



Cameron



The Hawke's Bay Club, Napier

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Bruce Cameron Addressing the Haggis



Guest Speaker, Laura Vodanovich

Honorary Clan Pipers, Nick and Rob Cameron, pipe at the Dinner



A Great AGM and Gathering at the Hawke's Bay Club, Napier.

Photos: Bryan Haggitt and Editor.

“Cameron”

is the magazine of the
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A Message from our Commissioner..

Nga mihi nui, failte, greetings

We have just returned from a very successful annual gathering in Napier. It was a friendly and engaging meeting and annual dinner. Special thanks to Hamish and Joan for hosting us in the beautiful Hawkes Bay. Our venue was the historic Hawkes Bay Club which was a wonderful place to hold the gathering.

On our agenda at the meeting was the need to review our constitution. We need to update and modernise our society for the years ahead, and the *Incorporated Societies Act 2022* has brought in new regulations that we are not yet compliant with. A small group (Dale, Rob Cameron Auckland and Russell Cameron Manawatu) has been formed to draft up something in time for the next Annual General Meeting. If you have any suggestions we would love to hear from you. One of the items of discussion was the future of membership. It's very important to continue to modernise the way we do things and connect to our members.

Another important event at the annual gathering was the transfer of ownership of the Blenheim pipes from Ewen and Ros Grant to Clan Cameron NZ. Brought to New Zealand in 1840 on the Blenheim they form an important link to our migration here. We will decide from time to time who shall have custody of these pipes so that they are well cared for into the future. Special thanks to the Grants for their thoughtful generosity.

A good number of New Zealand Camerons will be journeying to Scotland this year to attend the International Gathering at Achnacarry. It's going to be a great time to connect with our wider family across the world. We have organised a special event for Kiwi Camerons as a fringe event to the main gathering. Its being held at the wonderful West Highlands Museum on Friday 2nd August at 8.15am. If you have family in the UK, let them know. Contact me for full details.

Thank you all for the wonderful support of Clan Cameron

Aonaibh ri Cheile

Dale Cameron Bailey



August 2024 issue of 'Cameron'

As the Editor will be leaving for Scotland in mid July, the August issue of this magazine will be published two weeks early and posted out by 15 July.



Next Magazine Deadline is 1 July 2024

Printed By

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us: *Ceud Mìle Fàilte One Hundred Thousand Welcomes*

Manawatu Branch

Peter and Jill Cameron

Palmerston North

Meet our new National Secretary, Scott Turner ...



Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Scott Gregory TURNER was born in Wanganui in February 1956. He was educated at Wanganui High School and Massey University. He holds a Masters Degree in Management and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Studies. During his working career, he was an Associate Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Management.

In 1975, Scott enlisted into the NZ Army and attended the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, Australia. He was commissioned in the rank of Second Lieutenant, within the Royal New Zealand Signals, and held a range of command and staff appointments in the New Zealand Army until his retirement from the Armed Forces in 2002. These appointments included:

- Operations Officer, 2 Signals Squadron,
- training with 1 NZSAS Squadron,
- Squadron Second in Command, Main Divisional Signals

- Squadron, 1st Divisional Signal Regiment, Australia,
- Military Assistance to the Chief of Defence Staff,
- Private Secretary to the Minister of Defence,
- Liaison role at Defence Signals Directorate, Australia for 3 years,
- Assistant Director Electronic Warfare, HQNZDF
- Squadron Commander of Land Force Signals Squadron,
- three appointments in the Middle East (Lebanon, Syria and Israel) in the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organisation (UNTSO) for two years. These were the UN Liaison Officer at Beirut, the Military Assistant to Force Commander UNDOF, Damascus, and the Military Assistant to Force Commander UNIFIL in Southern Lebanon.

In 2002, upon retirement from the NZ Army in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Scott transferred to the NZDF Civilian Staff although and remained employed in the fields of Security and Intelligence. He relinquished his last full-time role of the Director Security of the NZDF in May 2022, although continued to contribute to the NZDF through part-time employment until December 2023.

