



Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



Autumn view of the River Arkaig from the grounds of Achnacarry.

Photo: Bill Cameron

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Hororata Highland Games

See Back page



Photo: Dale Bailey



A Happy Christmas to You All and Best Wishes for 2025

“Cameron”

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

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A Message from our Chief....

I would like to wish all Camerons across New Zealand, a happy Christmas and my very best wishes for 2025. It was a huge pleasure to welcome the "Kiwi Contingent" to the clan gathering at Achnacarry this summer and we were deeply touched that so many New Zealand Camerons made such a mammoth effort to come all the way to support the gathering and share in our joint heritage.

With affectionate greetings to you all at this special time of year,

Donald Cameron of Lochiel.



And from our Commissioner..

Naumai haere Mai, Failte, Welcome

Our Highland Games season has kicked off with an outstanding event at Hororata In Canterbury. Attendance was at 14500 people who enjoyed the days activities. It was great to meet Clan Cameron members and supporters over the day. Thank you to those who supported us in the Clan tent. The offers of a sample of haggis drew a variety of responses. A special welcome to our new members who signed up on the day.

I will be attending the Waipu Games on New Years Eve, the Turakina Games in January and the Paeroa Games in February. This year we will also have a presence at the National Pipe Band Championships in Invercargill in March. I hope to be able to meet you at one of these events. It's a great opportunity to connect and celebrate our heritage.



Our most recent First lighter Sarah McQueen has safely returned to New Zealand. Sarah has been the most wonderful ambassador and has a wonderful experience. I think a highlight for her was helping lead the International Gathering in August. Sarah is back in New Zealand now to study medicine.

2024 has been a big year for Clan Cameron, the highlight was the International Gathering at Achnacarry. It was a special honour to represent Clan Cameron New Zealand there. Thank you all for your support and encouragement.

Can I wish you all the very best for Christmas and New Year.

Aonaibh ri Cheile

*Dale Cameron Bailey,
Commissioner and President.*



Sarah outside St. Giles' Edinburgh

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Jan. 2025

Print ed By

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Manawatu Branch

Andrew and Marilyn Quarrie

Palmerston North

Canterbury Branch

Roger Cameron
Ann Johnstone
John Cameron
Viv Cameron
Jack Cameron

Lincoln
Timaru
Christchurch
Ashburton
Ashburton

*Ceud Mìle Fáilte One
Hundred Thousand
Welcomes*

Obituary

Shirley-Anne Thomson

It is with sadness that we advise members that Shirley-Anne Thomson passed away on 12 November 2024, in Dannevirke, at the age of 89.

Shirley-Anne was a life member of the Wellington-Wairarapa Branch of Clan Cameron.

When Ian Cameron founded the Wellington Branch in 1967, Shirley-Anne was the first Secretary of the branch. She has been involved with branch activities ever since.

She was the first editor of the Clan Cameron Newsletter.

Shirley-Anne was a New Zealand representative at the Clan Gathering at Achnacarry in 1995.

Shirley-Anne has also been involved with highland dancing almost her whole life.

In 2014, she was part of the New Zealand contingent that travelled to Edinburgh to participate in the famous Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle. The 36 highland dancers taking part performed in combination with a kapa haka group - the first time at the Tattoo that kapa haka and highland dancers have taken to the stage at the same time. Shirley-Anne was the choreographer of the highland dance component.

Shirley-Anne had been invited to the 2013 Tattoo in preparation for the above. The Lochiel Marching Team were performing and she was able to take them by coach to visit Achnacarry (see below).

Clan Cameron sends their condolences to Shirley-Anne's family.

Clan Cameron) at Achnacarry yesterday.

They are pictured here in the drawing room at Achnacarry. They wear the Cameron of Lochiel Tartan in their skirts, hats and plaids and are the oldest established marching team in NZ, having been formed in the 1950s.

This is their 6th Visit to perform at the Tattoo, travelling from Wellington, New Zealand, and the team includes Camerons. They appeared on the televised showing of the Tattoo on August 25th and performed their spectacular marching display alongside the NZ Army Band.



Members of the Lochiel Marching Team meet Lochiel at Achnacarry. They are accompanied by Shirley-Anne Thomson.

Photo and article courtesy of 'The Braes of Lochaber' newsletter of September 2013

NZ 'Lochiel Marching Drill Team'

The all women' Lochiel Marching Drill Team' from New Zealand (currently appearing at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and performing 28 times in as many days) took time out to visit Donald Cameron of Lochiel (27th Chief of the

Coming Events

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>

Friday / Saturday 7/8 March 2025

NZ Pipe Band Championships

Queens Park Cricket Grounds, Invercargill.

