



Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



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The names of everyone shown in photos on this page are given on page 3

“Cameron”

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

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A Message from our Commissioner..

Kia ora tatou, faillte, greetings

It was a great privilege to represent Clan Cameron New Zealand at the International Gathering at Achnacarry in August. We were in Scotland for five wonderful weeks, enjoying the amazing landscapes of our ancestors. The kiwis made a great impression with over 20 in attendance. A special thanks to Lochiel, his family and the organising committee for their wonderful hospitality and hard work. A special shout out to our First Lighter Sarah McQueen who was part of the organising committee and presented a workshop on famous Camerons.

A real highlight for me was the First Light in Lochaber breakfast event at the West Highland Museum in Cameron Square, Fort William. It started with our pipers Nick and Rob Cameron. It was great to have Lochiel and his son Donald the Younger at our event. Thank you to the West Highland Museum for their wonderful hospitality. We presented Lochiel with the Hei Tiki featured in the last newsletter. Over the weekend we were able to see six of our first lighters Robert Nairn, Sarah Mc Queen, Shona Shirley (nee Cameron), Finlay Cameron, Astie Cameron and Bill Cameron. Lochiel praised the New Zealand association and the wonderful First Light Exchange. An accolade to be shared by the many members of our association who have worked so hard to make it what it has become.

Clan Cameron Scotland presented us with a replica of Lochiel's banner flown at Culloden which we will display with pride at coming events. The original can be seen in the main lobby of Achnacarry.

While Lena and I were in Scotland we also had the pleasure of attending the Clan Matheson gathering in Loch Carron and on Skye. It was great to share some stories with their clan. Our travels also took us to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Orkney, Inverness and Culloden as well as fully exploring Skye. I have been doing some extensive travelling since the gathering and have been in Dubai, Qatar, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. I certainly have covered some ground in the last few months.

Next year Clan Cameron New Zealand will be celebrating its 90th birthday and I am keen to have some suggestions about how we might best commemorate this milestone. I am thinking an event around collecting our family histories might be a good way to mark this milestone. Thank you for your wonderful support and enthusiasm for Clan Cameron.

Aonaibh ri Cheile

Dale Cameron Bailey, Commissioner & President



Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Nov. 2024

Printed By

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

Manawatu Branch

Pauline Boyd

Whanganui



Clan Cameron Manawatu Branch are excited to offer this opportunity to purchase a calendar which contains original photographs of the awe inspiring Scottish scenery.

These 2025 calendars contain a range of beautiful photographs taken by award-winning amateur photographer, Ainsley Watson, of Palmerston North, during a 3-week trip throughout Scotland in 2023.

The A4 calendars are a perfect size for mailing to family and friends as Christmas gifts. We hope you like them. Profits from this project will support the Clan Cameron First Light Exchange, and other Clan Cameron projects.

Price is \$25.00 each. Delivery of all orders will be made on receipt of payment For delivery add \$5.00 for post, or select free pick up from Palmerston North.

Place your order by emailing clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com, with your order request and delivery option. An electronic order confirmation will be sent.

Order your Clan Cameron 2025 Calendar now.



Manawatu Branch Devonshire Tea (page 4)

Above Left: John Cameron, Jo Cameron, Dean Cameron and Bev Morrissey talk to Prospective First Light Candidate Lochiel Nielsen.

Above Right: Russell Cameron talks to Garry and Malissa Nielsen, Lochiel's parents.

Right: Country Lane Homestead



Names to go with photos on the front page

Top Picture from Left Front: Sarah McQueen, Julie Cameron, Yvette and Alex Webster, Emma, Joanne and Dean Cameron, Dale Cameron Bailey, Bryan Haggitt, Neil Cameron, Nick Cameron, Stewart Cameron and Lena Orum.

From Left Back: Astie Cameron, Bev Morrissey, Jean McQueen, Andrew Collier Cameron and wife Moira, Morea and Allan Cameron, Bill Cameron and Rob Cameron.

Lower Picture from left: Dale Cameron Bailey (NZ President), John Cameron (Canada President, Roddy Cameron (Scotland President - behind Lochiel), Sheree Cameron (USA President), James Cameron (Australia President), Lochiel's wife Sarah, Lochiel's sisters Catherine, Lucy and Emily, Charles Cameron, and Lady Cecil Kerr, Lochiel's mother.

Coming Events

Saturday 19 October 2024
Executive Council Meeting.
Hawkes Bay Club, 53 Marine Parade Napier
9.00am to 1pm followed by lunch for those who wish to.

Saturday 9 November 2024
13th Hororata Highland Games
Hororata Domain 9am—5pm

Saturday 30 November 2024
St. Andrews Day Display
Kinder House, Parnell, Auckland.

Tuesday 31 December 2024
152nd Waipu Highland Games
Our tent will be there. A great place to meet Cameron visitors from overseas.
www.waipuhighlandgames.co.nz
Note that this year the games are on New Year's Eve, not New Year's Day.