Scott is married to Shelley, and they have a daughter Gabriella. Scott has two older children, Paula and Jonathon from a previous marriage.

Scott traces his Cameron lineage to Donald and Christina Cameron, who arrived in NZ onboard the Blenheim on 27 December 1840, through his mother Patricia Turner, grandfather Ronald (m. Nellie Murphy), Great-Great father Donald (m Annie Storey), Great-Great-Great Grandfather Alexander (m. Mary Morrison).

Invitation to all Kiwi Camerons in the UK

First light in Lochaber, breakfast at the Museum

Falte, Nau mai haere mai, Welcome

A very special invitation to join the kiwi Camerons in Lochaber for the International

The West Highlands Museum has an excellent collection of Jacobite material and the event will include an opportunity to view the Museum. The event will conclude in time for you to attend the scheduled Clan Cameron International events.

8.15 am to 9.30am Friday 2nd August 2024
West Highlands Museum ,
Cameron Square, Fort William
Koha (donation to the West Highlands Museum).



Gathering of Clan Cameron. Please join us to learn more about the First Light exchange between New Zealand and Scotland. We will have some of our wonderful Scottish supporters with us.

All kiwi Cameron's living in the United Kingdom are especially welcome to join us. Would be great to meet you and hear what you are up to. What a great time to visit Scotland and find out more of your heritage.

Lochiel will be present.

RSVP
dale.bailey@xtra.co.nz

Coming Events

Saturday 6 July 2024
Auckland Branch Annual Dinner
The Parnell, 10-20 Gladstone Road, Parnell. 6pm for 6.30pm. \$65
Great company and great entertainment.
A farewell for those going to the gathering at Achnacarry

1 to 4 August 2024
Clan Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry, Lochaber, Scotland.
A very full programme is being arranged which will include all the traditional gathering events - plus a lot more.
Details can be found on the Clan Cameron Scotland Website:
<https://www.clanameronassociation.scotland.co.uk/>
This will lead you to the Eventbrite site.

Saturday 28 September 2024
Scottish Clans Association Annual Dinner.
The Parnell, 10-20 Gladstone Road, Parnell.
Please save the date—further details later.
This is a major fundraiser for the Scottish Clans Association's Endowment Fund Scholarship.

From the Branches....

Auckland by Rob Cameron

With the end of the piping season and we are now moving to winter, things have slowed down a bit. Piping wise, I had two ANZAC day parades, Newmarket and Henderson with the City of Auckland Pipe Band. City of Sails Pipe Band had a large turnout with their parades at Mt Eden, Te Atahu, and Birkenhead.



Several of our Auckland members were involved with the executive meeting and AGM in Napier; Dale, Hillary, Neil, and Bryan all have roles on the committee plus myself representing the Auckland branch. All the weekend activities were held at the Hawkes Bay Club, a perfect venue for what we needed, so good in fact, we will be returning to the Hawkes Bay Club for the next executive meeting at the end of October.

There was much discussion over the upcoming constitution updates and what our branch structure should look like. The Auckland branch membership is quite strong and our branch's committee feel that it is important to continue with the branch structure, the engagement between the branch and its membership is vital to retain and grow that branch's membership. We understand that this may not be possible for all branches.

With that being said, and with the Bay of Plenty Branch about to wind up, I would like to ask that if you are a member of that branch, to consider moving your membership to the Auckland Branch. We already have a common engagement with the Paeroa Highland Games, and we will try to host get-togethers in the region where we can get a mix of Auckland and Bay of Plenty members.

The dinner at the Hawkes Bay Club was very good. As the clan's honorary Pipers, Nick Cameron (Canterbury) and myself, briefly joined the Hawkes Bay Caledonian Pipe Band in the build-up entertainment for the evening. The Guest Speaker Laura Vodanovich, director of Napier Museum and Art Gallery, had a great presentation on some of the regions significant artifacts.