Join us in the Clan Alley, where Clan Cameron will have a tent. Organised by Clan Matheson. Contact Wayne Matheson, clanalleynz@gmail.com

Sunday 16 March 2025

Auckland Branch AGM

Junior Pavilion, Thomas Bloodworth Park, 2 Shore Road, Parnell.

AGM at 4pm, followed by Barbeque.

Further details in February newsletter.

Saturday 17 May 2025

Clan Cameron NZ Gathering and AGM.

Hawkes Bay Club, Napier

Further details at a later date.

Saturday 16 August 2025

Auckland Branch Annual Dinner

The Parnell, Gladstone Rd, Parnell.
Further details at a later date.

From the Branches....

Auckland by Rob Cameron

It has been a quiet couple of months. Dale, Bryan, and I travelled to the Hawkes Bay Club for the Executive Committee Meeting on the 19th of October. The meeting had a very packed agenda, including the upcoming constitution changes as well as how we keep our branch memberships into the future.



Dale travelled to Christchurch for the Hororata Highland Games. My Parents, Allan and Morea, also travelled down from Blenheim to help Nick out at the Clan tent handing out haggis during the day. It sounds like it was another great day down there, having over 14,000 attending the event. Planning for the summer events, including the Waipu Highland Games which is now on New Years Eve instead of New Years Day. Again, there will be a small group of us travelling north for the day to help with the tent.

We also plan to attend the Paeroa Highland Games which will be held next year on the 8th of February although no details have been sent out yet.

We have set our AGM for next year to be on 16th of March, and it will be held in the Junior Pavilion at Thomas Bloodworth Park, 2 Shore Road, Remuera starting at 4pm. We will have a barbeque and time to socialise after the meeting. We will send out details closer to the time.

I will be attending the RNZPBA Pipe Band Nationals over March 7th and 8th next year in Invercargill with the City of Sails Pipe Band. Earlier this year, the Scottish Clans Association organised the Clans being at the Nationals which went very well, next year it will be organised by Clan Matheson. There will be a small number of Auckland members to support Clan Cameron at this event in Invercargill.

The Scottish Clans Association had its AGM on October 14th in which I have been re-elected as President. The association has much to do over the next year with the main goal to get the Auckland Highland games back in action. The association helped out Clan Mackenzie who held a meeting at the Auckland Museum on November 5th. They then had some Highland Dancing, Piping and a Haggis Ceremony which were all done with a public audience in mind drawing in some of the museum patrons. Clans Cameron, Campbell, Matheson, and Donald all turned up to support the event. We look forward to seeing Clan Mackenzie again as host Clan at the Waipu Highland Games.

The next event organized by the Scottish Clans Association is going to be on St Andrews Day November 30th. This will be held at John Kinder House 2 Ayr Street, Parnell. Backing off the success of the Scots Wha Hae Exhibit run during winter last year and will include Highland Dancing, Scottish Fiddle, Bagpipes, and a Haggis ceremony. Weather permitting it should be a good day.

Manawatu by Anne Walker Long

Clan Cameron Manawatu are busy planning for their summer events. We are looking forward a busy summer ahead of us.

Clan Cameron Manawatu have recently welcomed several new members from Palmerston North, Wanganui, and Taranaki. With the closure of Iar, we approached Iar with an invitation for them to transfer their membership to Manawatu Branch and we are very pleased to welcome new members as a result.



Clan Cameron Manawatu will be present with their Clan tent at the 2025 Turakina Highland Games on Saturday 25th January 2025. Turakina Highland Games is always a great

event. It's the oldest highland games in the country having run for more than 160 years. A celebration of all things Scottish, the programme including band competitions, solo piping, music, dancing, and sports all packed into a full day. We look forward to seeing Clan members there. Last year was very windy, but this summer we hope for a great summer day, and plan to be there with a new (more robust) tent, and a great team of supporters to enjoy the day.

Clan Cameron Manawatu have recently been busy selling our beautiful 2025 Calendars. These have been extremely well received, and the first print run sold out almost immediately. We have raised a tidy sum for the First Light Exchange programme, and for other Clan projects. We are very grateful to Ainsley Watson for generously providing us with high quality Scottish landscape photographs, and for the superb printing job provided by Hinemoa Ransom-Boyd, of H&A Print of Wanganui. It is not too late to obtain your 2025 calendar as we still have a few left. Calendars may be ordered from clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com. Price is \$25 plus post and packaging.

As we all prepare for Christmas 2024, we extend our best wishes to all Clan members for a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Please keep up to date with our news on the Clan Cameron Manawatu Facebook page, or if you have any questions please email us on clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com.

