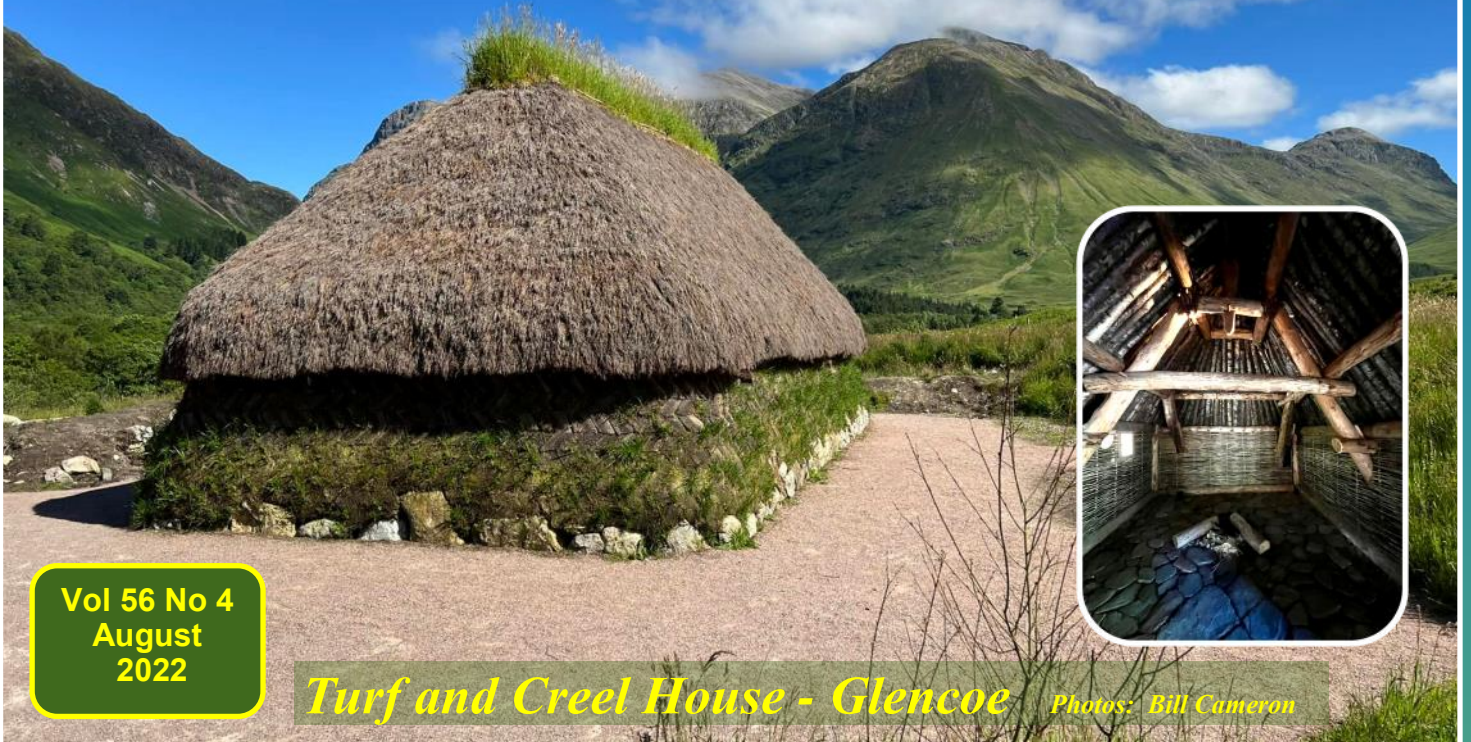




Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



**Vol 56 No 4
August
2022**

Turf and Creel House - Glencoe *Photos: Bill Cameron*



Heather in full seasonal bloom *Photo: Bill Cameron*

“Cameron”

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

Directory

Hereditary Chief and Captain of Clan Cameron
Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel,
Achnacarry, Spean Bridge,
Inverness-shire, Scotland. PH34 4ES

New Zealand President and Commissioner
Dale Cameron Bailey
6 Harapaki Street, Meadowbank, Auckland 1072
Ph. 09 521 5329 dale.bailey@xtra.co.nz

Secretary
Tanya Cameron
97B McGarvey Rd, Whakatane 3120
Ph. 027 293 5603
Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Treasurer
Hillary Hakaraia
2 Crestlands Place, Papakura, Auckland 2110
09 299 8672 HillaryHak@xtra.co.nz

Genealogist and Historian
David Weston
14 Tanguru Street, Wanganui 4500
Ph. (06) 343 2539 westmor@yahoo.com

First Light Exchange Convenor
Bryan Haggitt
96A Lucerne Road, Remuera, Auckland 1050
Ph. (09) 524 5254 bchecho@xtra.co.nz

Branch Presidents

Auckland
Rob Cameron
15B Gavin Street, Ellerslie, Auckland 1060
Ph. 022 525 3151 robcameronnz@gmail.com

Bay of Plenty
Tanya Cameron
97B McGarvey Rd, Whakatane 3120
Ph. 027 293 5603
Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Gisborne
David Cameron,
885 Wharekopae Rd, RD2 Gisborne. 4072
Ph. (06) 862 7803 camerondvd@xtra.co.nz

Hawke's Bay
Hamish Cameron
76 Jarvis Road, RD 5, Hastings 4175
Ph. (06) 876 7509. h.j.cameron@nowmail.co.nz

Iar (Taranaki / Whanganui)
Neville Wallace
242B Turu Turu Road, RD 14, Hawera 4674
Ph.(06)278 6005. neville.wallace@talk2me.co.nz

Manawatu
Russell Cameron,
6 Woodland Grove, Feilding 4702
Ph. (06) 323 7432 russelldcam@gmail.com

Wellington / Wairarapa
Graeme Cameron
4 Karamu Street, Ngaio, Wellington 6035
Ph. (04) 977 6250 glcameron@outlook.com

Canterbury
Nick Cameron
322 Auchenflower Road, RD 1 Darfield 7571
Ph. 027 232 6664
nick.cameron@cropmark.co.nz

Magazine Editor
Neil Cameron,
SA 551, William Sanders Retirement Village
7 Ngataranga Road, Devonport,
Auckland 0624
Ph: 027 948 5808 kncam@xtra.co.nz

Web Co-ordinator
Tanya Cameron
Tanya.cameron30@gmail.com

Facebook
<https://m.facebook.com/ClanCameronNZ>

A Message from our Commissioner...