Saturday 25 January 2025
160th Turakina Highland Games
Cameron Road, Turakina.
Great country games.
<https://turakinahighlandgames.co.nz/>

Saturday 8 February 2025
32nd Paeroa Highland Games
Join us in our tent. Enjoy the piping and Tattoo.
<https://paeroahighlandgames.co.nz>

From the Branches....

Auckland by Rob Cameron

It has been a very busy couple of months for some of our branch members.

Firstly, we held our Annual Dinner on July 6th. This was another great night. I would like to thank the various members for bringing their Blenheim artifacts and explaining about them. Throughout the night there were various conversations about the Blenheim Pipes, Spinning wheel, dirk and musket all of which arrived with Cameron families aboard the Blenheim in 1840. I had a couple of people say they appreciated these stories as it made the night special. It was also great to be able to get some of the photos into the August newsletter.



Auckland branch members who attended the Gathering at Achnacarry started their travels from the week after dinner. I travelled over with my parents towards the end of the month arriving in Fort William a few days before the event. My grandparents travelled to Scotland for the 1989 Gathering, and now 35 years later we were making the same trip. This trip is the first time that my parents and I have been to Scotland and I wonder what the differences are since my grandparents made their trip.

We attended most of the events put on for the Gathering. It was a humbling experience meeting Lochiel and his family. Both Lochiel and his son Donald Fergus took separate groups around the grounds of Achnacarry before the opening and it was clear that both of them are passionate about the clan. All the family was easily approachable and made an effort to try to meet everyone across the event.

Nick and I, as the clan pipers, piped for the Breakfast at the West Highland Museum. Organised by Dale for Kiwis, other Commissioners, and Lochiel's family, was a great event for people to meet each other before the main events kicked off.

I also had the opportunity alongside Nick and my parents to join the Lochaber Pipe Band accompanied by Finlay and Sandy. Another great experience to be part of the event, as we led the march past and plus a performance piece in the marquee afterwards. I must thank Sarah McQueen for allowing me to borrow her pipes across the Gathering, and before giving them back I played Pokarekare Ana while the other Kiwis sang it as part of a country-specific performance at the Gathering Ceilidh.

The Gathering finished with a Church service and Barbeque in which Lochiel served up everyone's burgers as a form of thanks for attending. Overall, the Gathering was a great event allowing many people to connect with other Camerons from around the world, albeit a few of them being the first time in Scotland.

At the end of the Gathering, we still had over 3 weeks before returning home. We used this time to do family research, visit much of Scotland's historic places and ruins, attend Highland Games and other Piping competitions, and visit many Whisky Distilleries. This was a great learning experience for me travelling to many places in Scotland. I was able to document much in Facebook allowing others to share the same experiences or reminisce when they did the same thing in the past.

Back in NZ and it back to business as usual. Some noticeable updates with the Scottish Clans Association include; the Annual Dinner planned for September 28th has been cancelled due to low numbers. The AGM planned for the same day has been shifted to Monday 14th October, before the standard committee meeting and will be looking to update the constitution prior to reincorporation. The Association is holding a St Andrews day event at Kinder House on Saturday, November 30th in which planning has begun. The Scholarship has had 3 applicants, the recipient will be presented with the

scholarship at the Kinder House event.

Some of the committee are planning to travel to the Hawkes Bay Club for the upcoming executive meeting on the 19th of October, and planning our participation at the Waipu Highland Games which is on New Year's Eve this year.

Manawatu by Anne Walker Long

Clan Cameron Manawatu members gathered for a Spring Garden visit and Devonshire tea on Sunday 8th September. The visit to Country Lane Homestead in Orrs Road, Aokautere, Palmerston North, was thoroughly enjoyable for the 16 or so members who were able to attend.



Country Lane Homestead is a labour of love for owners, who have developed both the house and garden over the years, from a modest farm cottage to the imposing two-story classical home it is today, set in a lovely garden setting. It looked as though it'd been there forever. As we enjoyed a Devonshire afternoon tea, we were pleased to hear from Lochiel Nielsen, who attended with her parents, Malissa and Garry, and from Jo Cameron, who with Dean Cameron, and Bev Morrissey, spoke briefly about their recent trip to Scotland to attend the Clan Cameron gathering. We also took this opportunity to formally launch our stunning 2025 Calendar.

The 2025 Calendar published by Clan Cameron Manawatu features beautiful landscape photographs of Scotland taken by Ainsley Watson, from Palmerston North, during a trip undertaken in 2023. Ainsley has been a long-time supporter of Clan Cameron, in particular helping us organise pipers for our annual dinners and is a talented landscape photographer.