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

Clan Cameron Hawke's Bay sadly notify the passing on the 29th October of Leigh Cameron after a bravely fought battle with an out-of-control brain tumour.



In typical spirit, Leigh not only met this terminal news head-on, he extended his diagnosed time ten-fold.

Testament to the mark Leigh had in the local community was obvious at his funeral service on the 1st November. Literally "standing-room-only" as double the mourners expected came to pay their respects.

Although Leigh's working life was predominantly in administration, his passion was definitely in the outdoors. The two sports that consumed him, and at which he had noticeable success, was firstly rugby, then cricket. In both codes he also had success as a coach. Two codes requiring dedicated commitment to a team and it's endeavours. Positive commitment was the most striking attitude we at Clan Cameron came to associate with both Leigh and Maree in what ever activity the clan chose.

Another treasured past-time of Leigh's was fishing- and here again - to be successful necessitated being out early - therefore camping on the beach front - which meant a caravan. It was the camping/fishing excursions that lingered in the minds of his three children when recounting happy memories past.

Eventually Leigh tired of his work in the corporate world and hankered for something he could control in a manner more to his own liking. Always a positive force, he plunged headlong into "Motel Management" - HIS own motel. The fact Maree was already the chief office manager at a school in Napier, and Leigh had just bought THE CLANSMAN motel in Hastings definitely meant he was IT.....chief-cook-&-bottle-washer.

It was here, at the Clansman, that Clan Cameron first encountered Leigh. We had booked a luncheon get-together and were immediately impressed by the facilities and the whole décor - all set away in a private area. Scottish memorabilia everywhere - absolutely the place to be - and so it turned out - our own go to haven.

Leigh's sporting strengths of dedication and loyalty were always evident in his involvement with Clan Cameron

and it is this positive force we will always remember him for, - and forever miss.

Canterbury by Nick Cameron

We had a very successful day at the Hororata Highland Games with 14,500 through the gate. Allan and Morea Cameron came down from Blenheim and stayed with Julie and I on Friday and Saturday night and looked after the tent display with Julie, Rowan, Andrea and Dale all helping. Roger Tobin came up from Dunedin to help as well in his Clan Cameron kilt.



Our Saturday morning started early with the cooking of the haggis at 4am. We arrived at the games by 7.30 am to put up the Clan Tent display and eventually dismantled it by 5pm ... so it meant a long day for Allan Morea and I.

Allan and my grand daughter Andrea seemed to enjoy handing out the free haggis samples. This seems to be a big draw card to our tent.

Dale and Allan carried the banners for the walk through with all of the competition bands present playing for the opening. One of our senior Canterbury Caledonian pipe band members commented to me later that they thought Dale and Allan were the best dressed Clan banner bearers on the parade. They certainly showed up Clan Cameron well with Dale holding our clan banner having his picture taken for the Press.

We had four new members join our branch on the day. We also sold some booklets, cards and badges. The new booklets published by the Clan Cameron Association Scotland is a great publication for those wanting further information about the clan and its history. Thank you to Dale for bringing back a number of copies from the gathering.

It was interesting to see my grand daughter Andrea (now 11 years old) giving out free haggis... as I think the last photo seen in this publication of her with haggis was at the first ever Hororata Games with her just eating it! How time flies.

And by Rae Magson:

A few weeks ago we had the Annual General Meeting of the Clan Cameron Canterbury at the lovely home of our president, Nick Cameron but there was a small attendance. The officers remain unchanged. We have quite a large list of members but they cover all of the South Island, ranging from Blenheim down to Dunedin and Cromwell. This does make it difficult to arrange events. We are fortunate to have the magnificent Cameron newsletter, full of interesting articles and photos to offer to new members.



First Light News

by Bryan Haggitt—First Light Convenor



The dust is finally settling after the wonderful Gathering at Achnacarry and Sarah, our First Lighter, has returned from Scotland to her parents' home in Auckland.

I met up with her over coffee at the Devonport Ferry Wharf. What a marvelous time she had in Scotland and the opportunity it gave her to see so much there including a trip to the Orkneys. Plus, of course, to see some of England and across on the Continent.

In her last days in the Highlands, Sarah did some hill walking with Finlay Cameron, the previous First Lighter here – magnificent scenery, she showed me some of her photos which may be included in her article elsewhere in this Newsletter.

We were very much hoping to host another First Lighter here this coming summer but there is no news yet from

Scotland. Sandy, Finlay's older brother, is a very definite prospect to come out but his engineering work with BAS Systems installing aircon units in Britain's new frigates could delay him a year or two.