Kia ora tatou, nga mihi nui

Greetings to you all

My first official duty as Commissioner Clan Cameron New Zealand was to attend a meeting of our Iar branch in Hawera. It was very nice to be hosted by Shona and Neville Wallace and members of their branch at lunch. It was great to travel to the Taranaki, such a beautiful province. We talked about our ideas for the future of Clan Cameron New Zealand and how we can connect. High on the list was how we can use some of the benefits of technology to share and learn about our heritage.

One idea is to collect up the memories and stories of our family heritage. These family stories are really family treasures. I have in my possession the small personal diary of my grandfather James Quarrie Cameron which he kept on his WW1 war service in Palestine. The entries are a moving connection to the life he had at the war. I wonder what we have within the homes of Clan Cameron members that shine a light on our lives in New Zealand and our Scottish origins?

I think we could make a wonderful exhibition out of this material. Capturing our oral history is certainly important for the coming generations.

Our association was formed in 1935, some 87 years ago. I feel we should celebrate this legacy and am thinking we should aim for a commemoration for our 90th birthday in 2025. It would be great to hear your ideas about how we might best do that. Perhaps it's time to consider an update to the Dorothy Cameron Gavin's wonderful history of Clan Cameron New Zealand published in 2003 and covering our history to 2000.

The political news from Scotland is certainly fascinating at the moment where the Scottish government has announced a second independence referendum for 2023. Will the Scots decide in favour of a break away from the United Kingdom, and how will London respond?

Whether the Scottish Parliament actually has the power to hold the referendum is currently before the supreme court. I wonder how they feel in Lochaber about it?

In the end its about creating a meaningful partnership and allowing for the national identity of Scotland to flourish into the future. Is that within the Union or on its own course, it will certainly be fascinating to follow.

It is sad to hear news of the passing of great Clan member Harry Lampen-Smith, who put such amazing energy into the work of Clan Cameron. He and his wife Mary were great hosts and gave so much to our association. He will be very much missed and our condolences to the family.

Aonaibh ri Cheile

Dale

Twitter: @NZPresidentCCNZ

By Editor...

We were saddened to hear of the death of Harry Lampen-Smith, a long standing and faithful member of Clan Cameron. An obituary is being prepared by members of his family and will be printed in the October issue of this magazine.

**Clan Cameron New Zealand
Website**

www.clancameronnz.co.nz

**The Clan Cameron Interactive
Network**

<http://clanameron.ning.com/>

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Sept 2022

Printed By

Meet our New National Treasurer - Hillary Hakaraia

Hillary joined Clan Cameron Auckland Branch in the early 1990's in support of her parents, Peg and Stewart Emery who joined when Neil Cameron re-formed the Auckland Branch.

Her Cameron connections are through her mother's side of the family. Hillary's maternal grandmother was Rosalie McGregor Kendall, daughter of Alexander Cameron who was the Grandson of Allan Cameron and Jessie Grant who arrived in New Zealand on the Blenheim in 1840. Allan and Jessie Cameron (Hillary's three times Great Grandparents) first settled in Happy Valley, Brooklyn, Wellington. Their son Allan and his wife decided to move to the Wairarapa first settling in Te Whiti before purchasing 'Hillend', a farm near Biddeford just out of Masterton.

Hillary attributes her interest in Clan Cameron to her Grandmother who was a member of Clan Cameron Manawatu many years ago.

Her working life has been spent in retail and office administration with her final employment, prior to retirement, being a 17 year term as sole administrator at Te Kura Akonga o Manurewa, a total immersion Maori primary school.

Now retired Hillary enjoys more time to pursue her love of embroidery and handcrafts and to play lawn bowls- a sport she and husband Cass took up some 13 -14 years ago. Earlier sporting interests include tennis, table tennis and badminton.

Hillary has spent many years serving on committees of her various interests and has been honoured with Life memberships of both the Papakura Badminton Club and the Counties Embroiderers' Guild.

Presently, Hillary is serving as Secretary of the Clan Cameron Auckland Branch having also served terms as Treasurer and Vice President and was responsible for the registrations for the 2005 Gathering hosted by the Auckland branch.



We acknowledge the deep debt we owe to Alison Thompson, our previous Treasurer, who held the position for 12 years. Thank you, Alison, we wish you well for the future.

From 35 Years Ago

By the Editor

Thirty-five years ago, the newly re-formed Auckland Branch held its inaugural mid-winter dinner at St. Johns, in Cornwall Park. This had an excellent attendance of 65. The following year we moved to the larger venue of Romfords and established the tradition of a Clan Dinner each winter.

This year's dinner will be held at 'The Parnell' on 6th August 2022 and we would love you to join us.

The following message had been received by me from Lochiel in 1987:

"I am so pleased to hear of the encouraging growth that you have had in the Clan Cameron Branch in Auckland. This is

great news and I hope you have a very successful Clan Dinner on the 19 June and recruit more new members"

In this year, 1987, we were very fortunate to have Lewis Turrell, Queen's Piper, join the branch and become the branch piper. Lewis was a Cameron and had opened a Scottish Shop in Mt. Eden Rd, the basement of which he made available for committee meetings.

