cameron

On Saturday 26 August 2023, the branch held a lunch at The Borough, Tawa. Members and friends who attended were: Robyn & Hylton Tuckett, Eoin & Heather Cameron, Callum & Hannah & Ava Cameron, Britt Dykes & Angus Cameron, and Graeme & Hazel Cameron.



We were pleased to welcome Callum & Hannah (and baby Ava) who have relocated to the Wellington area from Canterbury. Callum will certainly be welcomed by the piping community in this area. (photo of Hazel and Ava on page 6).

We were also pleased to have Britt and Angus attend the lunch. They had recently returned from Scotland where Britt represented New Zealand at the UCI Cycling World Championships in the age-related Gran Fondo (long distance cycle ride). The first edition of the UCI Cycling World

Championships was awarded to Glasgow and across Scotland from 3 to 13 August 2023.



Above: Britt Dykes participating in the UCI Cycling World Championships

Below: Angus Cameron (Graeme and Hazels' son), in Fort William



Jessie Campbell's Writing Desk

By Roz Grant

These are photos of Jessie Campbell's writing desk that came out on the Blenheim. Amazing what there is still around & is coming to light.

"I attach two photographs of the writing desk belonging to Jessie Campbell that came out on the boat. My brother has the Commode they must have used in the cabin and a fabric family crest on a stand. Things that are treasures that we would like to see preserved

Tim and Linda Campbell"





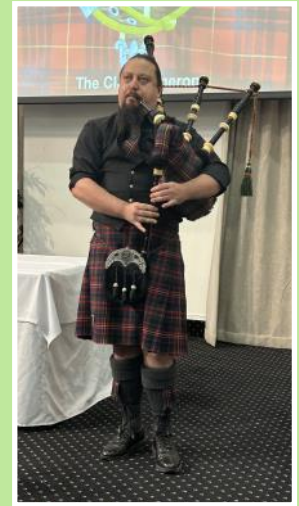
MC Duncan McQueen



Katie Haggitt dances



Bryan Haggitt addresses the haggis



Rob Cameron plays to table



Jean and Sarah McQueen with president Rob Cameron.



Jeff Thomson, Shona Cameron, Heather Laird, Elaine, Angus Fletcher, Frankie.



Welcomers Frankie McCord-Crellin and Elaine Ebbett



Judy Cameron, winning bidder for Jeff Thomson's art piece, with Jeff



Young members of the Haggis Party, with piper Michel Tent, Chef and Bryan Haggitt



*Hazel Cameron with baby Ava
Photo: Heather Cameron*



Neil Cameron, Catherine and Nicole Jellard, Sarah, Nina, Andrew, Duncan and Jean McQueen



Eden and Rodger Matheson, Dale Bailey, Lena Orum, Margaret Horsburgh, Don and Judy Cameron, Bronwyn Matheson



Morea and Allan Cameron, Chris Binns, Cass and Hillary Hakaraia, Heidi Myhr and Joanna Sharp



Kirsten, Marcus, Blake and Brian Cameron, Vivian Anscombe, Pam Cameron, Melanie-Jack Cameron and Raewyn Jack.



Bryan and Jenny Haggitt



Ella and Erin Tent with Michel Tent (piper)



Noel Armstrong and Paul Brown



Here and below: Auld Lang Syne



Lloyd and Trish Anderson, Dale and John Berridge, Jeanette MacDonald and Noel Armstrong



Auckland Annual Dinner

Photos by Dale Bailey, Rob Cameron, Jean McQueen, Michel Tent and Editor



The St. Kilda Chimney Run

By Bill Cameron

Taking on the St. Kilda chimney run involves a one-hundred-and-ten-mile boat trip from mainland Scotland out to the St. Kilda archipelago. The crescent moon like shape of Village Bay on the main island of Hirta is the location for this notably short, yet steep run. The current race record stands at 9 minutes.

Established by the British Army during their forty years stay on the island between 1958 and 1998, the chimney route was originally undertaken by members of the British Army's St. Kilda detachment as a test of their speed and fitness. Although the run itself is only under a mile from start to finish, what it lacks in distance, it certainly makes up for in hill climb.

Speaking to a former member of staff from the late Puff Inn on the island, he recalled how one Officer completed the chimney run with a backpack full of rocks for added strength training.