Meantime we are about to purchase a ticket for Lochiel Nielsen to fly to Scotland next Northern Spring.

And news of Finlay – he was laid low with glandular fever last month but Sarah says he has now recovered and very much wants to return to New Zealand. Having graduated, BMus 1.1., he needs to earn a living and is exploring work opportunities here.

Finally, very best Christmas wishes to all of our past First Lighters and may you all have a great Hogmanay!

Some of Sarah's photos

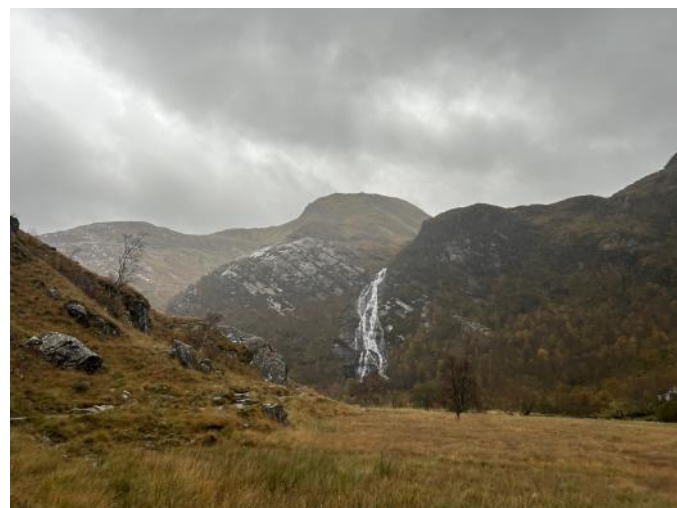
See article page 11



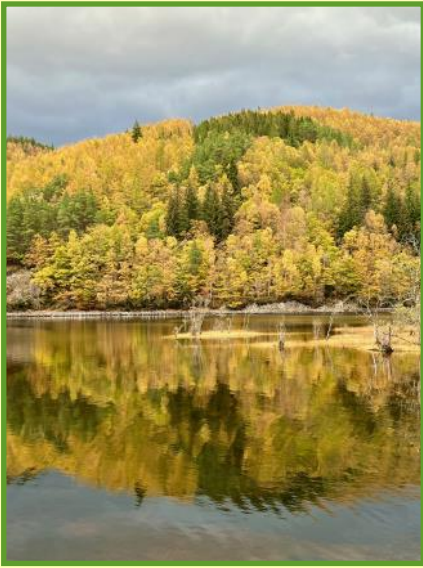
Finlay playing in Cameron Square at Lochaber Gathering Solo Piping 2024



Reflections on Scapa Flow



An Steall Bhàn—The Upper Falls of Nevis



Bill Cameron's pictures of Autumn at Achnacarry.

Right: First Lighters Bill and Astie with Tavish Cameron. Tavish is the grandson of Auckland members Pam and Brian Cameron.

More of Sarah's Photos



Finlay and dogs at Lochan a' Choire



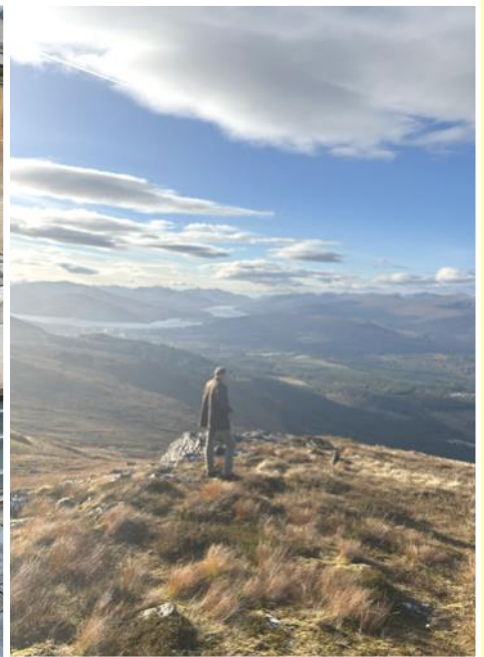
Skara Brae, a prehistoric village on the west coast of Mainland, the largest island in the Orkney Archipelago.



Toddy and Bothy in the autumn leaves
These are Locheil Terriers



Sarah at the National Piping Centre in Glasgow.



Ken Cameron with Loch Linnhe and Loch Eil in background



Portree, Isle of Skye, home of my g-g-grandparents.



Eilean Donan Castle, home of Clan MacRae, of whom I am a descendant.