It was a busy first year for the branch. We were involved over St. Andrew's weekend with the Auckland Highland Games held at the Epsom Girl's Grammar School grounds. We had a tent, manned all day by at least one Cameron in full dress, which displayed various Scottish items and furthered the name of the Clan. On the Sunday we attended a St. Andrew's Day church service in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

This was followed, in the Summer, by a barbecue at Lochiel Orchard, where various Scottish activities were carried out, one of which was using a kiwifruit pole as a caber.



Inaugural dinner ticket

Great News - Lochiel has indicated that an Achnacarry Gathering is being planned for August 2024.

Start planning now—lets have a large contingent from NZ



From the Branches....

Auckland by Rob Cameron

Bryan Haggitt organised a zoom call with Finlay Cameron and we were able to get the ball rolling on Finlay's First Light plans. He is willing to come out from October and stay for up to 6 months. Great news for First Light and everyone involved. He is currently organising his visa and flights out here.



In the meantime, we have started to plan Finlay's programme, he will compete with Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band in grade 1 for next year's Nationals and build up competitions. We have also managed to get Finlay a tutoring spot at next years Summer School held in Christchurch. We want Finlay to spend some time with each of the branches, I would recommend that each branch hold an evening to show off Finlay's talents and allow clan members to meet him. Once we get solid plans for Finlay's arrival, I can circulate the programme out to other branches.

We continue to plan for our annual dinner which is fast approaching in early August. It looks like the event will go ahead without any issues this year. It will still be up to the Auckland members to make the call to attend the dinner in the current climate, however I am hoping that most will make the decision to come. We are treating this dinner as a fundraiser to help go towards Finlay's stay. We have had a good collection of raffle prizes set for the evening, I would like to thank those who donated into it.

I attended the City of Auckland Pipe Band AGM held on 14th of July. As the band has been struggling over the last few months I did not know what to expect, however I am glad to say that the committee have decided not to wind up the band. The band has a lot of work to do to get its membership back but there are some hardworking people who are willing to keep it alive.

We have organised a visit to Jeff Thomson's Art Studio for our Auckland members in October. It will be during the Auckland Arts Festival which has over 80 shows and events. If interested, it could be worth seeing some other items at the same time. Details for the event is published elsewhere in this newsletter.

Christmas also seems to be quickly approaching, I have not heard if the Auckland Highland Games is going ahead this year, at this stage I am assuming it will be. Planning for the Waipu Highland Games has begun, our clan has been asked if we will be attending in which we have replied very positively. Hopefully over the spring and summer we will start to see events come back onto the calendar.

Manawatu by Anne Walker

Sadly, we have farewelled our former Branch President, long time member and current Branch Patron, Harry Lampen-Smith, who passed away at his home in the care of his wonderful family on 3rd July. Harry will be well known to many Clan Cameron New Zealand members, as he was a very active member and served as Branch President of Clan Cameron Manawatu for quite some time. Along with his late wife, Mary, Harry opened his home on many occasions for Clan Cameron gatherings.



A good contingent of Camerons attended Harry's requiem mass held on July 7th at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Palmerston North. Among items special to Harry that were placed on his coffin by his grandchildren was his Cameron tartan tie. Harry's Cameron heritage was important to him, and one of the last events he attended, together with his daughter Liz O'Connell, was the Clan Cameron Gala Dinner and Haggis Ceremony in May this year. Harry's funeral

focused on family, faith and community involvement that were the cornerstones of his life. The large group attending shared in what was a very fitting family farewell for Harry as we reflected on his very full and rewarding life. Bruce Cameron piped the casket out playing a tune on the Blenheim pipes.

Looking ahead, Clan Cameron Manawatu are planning an informal gathering on Sunday 11th September. We hope this informal gathering will give us an opportunity to catch up after the winter is past, and we are looking forward to springtime. This gathering is a complimentary afternoon tea hosted at the Coach House Museum in South Street Fielding. Afternoon tea will be served from 2.30pm. Those wishing to visit the excellent heritage coach house museum collection may so during the afternoon. The Museum is open until 4pm. Entry to the museum is \$10 per adult, and \$5 Children 5-18 y.o (under 5 y.o. free). The Coach house Museum is accessible and motorhome friendly. Invitations will be sent to Manawatu Branch members shortly, but all Clan Members are welcome if you happen to be in the area at the time. We'd love to see you. RSVP for catering numbers to clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com by 31 August please.

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

Apart from attending the National Clan Cameron AGM, in Palmerston North, there has been nothing to spark the imagination or rouse the feeling of any imminent celebration happening in our neck-o-the-woods these last couple of months.



Not so for Manawatu, who very successfully hosted the Clan AGM. Just as the Iar branch had done last year. Manawatu's hosting was all staged indoors – thereby removing weather conditions as a planning concern. Just as happened last year, it turned out to be another master stroke, given the extreme change we experienced weather – wise.

Contrasting with the conditions outside, everything indoors was progressing amicably – culminating with the confirmation that the First Light Exchange programme had finally been restored. For this to come about is a real testament to the perseverance of Bryan Haggitt. The manner and method adopted to achieve this was first suggested by our outgoing President, Nick Cameron, two years back – so perseverance was definitely shown by both these two.

The idea for New Zealand to step out of line and take the initiative, and also the costs, didn't sit well with some membership – and I can understand that also.

But the catalyst needed to make this approach succeed would rest with the quality of the candidate selected, and in that quest also, I believe they've succeeded brilliantly. So for the Auckland Branch to come forward as the sponsor and fund this new approach is also a bold move that, I personally believe, in a decades time, will be looked back on as the game changer that saved the Exchange Scheme and the ethos it stands for.

