
◆ Cameron ◆

Clan Cameron New Zealand; founded 1935, incorporated 2000

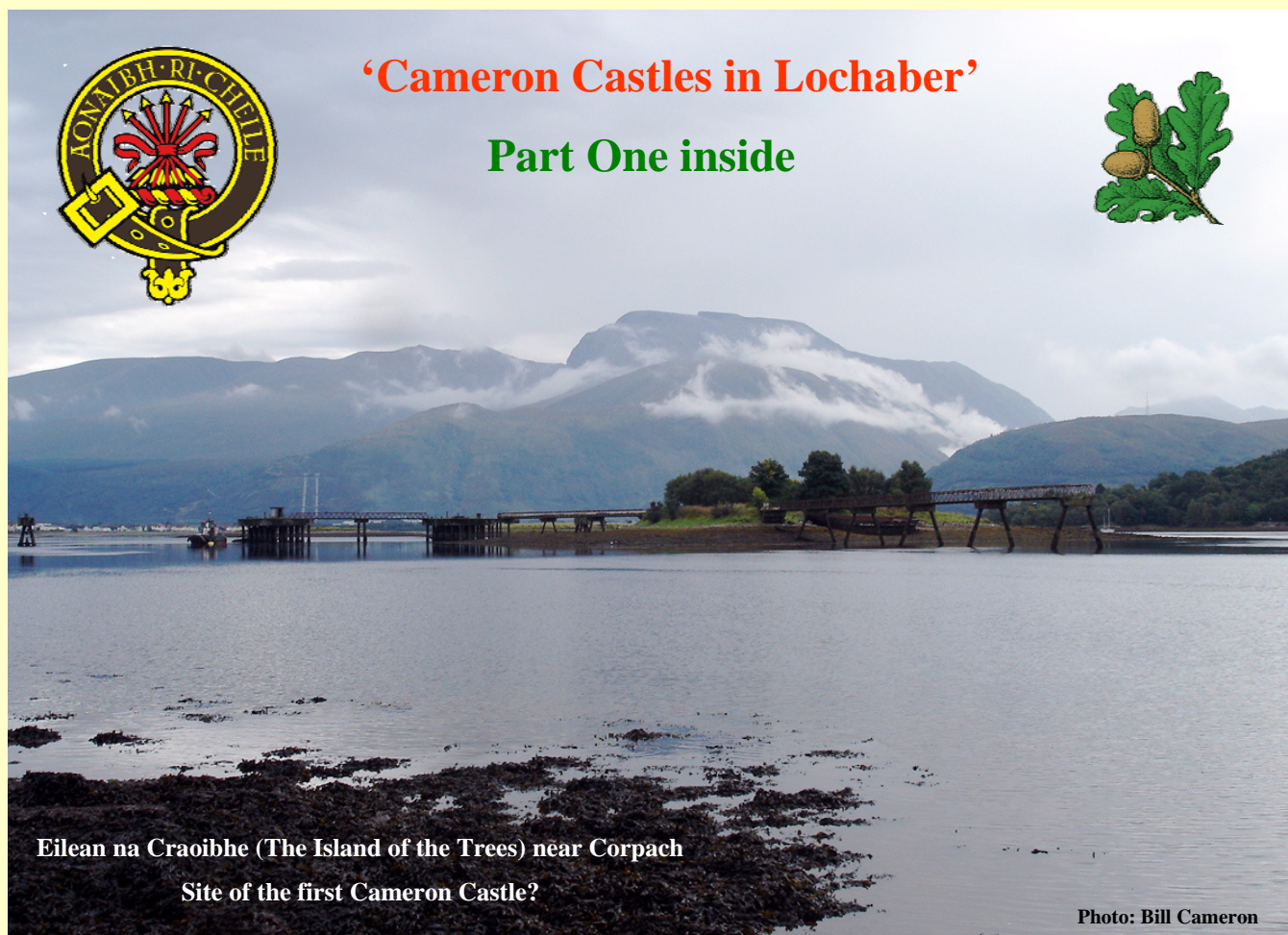
Volume 42, Issue 5

October 2008



‘Cameron Castles in Lochaber’

Part One inside



Eilean na Craoibhe (The Island of the Trees) near Corpach
Site of the first Cameron Castle?