The Isle of Skye Pipe Band and dancers, whose young members travel from all over Skye to play each Tuesday evening in the square during the tourist season in Portree. This is for fund raising and a bucket is used for collection.



At the Edinburgh Tattoo. Left: The massed bands march on and Right: formed in the shape of an anchor, as the tattoo had a Naval theme.



The Regimental Chapel of the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Cameron) at Fort George.



Queen Victoria's favourite view. Loch Tummel, Perthshire.

Colonel John Cameron of Fassefern (1771–1815)

By Vanessa Martin, Curator of the West Highland Museum.



The museum has six objects in its collection that once belonged to Colonel John Cameron of Fassefern (or Fassiefern), these include a childhood toy, a love token, and objects associated with his military service.

Cameron was a cousin of the Camerons of Lochiel and educated partly at the grammar school in Fort William, but also by a private tutor. An object relating to Cameron's early life is part of the museum's collection and displayed in our Highland Life gallery. It is battledore and shuttlecock that Cameron would have played with in his youth. The game of battledore was an early version of badminton played using small rackets (battledores) and shuttlecocks. The object of the game is for players to bat the shuttlecock from one person to the other as many times as possible without allowing it to fall to the ground. The museum's battledore is made from wood with a pigskin head stretched over the frame and the shuttlecock is made from leather with white feathers fixed around the top.

John Cameron left Lochaber to attend the University and King's College, Aberdeen. After the outbreak of war with France, he volunteered for military service and procured a commission. In February 1794 he joined the 92nd Gordon Highlanders as one of the new regiment's original officers. On display in the museum's Military gallery is a Gordon Highlander's silver cross belt plate that once belonged to Cameron. This object is the 1794 pattern which was worn up to early the 1800s. It is oval, with a beaded edge and is decorated with a thistle surmounted by crown.

In 1798 Cameron served in the south of Ireland. It was there he is said to have fallen in love with a young Irish lady at Kilkenny, but the match was broken off in accordance with his father's wishes. A love token in the museum's collection likely



A young boy playing battledore. c.1790



John Cameron's childhood battledore

relates to this liaison; this is a hussif or "housewife" made from tartan silk. Hussifs date to 18th century Britain and consist of a rolled-up piece of fabric containing essential sewing items. This is an early example of an early military hussif, but by the 20th century had become an integral part of a soldier's kit. John Cameron's hussif contains a pebble, pieces of stalk, speedwell seeds sewn in, with a tiny padlock and a letter. The letter reads

"Col. Cameron, 92 Regt. Foot. Sir: I am all gratitude for your former kindness. When I heard the regt. was leaving town I was more troubled than I can express. I am ever bound to pray for your welfare, as a token of my gratitude I send a small bag, if you should chance to go to battle, or an (...) of honour, it will be no great trouble to put it round your neck. I trust it will save you from your enemy, which is the wish of – your humble servant, Unity Mathews".

It was gifted by Unity Mathews to the Colonel.

After serving in Ireland, Cameron went on to have a distinguished career serving in Europe in the first decade of the 19th century. On 4th June 1814 he was promoted to Colonel in the Gordon Highlanders, but within a fortnight he was dead, killed at the Battle of Quatre-Bras on 16th June, a preliminary battle before the Battle of Waterloo. Around 25,000 allied troops fought against 24,000 French troops during the conflict,

with the Highland regiments purportedly dressed in the kilt with red tunics and tall black ostrich feather caps.

Colonel John Cameron of Fassiefern was mortally wounded leading the 92nd Highlanders and died the next day. He was buried beside the Ghent road, during a heavy rainstorm, by his foster brother, his personal servant during his military service, Private Ewen McMillan, and other soldiers from the 92nd. At the request of his family, Cameron's body was disinterred and brought back to Lochaber in a man-o-war. He was re-buried at Corpach, just west of Fort William. In recognition of his son's military service, including throughout the Peninsular War, the King made Cameron's father a baronet. Reports of the manner of his demise vary. One account says that record he was mortally wounded by a French sniper in the upper storey of a wayside house. He was carried to the rear on a cart and died near village of Waterloo that night. His last words were: 'I trust my dear country will think I have done enough; I hope she will think I have served her faithfully'. However, an account in *Bygone Lochaber* by Somerled MacMillan claims that local tradition claims Cameron "was shot by one of his own men who had been flogged earlier that day for some petty offence" and turned to his foster brother and said, "I'm afraid it wasn't the enemy who fired that shot." It is claimed soldiers protected the guilty soldier so his identity was not revealed.