Starting at the pier in front of the former manse building where an army flagpole once stood, runners make their way along the slowly sweeping former military road in Village Bay, then leaving the level concrete surface, they then go across boggy undulating ground and up onto a large boulder field at the base of Mullach Sgar

The run itself takes its name from the natural fissure, or gully



Following the established route from the pier, I held a steady pace along Village Bay and scrambled up into the chimney gully on my hands and feet, grabbing onto tufts of grass to help me upwards and more importantly, to prevent me from falling backwards on the steep incline. Coming out from the gully on to the summit plateau, I made for the first visible distant cleit on the summit, stopping my watch at 13 minutes. However, on returning to take a photo looking down the chimney gully and across to Village Bay, I realised I had run to a further away cleit, as the chimney cleit was not visible coming out of the gully.

I do not think I would have broken the record; however, I believe I was closer to 11 minutes.



known as 'the chimney' on the steep slopes of Mullach Sgar. A hill that rises from sea level with a steep gradient to a 250-meter summit. It's sloping summit is capped with a radar station comprising of a series of large golf ball like structures on the skyline, as the naturally gifted native hill runners (soay sheep) wander beneath them eating the lush grass as they go.

Making your way up the chimney route by means of scrambling on your hands and feet up the slippery grassy gully, you then take a sharp right on the summit and head for one of the specific 1200 stone cleit structures dotted around the island. In this case it is the chimney cleit, or cleit 513 that marks the end of the chimney run.

Visiting the island in early August this year, I was lucky to have sunny and clear conditions to take on The St. Kilda Chimney Run. Having already completed both a half and full marathon on the island in 2016 and 2017, I was well aware of the steep terrain and ever-changing weather conditions, as well as the resident dive bombing Great Skua.



The amazing views from the top of Mullach Sgar looking down on to Village Bay and over towards Boreray was well worth doing the chimney run for in itself.



Reports on the Clan Cameron Gathering 2009

By Editor: With the Achnacarry Gathering in 10 months, I thought it appropriate to describe the 2009 gathering and show what we can expect in 2024. (Published in Cameron Oct. 2009)

by W.A (Bill) Cameron (Lochaber):

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

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

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

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

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

With a large marquee set up on the field in front of the castle, the second day of the gathering saw large numbers gather for a series of talks throughout the morning and early afternoon. The talks covered a variety of topics from famous Camerons through the ages, to genealogy and the running of the Lochiel estate. Another Cameron related book '*The Lochaber Compendium*' was launched at the museum. In the evening, the Clan Cameron Association Scotland held a reception for visiting Camerons in the Nevis Centre where Lochiel and the president of the Clan Cameron Scotland addressed the crowds. Donald Andrew the Younger of Lochiel and his fiancée Sarah Maclay were also presented with wedding gifts from the various Clan Cameron associations from around the world.

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

In the early afternoon the various Camerons gathered in

their respective countries to be piped across the field for the clan march past. This was followed by an address from Lochiel.

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

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

In the afternoon, the final event witnessed the Camerons take on the Frasers in a clan shinty match. I am glad to report



that the Camerons were victorious on home ground - beating the Frasers 4-0.

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

by Denis Cameron, President Clan Cameron NZ:

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

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

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

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



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

Fraser Cameron presents lamb skin to Sarah photo: Bryan Haggitt

First Light News

by Bryan Haggitt—First Light Convenor



Outward First Lighter - Dr. Sarah McQueen

Some very good news to report – Sarah McQueen, having graduated with a PhD from Otago University, is now booked on flights to Scotland leaving 30 October as our outward First Lighter. She will be travelling via Singapore to Glasgow.

Lochiel has been advised as have Dr Roddy Cameron, the Clan's Commissioner for Scotland, and Finlay Cameron and his father, Ken. Ken has come back to me offering Sarah accommodation at "Inverlair", their home, whilst she is in Lochaber and that she can probably stay in Finlay's flat when in Glasgow. Ken is Chairman of the Lochaber Piping Society and they have just held their "Lochaber Gathering". A very busy time for the family as Ken and Rhona have had a number of pipers to stay including several New Zealanders. Ken mentioned that musical evenings extended well into the small hours – Finlay on the flute and his mates on accordions, mandolin and the piano. Sarah says she will take her pipes so she is assured of some wonderful musical happenings!

Sarah is hoping that she can arrange post doctoral research at Glasgow University or, perhaps, at Edinburgh. A wonderful opportunity for her. Meantime, NZ Commissioner Dale made a going away presentation to Sarah at the Auckland Dinner.

