



Cameron

The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

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2014*

Loch Eil and Loch Linnhe from just above the halfway lochan, Ben Nevis.

Photo: Bill Cameron



*A new photo of Lochiel with
Merlin, taken by Bill Cameron
for the up-dated edition of
'The Camerons'*



*Congratulations to First Lighter
Astie Cameron - now the Estate
Manager at Achnacarry*

"Cameron"

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

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(This has links to other Clan Cameron sites)

A message from our President.....

Dear Clan members and friends,

Since my last newsletter I have been enjoying my delayed retirement. My daughter in law has been chosen to represent New Zealand at various Rifle Range contests in Australia and Spain this year. Next year Irene will be going to America. We wish her good luck for all events - she is enjoying good support for her efforts. This means I am shop boy for a while.

As for myself, this week saw my installation as President to the Opotiki Rotary Club with all the duties that follow the Monday evening meetings. The next event on the calendar is the Auckland branch annual dinner as well as the welcome to Bill Cameron of Scotland, who was a first light exchangee a few years ago.

Our sympathy has been conveyed to Clan Donald on their recent passing of Harold McIsaac who was Chief of the Clan for New Zealand, The Haggitts and Neil represented the Clan at the funeral.

Getting update assistance on my email operations allowed me a quick look at the facebook pages as advised by Tanya. It appears to be very interesting - when time permits.

The next event to look forward to is the executive meeting at Turangi for which I trust a full member attendance will be enjoyed. The month of late September should be warming up a little with a reasonable snowline for those that have time and interest in the sport. The next lot of credits go to Kapa Haka group from Te Kaha and the Bay who leave at the end of July to attend the Edinburgh Tattoo and, as I understand, they are joining with the New Zealand marching team for the event.

Tristan and partner have returned from the Australian harvesting adventure and are now resident in the Taranaki area, we are not sure of his possible attendance at the dinner to welcome Bill. As many of my family who can join us will be there to enjoy another annual evening.

Regards to all,

Fraser Cameron



Coming Events:

Sunday 21 September 2014
Taranaki/Wanganui Branch Lunch
The Fat Cow, Hawera. 11.30am A two course roast meal. Cost \$18.90. Coffee/ Tea extra. Early reply to Shona by Sept 17 would be appreciated.
Enquiries to Shona Wallace
Ph.(06) 2786005

Saturday 27 September 2014
EC Meeting Turangi RSA
10am for 10.30 start.

Saturday 4 October 2014
Combined Clans Assn Auckland Dist.
Annual dinner at Quality Hotel.
Enquiries to Murdock McDonald
09 298 4802

Sunday 12 October 2014
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Turakina at 2pm.
St Andrew's is holding a service of thanks giving & celebration to commemorate 150 years of worship in the present church & 162 years in Turakina.
All associated with the church and friends are welcome.
enquires to Ewen or Roz Grant
06 327 3861 - tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz
The church & hall will be open on Saturday from 12pm to 4pm and Sunday from 10-30am onwards for anyone to visit

Saturday 22 November 2014
Auckland Highland Games
Three Kings Reserve. Commencing 10.30am. Free entry and a wonderful day for all the family. Visit the Cameron tent for a friendly welcome and to learn about our clan.

Clan Cameron NZ is now on Facebook



Link to Facebook and 'How to Get Started on Facebook' are on our website.

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Sept.

Printed By

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Auckland Branch:

Sue Wright

Auckland

Bay of Plenty Branch:

Ian Martin

Raewyn Potaka

Omokoroa

Tauranga

Ceud Mile Fàilte

One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



Clan McPhee 30th Anniversary

The Clan McPhee Society of New Zealand will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary and will be honoured with the presence of their Clan Commander from Scotland.

All are welcome to join in, including the daytime activities.

Register or contact James McPhee Ph 07-827-7755

or Email: jmemcphee@xtra.co.nz by the 31 August 2014.

The registration form will be available in our website:

www.clanmcpheesocietynewzealand.com

"We extend to Clan Cameron members an invitation to join us for dinner and conviviality at these functions.

The NZ Clan McPhee Society is small but wishes to ensure a strong bond with other Clans and Clan Societies, especially Clan Cameron with whom Clan McPhee has had a long and close relationship."

Auckland, October 18th, Quality Hotel, 20 Gladstone Rd, Parnell. 6PM, Commander's Reception, Limited drinks included in Tariff. 7PM, Dinner incl Haggis Ceremony, Guest speaker (Commander), Formal Dress, \$60 per adult, \$30 per child. Conclusion 10PM Approx.