Those who have already ordered the calendars will be contacted shortly, and information has been sent to all branches to enable you to order in time for Christmas. They will make great gifts for family and friends. \$25 each, plus \$5 for post and packaging if needed. Order online at clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com. Please see the advertisement in this newsletter for further information. Profits will go to supporting the First Light Scholarship and other Clan Cameron projects.

Clan Cameron Manawatu is committed to having a good presence at the Turakina Highland Games in January 2025, where we will be present with our usual Clan Cameron hospitality tent.

Please keep up to date with our news on the Clan Cameron Manawatu Facebook page or email us on clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com.

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

Personally, its been an unusually long spell from my last Newsletter submission until the penning of this brief update. This was brought about by the overseas trip of our Editorial staff, who had meticulously planned all aspects needed to seamlessly deliver our newsletter on time while himself being offshore at publication date....As has been said before of our Editor: "He's a real talent-that young Neil" However, back to what has been happening here. Nothing group wise as a Branch as individuals are all immersed in their own recovery battles



Apart from increased "Black-arm-band" sales, brought about by the loss of the Ranfurly Shield to a full time penalty goal, there has been a noticeable change to the climatic conditions. Almost as if, when the calendar was turned over, so was a switch turning on spring!....Welcome as this is, one half of me doesn't want the climate change to be too complete. By the time you get to read this, Joan and I will hopefully be down South introducing our two Aussie grandsons to the perils of snow and skiing.....Hard to imagine that an eight and eleven

year old have never touched snow.....maybe we should take our own ambulance!...is skiing like riding a bike....when does the body forget how...? Shortly I'll find out-and if it doesn't go to plan-there'll be no Christmas newsletter ramblings due to varying limb damage!

Canterbury by Nick Cameron

Our trip to Scotland started 7 weeks earlier with Julie having an urgent hip replacement and given approval to travel 1 day before we were due to leave. We left our home and our 2 springer spaniels in the care of a Glaswegian couple Ken and Yvonne Marshall (their son Craig is a side drummer in our band). Upon our return we could see our dogs had been totally spoiled!

We spent a night in Dubai and the centre of Glasgow before driving up to Fort William in a bright yellow automatic Mercedes with a gear lever that was initially a little hard to locate. We were lucky enough to be invited to stay the week with Finlay's parents Ken and Rhona Cameron in their historic



3 story home set in 30 acres in Inverlair. We shared an upstairs with Bryan Haggitt and Sarah McQueen. We were superbly treated and their two dogs made us feel like we were at home.

We travelled in convoy the following day to attend the Arisaig Highland Games, a beautiful location right on the coast. Three Christchurch pipers were

competing in the solos and I managed to take a picture of Campbell Wilson playing piobaireachd to show our people back home what an amazing location for a games event this is.

The following day we attended Achnacarry where we were split into several groups for the guided tour. Our group was guided by Lochiel, a second group by his son Fergus, and a third group by Astie. Lochiel gave a wonderful talk on the history of Achnacarry. One piece of history I had not previously realized was the close planting of oak saplings done in haste .. which eventually became the famous Oak avenue. The competition as to who gave the best tour (Locheil or his son in particular) was never decided.

On Friday morning we attended a breakfast meeting organized by our Commissioner Dale for the New Zealand Camerons, First Lighters and Lochiel and his son at the West Highland Museum in Fort William. Rob (on borrowed pipes) and I played some tunes to welcome in the party. The museum is full of Cameron history and priceless artifacts. The museum had put aside several hours just for this event to take place... a huge thank you to Dale for organizing this.

Saturday was the main Gathering event and Rob, Allan, Morea, Finlay, Sandy and I joined in to play with the Lochaber pipe band. The marquee enabled some piping to continue when the rain started but for the band march past outside luckily the weather held with capes off!

Inside the marquee were a number of stalls including Finlay's "Cameron Bagpipes". On sale was a new publication of Cameron Tunes authored by Finlay. It is now for sale in the Clan Cameron Museum. It also includes tunes of New Zealand origin, in particular "Maisie's Tune" jointly composed by Bruce and Astie Cameron. Finlay and his brother Sandy have also contributed some new tunes composed by them. Maybe we should be selling this publication at our own Highland Games stalls?

For our Canterbury branch we were joined by Dean Tobin (a barrister) and his brother Roger Tobin (a



mathematician) with Roger proudly wearing the Lochiel tartan kilt.

Our new chief was very welcoming and made particular mention to the gathering of our past Commissioner Neil Cameron's effort to attend the gathering at the age of 92! He also made mention of his uncle Charles Cameron's attendance at the age of 103. So Neil has 11 years catching up to do!

For the Ceilidh event that evening we were treated to some very fine piping solos by Sandy and Finlay Cameron as well as Josh Chandler (an Australian over for the solo piping circuits). They were playing a vintage set of Henderson pipes from the Clan Museum and restored recently by Finlay. On the Sunday we missed the final church service as we had a flight to catch to Regensburg Germany to briefly catch up with my brother Andrew (recently returned from a medical adventure in Dnipro (Ukraine) and nieces Emily and Josephine Cameron. For those in the piping world I photographed this image of bagpipes in a monastery built 1000 years ago. Does this mean that the Germans had pipes before the Scots?