Among other objects in the museum's collection on display in the military gallery at the museum are items relating to Cameron's death. A hank of reddish hair in a glazed frame taken as a memento on his death has been mounted in a glazed frame. The inscription reads "A lock of hair cut from Sir John Cameron's head after he fell at Quatre Bras June 16th 1815.". There is also a piece of oak set on a wooden plinth with a silver plaque which reads "piece the oaken door of the farmyard at Quatre Bras. Close to which the 92nd Highlanders under Lt Col. Cameron of Fassiefern was engaged on 16th June 1815." These are displayed in the Military gallery alongside a pair of unused red garters with thin blue and yellow stripes found among Cameron's belongings after he died.

At the request of the family, however, Cameron's remains were disinterred soon afterwards, brought home in a man-of-war, and, in the presence of 3000 highlanders, were laid in Kilmallie churchyard, where a tall obelisk, bearing an inscription by Sir Walter Scott, marks the site of his grave. Another account in *Bygone Lochaber* details the arrival of Cameron's remains at Kilmallie preserved in a cask of wine. It was customary for the sailors to receive a dram, but when this was not provided, they drank the wine which had been used to preserve Cameron's remains on its journey from Belgium instead!



A hank of John Cameron's hair



Garters and a cross belt plate that once belonged to John



Above: John Cameron's hussif

Left: Garters found in the effects of John Cameron after he died



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West Highland Museum collections information systems

With thanks to Vanessa and the West Highland Museum.

St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh

By Neil Cameron (Editor)

After a 27 hour journey from Auckland via Dubai and Glasgow, my friend Catherine and I arrived at our hotel on the Royal Mile, Edinburgh. There we joined up with our tour group, mostly Australians, to start a four week tour of Scotland. On the first evening we did a short familiarisation walk and found we were very close to the imposing St. Giles' Cathedral. It is a landmark on the Royal Mile and often used as a meeting place. "Meet you at St. Giles" is often heard.



First day in Scotland. Catherine outside St. Giles'

St. Giles' predates most of the buildings on the Royal Mile and this year is celebrating its 900th anniversary. There has been a church on this site dedicated to Saint Giles' since at least 1124, although only a few stones from earlier

buildings remain and the oldest parts of the present church date from the 1300s. Most of the exterior was recased in the 1800s but the medieval bell tower can still be seen and its distinctive crown spire was added in 1495.

Built originally as a parish church, following the Scottish Reformation, and under the Calvinist ministry of John Knox, St. Giles' became Edinburgh's High Kirk before being created a cathedral by Royal Decree in 1633. The Church of Scotland abolishes bishops in 1690 but the name St. Giles' Cathedral has endured.

The following paragraphs show parts St. Giles' has played in the rich history of Scotland.

David mac Mail Choluih (King David I) founded St Giles' in 1124, during which time the bond between Rome and the Scottish church was becoming closer. St Giles' was built on the very eastern edge of Edinburgh and pre-dates most of the Old Town. When David I later founded the Abbey of Holyrood he gave the abbot permission to build houses up the ridge towards St Giles', establishing the Canongate burgh and forming what is now known as the Royal Mile.

In 1320 the Scots signed the Declaration of Arbroath, a letter to the Pope affirming Scotland's independence from England. Two years later the English King, Edward II, sent an army north with the intention of causing widespread damage. St Giles', at the time a small Romanesque church, was fire-damaged together with much of Edinburgh.

In 1384 a meeting of the Auld Alliance between Scotland and France met in secret in St Giles', plotting a raid into England. The following year the English King, Richard II, sent a large army north to destroy St Giles' and other Scottish churches. Much of the building survived but black marks from the flames could still be seen on pillars until the 19th century. By 1390 St Giles' was restored with help from Edinburgh merchants.

John Knox was a Scottish priest who converted to Protestantism in the 1540s and fled into hiding and exile. In Geneva he befriended the French reformer John Calvin. On his return to Scotland he marched an army of followers into St

Giles' and preached there for the first time. The following week he was elected it's minister and the building was stripped of its Catholic decoration.

The Scottish Parliament abolished papal authority in 1560 and decreed that Scotland was now a Protestant country. This was despite Scotland still having a Catholic queen, Mary Queen of Scots. St Giles' 400 years as a Catholic church officially came to an end. Inside the building the stained-glass windows were removed and old church silver was melted down and sold to raise funds for redecoration.

In 1700 musical bells were installed in the church spire. According to tradition, when the 1707 Act of Union between Scotland and England was enacted several years later, the bells of St Giles' chimed to the tune "Why should I be so sad on my wedding day", capturing the mood of the population. Memories of the Covenanters still ran deep, and the guarantee of the Church of Scotland's autonomy was one of the primary conditions of Union.