Accommodation available, Code 66515 to be quoted. Ph 09-303-3789.

Wellington, October 21.

10am. Powhiri @ Waiwhetu Marae followed by morning tea.

Visit to Te Maori cultural centre

Lunch at Galleria Cafe (nearby)

Afternoon, Visit Iona Cross (Petone), followed by:

Petone Settlers Museum.

All welcome. Evening informal.

October 22 – 23, please refer to website.

Masterton, October 24 – 25 - 26, please refer to Website for daytime programme.

October 25 Evening. Dinner at the Masterton Cosmopolitan Club, 195 Queen St.

Dress informal, followed by indoor Highland Games.

October 26 Evening, Formal Dinner at Solway Park, Copthorne Hotel, High St Sth. 6PM, Commander's Reception, , Limited drinks included in Tariff.

7:00 Dinner, incl Haggis Ceremony, Guest speaker (Commander), Formal Dress, \$60 per adult, \$30 per child. Conclusion 10PM Approx.

Accommodation available, Code 68562 to be quoted, Ph 06-370-0500.

"The Irish invented whisky, but only used it as a liniment for their sick mules. Only my fellow-countrymen would have thought of the idea of drinking whisky.

- Unknown Scottish poet

Arrival of the Blenheim Celebrations Update on 2015 Activities.

Commemorating our Scottish Heritage

Scots settlers played an important role in Wellington's early years and their descendants are planning to celebrate the richness of that heritage.

On 27 December 2015 it will be 175 years since the "Blenheim" arrived in Wellington with migrants of mainly Highland farmers and their families. To mark the occasion, and to provide an opportunity for all the community to share in the commemoration, it is planned to hold a picnic day with suitably Scottish themes and events.

The passengers from the "Blenheim" disembarked at Kaiwharawhara, where they were welcomed and supported by Ngati Tama and their chief Taringakuri, so it is proposed to hold the family picnic at Kaiwharawhara Park on the 27th of December 2015. Events are likely to include Scottish sports and dancing, children's games, bagpipes and displays.

Other functions will be held in Auckland and in Wanganui to commemorate the departure of the "Blenheim" on the 25th of August 1840.

Many of the settlers eventually moved to the Wanganui, Turakina and Wairarapa districts to take up land.

Contact for the Kaiwharawhara Picnic is; Hugh McPhail, 7 Westland Road, Mt. Cook, Wellington 6021. Ph. 04 97 9851. email blenheim175@gmail.com

Wanganui dinner; Roz & Ewen Grant, Tullochgorum, 2153 SHW3, Turakina, R.D.11, Wanganui 4581. Ph. 06 327 3861. email tullochgorum@xtra.co.nz

Auckland dinner; Norman Cameron, 31/37 Natzka Road, Ostend, Waiheke Is. Auckland 1081. Ph. 372 8442. email norman.cameron37@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Blenheim1840/>

Vale ...

Harold Morley McIsaac



Harold McIsaac

10.8.1937 --26.6.2014

Clan Cameron has lost a good and respected friend with the sudden death of Harold McIsaac, High Commissioner for Clan Donald in New Zealand.

Harold enjoyed his Scottish heritage and was very much in evidence in the Clan Donald tent at Highland Games, from where he was always willing to offer advice and encouragement to other clans.

He was a trustee of the Clan Donald Land Trust in Skye, Scotland and in 2014 was presented with the Somerled Certificate signed by all six High Clan Chiefs.

A service to celebrate his life was held in an overflowing St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Epsom on 2 July. Clan Cameron was represented by the Haggitt family and the editor.

Our condolences go to Mary and the family, and to all members of Clan Donald.

From the Branches....

Auckland by Norman Cameron

On Sunday June the 22nd the Clan held a pot luck luncheon at our new secretary Elaine Ebbett's house. Thanks to Elaine ringing around we had a good gathering of members and their partners.

The Branch annual winter dinner is to be held on August the 2nd at the Quality Hotel, Parnell. The guest speaker will be Bill Cameron from Fort William, Scotland. Bill is a former First Lighter and over the years has contributed to the Clan Cameron Magazine.

I attended the Auckland Clans Association meeting on the 7th of July at St Andrews Church Hall. The Association are going to hold their annual dinner at Quality Hotel on the 4th of October. The committee would like more Clans in Auckland to join the Association.