And by Rae Magson:

We are planning an Annual General Meeting at the beautiful home of Nick Cameron on Saturday 28 September.

Not much else has been happening but of course we have the Hororata Highland Games coming up early in November.

First Light News

by Bryan Haggitt—First Light Convenor



It is a month since I returned from Scotland but what a fabulous Gathering so many of us were able to attend. My very grateful thanks to Lochiel and his family and to Commissioner Roddy Cameron and his Committee for putting on such a successful event! Everyone was made wonderfully welcome and it was a great "homecoming" for so many of us from overseas.

Marvellous that Sarah McQueen, our current First Lighter, was a member of the organising committee. Sarah gave a most interesting talk on Famous Camerons and played an important role in the setting up of the Gathering. Great to catch up with other past First Lighters Astie, Bill and Finlay Camerons, Shona Shirley and Robert Nairn. And to discuss future exchanges with Commissioner Roddy.

I am especially grateful to Ken and Rhona, Finlay's parents, for accommodating me at Inverlair during my stay in Lochaber. Finlay, too, for squeezing me into his apartment when I was in Glasgow. Their generosity made my trip feasible and they were able to acquaint me with the fascinating world of piping.

The future of First Light seems assured. We do hope that Sandy Cameron will be able to come to NZ before too long. We in NZ have Lochiel Nielsen hoping to go to Scotland next year and some young Scots were indicating to me an interest in coming to NZ. Then, in not too many years, we hope to see Donald Fergus come out as a First Lighter followed by a number of his cousins. Truly something to look forward to!



Clan Pipers Nick and Rob Cameron pipe prior to breakfast at the West Highland Museum, Cameron Square, Fort William.



Nick Cameron, Lochiel, Donald the Younger of Lochiel, Rob Cameron and Dale Bailey outside the Museum.



Dale with Vanessa Martin, Curator of the Museum



Lochiel speaks after receiving the Hei Tiki Donald the Younger is with him



Lochiel addresses the breakfast



Sarah, Lochiel, Neil Cameron and Jean McQueen (Three Generations)



The Hei Tiki presented to Lochiel by Dale



At the breakfast, Sarah talks about the First Light Scheme



Lochiel leads a tour of the Achnacarry Estate



*Left: First Lighters at the Ceilidh: Bill Cameron 2003, Sarah McQueen 2023, Finlay Camron 2022, Shona Shirley 2006, Astie Cameron 2000.
Right—At the West Highland Museum breakfast: Robert Nairn 2008, Lochiel, Sarah McQueen and Bill Cameron.*



Neil Cameron with Charles Cameron, aged 103, and Roddy Cameron, Clan Cameron Scotland President. Charles represented his nephew, the 27th Chief, at the 2005 International Gathering in New Zealand.

Sandy and Finlay Cameron

Finlay's display



Dancing at the Ceilidh

Lochiel plays at the Ceilidh

Emma, Yvette, Alex, Joanne, Dean and Sarah



Walking through the grounds of Achnacarry House

The Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band gave wonderful entertainment

1000 days of running

by Bill Cameron (Lochaber)

Why on earth would you want to run for one thousand consecutive days in a row? It's a good question. I've been trying to answer it in my head over the past few weeks as I reach this almost three year running streak and having covered over 5000 miles in the process.

I had been running regularly for the past eleven years, yet not every day. My first running event was the Loch Ness marathon back in 2012. I will shortly be running my eleventh consecutive Loch Ness Marathon in early October 2024. (Covid years cancelled a number of marathons)



On the ascent of Ben Nevis in the recent Ben Nevis Race in temperatures of 28° on the mountain

Like most things in life, things evolve for a reason, sometimes it's for a good reason and sometimes there is no reason at all, other than building in a healthy habit into our busy daily routines. This is what I have done, built in a healthy habit, everyday, come rain, high winds, hail, snow or scorching sunshine. I run because I can.

Never planning to run everyday for this long, I've kept my goals short, yet they are always met, even when time is short and tiredness says leave it for another day I lace up the trainers and go out for a run.

Never intending to train to be a faster runner, this was never my intention when I started running everyday. I see many other runners who are incredibly fast on the flat, as well as on the hill. Over the years you gain an acceptance of your abilities and your limits. There's always a mental push to get over the finish line fast if the legs can handle it. However, I always remember that I will have to be out early the next morning and don't want to pull any muscles that will prevent this. I've thankfully never been injured as a result of my running adventures

So why run for 1000 days? Running has allowed me to cross landscapes and see the most amazing views from heights that many will never have the chance nor inclination to see. To encounter herds of wild deer racing alongside me on Meall an-t-suidhe, or glimpsing darting voles, or spot ptarmigans in the snow, dodge tadpoles frogs and toads in the boggy forgotten uplands as the changing seasons reveal its hidden inhabitants.