Photo: Bill Cameron



Photo: Editor

First Lighters Kimberley, Robert and Heather at the Auckland Dinner

Auckland News

The omens for the Auckland branch's annual dinner were not good. We had been priced out of our favourite venue, the Tamaki Yacht at Romfords with its dramatic harbour location often buffeted by stormy seas. There were various influenza bugs very active, which forced at least two members unable to attend. Another wobbly one was Andrew McQueen, our principal piper, while his young sister Sarah, a splendid Highland dancer had recently won an event at Tauranga, and also a dose of chicken-pox.

Also we were testing a new venue, Fairway Lodge, hard by the North Shore Events centre and at the rear end of a hole on the Takapuna municipal course. In the event the dinner, while illnesses had trimmed the numbers to 65, was a splendid success, which delighted both the clan members and their guests and the Fairway Lodge hosts.

There was an impressive VIP list, headed by Denis Cameron, our national president and his wife Joy. A new face was Don Offwood, historian-author of "Oatcakes to Otago" who is noted elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The latest First Lighter, Robert Nairn was there at the end of his journey through New Zealand, and he had the company of Kim Walker, our latest First Lighter to Lochaber and Heather Cameron of Auckland, an earlier First Lighter.

Kim gave an illustrated talk on her experiences last year in Lochaber, and Robert, a burly and thoroughly likeable

young Scot, spoke of his enjoyment at meeting and greeting many New Zealanders in his time in New Zealand. Robert entertained folk in several New Zealand places with his button accordion -- he is studying traditional music in Scotland, and showed his musical ability during the dinner. Robert showed rare skill as his sturdy fingers rippled over the numerous small keys.

In spite of their pre-dinner problems Andrew and Sarah McQueen joined two other family members as key dinner entertainers. While Jean McQueen had her daughter Sarah immaculately arrayed for her splendid Highland dancing, father Duncan was again the ideal MC. Andrew, as piper, and young brother Matthew, sword-bearer, and Sarah, drinks carrier, were members of the haggis party.

The haggis address was splendidly performed by Bryan Haggitt, junior, recently installed as priest assistant of St Mark's Church in Auckland, and son of Bryan senior, who splits his time being the clan branch treasurer and chairman of the Parnell Cricket Club.

Camerons had another family contribution with Valmar, "D.J"'s wife, and grand-daughter Fleur combining as raffle organisers who brought in takings of \$350+. Valmar had arranged a prize basket laden with goodies, and Carolyn Vaudrey, a recently-elected member of the Auckland committee, also contributed a splendid prize basket, with a tartan travel rug as the leading attraction.

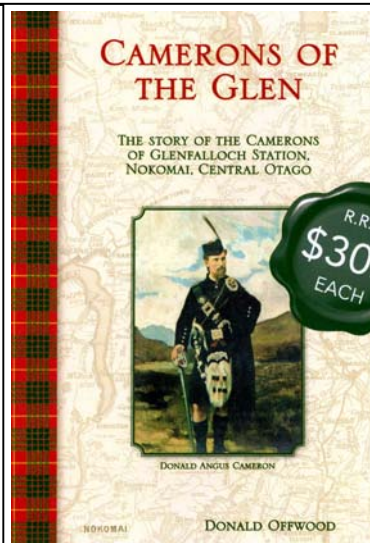
by Don Cameron

Mount Cameron (3) - Southland

Donald Angus Cameron was born at Fort William, Lochaber in 1835. From December 1854 until December 1858 he was employed by his uncle, Alexander Cameron "King of Penola" at Limestone Ridge Station, and then at Mt. Sturgeon Plains Station near Penola, South Australia. On the 25th January 1859, Donald and his cousin Angus A. MacDonald arrived at Pt. Chalmer's, Dunedin on "The Pirate" after exploring the land south of Lake Wakatipu. Donald leased Southland Run 354 at Nokomai which he named "Glenfalloch" -- gaelic for "hidden glen". Nokomai is approximately 20 km south of Kingston on the Invercargill to Lake Wakatipu highway. About 15 km east of Nokomai in the Garvie Range stands a mountain at 1612 meters above sea level which Donald Angus Cameron named **Mount Cameron** in honour of our Clan. Donald Angus Cameron died at Nokomai on 31st December 1918 and is buried at Tapanui Cemetery. The Cameron family held Glenfalloch from 1859 till 1951 when it was sold to Frank Hore.