Next Inward First Lighter - Sandy Cameron

Sandy has advised that instead of coming out this 2023/24 Summer, he would prefer to delay it until 2024/25 by which time he should have gained Chartered status as a mechanical engineer. I have advised him that this is perfectly acceptable – having Chartered status should make his work prospects here even better, something confirmed by one of the engineering firms that I have contacted. Sandy has already indicated that he is very keen to gain engineering experience whilst here even at the detriment of his piping. But Sandy is certainly not neglecting his piping - see this report in the "Piping Press" reporting on the Braemar Highland Games:



One of the last Highland games of the summer was held in fine conditions today. HM King Charles and HM Queen Camilla were in attendance, continuing a royal tradition dating back to the time of Queen Victoria.

The king of the piping boards was overall champion Nick Hudson, USA, with the coveted piobaireachd Gold Medal going to Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge. Sandy and

Dan are pictured on left with their valuable medals, both of solid metal. Ben Duncan was light music champion. *Piobaireachd, eight tunes asked for, 17 played*
1. Sandy Cameron, £400, Gold Medal and Donald Bain Trophy, Battle of the Pass of Crieff

Earlier, from the "Oban Times" Pipers call the tune at Lochaber Gathering event



Lochaber Pipers who took part in the Senior competition, (left-right) Finlay and Sandy Cameron with Andrew Orr.
Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

Finlay Cameron - 2022/23 First Lighter - Update

Finlay, after competing with success at a number of piping contests at Highland Games through the summer, has returned to complete his music studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow. Finlay, we wish you well

First Light Funding - Clan Cameron Auckland Branch Dinner, 16th September, at The Parnell.

Whilst Auckland Branch met the costs of Finlay's visit, future First Light expenses will come from First Light funds. Sarah's air fare has already come from the funds held but these have been given a significant boost from the generosity shown at our Dinner.

Raffles produced \$520 but the real highlight was the auction of the Metallic Kilt crafted and donated by noted artist/sculptor Jeff Thompson. Auctioneer Duncan McQueen had a hectic time fielding very spirited bids until his gavel fell at \$1,500 and Judy Cameron came away the victor!

Judy, and husband Don, have only recently returned from Scotland, Lochaber in particular, and donated several items for the raffles. Thanks indeed to all who contributed donations, either in kind or monetarily, to First Light – it is wonderful that the momentum created by Finlay's visit is continuing!

It should also be noted that the Chairman of the Lochaber Piping Society, organiser of the "Lochaber Gathering" is Ken Cameron, father of Finlay and Sandy and a member of Lochiel's Gathering Committee. It is wonderful that Sarah McQueen is now heading to Scotland in just a few weeks and that Scotland's Commissioner, Roddy Cameron, along with Ken, Rhona, Finlay and Sandy are offering her great hospitality. This augers well for Lochiel's Gathering at Achnacarry on 1 August 2024 and the future of First Light Exchanges!

(Photographs of Jeff Thomson's Metallic Kilt and Sporrán and its new owner are in the centre pages).

Renewing our Constitution

By Dail Bailey

Over the last couple of years we have had a number of conversations about the future of Clan Cameron New Zealand. One of the big topics at our Executive Council in Turangi was what do we need to do to future proof our organisation.

Changes to the Incorporated Societies regulations require us to review our constitution by the end of 2025. Our existing one was set in place in 2012. So it's a timely process to

President Dale has been leading the conversation. Dale says we have much to be proud of in Clan Cameron New Zealand. 'We can be proud of what we do, a great newsletter, good web activity, genealogical database, activities, attendance and presence at Scottish events like Highland Games, First Light Exchange, annual gatherings and regular dinners in a number of centres'. Dale said.

Over many years Clan Cameron has had a strong reputation and thrived through the commitment of its members across New Zealand.

We do need to realise that our current arrangements need to be a bit more flexible. Times have changed and people are less likely to want to be on committees, particularly those that are formal in structure. Most organisations in New Zealand are finding it hard to recruit and retain members. A couple of our branches have low members and are finding it difficult to operate. Our current organisation is based on a federal system of a range of branches across the country. Having opportunities to get together is important

The meeting discussed a number of important changes that could be made. These included

- Allowing people to join centrally to Clan Cameron New Zealand
- Strengthening our executive committee
- Appointing people to represent the Clan in different parts of New Zealand
- Centralising the membership subscriptions
- Keeping the business and administration to a minimum
- Developing ways of recruiting new members through resources and
- Understanding who our key audience is and what attracts them to Clan Cameron.