As a teacher, I always have an early start to the day. For me the best time to run is in the early morning when things are quiet and the motivation to get going is strong. I also know that by the end of the school day I will procrastinate and that could lead to not running.

Choosing a direction or route usually takes place at the end of the garden path, as my garmin watch connects with unseen satellites to plot my run, distance, cadence amongst other things I have no interest in. It pings into life and I either go left, right or straight ahead. Never going backwards towards the house, always moving forward.

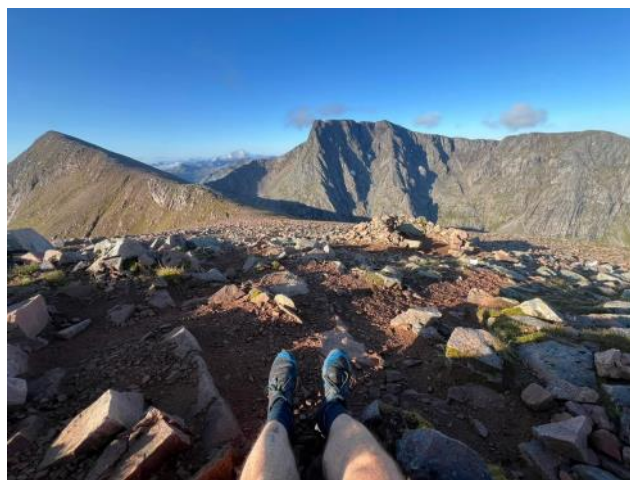
My only goal was to cover a minimum of two miles in each run. Usually I did more than this, particularly at the weekends when time is not so tight and longer hill runs could be done. Some days however, when time was tight, two miles was hard enough to fit in.

Running has given me more than just daily exercise. To explore different areas, to see things, to think things over, to

work things out in my head, to arrive at a destination I never intended to reach and still be happy with the journey taken to get there.

The past 1000 days have seen me run mainly alone, sometimes with friends and occasionally amongst thousands of other runners. It's difficult to encapsulate the sights, sounds and smells taken in whilst travelling across rugged landscapes, or built up areas. The joy of finally reaching a steep peak after a hard run, or the exhilaration of running downhill when your legs are moving so fast, millisecond decisions about where the next footstep will go could be successful in leading to another footstep, or result in a broken ankle. The mind and the lungs are happily working in tandem and the after affects of travelling at speed across the land gives rise to happy endorphins.....usually joined by a well earned slice of cake, or three!

From the early morning streets of Inverlochry, the regular paths and tracks in Glen Nevis and Ben Nevis to the remote island of St Kilda. My 1000 days of running have enabled me to see some amazing places. Will I stop at 1000 consecutive runs? I think I'll see if I can get to 1001 and take it from there.



One of the many rewards of running. Pausing to take in the amazing view on Carn Dearg looking across to the North Face of Ben Nevis.



By Editor: Despite worrying about my capability to make the trip to Scotland for the Clan Gathering, I'm very pleased I made the effort. Just to be able to revisit the Achnacarry Estate, renew old friendships and experience again the beauty of the Highlands made it all worth while.

In one photo above I am having a discussion with Roddy Cameron, President of Clan Cameron Scotland.

The other photo shows a somewhat embarrassing incident. We were walking across the fields to attend the church service and had to cross the burn by stepping across unstable rocks. I lost my balance (replacements of both knees and hips do not help) and was saved by James Cameron, as shown above, thus avoiding another baptism (the minister was right behind us!)

The Cameron Midge

by *Johnnie Wilson*, the Bard of Bogmonie

The day of the Clansmen at fair Achnacarry
There attended a Midge at the Cameron Rally,
Caught unawares by this gathering super,
She stared for a while, more or less in a stupor.

All winter she'd dozed in a state comatose,
Proof against frost and the wild winter blows,
She awoke near a stag herd on steep Arkaigside,
So, her breakfast of stag was tough as bullhide.

On Arkaig Isle she spied a MacPhee,
She fancied him not, so lean was he,
MacMillans she sought, Ochone! All in vain,
The'd all sailed away in the good ship *Jane*.

Razzing around, she espied more leather,
There, poaching the Cameron hens in the heather
A Campbell man's neck, all shaggy and rough
No grace said for **that!** Lor' it was tough!

She next at a MacIntosh cheek made a barge,
She might well have bitten his claymore or targe,
He swished out his hand in a mighty big clout,
And lo' When she left him, her milk teeth fell out!

She avoided by inches, a flying cuckoo,
Tho' hairless and toothless, by gosh he could chew.
To this bird from the bushes, she buzzed a "so long,"
And let him go cooing his boring old song.