All that remains is the co-ordinating exercise of time and dates for mission completion -----

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Clan Cameron BoP branch has not been active recently.

I attended the Clan Cameron NZ AGM in Manawatu in May and came back with Covid. It was a great weekend with a meet and greet and dinner Friday night and 2 meetings Saturday morning with several workshops Saturday afternoon. The dinner Saturday night was great fun.

Covid was a sad excuse for 2 weeks working from home.



We are having our AGM for the Bay of Plenty Branch at Classic Flyers in Mount Maunganui and are hoping for a full turn out so we can decide where we will go from here.

The weekend following will be the Auckland dinner and I will be representing our branch again there. Stay warm and well

Canterbury by Rae Magson

We are pleased to welcome a new member, Roger Tobin from Dunedin. Great to have some interest in our Southern city.

Otherwise we have still not had any activities, but hopefully when the weather starts to improve and Covid has settled down this will be remedied.

On Sunday 10 July 2022 Rex Tarbotton, a long time member of Clan Cameron Canterbury died after a long illness. With his wife, Pat (her mother was a Cameron) he attended many Cameron functions, particularly the Hororata Highland Games. At his wish a private family service is to be held at a later date.



Iar by Neville Wallace

Our local Clan Cameron Iar celebrated Tartan Day on July 1st 2022. NZ and Australia celebrate on 1 July (the anniversary of the repeal of the 1747 Act of Proscription that banned the wearing of tartan after Culloden) with an informal Clan gathering. We had an attendance of eight people including the presence of our newly elected commissioner Dale Bailey who came down from Auckland just for our meeting.

Many thoughts and good ideas came from those members present. Dale used his knowledge from his former days of school teaching, and I think that the possibility of using zoom for contacting and drawing in those members who would otherwise be hindered by distance, time, and cost would be an idea worth pursuing. The subject of family history was raised, and some blank spots were filled in from those present, that were able to answer those particular questions.

Shona and I took Dale over to our local favourite dining spot, "Upside Down" where we had a pleasant meal before Dale left Hawera to catch his plane at New Plymouth. Thank you, Dale Bailey, for coming down and making our day, well done! It was much appreciated.



Wellington/Wairarapa by Rob Cameron

Fifteen members of our Branch recently had an outing at the Gear Homestead in Porirua. This magnificent 1880's homestead was built by James Gear, the founder of one of Wellington's largest employers, the Gear Meat company. It has extensive grounds, many historic buildings, and sweeping views over the harbour. Some of the main homestead has been converted into a very popular eatery serving a wonderful variety of foods.

We met there for a very enjoyable casual luncheon and get together. The food, venue and company made for a very pleasant gathering. Thank you to those who attended. Our branch is hoping to hold another two similar events before Christmas. Maybe a late mid-winter type Christmas dinner then a family bbq outdoor gathering closer to Christmas. Watch this space and get ready to put a couple of Clan Cameron dates on your calendar.



See pictures on page 7

First Light Exchange by Bryan Haggitt

News is that following a Zoom Meeting between Finlay in Lochaber and Dale Bailey, Rob Cameron and me here in Auckland, Finlay is now endeavouring to get his visa and arrange his flights to New Zealand.

Meantime Auckland President, Rob, has roughed out a programme for Finlay that will incorporate the highland games at Hororata, Waipu (the 150th Jubilee), Turakina, the NZ Pipe Bands' Nationals and Hawkes Bay plus tutoring at the NZ Pipe Band Summer School.

The programme is very much in draft stage but it is hoped that when finalised it will allow Finlay to see a great deal of New Zealand and to meet fellow Camerons in all parts of the Country. A number of Clan folk have put up their hands to host Finlay when he visits their region. Former Commissioner Nick will be his Canterbury host and the Barber and Grant families have volunteered to look after Finlay when in the Manawatu/Wanganui areas. Manawatu Scottish are particularly keen to have him play with them.

Once we hear back from Finlay, that his visa has been granted and his flights booked, we will finalise his programme and let you all have the full details. I imagine that, like with us in Auckland, you will wish to hold the odd fund raising function to take advantage of Finlay's presence as a star attraction.



Scotland's Traditional Music

By David Weston - Clan Historian and Genealogist

As members of Clan Cameron I am sure you will be familiar with music performed by pipe bands and solo bag pipes and perhaps of harp music. There is, though, a much wider range of music you may wish to explore.

There are regional variations, for example in the Shetland Islands the music has been influenced by the connections to Scandinavia and in the west there are influences from Ireland.

During summer there are festivals throughout Scotland which attract large numbers of people from both Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom. There are also some folk clubs in New Zealand where you can listen to traditional music, some of which will be Scottish. For example:

Devonport Folk Club, <http://www.devonportfolkmusic.co.nz/> ,
Palmerston North Folk Music Club, <http://pnfolkclub.weebly.com/> ,
Acoustic Routes (a Wellington club) <https://acousticroutes.org.nz/> ,
and the Christchurch Folk Music Club, <https://folkmusic.org.nz/> .

The following site also gives information on a number of other folk clubs in New Zealand, <http://kiwifolk.org.nz/clubs.html>
Below are a selection of web sites where you can find out more about Scottish traditional music and listen to some of it:-

Gaelic Music: <https://electricscotland.com/history/literat/GAELICM.HTM>
Music and Festivals: <https://www.scotland.org/about-scotland/culture/music/traditional-music>
Folk and Traditional Music: <https://www.wildernessscotland.com/blog/scottish-folk-traditional-music/>
Traditional Music (with links to some examples): <https://www.scottishtraditionalmusic.org/home>
Links to a number of performers: <https://www.last.fm/tag/scottish+folk/artists>

I hope you enjoy the music as much as I do.