This is the third in a series by Mike Topham

See also story below.



"Camerons of the Glen"

The story of the Camerons of Glenfalloch Station, Nokomai, Central Otago

by

Donald Offwood

author of
Oatcakes to Otago,
Esplin
and
Heather's Gold

This book will be available in November

Price \$30 posted in New Zealand

Orders and details of all books from Southern Lights Books

PO Box 36-601 Christchurch 8146 Phone 03 355 7675

www.southernlightsbooks.com

A distinctive guest at the Auckland branch dinner guest was Don Offwood, a former Air New Zealand pilot who has become a successful author. His "Oatcakes to Otago," detailing the first immigrants -- including his Crawford ancestors --- to found Dunedin, is now in its fourth print, and follows his "Heather's Gold," a tale of the Central Otago goldfields.

His latest book, due before Christmas, will be "**Camerons of the Glen**," tracing the lives and journeys of five Cameron brothers, led by Donald Angus Cameron, who left Scotland for Australia in the 1850's. After working on a sheep station there the brothers moved to Otago and eventually

set up the huge Glenfalloch station in the Nokomai Valley, a short distance south of Lake Wakatipu. Donald Angus achieved fame for helping to develop towns and farms in Otago and Southland, and was a leading figure in Catholic church circles. The station was sold to the Hore family of the Maniatoto in the early 1950's and since has been extensively mined for gold with the aid of an Australian company.

Offwood provided for raffling purposes, two copies each of "Oatcakes to Otago" and "Heather's Gold," which helped to swell the First Light funds appeal.

by Don Cameron

Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Bay of Plenty Branch

Alyth Cameron

Bruce and Judy Entwistle

(Coromandel)

(Papamoa)

Hawke's Bay Branch

Leigh and Maree Cameron

Hugh Cameron

(Hastings)

Major Frank Vincent Addison Martin [1915 – 2008]



On 14 August, 2008, Frank passed peacefully away at Acacia Park, Omokoroa, at the grand age of 93 years. Dearly loved husband of Madge, and loved father of Movyn, Diana, Ian, Frank and Andrea. Frank was the loved granddad to his 16 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Frank was born in Rangoon, 21 January 1915 and was educated at the Diocesan Boys High School in Rangoon. He served under "Articles" to Messrs Allan Charlesworth and Co, Chartered Accountants, London and Rangoon.

Frank qualified as a Registered Public Accountant after passing the Diploma in Accountancy examination held by the Burma Government. He enlisted in the Burma Auxiliary Force - Territorial Army in 1932. The Rangoon Battalion Vickers Machine Gun Company in 1941 and attended an Officers Cadet Training unit and was Commissioned and posted to the Burma Rifle War Service 1942-1946.

On demobilization Frank was appointed Assistant Accounts Officer to the Timber Project Board set up by the War Office, London for the rehabilitation of the timber industry in Burma, ending up as Chief Accounts Officer

before migrating to New Zealand. Frank and Madge arrived at Wellington, moving up the North Island, before ending up in Tauranga.

In Clan Cameron, Bay of Plenty Branch, Frank has been a member since 1959; Secretary -Treasurer from 1960 until 1972. He was the President and on the Committee for many years before retiring.

Frank was on the Dominion Council of Clan Cameron where he was the Secretary-Treasurer from 1960 until 1972. In 1972, it was great delight that Frank was made a Life Member of Clan Cameron New Zealand - a very worthy recipient for such a high office.

Other activities were the United Nations Association, President of the local Branch from 1964 – 1966; Parent Teachers Association; President of the Otumoetai Primary School 1962-1963; Tauranga Highland Games, Secretary from 1960-1966, Committee member to 1969; Bay of Plenty Officer's Club, Secretary-Treasurer from 1960-1965 and Treasurer 1964 of the Burma Star Association and Junior Vice President / Treasurer in 1985.

We have been very fortunate to have Frank as a member of Clan Cameron and his wise and very thoughtful comments were always for the betterment of the Clan. We shall miss his lively debate and on behalf of all Clan member in New Zealand, pass on to Madge and the family our sincere thoughts and condolences.

by Denis Cameron:

Manawatu News

by Mary Barber

Manawatu branch held their usual committee meeting at Joy Cameron's home on September 1st.