Near a cave on a hillside she spied a MacPherson,
But recalled that her grandma had met such a person
Which accounted for grandma being blind in one eye,
So the person, MacPherson, she gave the go-by.

A MacDonald she tasted, and too, a MacNeil
But both savoured much of the tattie and meal.
She stuck, near the hillock just over the brae,
In the whiskers that grew on a woolly MacRae!

In a boat . . . p'raps borrowed from Clansman MacBrayne,
She saw, poaching salmon, a kilted MacLean,
At boring his temples she soon called a halt,
As the blood o' such boatmen taste of herring and salt.

She punctured a Stewart . . . Prince Charlie breed,
But a sip of his blood was "blue" indeed
She sipped no more for fearing the worst,
She felt that her head was going to burst.

By Editor...

I could not resist including this poem which was published in the December 2008 issue of 'Cameron'.

I feel it may cheer up those of us who suffered for weeks afterwards from multitudinous bites of the Highland Midge.

Despite the midges, the Gathering was a wonderful experience and well worth a little suffering



My congratulations to all the committee for giving us such a great experience of Highland life and hospitality.

Came the Cameron men, not a moment too soon,
Or our midge would have died of starvation in June.
Lean spiders in cobwebs would shun her as **dud**
Till she sipped a wee drop o' the Cameron blood.

Ye gods! What a sight for a true Highland midge,
Came bussing that day o'er Gairloch bridge,
Showing no stinting or measures by halves,
Here then, were knees and **magnificent** calves.

She eluded the clerk and gatecrashed the wicket,
Without pedigree, pass or platform ticket,
She selected for practice, a chiel lang and lank,
and "Stars and Stripes" on a Cameron Yank.

She sampled one ear, she thought it delicious,
But the next one she tasted, she was not so vicious,
It came from Argyle Street, sooty and gritty,
'Twas a lug on a Cameron head from the city.

She dared e'en to look the great chief in the eye,
As the march of the Clansmen, he viewed passing by,
To the skirling of pipers she whetted her sting,
As she dodged flying toes in a wild Highland Fling

Came her sisters along in numberless tens,
Pinging and winging their way down the glens,
Each to a neck or temple or cheek,
Most flavoured of all? The Cameron beak!

At the end of the feast, she was minus a mother,
Slain by a slap from a Cameron brother,
And, flat as a pancake, her father all out,
Had rashly encountered the chief in a bout.

She blistered the ankles of Marys and Kates,
Went skidding and dancing on bald headed pates,
What use claymores or trusty black knives,
To save from her onslaught, their sweethearts and wives.

Finale

*While rejoicing and praising this goodness provided
Our midge with a song singing mavis* collided.*

One swallow... Alas!

Meant farewell to her glen

As the mavis changed tune...to:

The Cameron Men

* *mavis* - A song thrush.



Thank you for all the photos that have been sent to me. Many will be shown in later editions - Ed

The International Gathering at Achnacarry—our Memories and Highlights.....

By Joanne Cameron (Manawatu)..

History, summertime in the Scottish Highlands and above all else people are what the 2024 Clan Cameron Gathering will always be to our whanau. Together with my husband Dean and our daughter Emma we travelled to the UK for just over three weeks with the highlight of our trip being the Gathering.

To be in a place that you have researched the history of for so long and to find that not only the beauty of the Highlands surpasses all expectations but to also find that the people are so warm and welcoming also will be forever etched in our memory.

Connecting and meeting in person those who I've corresponded with for many years in the capacity of administrator for the Cameron YDNA Project was amazing. That some of those families were able to visit in person the places their ancestors came from makes me incredibly happy.

Meeting Lochiel and his lovely family, to find them so gracious, welcoming and proud to host people from all over the world while also enjoying the Gathering in what must be a tough year for them certainly highlights our Clan Motto - Unite!

We were proud to be a part of the New Zealand team and our thanks go out to Dale and Lena who made our time even more memorable by organizing us all not only at the Gathering but also the breakfast at the West Highland Museum which was a great opportunity to meet Lochiel and explore the Museum without the crowds. I was thrilled to be asked to carry the New Zealand flag for us all in the Clan March.

Our time in Scotland was incredible and our only regret was that we didn't stay longer!



By Morea and Allan Cameron (Auckland and Blenheim)...

Our highlight was to be invited to play in the Lochaber Pipe Band as a family, contributing to the entertainment, playing for the Chief and everybody in attendance from around the world.

The ceilidh was also a highlight, great venue, great band, dancing and participation from different countries.



By Bev Morrissey (Manawatu)....

I'm not sure where to begin, in the highlights of the CC Gathering.

Firstly, I was very proud to have 3 generations present, myself, Yvette and wee Alex. I know my late Mother Coline (nee Cameron) would have felt the same. Clan Cameron was one of her passions in life, shared by my Grandfather Colin Cameron.