Some of Clan Cameron member Jeff Thomson's magnificent sculptures. A visit to his studio is arranged for Queen's Birthday. See page 9.





**Auckland Branch Committee
Planning the Annual Dinner to be
held on August 6th.**

From Left: Jenny Haggitt, Brian Cameron, Duncan McQueen, Neil Cameron, Rob Cameron, Hillary Hakaraia, Bryan Haggitt, Shona Cameron and Jeff Thomson.



A Wellington/Wairarapa branch outing to the historic Gear Homestead in Porirua. Photos: Rob Cameron



The magnificent 1880's Gear Homestead

The view from the Homestead. Photos: Rob Cameron

Flora MacDonald - Part 1

by Mark Bridgeman

2022 marks the 300th anniversary of Flora MacDonald's birth. With it comes the opportunity to honour her life and her bravery, in assisting Prince Charles Stuart and his escape from British justice following the calamity at Culloden.

This year the West Highland Museum, like the West Highland landscape in 1745, will be a hotbed of Jacobite activity, as the museum commemorates the return of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the exiled Stuarts (in the form of a series of rarely seen and iconic 18th century paintings). In addition to the exciting new exhibition, the Museum marks its 100th birthday this year, and, of course, the 300th anniversary of Flora MacDonald's birth, complemented by the Museum's unique collection of pieces associated with Flora.



It seems that – even three centuries after her birth – the contribution of the young lady from the Isle of South Uist will not be easily forgotten. But has such interest in the importance of Flora MacDonald's contribution to Scottish history always been the case? In researching some elements of her contribution in the escape of the Prince during 1746 (for a future book), I stumbled on an interesting piece from the *London Illustrated News*, dated 27th January 1872 and written with reference to the 150th anniversary of Flora's birth. It seems that the respected periodical had previously lamented the absence of a worthy memorial to the lady (in an editorial written in 1868) and were delighted with the resulting outcome.

For your interest, I have carefully transcribed and edited the piece, and reproduced a sketch of the rarely seen line drawing that originally accompanied the article:



Rather more than three years ago, writing about some point of interest in the Isle of Skye, we took occasion to comment upon the fact that no memorial stone of any kind marked the burial-place of Flora Macdonald. Hers is the only historical grave which it was left to the islanders to honour and protect; and, as the late Alexander Smith pointed out, it was shamefully neglected.

(Alexander Smith was a well-known Scottish poet, best known for his work *A Summer in Skye*, who had passed away from typhoid fever five years earlier.)

Our remarks had more effect than we could have anticipated; they were taken to heart in the right quarter, and, through the instrumentality of the young northern chief, Mackintosh of Mackintosh, backed by another northern potentate of modern growth, the Inverness Courier, the handsome monument has been successfully erected over the grave of the heroine. With great difficulty, arising from the ponderous character of the monolith and the abruptness of the road over which it had to be carried, the monument was placed, in November last, in the presence of the lord of the manor, Mr. Fraser of Kilmuir, and about 400 Highlanders, who stood unbonneted around the grave. In justice to the distinguished family of which Flora Macdonald was a member, it should be stated that her son, the late Colonel John Macdonald, of Exeter, sent a marble slab to be placed in the burying-ground, but it was broken in the course of transport, and was literally carried away piecemeal by tourists.

I wonder how many people on the Isle might claim to be in possession of a shard of that marble slab, perhaps handed down to them by their ancestors? Or, indeed, own a mysterious piece of that smooth material; of which they have no clue as to its original purpose or origin.

Quite recently another descendant, also a Colonel Macdonald, commissioned a monument at his own charge; but before it was completed the present larger and more national monument was begun, and superseded its necessity.

The Iona cross which now stands in the churchyard of Kilmuir on Skye is a monolith of the finest grey granite, prepared by Mr. D. Forsyth, of Inverness, from a design by Mr. Alexander Ross, the architect of the Inverness cathedral.

As compared with the great historical crosses which have survived from ancient times, this one is very much larger. It is 28 feet 6 inches high, the cross itself being a monolith no less than eighteen feet and a half in height. The celebrated Inverary cross is only 8ft. 6in.; Maclean's cross, at Iona, 11ft.; that of Oronsay in Argyleshire, 12ft.; St. Martin's, 14ft.; Gosforth, in Cumberland, 14ft. 9in., and that of Ruthwell, Dumfriesshire, 16ft.

The monument occupies a most commanding position at the extreme northwest of the Isle of Skye, within a few miles of the ruins of Duntulm Castle, the original seat of the Lords of the Isles, who at one time dominated over half the western seaboard of Scotland and threatened even the stability of the Scottish throne. The coast is singularly bold and picturesque, being, in common with the whole of the great promontory, or peninsula, composing this part of Skye, of landslip formation, the strange and picturesque peculiarities of which receive their highest development in the rocks of the Quiraing and the Storr, which are only a few miles distant.

The Quiraing forms part of the Trotternish Ridge escarpment on Skye and, even today, the landslip still moves, necessitating regular road repairs at its base.

The service rendered to Prince Charles Edward by Flora Macdonald —for which her name lives in history, and for which, according to Dr. Johnson, "it will ever be mentioned with honour, if courage and fidelity be virtues" —is very well known. After the disastrous battle of Culloden, on April 16,

1746, the Prince fled from one hiding-place to another, with the price of £30,000 upon his head. As he had landed on the west coast, knowing that among the Highlanders there he should find his most devoted adherents, so he now sought refuge among them, not less on account of the mountainous and difficult nature of the country than because he could trust his life there, even among people who, by the peculiar character of the system of clanship in the Highlands, were nominally his enemies.