The Annual General Meeting of the branch will take place on November 23rd at the home of Jessie and John Annabell, Palmerston Nth.

A pot-luck lunch beginning at 12 noon will be followed by the Meeting.

The branch will be attending the Palmerston North Square Day with our usual stall on the 13th December.

We intend to hold a Games Day to encourage the younger members to become a more active part of the branch. This games day may include ten-pin bowling etc. Proposed date is March 15th from 4 to 7 pm. We intend to invite members from neighbouring branches to join us.

Members of the branch have been invited to join with the Wanganui Caledonian Society on their River Boat Cruise on Saturday, 28th February 2009

Tally-Ho!

Robert Nairn tries out the cockpit of the Hawker Hunter aircraft at the Bay of Plenty Aviation Museum in August



The museum aircraft at left was built as a single seat fighter for the RAF in 1955. It was rebuilt as a two seat trainer in 1959 and delivered to the Fleet Air Arm, where it stayed until 1970. Later in life it was again modified and went to the Singapore Air Force, and now is in the Bay of Plenty Aviation Museum.

Seeing the photo of First Lieutenant Robert sitting in the cockpit brought back some memories to me as this was the type of aircraft in which I had the experience of flying through the sound barrier. It could even be the same plane!

In 1960 I was on a year long course with the Royal Navy in the UK, part of which involved training in aircraft direction (taking charge of fighter aircraft and directing them, using radar, to intercept incoming hostile aircraft.) We visited the Naval Air Station at Lossiemouth, near Inverness, to learn about aircraft capabilities, talk to the pilots and generally familiarise ourselves with their procedures. This included flying. I found myself above Scotland in a twin seat Hawker Hunter Tmk8. The pilot beside me said "I suppose you want to go through the sound barrier?" - "Yes please." So we did - trans-sonic in a dive over the Moray Firth.

Editor

A message from our President



Dear Clan
Cameron Members

To all our new members a very warm welcome. I hope you can soon become acquainted with the culture and warmth of this wonderful association and

experience the good things we have to offer and that you are able to enter into the activities provided at our many social events put on by your local branches throughout New Zealand.

It is with deep regret to announce that our most Senior Life Member, Major Frank Martin passed away a short time ago. There is a full report in this newsletter about his life and we pass on to Madge and her family, our sincere thoughts and sympathy.

Robert Nairn, our First Lighter, is back in Scotland after a full and eventful two months here in New Zealand. Those who met Robert would be well taken with his dry humour and musical talent. We wish him well in his music studies at the Glasgow University. Our best wishes go to Robert and we will enjoy seeing him again at Achnacarry next year.

Did you know? The British National Anthem dates back to the eighteenth century.

"God Save the King" was a patriotic song first publicly performed in London in 1745, and came to be known as the National Anthem at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

In an attempt to restore the Scottish House of Stuart to the throne, Jacobite forces under the leadership of Charles Edward Stuart, also known as Bonnie Prince Charles or the Young Pretender invaded England in 1745.

In September 1745, they managed to defeat King George II's army at Prestonpans, near Edinburgh. Bonnie Prince Charlie was proclaimed king in the market square of Preston and eventually reached the city of Derby.

The invasion constituted a serious threat to the monarchy at that time and this explains why the words of the National Anthem have the form of a prayer of petition for the safety and well-being of the monarch. The Jacobites were later defeated at Culloden 16th April 1746.

In a fit of patriotic fervour after news of Prestonpans had reached London, the leader of the band at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, arranged "God Save the King" for performance after the play. It was a tremendous success and was repeated nightly.

Like "Rule Britannia" the National Anthem of Great Britain "God Save the King/Queen" was composed by Thomas Augustine Arne [1710-1778] and first sung in 1745 during the Jacobite invasion of England. It was performed after the staging of Ben Johnson's play "The Alchemist" at the Theatre Royal, London.

The practice soon spread to other theatres, and the custom of greeting monarchs with the song as he or she entered a place of public entertainment was thus established.

There is no authorised version of the National Anthem as the words are a matter of tradition. Additional verses have been added down the years, but these are rarely used.

The words used today are those sung in 1745, substituting 'Queen' for 'King' where appropriate. On official occasions, only the first verse is usually sung.

The invasion of England also explains the following **anti-Scottish** words that had been inserted into the song. Here is the sixth verse.