The Jacobite cause gathered momentum across Scotland, especially in the Highlands, and in 1745 Bonnie Prince Charlie's arrival in Edinburgh was announced at St Giles'. The Magistrates of Edinburgh assembled in the church to receive the message commanding them to surrender the city. Bonnie Prince Charlie's supporters lined the Royal Mile to see him on his way to set up a Jacobite Court at Holyrood Palace.

Built within its £24,000 budget and ahead of time. The Thistle Chapel offers visitors to Scotland's Capital city a hidden architectural gem. It is lined with intricate wooden carvings including an angel with bagpipes. The chapels awe inspiring ceiling displays almost a hundred heraldic bosses offering a colourful and rich historical insight into this ancient and noble order. In 1911 the Thistle Chapel became home to the Knights of the Thistle, an order of chivalry associated with Scotland which dates back to 1687. The chapel was designed in the neo-gothic arts and crafts style by the architect Robert Lorimer, and is renowned for its intricate wood carvings of angels, animals and flowers. The Order consists of sixteen members, a new member only being invested when another has died. The patron saint of the Order is St Andrew, and members meet annually around St Andrew's Day.

Within the modern era of the Order of the Thistle, four Cameron's have been awarded Scotland highest order of chivalry.

The first record of a Cameron Knight of the thistle was made in 1934 to Donald Walter Cameron of Lochiel, the current

Lochiel's great grandfather.

The 25th Chief of Clan Cameron, Donald Walter served in the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders and was Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire.

In 1973 Donald Walters son, Donald Hamish Cameron of Lochiel was given the Order of the Thistle. As the 26th Chief of Clan Cameron, Lochiel held a number of high profile business positions in Scotland, as well as being the Queens representative as Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire.

Along with two members of the Lochiel family, Lord Cameron, a distinguished advocate and judge, became a Knight of the Thistle in 1978. He served a long and distinguished career within the legal profession. Lord (John) Cameron was also president of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

The last Cameron to be appointed as a Knight of the Thistle was Lord Cameron of Balhousie in 1983. Lord (Neil) Cameron served as Marshall of the Royal Air Force and Chief of the Defence Staff, as well as many other distinguished positions within the armed forces. In retirement he became principal of Kings College in London.

In 2004, a service of remembrance was held in St. Giles' Cathedral for Donald Hamish Cameron of Lochiel as a former Knight of the Thistle.

On 12 September 2022, the coffin of the late Queen



Elizabeth II was taken to the cathedral for a service of thanksgiving, having travelled from Balmoral Castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse the previous day. The Queen's coffin then lay at rest at the cathedral for 24 hours, guarded constantly by the Royal Company of Archers, allowing the people of Scotland to pay their respects. In the evening, the Queen's children; King Charles III, the Princess Royal, the Earl of Inverness and the Earl of Forfar held a vigil at the cathedral, a custom known as the Vigil of the Princes.

On 5 July 2023, the Honours of Scotland were presented to King Charles III in a ceremony held in St Giles' Cathedral. The ceremony was formally described as a National Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication to mark the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.



Heraldic Stall Plate of Donald Hamish Cameron

As St. Giles' is regarded as the mother church of Presbyterianism, I, as a son of the manse, was thrilled to be able to attend a Sunday communion service in the cathedral. It was held in the sanctuary, in the centre of the church, with the minister facing across the church and the congregation on three sides. The organ playing was wonderful and organ recitals are often given in the evenings. I felt a great sense of awe and nostalgia, being in this historical place on a Sunday without the crowds of tourists I had experienced on my visit the day before.

Sources:

St. Giles' Cathedral Guide

St. Giles' Website.

The Story of the Scottish Reformation by A M Renwick

Cameron Knights of the Thistle by Bill Cameron - August 2012 Wikipedia

With Sarah in Scotland

It is crazy to me that one year ago, I had just arrived in Cameron territory, and now here I am back in NZ, struggling to summarise how wonderful my year in Scotland was. I should start with what I got up to in the last few months since my previous update in the August newsletter.

August started with a bang with the Clan Cameron International Gathering. It was so great to see the gathering come together as I was involved as a member of the organising committee led by Lochiel. It was a shame about the rain, but I loved the Ceilidh on Saturday, and it was an honour to be one of the speakers for the Friday talks, with my topic being 'Famous Camerons'. Following the gathering I spent some time with my mum and grandad Neil, who were over in Scotland. A highlight of this time was going to the Royal



Sarah at Ring of Brodgar

Edinburgh Military Tattoo. It was so iconic to witness the massed bands coming through the gate of Edinburgh Castle - if anything, I wished there was more piping in the show!!