Some of the great clans, and conspicuously the chiefs of the Macleods and Macdonalds, took an unfavourable view of the chances of the rebellion from the outset, and they refused to call out their men in his support; but at heart the whole mass of the people were favourable, and the idea of betraying the Prince, even for such a sum, was utterly repugnant to the fervid loyalty of the clansmen of that time.

When Mr. Macdonald, of Kingsburgh, was reminded by the officer who examined him, as to the part he had taken in helping to effect the Prince's escape, that he had lost a noble opportunity of "making himself and his family for ever," the Highlander resented the speech. "A mountain mass of gold and silver," he said, "could not give me half the satisfaction I had from doing what I have done." Eheu! Are there men of this mould now?

"Eheu" is a lovely Latin expression of pain and regret, meaning 'Alas', which has sadly slipped from our language. Returning to the *London Illustrated News* article:

While 1500 militia were scouring South Uist in quest of the Prince, more than a hundred of the islanders knew where he was in hiding; but none of them gave a hint on the subject to parties unfriendly to him, and it was the same in all parts of the Highlands where he was secreted. The Prince had been thus screened for more than two months, when at length the

search for him in the outer Hebrides became so minute that escape seemed hopeless. The soldiers received instructions to explore every nook and cranny of the island, and the Prince had to separate himself from all the companions of his wanderings, except his faithful friend Captain O'Neal. It was in these trying circumstances that Flora Macdonald resolved to attempt his rescue. Various circumstances contributed to point to her as the only person suitable for the enterprise. Flora was at the time on a visit to her brother in South Uist, but usually resided with her mother and step-father in the Isle of Skye. She was on intimate terms with the family of Clanranald, to whom the movements of the Prince were well known, and it happened that her stepfather was in command of one of the independent companies of soldiers stationed in the Long Island.

To avoid unpleasant encounters with the soldiers, who were ransacking every house and hovel of the district, Flora applied for leave to return to the house of her mother, in Skye, and obtained a passport for herself and servant, and also for a young Irish girl named Betty Burke, whom she wished to take home on account of her skill in spinning flax. The Irish girl was no other than the Chevalier, and his servant, Neil Macdonald.

The second part of this article from 1872 and the artefacts that link this story with the West Highland Museum will be continued in the next issue of *Cameron*.

With thanks to Mark Bridgeman and the West Highland Museum

Mark Bridgeman is an author. His book "Blood Beneath Ben Nevis" is available at West Highland Museum. A full range of his books are available at Waterstones and on Amazon.

Kirkin' o' the Tartan

By Dale Bailey

The Clan Cameron banners were part of the annual Kirkin' o' the Tartan event at St Andrews Church in central Auckland. Commissioner Dale Cameron Bailey and Auckland branch member and First Light convenor Bryan Haggitt proudly carried the banners into St Andrew's First Presbyterian Church which opened in 1850. Members of a wide range of clans were presenting their banners and tartan. Minister the Reverend David Williams explained that the Kirking of the tartan was in celebration of the days when the tartan was outlawed and parishioners would sneak portions of tartan into the Kirk in opposition to the ban. However the custom is perhaps a more modern interpretation and not

something well known in Scotland. Follow this link to learn more.

<http://www.tartansauthority.com/tartan/tartan-today/the-kirkin-o-the-tartan/>

The Response of the clans prayer is rather nice affirmation of our shared Scots heritage.

"We bring these Banners and tartans to he Kirk

We offer to God the blue of our sea, and the green of our land

The golden wealth of the hill, and river, the blood of kinship

And loyalty and open hearted hospitality

Our joys and hardship we offer to you, and we ask our O God

To confirm our past and bless our present"

Visit to Jeff Thomson's Studio on Labour Day

Shona Cameron and Jeff Thomson live and work in a large 100 year old warehouse in Helensville, a 45 minute drive from central Auckland.

Jeff, a sculptor renowned for his use of corrugated iron, has assembled a large collection of his work that can be seen in their large studio.

He made the large tin gumboot in Taihape, the corrugated iron clad Holden station wagon in Te Papa and those of you lucky enough to have visited the Gibbs Sculpture farm on the Kaipara, will have seen his life-sized corrugated iron giraffe, one of eleven sculptures he has on the property. Jeff will talk about his work and give a guided tour of his workshop, demonstrating some of the machinery and equipment he uses to build sculptures.

Shona, a painter, and ex University of Otago photographer will have a

collection of her paintings on display.

Also happening in Helensville over the three days of Labour weekend is ARTS in the Ville. There will be over 30 artists studio's open plus pop up exhibitions for those of you who wish to venture out into the town.

BYO lunch and Beverages but Shona can supply tea, coffee, water and juice.

Shona and Jeff are members of Clan Cameron Auckland but members of all branches will be most welcome.

Meet at 11am on the 24th October, Labour Day. The tour by Jeff will be at 11.30am, followed by lunch. Update in the next magazine.

Address 12 Awaroa Road, Helensville. 021 504 644
Some of Jeff's sculptures are shown on page 6.

Some Old Lochaber Murders

By Iain Thornber

West of the Great Glen and lying between Achnacarry and Glendessary, is Loch Arkaig. A track, almost too narrow and tortuous to be described as a public highway, follows its northern shores and introduces the visitor to a remote and magnificent landscape of great natural beauty which the hand of man has not yet defaced. This freshwater loch runs for twelve miles, first among oak, pine, birch and alder and later under bare hillsides. Here the eye is held by the high mountains on either side as they rise sharply from gleaming water, and



Loch Arkaig looking west towards Caillich and the head of the loch

(Photograph by Iain Thornber)

loveliness is met at every turn.