The Gathering itself was so much fun. Lochiel and his family were so down to earth and really engaged with us all. It was amazing meeting and chatting with our overseas Camerons, hearing their stories. The organizing committee did a great job of the 4 day event.

I have to say, the Kiwi Breakfast at West Highland Museum was also a real highlight for me. Dale presenting Lochiel with the Pounamu, that had been blessed, was a special moment. Walking toward the Museum, to the drone of Pokarekare ana drifting down the street, by Rob and Nick on the bagpipes, I felt emotional. We also did a special item at the ceilidh, where we all sang it, accompanied by Rob on the pipes. The night was such fun!

I have to say, what a wonderful job Dale did in organizing the Kiwi group. I left feeling a special bond had been formed between us all, which will forever stay with us I'm sure.



Bev with Duncan, Morea and Sarah

By Roger Tobin (Canterbury)

My brother Dean and I travelled together to the gathering. It was excellent! Probably the best part was connecting with the lands of our ancestors. So many of my family came out from Scotland, and it is really good to have a better sense of where they were from. The Scottish Lochs are huge. The Great Glen running from Fort William to Inverness



is majestic. Lochiel displayed very gracious hospitality to us all. Also, near the top of my highlights list was the constant supply of black pudding and haggis, as well as whisky, glorious whisky. The beers were also good. Having Dale (& Lena) leading us was also excellent. Dale had built up a strong local area knowledge. There was a good turnout from New Zealand. Dean and I also took a trip to Inverness, which is where our mum's Davidson ancestors came from.

Photo:

Some "Loch Ness" sparkling water. Particularly liked the label. Scots may have a reputation for being dour. But we saw a lot of good humour.

By Yvette Webster (Scotland)....

I enjoyed the entire weekend but I particularly enjoyed the Scottish hospitality from Lochiel and his family. It was excellent to see that clan culture is still very much alive today.

My highlight of the Gathering was seeing and meeting many of my Kiwi Cameron whanau. Walking together to represent New Zealand with my wee boy is an experience I will never forget!

By Jean and Duncan McQueen (Auckland)



It was a privilege to attend the August 2024 Clan Cameron international gathering. The highlight for Duncan and I was the warm welcome we received from Lochiel and his extended family. It was exciting to be at Achnacarry and we enjoyed the Thursday Achnacarry estate tour with our guide being Lochiel himself. The Friday highlight apart from

Sarah's talk on famous Cameron's was a tour of the house with the late Lochiel's grandchildren as our guides, especially the gruesome story relating to a portrait that is in the "horrible history" book of Scotland. The Saturday highlights were meeting Cameron's from around the world and catching up with past first lighter's, the highland cattle, salmon burger's, bagpipes and the Ceilidh which was lots of fun. On Sunday the church service and tree planting were a fitting close to a memorable Clan gathering.

By Sarah McQueen (our First Lighter)



The Clan Cameron International Gathering in August ended up being such a fabulous event. I served on the organising committee as part of the first light exchange and it was so great to see it all come together over the four days after months of planning. I was honoured that I got to give a talk during the heritage talks, and I thank Lochiel for asking me to do so. It was such a shame the Saturday weather was unfavourable

however, there were so many interesting displays and stalls to check out. A highlight for me had to be the Saturday evening ceilidh as I just loved all the dancing and the music by the fantastic band, as well as the performances from each of the countries and Lochiel himself. At the ceilidh, it was also great to snap a pic of five previous first light exchange participants in attendance: Astie, Bill, Shona, Finlay, and myself. (I also got to catch up with Robert at the NZ breakfast). I hope everyone who attended had a fabulous time. It was terrific to meet so many Camerons from all over the world!

By Bryan Haggitt (Auckland)

Neil has asked me to comment on what was the main highlight for me. I was blown away by many aspects - the wonderful hospitality shown me by Finlay and his family - Ken and Rhona - right through all my 2 weeks in Scotland. The superb NZ Breakfast where I met up with my 2nd cousin, Prof. Andrew Collier Cameron who was only 12 when I last saw him. Then the rousing Ceilidh with the superb Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band and the outstanding piping of Finlay, Sandy and Josh that evening.