*Lord, grant that Marshal Wade,
May, by thy mighty aid,
Victory bring.
May he sedition hush
And, like a torrent rush,
Rebellious Scots to crush,
God Save the King.*

Marshal Wade, referred to in the above lines was an officer in the army, sent to halt the advance of the Jacobite troops in the north. The lines were appropriately omitted when the song was adopted as the British National Anthem. Wade, born in Kilavally, Westmeath in Ireland, joined the British Army in 1690.

The British tune has been used in other countries. European visitors to Britain in the eighteenth century noticed the advantage of a country possessing such a recognised musical symbol. In total, around 140 composers, including Beethoven, Haydn and Brahms, have used the tune in their compositions.

"Leis gach deagh dhurachd and Slainte mhath"
[With every good wish and good health]

Denis Cameron

The 2009 Cameron Gathering:

Planning for the Clan Cameron Gathering, to be held at Achnacarry 30th July - 2nd August 2009, is proceeding apace.

On Thursday 2nd, walks of various lengths around the estate are being organised. In the evening an informal get together of clansfolk from around the world is planned.

On Friday a series of talks will probably take place in the marquee. These will be followed by some demonstrations. In the evening a welcoming reception will be held.

The programme for Saturday includes launch of the Heritage Trail, march past (after which Lochiel will address the clan), stalls and entertainment. That evening there will be a ceilidh in the Caol Community Centre.

A church service will be held in St Ciarans on the Sunday and a shinty match played in the afternoon.

It is not too late for you to join the tour to both this important gathering and the International Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh. Details were given in the last newsletter.

Copies of the Tour Brochure, which includes a full itinerary and booking form, may be obtained from the editor.



The Paddle Steamer *Mountaineer* which was mentioned in Johnnie Wilson's poem last issue



Aonaibh ri Cheile

Cameron

is the magazine of the Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc) and is published on or near the 1st day of every even month of the year

Deadlines for articles are on the 15th of the month before publication. Items of urgency or importance may be accepted up to 10 days later.

Articles about Camerons, Branch activities with photographs, and advice of Coming Events are especially welcome.

Deadline for the December issue:

15 November 2008

Please send to:

Neil Cameron,
Newsletter Editor
28 Oxford Terrace,
Devonport,
North Shore City 0624

Phone: 09 446 1177
Email: kncam@pl.net

Printed by

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

New Zealand President and Commissioner
Denis Cameron
8 Kokomo Key, Papamoa, Tauranga. 3118
Ph. (07) 575 4659 Fax (07) 575 4661
camisky@clear.net.nz

Secretary
Heather Lowes,
45 Newnham Rd, RD2, Te Puna, Tauranga
Ph. (07) 552 4952 hlowes@hotmail.com

Treasurer
Lena Cameron
1/1 Dumfries Drive, Riccarton Park,
Christchurch. 8042
Ph. (03) 342 5467 lena.cameron@xtra.co.nz

Genealogist
Audrey Rosoman
106 Mansels Rd, Greerton Tauranga
Ph. (07) 578 4562. audreyrosoman@xtra.co.nz

Historian
Dorothy Cameron-Gavin
70 Main Highway, Ellerslie 5, Auckland
Ph. (09) 579 7543

First Light Exchange Convenor (Acting)
Joy Cameron,
814 Rangitikei Line RD5 Palmerston North
Ph. (06) 354 9365. kenprace@clear.net.nz

Branch Presidents

Auckland
Donald (DJ) Cameron
34 Aldred Road Remuera
Ph. (09) 520 0716 valdon@xtra.co.nz

Bay of Plenty
Fraser Cameron
P.O Box 180 15 St.John's Rd., Opotiki.
Ph. (07) 315 7105. Fax (07) 3158527

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

Hawke's Bay
Helen Shaw
3/33 Avondale Road, Napier.
Ph. (06) 844 8398. locaber@xtra.co.nz

Taranaki/Wanganui
Martin Brown,
453 Whakamara Rd. RD 12, Hawera 4672
Ph. (06) 273 4488. martin.brown@farmside.co.nz

Manawatu
Joy Cameron,
814 Rangitikei Line RD5 Palmerston North
Ph. (06) 354 9365. kenprace@clear.net.nz

Wellington /Wairarapa
Rob Cameron
26D Willow Park Drive, Masterton
Ph. (06) 377 0377 dungallan@gmail.com

Canterbury
Alex Cameron,
1/1 Dumfries Drive, Riccarton Park, Christchurch
Ph (03) 342 5467 alex.cameron@xtra.co.nz

Coming events

Saturday 4 October 2008

Waikato-Bay of Plenty Combined Clans Day
Union Church Hall, Cambridge. 10.30am.