St Kentigern College are holding a Ceilidh on the 30th August to raise funds to send their pipe band to Scotland and the Branch is booking a table.

Bay of Plenty by Denis Cameron

We have been fairly quiet since the National AGM but we did hold our own Annual General Meeting in June. All executives and committee were returned to office but we would still like to see some of the younger members put their names forward to assist on the committee.

Ray and Janet Crafts left on Sunday 6th July for their trip to the UK. They will be away for several weeks and we look forward to a report and photos of their activities on their return. They will be visiting Achnacarry and the museum and hope to catch up with Lochiel. In 1986 when Sir Donald of Lochiel and Lady Margaret visited the Bay of Plenty, they were presented with a hand carved trinket box, designed in native woods which was made by Ray. On the occasion of the Golden Wedding of Sir Donald and Lady Margaret of Lochiel, Ray made the acknowledgement which was presented to them. Ray also produced the citation for the occasion of Sir Donald of Lochiel's 50th Anniversary as Clan Chief. Some of these gifts are in the Clan Cameron Museum.

The Sale of Clan Cameron merchandise is fairly slow. There are plenty of pens and fridge magnets available although there are only 6 of the mugs left.

Best wishes from the Bay of Plenty.

Canterbury by Rae Magson

Eight members of the Clan Cameron Canterbury attended the Tartan Day Lunch held in Christchurch recently by the Scottish Heritage Council. This was successful with a large attendance of different clans. The event opened with the Piping in of the Haggis, our President Nick Cameron being the piper. Haggis was sampled by most of those present, this was followed by a delicious meal. During the meal everyone was asked to compose a limerick, featuring the word "whisky" at the end of the first line, many of these were read out later.

After the event concluded Clan Cameron members had a quick meeting to organise dates for the upcoming events. These are the Hororata Games on 8 November, where we will have a tent and give away haggis. Also Kirkin' o' the Tartan on 19 October, and the Annual General Meeting on 23 November.

Isabel and Colin Cameron represented Clan Cameron at the AGM Dinner of Clan McKenzie, held in Fairlie on Saturday 17 May. Over 60 members of that clan from all parts of New Zealand were present.

"The haggis was piped in and addressed, an excellent four course meal was provided, followed by raffles, entertainment and a sing-a-long. Marta and Hugh McKenzie organised and MC'd the evening and did a superb job of keeping everything moving.

Local girl Isabel Clarke from Kimball entertained the gathering with a selection of Scottish and Irish dancing. Isabel will be part of a 30 strong group of dancers performing at this years Edinburgh Tattoo. We wish her well.

Although surrounded by McKenzies we were made very welcome and had a most memorable evening.

Manawatu by Jessie Annabell

Delia Joan Robinson (nee Cameron) of Foxton, passed away peacefully June 11, 2014, at Palmerston North Hospital. A celebration of her life was held at the Manawatu College Assembly Hall in Foxton on Saturday 14 June. As one of J.Q.'s daughters, (along with Mary Barber and Elaine Bailey) she and her husband Ashley were loyal members of the Manawatu branch. She will be much missed.

Planning for next year's national AGM in Palmerston North is proceeding apace.

The subcommittee is working hard to make sure that we provide an interesting and stimulating weekend for our visitors.

More details will be provided in future issues as things fall into place.

By Editor - I am delighted to be able to reprint the following two articles with the kind permission of the Manawatu Standard.

Maisie (Mary) Earle is well known and respected by us all, having been president of Clan Cameron NZ for five years. Maisie's vision led to the foundation of First Light, the very successful exchange scheme between young people of New Zealand and Lochaber.

We warmly congratulate Maisie and Dick on their awards and hope they will not keep them tucked away in a drawer.

Massey honours food pioneers

By Lucy Townend (with thanks to The Manawatu Standard)

An indomitable duo considered pioneers of New Zealand's food industry have been awarded Massey University's highest honour.

Husband and wife, Professors Emeriti Mary and Dick Earle each received a Massey Medal at the FoodTech 50 symposium, which celebrates 50 years of the university offering the Bachelor of Food Technology, in Palmerston North yesterday.

Alumni, lecturers, industry leaders and international guests gathered at Massey's Manawatu campus to honour the Earles. The couple were called "ground breaking", "revolutionary" and "visionary" by their peers, with former pupils saying the Earles shaped their passion for the food industry.