This is Cameron of Lochiel country and the scene of Prince Charles Edward Stuart's wanderings after Culloden. In the days of clans and feuds, Loch Arkaig-side was as turbulent and bloody as any Highland district. Many murders were committed in the area earning it a fearsome reputation among travellers making their way through the high passes to the ocean and the isles. Some of these events were written down leaving others to be preserved in local folk memory.

About six miles from the foot of the loch, a double murder occurred on 31 August 1746 - an account of which has found its way into British military history. The man responsible was a Captain Grant commanding a detachment of the Earl of Loudon's Regiment of Foot, who summarily killed a young man close to the old bridle path at a place which became known as Culcairn's Brae. His name was Alexander Cameron who was on his way to the nearest military camp to surrender a firearm. Grant said he didn't believe him and had him tied to a tree and shot, not for carrying a weapon but more likely in revenge for an incident that happened at the battle of Falkirk earlier that year. Alexander's father either saw or heard of his son's death and vowed he would kill Grant.

Grant, who held a commission in the Hanoverian army and had been responsible for

burning and laying waste to old Achnacarry House, proceeded up the loch-side where he met a company of soldiers commanded by his colleague, Captain George Munro of Culcairn, a Ross-shire bonnet laird, who had been harassing the inhabitants of Glendessary. Joining forces, he and Munro travelled back towards Achnacarry exchanging mounts for some reason or another on the way, which meant Munro was now riding a white horse.

When Alexander Cameron's father saw the soldiers returning, he got hold of a musket and waited for them behind a tree close to where his son had been killed. He knew that Grant usually rode a white horse so when the two officers came abreast of him, he fired at the man in the saddle of the beast of that colour and of course hit Munro thinking he was Grant. Munro died instantly and Cameron disappeared into the woods unrecognised.

Four miles west of Culcairn's Brae and not far from Kinlocharkaig, there is an old settlement called Caillich nestling in a hollow on the hillside between Caonich and Murlaggan. There is not much of Caionch to be seen nowadays but it was once the home of a family of MacMillans who would have made Jack the Ripper blush with the plurality of the murders they committed and how they disposed of the bodies.

Donald MacMillan and his sons' strategy was to offer a night's lodgings to any strangers they saw on the road, especially packmen and drovers, knowing that they were likely to be carrying money. After giving them a hearty meal and doubtless some whisky, they showed them into an outhouse for the night. In the early hours of the morning Duncan, or one of his sons, would enter and kill them with a hammer-blow to the head.

After stealing whatever possessions their victims had on them, they dragged their naked corpses under cover of darkness, down to a nearby promontory on Loch Arkaig called Rudha Giubhais. There they slipped them into the deep, icy waters, but not before hacking their heads off with an axe on a nearby boulder which became known as the 'Rock of the Heads', to prevent them from being recognised should they



Alex MacDonald, Achnacarry, who knows more than any man about the history of Loch Arkaigside, stands beside the 'Rock of the Heads' where the MacMillans decapitated their victims.

(Photograph by Iain Thornber)



The ruins of Caillich house, scene of many murders, with Loch Arkaig and the promontory of Rudha Giubhais beyond.

(Photograph by Iain Thornber)

ever come to the surface.

For years the MacMillans continued to profit by their gruesome work and, despite rumours, they were never caught but, like many criminals the world over, they became bolder and complacent with the passage of time and began to make mistakes. On one occasion they murdered a couple of MacGregor brothers who were on their way to Skye to buy cattle. They were carrying large sums of gold and a considerable quantity of banknotes which were not in general

use in Lochaber at the time. The MacMillan sons, being unable to read and not realising their value, hid a bundle of them amounting to several hundred pounds under a stone, keeping only a few out of curiosity.

Sometime later, after a funeral, the son of Duncan Cameron the tenant of Murlaggan, noticed that young MacMillan was lighting his pipe with a bank note and asked, 'Where did you get these pretty pieces of paper from? I should like fine to buy some'. 'I can show you where to get plenty of them', replied the other. An arrangement was made and the bundle of notes were acquired for a pittance but word went round and fingers began to jab in the direction of the occupants of Caillich.

Donald eventually met his Waterloo, not by the hand of the law, but in killing one of his own sons. The boy, Ewen, who had been in service with a Cameron family in London for some years turned up unexpectedly at Caillich late one night dressed in his footman's livery. He went into his old room but his father, arriving home in the darkness, mistook him for a wealthy traveller and bludgeoned him to death while he

slept. On discovering his awful mistake, the frenzied and guilt-ridden Donald swore to give up his evil ways for ever and from that day on the murders on Loch Arkaigside ceased.

Donald died in 1807 aged 58, not at the end of a rope but from natural causes, and, surprisingly, was allowed to rest in hallowed ground amongst his forebears in Kilmallie old graveyard, Corpach where his headstone can still be seen.

With thanks to Iain Thornber and Bill Cameron

Glencoe Turf and Creel House

Courtesy National Trust for Scotland

A new National Trust for Scotland re-creation has officially opened after an experimental project to keep alive heritage building skills and share the story of Glencoe's lost homes.

The Glencoe turf and creel house has been inspired by years of archaeological investigation and historical research into long-vanished settlements, once home to hundreds of people in the heart of the glen.

The turf, wattle and thatch structure was erected using traditional materials, tools and techniques by a team of skilled craftspeople in 2021. It has the same footprint as one of the late 17th-century dwellings excavated by the conservation charity's archaeologists and volunteers at the former township of Achtriachtan, near the famous 'Three Sisters' of Glencoe.

Visitors to Glencoe National Nature Reserve can now explore the turf and creel house for themselves at the National Trust for Scotland's Glencoe Visitor Centre, where its heather-thatched roof and earth walls blend into their mountain backdrop.