During the night I was made custodian of a set of bagpipes brought out to New Zealand by my ancestors in December 1840 known as "the Blenheim Pipes" named after the ship they travelled on. I would like to thank Ewen and Roz Grant who have had them up until now, and along with Anne Walker Long has made sure that these pipes are made accessible for all the clan in the years to come.

During the same weekend, Bryan Haggitt was able to organise an interview with prospective First Lighter Lochiel Nielsen and her family, hopefully to follow Sarah and be the next to take up the exchange.

Upcoming events:

The Scottish Clans Association is organising the Kirkin o' the Tartan again this year at St Andrew's Church on Symonds Street for 30th June. Further details will be distributed closer to the date.

A reminder that our branch's Annual dinner is on July 6th held at the Parnell Hotel and Conference Centre, and we welcome anyone wishing to attend to get in touch with Neil. Tickets are still available at \$65 per person.

Auckland members are asked to save the date for The Scottish Clans Association AGM and Annual Dinner which has been set for September 28th. Menu, ticket prices, and programme are still yet to be confirmed.

Application forms are available for the Scottish Clans Association Youth Scholarship. Applications are for up to \$500 to cover education costs relating to any Scottish Culture for Aucklanders under the age of 25. If you are interested in applying or know someone who could be interested in applying, please contact me directly.

Manawatu by Anne Walker Long

Our local Committee is very active and busy organizing our calendar of events.



Members of the Manawatu Branch attended the 2024 AGM and gathering in Hawkes Bay on May 4th and enjoyed the opportunity to visit Napier again. The Hawkes Bay Club was a perfect venue for the dinner, and the evening was thoroughly enjoyable. Manawatu Branch actively supported the dinner, and Russell Cameron was a very able MC for the evening.

Branch member Scott Turner (a descendent of Camerons who arrived on the Blenheim and settled in Turakina), has been elected as National Secretary, much to the delight of Dale, our President, who has been covering both roles for the last year.

On Saturday June 8th the Manawatu Branch will host their annual Mid-winter Clan Cameron Manawatu dinner at Wharerata Function Centre on the Massey University Campus. All Clan Members, friends and family are very welcome. The evening will follow the usual format with a haggis ceremony, and piping, and our guest speaker for the night is Ian McKelvie, a member of Clan Cameron and former MP for Rangitikei. Ian retired at the last election, and he will reflect on his last 12 years in Parliament.

The evening commences at 6pm with pre-dinner drinks. The cost for the three-course meal is \$60 per head. Cash bar.

RSVPs please to clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com, or 027 41541105 by Friday May 31st.

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

A great many times in the past, when writing for this column, I've extolled our climate as one of the most agreeable in the country. From a recreational point of view, this almost always guarantees that whatever event is planned, Hawkes Bay will turn on brilliant weather to add to the occasion.



Over the first weekend of May (opening day for Duck shooting) this trend continued. Bright – cloud free – clear blue skies is what welcomed Clan Cameron members to the national A.G.M and formal Dinner held in Napier at one of New Zealand's most Historic Clubs.

The fact that, numerically, Hawkes Bay is one of the smallest branches loomed as a major stumbling block in the delivery of this occasion. However, this is where the strength and cohesion of Clan Cameron really comes to light.

Dale Bailey, the National President, put out the call for assistance, resulting in the volunteering of the considerable event managing skills of both the Manawatu and Auckland branch members. Their input and presence is ultimately what led to a really enjoyable evening in a truly magnificent setting. It is here that I would like to acknowledge and thank all concerned for that commitment.

It could possibly be claimed that Hawkes Bay's major contribution to the weekend was the stunning weather --- again !

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

The AGM will be in June to wind up the branch and that I will let members know details soon.



The year so far has been quiet for our branch with the last event being the Hororata games in November. We are trying to organize a suitable time to hold a local AGM.



I attended the National AGM in Napier on behalf of our branch held in the Gentleman's club on Marine Parade. It is a fantastic venue for such an event. The building itself is a listed historic building and has many features including two very large billiard tables and a number of interesting artefacts and pictures. Well done to Commissioner Dale and local President Hamish for sorting this ... it was very well done and thoroughly enjoyable.