The pair are highly respected nationally and internationally for their work on product development, biotechnology and developing food technology courses in New Zealand and overseas.

They have each earned a number of prestigious awards and fellowships, including Mary being awarded an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1993 and Dick an Officer in 2008.

They have also established a number of scholarships for students and continue to publish food technology literature. Dick Earle said the couple were honoured by the recognition but wanted to remember those who they had worked with during their 30-plus years at the university.

"It's essential to acknowledge this is not done by me or Mary alone, it was very much a whole team of people here at Massey who set up what was a technology venture which was really unlike any other in the world."

The Earles were an essential part of the fabric in making Massey's food technology offerings what they are today, vice chancellor Steve Maharey said. "When we talk about our achievements over the last 50 years, we all know we got here because of wonderful people like the Earles."

Making NZ food popular

by Jill Galloway (with thanks to *The Manawatu Standard*)

New Zealand in the 1960s used to have only white bread and cheddar; the only brown bread you could buy had caramel added.

There was no New Zealand blue or feta cheese, no Vogel's wholegrain bread and sherry came in flagons.

That was before Dick and Mary Earle made their mark on food technology. Although retired, they are both lively, and pleased to give other people kudos for their work on making food technology a winner.

Without the advances, we'd be a Third World nation still exporting in raw form.

In New Zealand, it is hard to think of a world with meat and three vege, no yoghurt, no interesting cheeses and no olives. But that is what the Earles were up against. They were cosmopolitan people, having lived and studied at Glasgow University in the United Kingdom, and New Zealand was a shock to them.

"I saw industry in the dark ages here. I wasn't rude, but it was backwards," Mary Earle says. Some bakers and meat processors supplied her with wholemeal bread, and blood pudding. Those things were not available commercially. It is testament to her personality and pulling power that they wanted to do that.

Dick Earle came to Massey University from the meat industry research centre in Hamilton in 1965. He was the foundation professor of biotechnology and was responsible for developing the first university department of biotechnology in the world. Biotechnology is technology applied to biological systems. It can be used in leathers, foods, and waste treatment.

Mary Earle came later, but began work in 1965 at Massey University as a lecturer in food technology. The food technology department had been set up by Kelvin Scott and Garth Wallace. The large meat and dairy companies were moving away from commodities to specialised consumer products, and the smaller companies, from crafts to technology.

Mary Earle talks about how she came to Massey. "Kelvin Scott was smooth. He took me out for a nice meal, and we had French wine. I hadn't had that for ages. I said I would come to teach for two years. I stayed until I retired in 1995."

She had worked in the United Kingdom for Unilever and Cerebos.

Both the Earles worked closely with industry in New Zealand and they liked it. Dick Earle and Bill Freeman developed a continual freezing technique for meat. When the Earles started work, beef was exported as frozen quarters, and New Zealand sheep as carcasses wrapped in muttoncloth. Mary Earle brought cartons to the meat industry and suggested meat should be broken down. "The first cartons came down a shoot and they were all broken. The next lot of meat went in the cartons and they went to San Francisco and were left on the wharf and melted."

So it wasn't an auspicious start. But Mary's team nailed it. Freezing it in cartons took some work, says Dick. He had to figure out what temperature and how long and how big a piece of meat

was to be. "We could do 30 tonnes in 20 hours. Boxes went in with unfrozen meat, and came out the other end frozen."

The Earles used primitive computer modelling. After freezing meat came chilled meat to market and Mary sorted that.

"Our first consignment got as far as Auckland and went off. The second time it got to the wharves in London. And the third time to the supermarkets in the UK. We didn't know the temperatures needed or the hygiene."

Later, plain yoghurt was developed for a country with a "sweet tongue". Mary was asked if she could develop fruit to be added. Fruit and flavourings made it popular.

Blue cheese was made at the Eltham dairy factory. That was a new taste to most, and although sweeter than traditional Danish Blue, Roquefort, or Gorgonzola, it took a while for New Zealanders to warm to it. The dairy industry had a market for cheddar and wasn't keen on other cheeses. In fact, it was resistant to them.

"We weren't in an ivory tower. It was not a question of making a product, then handing it over. We worked closely with industry," say the Earles.

Their background was chemical engineering. Engineers were used to working with industry, and were comfortable with it. But academics stayed in their ivory towers. "The idea was we'd equip the industry with well trained [students] people who were academics and hands-on."