Developed with the involvement of historians, musicians, local Gaelic speakers and school children, the soundscape comprises over 200 different sound elements that were carefully chosen to give the interior an authentic and evocative atmosphere, with each representing a different local story.

Listeners will hear the cry of wildlife and livestock, the commotion of construction and daily toil, the chatter of domestic life, and the sounds of socialising at a traditional evening 'ceilidh'. Together they create a subtle backdrop of universally recognisable noises alongside overheard Gaelic voices.

The audio installation was designed by creative producer and sound artist Guy Veale, who has worked on numerous National Trust for Scotland projects.

Renowned local Gaelic musicians, Iain MacFarlane, Ingrid Henderson and Ewen Henderson, as well as the conservation charity's own Fiona Mackenzie, curator of the Canna House Gaelic archive, are among those who contributed their voices and instrumental pieces to the soundscape. Young Gaelic speakers at Acharacle Primary School were also recorded to give the babble of children at play.

Focus on traditional skills

Historic Environment Scotland has been a key partner in the Glencoe turf and creel house project. It funded two trainees to support the project team while developing their own skills – one has been focused on traditional building crafts, while the other has focused on heritage engagement and interpretation.

Lucy Doogan, one of the HES trainees, grew up in Glencoe and can trace her family back to those who lived here at the time of the Massacre of 1692.

Lucy said: "It has been fantastic to have the opportunity to be part of this. Our creel house really helps visitors visualise a time when the glen itself would have looked very different to how it does today, home to a bustling community living in wee townships with a rich Gaelic culture. I hope we can rekindle this past while creating new stories here in the future."

As well as the soundscape, visitors can join free daily guided tours around the turf and creel house, which give the chance to get a deeper insight into the project and the history which inspired it. There is also a new film charting the creel house's construction in the Visitor Centre's cinema.

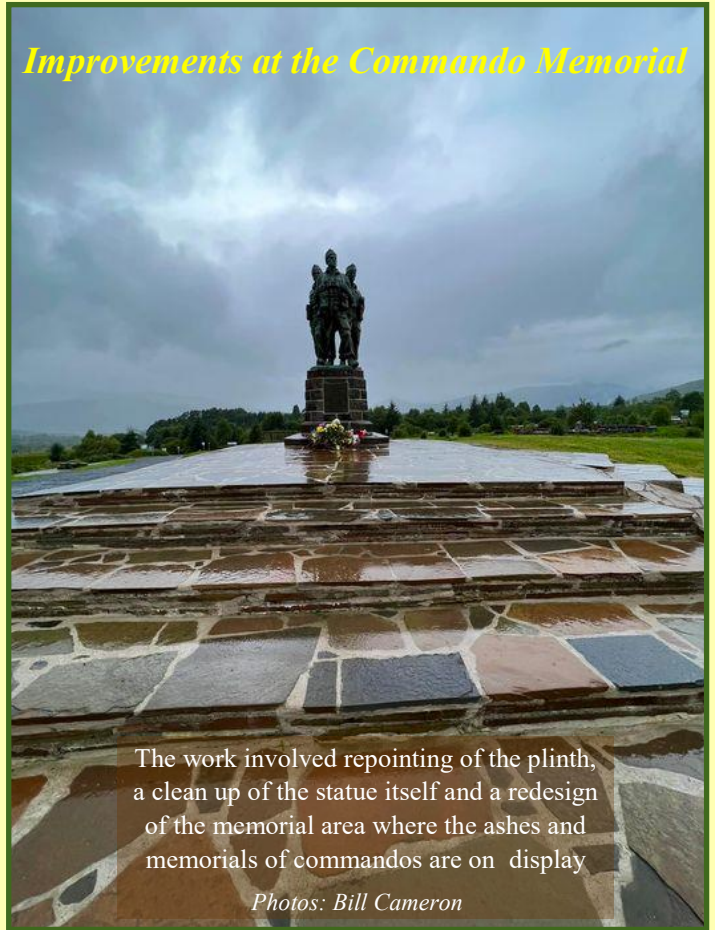
For more information on Glencoe National Nature Reserve and Visitor Centre, check out the NTS website: <https://www.nts.org.uk/>

See Bill Cameron's Photos on the front page.



Kirkin 'o' the Tartan - St. Andrew's Kirk Auckland

Photo: Lena Orum



Improvements at the Commando Memorial

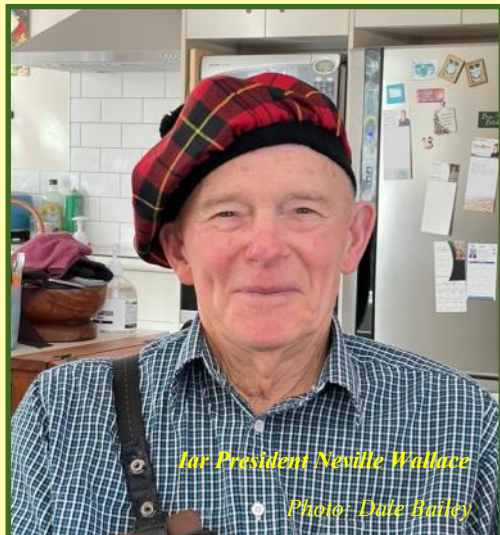
The work involved repointing of the plinth, a clean up of the statue itself and a redesign of the memorial area where the ashes and memorials of commandos are on display

Photos: Bill Cameron



Alan Drake and Shona Wallace

Photo: Dale Bailey



Iar President Neville Wallace

Photo: Dale Bailey

By Dale Bailey:

Recently purchased item from Trade me which combines the Hei Tiki of Aotearoa with a Scotch Thistle. What a great combo, like so many of our members whose home is in New Zealand and heart is in Lochaber