Hamish has constructed a very interesting clan display which as a mechanical engineer shows of his technical skills... I believe this project was started during Finlay Cameron's stay with Hamish and Joan. It was well placed at the entrance to the Gentleman's club and was very welcoming.

We were treated to some piping from the Napier Pipe band ably led by pipe major Kerry Marshall (a well known identity in piping circles). Rob Cameron and I were invited to play with them during the evening. Luckily both our chanter pitches matched theirs.

A highlight for me was the fact that the Blenheim pipes are now being cared for by the clan and in particular at present by Rob (the slightly younger!) Cameron (our Auckland Branch President). I know that as he is a direct descendent of Donald Cameron the piper from the Blenheim ship, he was pleased to receive this honour and he will be determined to have them tuned to perfection!.

Julie and I have now booked our fares to cross to Scotland for the International Clan Cameron gathering in August.

Wellington / Wairarapa by Graeme Cameron

On 4 May 2024, Rob, Cath, Hazel and Graeme represented the branch at the Annual General Meeting in Napier.



On 11 May 2024, 12 members of the branch met in Greytown at the Cobblestones Museum. After a walk-around the interesting heritage collection, we then had lunch at a local café.

Photos on back page



First Light News



by Bryan Haggitt—First Light Convenor

Sarah McQueen continues to have a marvellous time in Lochaber, thanks hugely to the generosity of Finlay, our previous First Lighter, and particularly his parents Ken and Rhona who have been hosting Sarah most of the time at their home at Inverlair.

Sarah has also stayed with Dr Roddy Cameron, Scotland's Commissioner, and with Finlay at Glasgow. On 4th May, a video prepared by Sarah was shown at Clan NZ's Annual Dinner at the Hawkes Bay Club giving members a real appreciation of her time in Scotland.

The recent Aurora - Ken has advised that whilst he and Rhona were away and missed seeing the spectacular display. However, Sarah, Sandy and his partner Eireann, were holding the fort at Inverlair and took loads of very impressive photographs.

Ken also reports that Finlay is doing his best to get organised for his final written submissions as well as preparing for his final recital and various concerts, etc. that all contribute to his final grade. We wish Finlay every success in this his final year of study.

Back to Napier, following Clan NZ's AGM, Commissioner Dale, Auckland President Rob, Past Commissioner Nick, Treasurer Hillary and I interviewed Lochiel Nielsen, a prospective First Lighter. A very pleasant and relaxed chat and we also met Lochiel's parents, Barry and Melissa Nielsen. Lochiel descends from Donald the Weaver and is very keen to visit Scotland to explore her roots and the land of her ancestors. She expects to complete her studies in early childhood education at UCOL (Manawatu Campus) this year and is hoping to head to Scotland mid 2025. Lochiel will be an ideal First Lighter.

Two other lads are on our short list hoping to travel once university studies have been completed but, please, let us know of any other young person interested in this Exchange.



Lochiel Nielsen with her parents, Barry and Melissa Nielsen

Lochiel's Message to those attending the Gathering Dinner

"Greetings to Clan Cameron New Zealand and my very best wishes to all of you attending the annual gathering today. It has been a year of upheaval for me personally. The unexpected loss of my father last October was a moment of great shock and sorrow, but we were comforted by the many messages of condolences we received. We were particularly touched that Dale made such a monumental effort to attend the funeral and represent the New Zealand clan association. On a brighter note, we are greatly looking forward to seeing many of you in August for the international gathering at Achnacarry. Plans are proceeding at pace and I hope that it will be a fantastic and memorable event. All the very best, Lochiel."

I have yet to get a formal kilted photo so will send a formal one that is at least formal.

Many thanks and I will be keeping touch, Yours ever, Donald

Ps. Sarah is proving to be a real hit!



The National AGM and Gathering in Napier



Bryan Haggitt, Lochiel Nielsen and Garry Nielsen.



Bruce Cameron hands over the Blenheim Pipes to Rob Cameron



Anne Walker Long, Barbara Moore and Catherine Jellard.