Mary worked with Kiwi Bacon Company to find a better way of curing bacon. She also worked with New Zealand bakeries (later to become Quality Bakers) on different types of bread. "The choice available today just wasn't there in the 1960s. I came out in 1961 from Scotland to New Zealand, and it was so backwards it just blew me away." But there were some things New Zealand was good at.

The Earles say in those days New Zealand was at the forefront of stainless steel for use in food. Mary says she had never seen such welding, and New Zealand (because of the dairy industry) was right up there with Denmark and the Netherlands. She says they had a wine meeting at Massey's food technology department, and Tom McDonald from Hawke's Bay was the first to use modern technology – an old dairy vat.

"Tom talked all day, then we went out for dinner and tried the wines. Smoked old socks, vinegar, were some of the comments. It was a riot. Tom McDonald asked, 'do you think we need to change'. 'Yes, maybe we do', all the winemakers said."



Photo: WARWICK SMITH/FAIRFAX NZ



Dick and Maisie working at Massey University in the 1980's

Down Memory Lane

Continuing an interview with

Lt.-Col. Charles Cameron
for 'the Braes of Lochaber'

Tell us of the family friends locally and the people you used to meet as a child?

Travelling wasn't as easy as it is now; people tended to come and stay to stalk or fish and my parents would occasionally go away for a few days. We knew the Davys--Alistair was a friend of my parents and Iain and Jean were roughly our ages. The



Charles Cameron with his wife Felicia in Malta, 2011

Abingers had 3 children--James, John and Felix, they sold up at the end of the war when Lord Abinger died because James wasn't really interested in the Highlands, John became a doctor--Abinger was a very stern old man.

Iain De'ath was another friend—he was the son of the chief engineer at the BA Company; he was the first chap I knew who was killed in the war—at the battle of the River Plate in 1939. The Hunters were at Glenfintaig in the late 30's—he was a rich Dundee merchant and Janie Allan was at Inverglo. If we were at Achnacarry for the summer, we entertained several of Donald, Marion and Allan's friends; otherwise, we didn't have many visitors because travelling was difficult.

Tell us something of the post war years.

I was always very fond of the Islands and Bobby Campbell-Preston who was Managing Director of Alginat Industries offered me a job based in Lochboisdale; my predecessor was very dishonest so in some respects that made my job easier,

The company employed about 35 people but there were some 200–300 self-employed jobs gathering seaweed and it was an important part of the economy. People were paid for what they cut and gathered, rather than by the hour and it fitted in well with the pattern of crofting life. I never picked up

Gaelic and knew that if I stayed there I would, a) become eccentric and, b) never marry.

Lochiel asks "Tell me about Granny."

She was as near as one could be to an angel. Her interests, which were music, literature and the church, were quite different from those of the men by whom she was surrounded; also, she was strongly left wing and was capable of expressing her views in a very forthright and determined way. She was not strong physically and the west highland climate didn't suit her. After my father died, she moved first to Edinburgh and then Greens

Hotel in Glasgow where she died in 1978 at the age of 96.

She was very broadminded but rather evangelical; if for whatever reason we did not go to church on Sunday, we had to spend time reading the bible and were not allowed to play cards on a Sunday — she didn't really approve of us playing tennis on Sunday. I remember once going to the church at Achnacarry when there was a missionary who insisted on starting off with a hymn nobody knew; after a most unpromising

start, my mother said loudly "Nobody knows this hymn, so let's choose another!"

She was decidedly anti-feminist and I remember a most amusing situation when she was really quite ill. I had gone to see her in hospital and after our initial greeting, I could see that she was tired so I suggested that she should have a snooze whilst I read the newspaper. After a while, she suddenly sat up and said, "Darling, I can't stand Mrs Thatcher.

She never even mentions her husband." I was a bit taken aback and said, "Well, Mr Wilson never mentions his wife," to which she replied, "That's completely different." In her estimation, a wife should always acknowledge her husband, but it was unimportant if Harold Wilson failed to mention his wife. From that moment, I knew she was getting better!

When she lived opposite the cathedral in Inverness during the war, she often went in to pray for her sons; it must have worked as we all survived as well as her sons-in-law!

Her father, brother, husband and son were all Knights of the Thistle, the highest order of chivalry in Scotland at the disposal of the monarch of the day.

Lochiel asks "How did my grandfather view being a clan chief, and did he have much contact with others in that position?"