But, perhaps, my lasting impression of the Gathering will be the friendliness of Lochiel and his family to us all. Not only did Lochiel, and son Donald Fergus, happily show us around the Estate on Day 1., they attended the NZ Breakfast, sang at the Ceilidh but Lochiel, himself, served us the BBQ lunch after the Church Service. And, just as memorable, the way his youngsters and their cousins entered into the spirit of

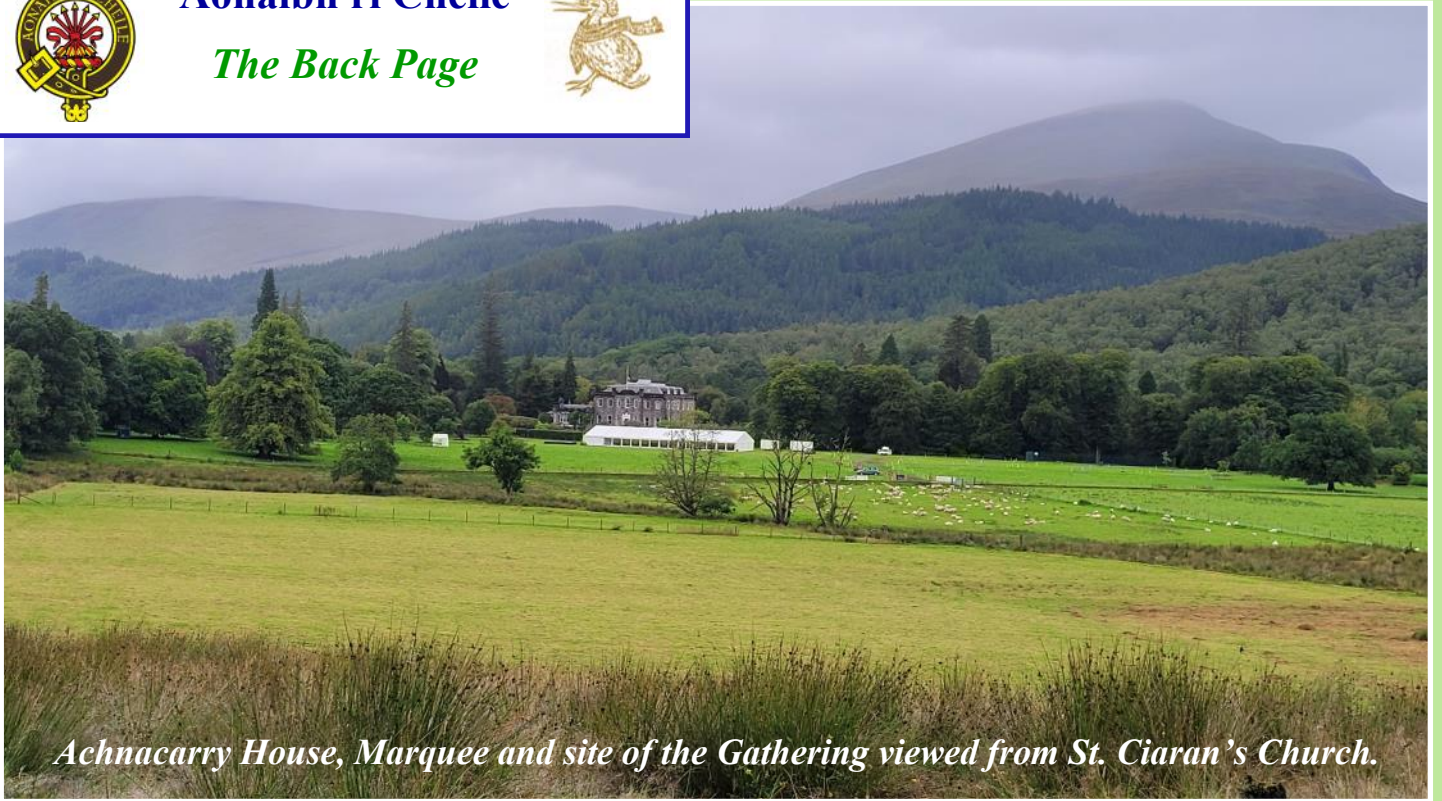


the occasion. They were brilliant! The youngsters, with their Lemonade and Scones Stall, displayed entrepreneurial skills way beyond their years and with great cheerfulness and enthusiasm! In years to come we very much look

forward to them heading to NZ as First Lighters!

By Rob Cameron (Auckland)

Having never been to Scotland, the entire gathering was a new experience to me. It was great being able to meet and talk with Camerons from all over the world including Lochiel and his family. A lot of the time, meeting someone was putting a face to a name of someone I had heard a lot about. The Gathering and the Ceilidh were perfectly run and it was great to be a part of it this year, despite the weather and Midges. One thing that I learned is that Scots are great storytellers, and everything has a story.



Achnacarry House, Marquee and site of the Gathering viewed from St. Ciaran's Church.



On Sunday 4th August a service, read by Mr Bill Skene, Church of Scotland, was held in St. Ciaran's Church. The lesson was read by Donald Fergus Cameron, Younger of Lochiel. The left photo from left: James Cameron-Australian Commissioner, Alistair Cameron-NSW President and his wife Helen, Neil Cameron, Jean McQueen, Rosalie Cameron (NSW), Bryan Haggitt, Rod Cameron (NSW), and Chris Doak.



After the church service an oak tree was planted below Achnacarry House in memory of the late Donald Angus Cameron, 27th Chief of Clan Cameron.

The tree was planted by members of the Lochiel family