The Executive Council Meeting prior to the AGM and Gathering



Lloyd and Trish Anderson, Sally Cameron and Rob Cameron



Hazel and Graeme Cameron and Nigel Long



Malissa Nielsen, Shelley Turner and Scott Turner.



On the staircase after the AGM.

Photos: Bryan Haggitt and Editor



Following the Culloden Anniversary Service, Lochiel and Sarah speak after a delicious meal at a local tavern. Sarah talked about First light.

The Culloden Anniversary Service parade on a bleak Drumossie Moor.



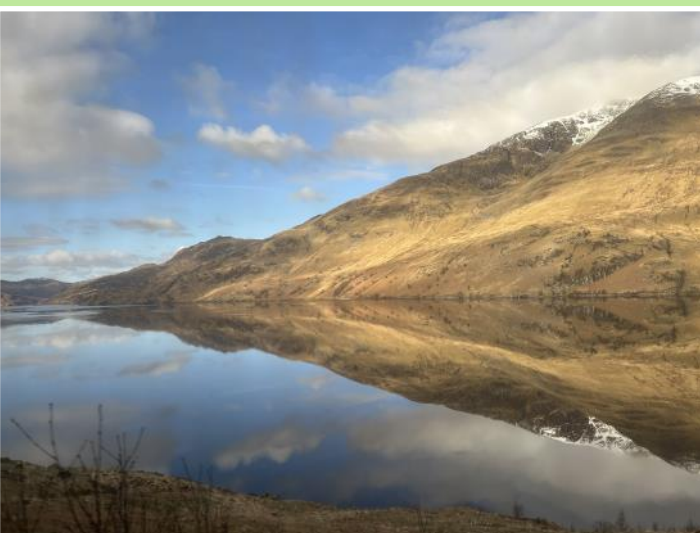
Finlay and Sandy Cameron lead the parade.



Sarah lays daffodils at the Cameron Stone



The Cameron Stone



Loch Treig reflections from the West Highland Line train. Bill and Sarah at the top of Beinn na Lap, at the northern end of Rannoch Moor

Robina Thomson Cameron - Nursing Pioneer.

by David Weston, Clan Historian and Genealogist

Robina Cameron was one of 8 children born in Edinburgh to James Cameron and Jane Thomson. She was born on 15 April 1892 and came to New Zealand in 1911 along with five sisters. She trained as a nurse at Cook Hospital in Gisborne, qualifying in 1915.

Soon after graduating she travelled to England and joined Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and worked in Egypt and Palestine during WW1. In 1919 she was awarded the Royal Red Cross for her services to the soldiers serving there.

She returned to New Zealand later that year and worked as a Native district nurse based in Opotiki and travelling from Waimana to Cape Runaway on horseback. She worked this area for 11 years, although with a break in 1922 to obtain her qualification in midwifery.

In 1931 she moved to Rotorua as a District Nurse for the area from Taupo to Whakatane and became known as "the little woman in the Model T Ford". She consulted with elders in the local iwi and obtained their support worked to educate Maori women on health matters.

Her work led to the formation of women's committees

in the local Maori settlements and in 1937 this resulted to the founding of Te Ropu o te Ora, the Women's Health League. Robina, known as "Kamerana" to the local Maori, was appointed as president and retained this position for her lifetime.

The League expanded into the surrounding districts and brought better maternal and infant health care and helped to eliminate typhoid. It also campaigned for better housing, the preservation of Maori arts and crafts, better hospital services and the teaching of the Maori language in schools. She was made an MBE in 1938 for her work.

In 1939 she moved to Hamilton where she was a nurse inspector, later promoted to a senior nurse inspector and she remained in this role until 1947. She was then sent to London to recruit nurses and auxiliary nursing staff to work in New Zealand.

On returning to New Zealand in 1949 she retired and later moved to Rotorua where she tried to revive the Women's Health League which had become less active with the move of many Maori to the larger centres. She died in 1971. Robina was a strong Cameron woman who was a pioneer in improving the health of rural Maori in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty region.