He took it very seriously and it was very

important to him. He rather disapproved of the fashion of leaders of Border families being described as chiefs of clans — families maybe, but not clans. It wasn't until after the war that publicity began to focus on the role and my father rather disapproved of it. He obviously knew other chiefs of clans — the Mackintosh who was his predecessor as Lord Lieutenant, but distances and travel were such in the '30s that there wasn't the regular contact between people that we have now. (He would obviously have known Lovat, Lord MacDonald, Cluny and others.)

Money was a continual concern for him — the estate may have produced substantial quantities of agricultural commodities but cash surpluses were rare; at one time, in about 1923, I think, the fashion was that it was cheaper to live in France and my parents went off to Dinard — the Campbell-Prestons went too — Father complained that Mother had 40 pieces of luggage! They stayed for a year or two and I daresay the estate was let, but it didn't work, nor did their great plans to learn French!

Do you have further memories of estate life in the twenties and thirties?

As I think I said earlier, all the houses locally were lived in by estate employees, of which I think there were about 35 or so. There was quite a community at Glendessary and Glenkingie. There were about 4 children at the school at Strathan and the teacher went over to Glenkingie to teach a further 2 or 3. Charlie Cameron was the shepherd at Kinbreac and he had 12 children.

We've talked about the farm staff but I should mention others. There was a succession of chauffeurs — my first recollection is of Hamish Henderson whose mother looked after the poultry, and then Angus Campbell. I've already mentioned Norman MacRae who was a large figure in our lives.

We didn't live at all grandly but in those days there were lots of domestic staff—cook and various helpers and my mother's lady's maid. The kitchen was in the basement and looked out on to the trench; there was no lift so everything was carried up to the dining room and the food was very plain. Breakfast was at 9.30; lunch 1.15 and dinner 8.15. Macrae played pipes in the morning to wake the family — usually Hey, Johnny Cope and again in the evening to warn people to dress for dinner, and in the dining room after dinner if we had guests.

A Cameron, January 1953



Next issue, in the final part of this interview, Lt.-Col. Charles Cameron tells us more about his work and memories of life around the area.

This recording was collected and edited by Richard Sidgwick and Donald Cameron of Lochiel



"The Toast To Lochiel" - as proposed at the 2014 Gathering Dinner by Denis Cameron, President of the Host Branch.

I was opening a book at one time and to my astonishment, a story about a Clan Cameron Tour on the International Gathering in 1981 fell out.

This year – 1981 – had been designated as the Year of the Scot, and major events were held throughout the year to commemorate the occasion.

The Scottish Clans, whose history dates back for nearly a thousand years, played an important part in these celebrations.

The year opened with an International Gathering at Edinburgh from May 23 to 30 and, subsequently several of the major Clans will have their own celebrations in their own territorial areas.

For Clan Cameron members the major event of the year was at Achnacarry Castle, the home of the Chief, on Saturday, 8 August, 1981.

For the last one hundred years and more, the various Clans in Scotland have lived happily and peacefully, co-operating fully in national development, but this was not always the case so far as the Clan Cameron is concerned.

The earliest records of Clan Cameron date back to at least the early 15th century when, dominated by the Chiefs of Clan Donald, members took part in the Battle of Harlaw in 1411. Subsequently they won their independence.

Later by their own decision, the Clan elected to support the cause of Bonnie Prince Charlie in his attempt in 1745 to regain the British Throne for the Stuart Kings.

When the Scots were defeated at Culloden, the Chief of Clan Cameron, like the Prince, escaped to France, where he died in 1748.

Achnacarry has been the seat of successive Clan Cameron Chiefs since the early 17th century. The penalty by the then Chief of the Clan, affectionately known as "the Gentle Lochiel" for the support he gave to the Royal

Prince, was to have his home destroyed in 1746 by the forces of the Duke of Cumberland and deprived of all Clan Cameron lands.

It was not until 1784, that the properties of the Clan were restored by Act of Parliament to their Clan Chief.

Lochiel had been commissioned in the Lovat Scouts in 1929, and on the outbreak of war in 1939, he joined his regiment on mobilisation, and served with it throughout the war, commanding it during the Italian Campaign, thus worthily carrying on the military traditions of his family.

During the 2nd World War, Achnacarry was used as a training centre for the Commandoes, and great was the scene of desolation when they left. The centre of the house had been destroyed by fire; the grounds were studded with Nissan huts; the park in front of the house had been converted into a parade ground. Lochiel set about restoring his home and policies, and in a few years they resumed their old and beautiful appearance so that now there are few traces of military occupation.