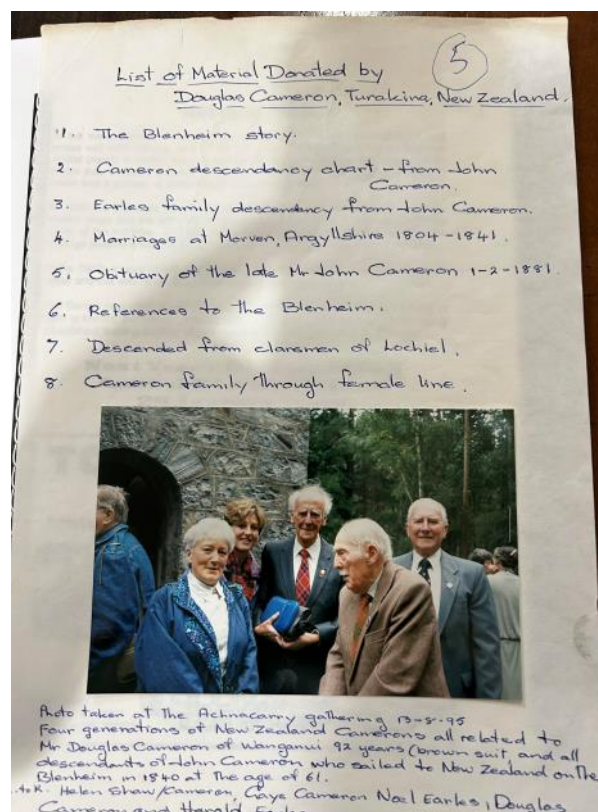
Members at the meeting also started developing a purpose statement for Clan Cameron New Zealand.

The meeting resolved to draft a new constitution or set of rules and bring this forward to the AGM in Napier next year.

A Visit to the Clan Museum

By Gaye Rochford (Cameron).

I wanted to share some photos of my daughter who visited the Clan Cameron museum today. She was excited to find a photo of me, Helen and Douglas when we visited in 1995. Molly and her dad were impressed to see the family tree mentioning Turakina and also a program of the Turakina Highland games. Molly has a better understanding of why Cameron is her middle name and even bought herself a clan sweatshirt. I've attached some photos.



Honorary Pipers

By Dale Bailey

At our Turangi meeting Clan Cameron New Zealand appointed two Honorary Pipers for the Association. Suitably we have one living in the North Island and one in the South Island. However both have family across the motu. Nick Cameron (Canterbury) and Rob Cameron (Auckland) seen here played for the Executive Council meeting. This meeting held on the opening day of the Rugby World Cup so they played us a lament!

Interestingly Rob's grandfather Rodney Cameron was our honorary piper in the 1980s. Thank you very much to both for accepting this important role within Clan Cameron.

(see picture back page)



The 26th Lochiel, Donald Hamish Cameron, with Lady Margaret, at a reception at Casa Loma, Lower Hutt, in 1986. The piper is Rob Cameron's grandfather, Rodney.



Aonaibh ri Chéile

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Glenfinnan Celebrations 2023

Above Left: Members of the Clan Cameron at the Cameron tent. You will see Bill Cameron on left.

Above Right: Camerons marching onto the Games field at Glenfinnan

Left: Donald Andrew Cameron of Lochiel MSP and daughter, Rose, at the Glenfinnan Gathering. With his back to the camera is John Cameron Nixon.

Right: Roddy Cameron, President of the Clan Cameron Association Scotland, with Capt. John Cameron Nixon, former Cameron Highlander and Korean War Veteran, and David Cameron, former President of the CCAS.

Photos:

Bill Cameron and Chris Doak



Dining together on the night before the Executive Council Meeting in Turangi. From Left: Nick Cameron, John Cameron, Bryan Haggitt, Hamish and Joan Cameron, Tanya Cameron, Dale Bailey, Rob Cameron, Hillary and Cass Hakaruia, Hazel and Graeme Cameron. Photo: Neil Cameron



President Dale and Treasurer Hillary Photo: Neil Cameron



Official Clan Cameron pipers, Nick and Rob, pipe Members to the meeting. Photo: Dale Bailey