While never married herself it seems others of her family came to New Zealand in 1911. Are there other relations out there that belong to Clan Cameron New Zealand.

(With acknowledgement to information from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography)

Clan Cameron gathering sculpture trail - 2024.

by Bill Cameron

With many people travelling from across the world to Lochaber for the upcoming clan Cameron gathering. I thought it might be a good idea to share some of our local history of the area, and try to encourage people to visit a number of the notable sculptures that can be easily found throughout Lochaber.

Using QR code technology that can be used with most modern smart phones. The idea is to encourage people to physically visit up to eight notable sculptures that can be easily located in the area. When people visit a particular sculpture, a QR code can be scanned and will provide information on the history of the sculpture, as well as any other points of historical interest in the surrounding area.

The idea could be aligned to being something like a treasure hunt, and geocaching.

It's hoped that some prizes will be included during the time of the clan Cameron gathering in August, encouraging visitors to explore and learn more about our history and culture on the Lochaber sculpture trail.

I am still working on the idea and hope to give a further update in the next newsletter, as well as updating the clan Cameron Facebook close to the gathering.

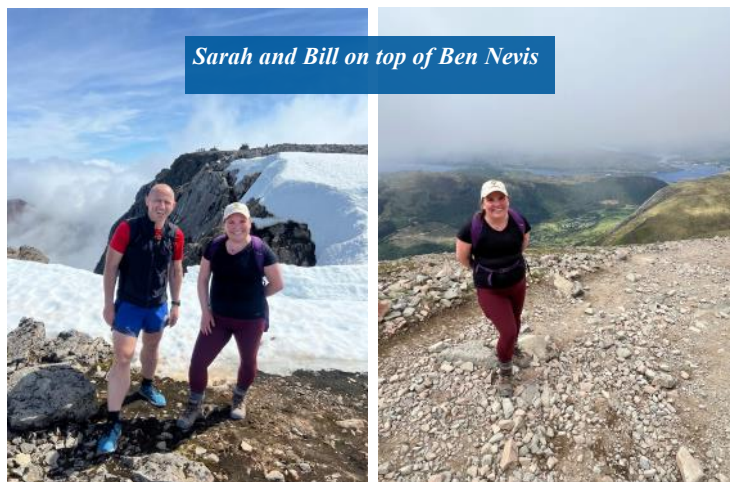


The Cameron of Lochiel Sculpture in Fort William.

Some of Bill Camerons recent photos.....



Ben Nevis reflected in Loch Eil



Sarah and Bill on top of Ben Nevis

John and James Cameron of Marangai, Wanganui. Brothers who died in World War 1.

By Bryan Haggitt



Two of my great uncles died in World War 1. and each ANZAC Day we lay a wreath at the Cenotaph of Saint Aidan's Church, Remuera.

My great grandparents, John and Annie Cameron of Marangai, near Wanganui, had five children – Allan, Hector, John, Mary (my grandmother) and James. Hector and John both went with the "Rough Riders" to the South African or Boer War of 1898-1902.

They returned from that war unscathed and, like Allan who had stayed home to run the farm at Marangai, Hector married and went farming on his own account.

John remained single so when World War 1. broke out he enlisted with the New Zealand Army and was sent overseas. Records are vague but, sadly, John took ill and died in Egypt.

James, also single, had pre-war been working on farms in Queensland and enlisted in the Australian Army only to be killed in France in 1916.

Hector and John brought back from Southern Africa a remarkable collection of Zulu spears, axes, knobkerries and shields. For many years these were hung in pride of place on the walls of the entrance hall of the Marangai Homestead. Later Neil Corballis, the inheritor of Marangai, donated the collection to the Wanganui Museum.



Above: Allan, John, Mary, Hector and James – family of Marangai's John Cameron . Right: John and James



The Cameron wreath laid each ANZAC Day at the St Aidan's Church Cenotaph following a Service in the Church.