Speaking of piping, I was lucky enough to attend a few highland games at Arisaig, Mallaig, Morar and Oban over the summer. Having grown up attending highland games in NZ, it was great to get to some on Scottish soil, although we do very well in NZ to emulate them here. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the piping (especially when Finlay, Sandy, and Eireann were playing) and watching the Highland Dancing events. It was also great to catch up with some Kiwi pipers over for the summer events while I was stewarding at The Lochaber Gathering run in the Fort William cinema and Cameron Square. I also got to experience the World Pipe Band Championships at Glasgow Green. It was amazing walking onto the ground to be greeted with the sight of so many pipe bands and the cacophony of the sound of hundreds of pipes and drums. I loved spending the day listening to the fantastic grade-one performances before I zipped off to Edinburgh via train for two days of comedy shows as part of the Edinburgh Fringe.

I do not have the space here to give a complete play-by-play of my trips out of Scotland, but suffice to say, I made the most of being close to Europe. I enjoyed some time in England house sitting for a friend near where I was born in Kent. In September, I joined a coach tour of Italy for two weeks, which had the bonus (in addition to fantastic sightseeing) of beautiful

sunny days, especially in Rome and Venice. I also darted off to Copenhagen in October for a couple of days.

A particular Scottish highlight from the recent months was my five-day trip to the Orkney Islands. I caught the sleeper train from London to Aberdeen and had the day to explore before catching my next mode of transport, the ferry to Kirkwall. On Orkney, I was fortunate to be staying with local residents who were my tour guides for the Islands. I was blown away by the history of these islands, such as Skara Brae Prehistoric Village (which is over 5000 years old) and the Ring of Brodgar. We also took a day trip down to the Italian Chapel, crossing the Churchill Barriers, which are now causeways. The following day, we took a trip to Hoy and on the ferry crossing we were accompanied by dolphins in Scapa Flow. I was incredibly blessed with the weather, which may have been an apology from Scotland for my previous island trips had been plagued by storms. Following this trip to Orkney I stayed with Roddy Cameron again, before heading to Inverlair for the final time.

During my final visit to Lochaber, I got to take in all the beautiful Autumn colours, particularly on the final highland hikes I took with Finlay up to Lochan a'Choire in Creag Meagaigh Reserve and to Steall Falls from the end of Glen Nevis. During this time, Ken and I had the perfect day to go up the Nevis gondola and were treated to fantastic views across Lochaber and beyond. It was tough to say goodbye to Toddy and Bothy, the Cameron's Locheil terriers, who I had come a little attached to at Inverlair! It was very emotional getting on the train to Glasgow at Tulloch station for the last time, comforted by the fact that I know this will not be my last visit to Lochaber - I have a feeling I will be back!

During my final week in Scotland, I attended the National Piping Centre's Adult Gathering in Glasgow. This was four packed days of piping tutorials, seminars and lessons with 25 other players from all over the world. I found the gathering highly beneficial to my bagpipe playing, and it has given me lots of motivation to keep improving. It was also great to socialise with other players at the social events, which included a whisky-tasting evening, a piping-focused pub quiz and a tutor recital.

Exactly one year after I arrived in Glasgow, on Oct 31st, I got on the train down to England for a few days with friends before getting on the plane home from London. Overall, I ended up having the most fantastic time in Scotland, and I have so many special memories from the last year. I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all the Camerons in Scotland who hosted me at different points over the last year: Roddy Cameron in Blairgowrie, Johanna and Colin Wilson in Auchterarder, Shona and Gavin Shirley in Castle Douglas and finally, the Camerons of Inverlair: Kenny, Rhona, Sandy and Finlay, who went above and beyond for me; welcoming me into their family and making my time in Scotland unforgettable!

Also, thank you to everyone who has supported the First Light exchange over the years.

Sarah's photos to go with this article on pages 5 and 6.



Aonaibh ri Cheile

The Back Page



Hororata Highland Games

Photos: Nick Cameron and Dale Bailey.



Allan Cameron and our Hororata stall ready for action including offering free haggis samples



Andrea serves free haggis



Andrea with Ethan



Andrea with Julie Cameron



Canterbury member Marcia Clark



Roger Tobin from Dunedin



Photo: Elizabeth Cheetham

Wellington-Wairarapa Branch group photo taken at the Aston Norwood lunch
The lunch was attended by 19 adults and 3 children.
The guest speaker was Dale Bailey, who gave an interesting talk on his travels in Scotland, including events at the recent gathering.



Lest we Forget

Photo: Bill Cameron