In 1952, the Castle was beautifully reconstructed and it is here that Clan members would be welcomed by Lochiel for the gathering.

There have been three Clan Gatherings at Achnacarry presided over by the late Sir Donald in 1956, 1964 and 1967. The third coincided with the coming of age of Donald Angus, Lochiel's eldest son and heir.

The first time that Lochiel visited Glasgow after his succession to the Chiefship. He was entertained to luncheon by the City Council, and, thereafter, following the tradition; the bells of the Tolbooth were rung in his honour, playing "The March of the Cameron Men". This also happened to the present Chief - Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel.

In 2009, members of the New Zealand Clan Cameron and others, whose names are associated with the Clan, were cordially invited to participate in the tour, the highlights of which were four days spent in the area of Lochaber and the remainder of the tour visiting major areas of Scotland with which the Clan have had associations throughout the centuries.

It now gives me great pleasure in being able to propose a Toast to our 27th Chief of Clan Cameron – Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel. ☆

The new Cameron Square - Cearnag Chamshroin

by Bill Cameron

Cameron Square, or as it is in Gaelic, Cearnag Chamshroin lies at the heart of the High Street running through Fort William town centre.

Considered by locals and visitors alike to be one of the main gathering points within the area, the square has a long established history of bringing people together.

Its name is believed to originate - by popular usage - from the place where the Cameron Highlanders received their marching orders in January, 1794.

At one time the square was home to a substantial stone memorial, church, town hall, visitor centre, cinema and above all - a place where people would gather to find out what was going on in and around the local area.

On Saturday the 28th of June Cameron Square was officially reopened by a local councillor in front of a large crowd. The opening was the culmination of a £540,000 contract, comprising months of landscaping work which saw new granite slabs laid throughout, as well as amphitheatre-like terracing created around the centre of the



square for people to sit during open air events - lets hope it doesn't rain when they're on!

To celebrate the reopening of Cameron Square, an open air ceilidh was held (in the sunshine) including sessions from the Lochaber Pipe Band and a variety of local musicians amongst them former First Lighter, Robert Nairn, on the accordion.

In keeping with the origins of this one time Gaelic speaking area, the block work on the end of the terraced seating has the name Cameron Square in both Gaelic and English.

In order to make the square fit for today's user needs, it now includes free wi-fi availability, integrated ground lighting that alternates through a wide range of colours and a variety of seating options - including a unique blue concrete sofa and two chairs at the top of the square.

It is planned to install a full size bronze model of a Ford Model T at the bottom of the Square in the years to come. This significant sculpture (which will allow people to sit in it), will mark the precise starting point from where the ascent of Ben Nevis in a Model T took place in 1911.

Finally, in the style to which Lochaber has become well known as 'Outdoor Capital of the UK',

"Sheep Races" were held along the High Street - ironically starting from the old Woolworth's store, or as it was known locally 'Woolies', along the cobbled street - finishing at Cameron Square. The sight of sheep racing along the street with teddybear jockeys on their backs was a humorous event that attracted many hundreds of people along the street and help raise funds for the local rural education trust in the process. ☆



Aonaibh ri Cheile

The Back Page



Bill Cameron stands on the highest point of the Island of St. Kilda.



From Canterbury: Isabel Cameron, Marta and Hugh McKenzie and Colin Cameron at the Clan McKenzie Dinner in Fairlie



Two of the editor's grandchildren - Auckland piper Andrew McQueen after capping with double degree and an admiring cousin Max Cameron



Canterbury president Nick Cameron piping in the haggis at the Christchurch Tartan Day



Local MP Tony Ryall with Joy and Denis Cameron and Owen Shearer on the occasion of Harold Cameron's 80th birthday in 2012



Photo: Editor

Auckland members at the annual 'Kirkin' o' the Tartan' in St Andrew's Church on June 29. Norman Cameron, Peg Emery, Bryan Haggitt, Ruth Cameron, Jenny Haggitt, Don Cameron, Hillary and Cass Hakaraia.



The sheep race on the occasion of the opening of the 'new' Cameron Square in Fort William. "Not baaad" says Oban Times

Still available from the BOP Branch



Lochiel's pennant. This was recently found again at the castle. We believe it is going to be used at various clan association events over the coming summer months.