The badge attached to the wreath is DJ (Don) Cameron's and given to us by Fiona Cameron, his daughter.



The Blenheim pipes

By Bruce Cameron

On Saturday 4th at the CCNZ AGM at Napier, I handed over the Blenheim Pipes to Rob Cameron, Auckland Branch President. Rob is a piper, plays his late grandfather's Rodney Cameron's pipes. The Blenheim pipes are the Coccus Wood Alexander Glen 'reel' or three quarter Pipes manufactured in approximately the late 1830's.

Rob is a direct descendant of the Donald 'the Weaver' Cameron family through his son Donald 'the Piper' whose family brought the pipes to Wellington on the Blenheim in 1840. Roz and Ewen Grant have carefully cared for the Blenheim pipes in recent years.

I had the honour of playing these pipes at Emeritus Professor Dr Mary (Maisie) Earle's funeral. It was Maisie who encouraged the then owner, the late Donald Cameron, Upper Hutt (also a Donald the Weaver descendant) the then owner to have the pipes refurbished by the late John Park.

After refurbishment the pipes were passed into the care of Dennis Cameron, Bay of Plenty. These pipes came to NZ with the first resident pipers and helped establish the highland piping and dancing traditions that continue strongly throughout New Zealand.

(Photo of the handover on page 6)



Since Sarah's article on page 11 she has climbed Ben Nevis. Here she is at the top with Bill Cameron



"Maisie's Tune"

by Bruce Cameron

"Maisie's Tune" is a joint composition of Astie Cameron and I. It's a 2/4 March and fit's the bagpipe scale.

The outline of the tune came to me a while back, later Astie (inaugural First Light Exchangee 2000) and I worked on it off and on from 2021. I played the outline tune to Maisie prior to her passing, it had no name then, although Maisie thought it captured something of the Gael! I took that as a pass mark! I feared if I said "it's for you" Maisie would have chided and replied "don't fuss over me!"

I composed the first 2 measures and Astie the last 2. We called the tune "Maisie's Tune" as Maisie Earle often referred to herself as "Maisie Cameron-Banavie".

Willie Rowe & Bruce Omundsen from the Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band both suggested wee 'tweeks" to the melody which were incorporated. The tune is being published in the Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band's Centenary publication supported by the Earle Trust. Finlay Cameron is also planning on publishing the tune as a Cameron traditional music project he is working on for his music degree.

"Thanks to Bruce Omundsen for typesetting the score".



Maisie's Tune

March

Astie & Bruce Cameron 2021

2
Repeat of 2nd part

1

2
Repeat of 4th part

1

With Sarah in Scotland

Greetings from Scotland. Since the last time I wrote a report, I have been up to many exciting adventures, and I have detailed some of the highlights in the following article.

I was very fortunate to be invited to stay with Johanna and Colin Wilson again over the Easter weekend. The weekend fun started on my travel day as I got a ticket (while on the train down to Glasgow!) to see the musical Hamilton in Edinburgh. You may not know, but I am a massive fan of musicals, particularly this one, and it was so wonderful to see the UK tour!

The next day, I got the train up to Auchterarder from Glasgow, and I was warmly welcomed back by the Wilsons, whom I had first stayed with back in December. On our quick sightseeing tour, we started by going to the Kelpies. These are two magnificent horse heads that stand at 30m tall and are the largest equine sculptures in the world. Their name comes from the mythological transforming water-dwelling beasts that would appear as horses on land. Following this, we visited the Falkirk Wheel, an interesting piece of engineering that acts as a boat lift between two canals. It was great fun to go on a boat up and down the lift, and from the top, you got marvellous views of the surrounding area.

The next site to see was Stirling Castle, and Dr Roddy Cameron (Scotland Clan Cameron Commissioner) joined us in taking in this impressive castle. There were fantastic tour guides who explained the history of this important castle and also why the great hall was golden in colour - it turns out the restoration used a remake of the original golden lime wash - meaning the whole castle would have looked bright and golden rather than the plain stone we are used to today!

On my final day in Perthshire, I headed to Perth to go to the newly opened Perth Museum. It is an excellent museum, which even had an Aotearoa section, and is now the home of the Stone of Scone (or Stone of Destiny, which is still used in crowning monarchs). The stone was originally from Scone Palace (which I visited in December) and, until recently, was housed in Edinburgh Castle, from where it was taken to Westminster for the crowning of King Charles III in 2023.

A memorable day for me in April was attending the Culloden Anniversary Service with Clan Cameron Scotland and getting the invitation to talk about the First Light exchange and my experience thus far at the following clan lunch. I have written about this more, but for me personally, it was a moving experience, and it was great to chat with more Clan Cameron Scotland members during the lunch.

Another highlight has been the weather improving with the arrival of spring. It is so lovely to see the lambs running around the fields and being able to enjoy a drink in the sun before the midges arrive. Sunshine has also meant being able to get out and enjoy the mountains. I have been lucky to meet up with Bill Cameron to tackle a few hikes, including catching the train one stunning morning to Corroun and hiking up my next Munro - Beinn na Lap, followed by a well-deserved meal at Corroun station. We plan to head up Ben Nevis as soon as we can get a good day! Most recently, I travelled to Glen Coe to visit the visitor centre, with its turf house, before heading up the glen to The Three Sisters viewpoint. I parked here and hiked up to the hidden valley with stunning views up the glen on the way.

I had better wrap this up before it gets too long. But one last thing. We were recently treated to a magical display of the Northern lights in the Highlands. The sky was even pink to the naked eye, and I got some unbelievable photos. It was an extraordinary 'once in a lifetime' moment. Thank you for reading and supporting this fantastic exchange program. I can't wait to see some of you in person at Achnacarry for the International Gathering in August!

Sarah

Commemorating the 278th Anniversary of the Battle of Culloden with the Clan Cameron Association of Scotland

On April 13, around ~40 members of the Clan Cameron Association of Scotland descended on the Culloden battlefield to join several other clans and societies for the Culloden Anniversary Service. The service, led by the Gaelic Society of Inverness, commemorated those who died in the last land battle on British soil on April 16, 1746.

The Camerons followed Lochiel as we were marched up to the memorial cairn by clan pipers Finlay and Sandy Cameron. On display was a reproduction of the Clan Cameron Culloden flag; the original hangs above the stairs in Achnacarry. The service included addresses in both Gaelic and English, a slow air from a solo piper and a sombre poem before the gathered organisations were invited to lay flowers at the base of the Forbes cairn. Lochiel laid the Clan Cameron Association Scotland wreath.

Although the rain decided to come down during the service, the clan folk spirit was not deterred as we headed to the Cameron marker, where daffodils were laid, and Finlay piped. A smaller group of Camerons braved the now set-in rain to proceed to the Cameron spot on the Jacobite line, piped all the way across the moor by our fantastic pipers.

After finishing at the battlefield, the clan members gathered for a delicious meal at a nearby tavern. During this, our chief, Lord Cameron of Lochiel, spoke, and I (Sarah) was privileged to have been asked to talk also about the history of First Light and my experience. Despite the rain, which may have reflected the conditions on the day of the battle, this was a genuinely moving and memorial experience,

Sarah



Sarah lays daffodils on the stone that marks the Cameron position in the battle line. Pipers Finlay and Sandy in rear and Lochiel on right.



The Kelpies



Stirling Castle





Aonaibh ri Cheile

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The Haggis Ceremony at the Gathering Dinner.



Hamish Cameron, Hawke's Bay President and host of this year's AGM and Gathering.



An enjoyable get together at the Napier RSA on the evening before the AGM.

Photos: Dale Cameron, Bryan Haggitt and Ed.



Auckland branch President Rob Cameron with the City of Auckland Pipe Band during the Newmarket ANZAC service parade.



The Wellington Wairarapa Branch enjoying lunch in Greytown after a visit to the Cobblestones Museum. Left: John and Jan Thompson, Right: Catherine and Rob Cameron. Above: Hazel and Graeme Cameron