Hosted by Clan Fraser.

Enquiries to: David McLachlan 07 829 8440

Saturday 11 October 2008

CCNZ Executive Council Meeting

Turangi RSA. Morning tea at 10.30am, followed by the meeting at 11am.

Sunday 12 October 2008

Meeting Wanganui /Taranaki Branch

Hawera Club, High St Hawera at 2pm.

All with Clan connections welcome

Enquiries to Martin Brown 06 273 4488 or Alan Drake 06 278 6206

Sunday 19 October 2008

Kirkin' o' the Tartan

St Andrews at Rangi Ruru, Merivale Lane, Christchurch. 2pm

Saturday 22 November 2008

Auckland Highland Games

Three Kings Reserve, Mt Eden. Free entry and a wonderful day for all the family.

Sunday 30 November 2008

St Andrew's Night Ceilidh, Hastings

St Andrew's Hall, Market Street, Hastings at 7.30pm
Cost: \$5.00 including supper.

Dancing, haggis ceremony, raffles

Contact Les Hewett ljhewett@ihug.co.nz

Sunday 30th November, 2008

The Bay of Plenty Branch members together with friends and relations will be holding a Pre-Christmas Luncheon, at the Flanders Restaurant in the Tauranga RSA, 889 Cameron Road, Tauranga, starting at 11.30am. The Piping in the Haggis will be at 12.00pm. The Buffet meal will cost \$17.00 per person. Please bring along a \$5.00 parcel per person to put under the tree for those present. Do not be disappointed – the more the merrier. Please ring Ray or Janet Crafts at [07] 577 9562 with numbers by 24th November.

Useful Websites

Clan Cameron New Zealand website
<http://www.camclan.orcon.net.nz/>

Clan Cameron Online
<http://www.clan-cameron.org/>

Clan Cameron Scotland
<http://www.clanccameron.org.uk>

Clan Cameron Australia
<http://www.clan-cameron.org.au>

Scottish Clans Association Auckland District
<http://www.scottishclans.co.nz>

Clan Cameron NZ Webmaster:
Warren Cameron
camcraft@orcon.net.nz

Hawke's Bay News *by Helen Shaw*

A short report to say that Clan Cameron Hawkes Bay held a luncheon and the first Annual General Meeting on Sunday. 17 members were present. Illness, overseas travel and other events prevented some members from attending. Officers confirmed were President Helen Shaw, Treasurer Shane East, and Secretary Mike Topham. Four members agreed to sit on the committee. In our excitement, whatever, we missed taking a photo before people started to leave. I hope I can at a later date line up those who were there so we have one for our records. We will do better next time.

Plans are under way to make our Banner. As a Patchworker and Quilter I have volunteered to do the job.

We have signed up my 1st Cousin Hugh Cameron as a member. His late Father was Douglas Cameron, President for many years of Wanganui. Hugh may be off back to China in the not too distant future so can't give you an address. He said he would catch up with the newsletter whenever he visited me.

Gisborne News *by Trish Topham*

On Wednesday 20th August members attended a luncheon at the Tatapouri Fishing Club where we met and mingled with First Lighter Robert Nairn. We were pleased to welcome Robert and Hawke's Bay member Shane East who had chauffeured Robert from Napier to Gisborne.

Following lunch, David extended a formal welcome to Robert who responded by telling us of his life on a croft in the small village of Kentra, his musical studies at University, and followed this by playing a bracket of Scottish music on his button accordion- *Corrychollie's Welcome to the Northern Meeting*, a Strathsprey and Reel, and *Flower of Scotland*. That evening Robert was hosted by Mike and Trish at Don and Kay Orchiston's property "Fairlight" where he responded to our request to speak some Gaelic in which he is fluent - fascinating! Next morning Marion and Don Lewes chauffeured Robert up the coast to Te Araroa and lunch at Bob McConnell's "Four Winds" where Robert entertained with another musical interlude including one of Bob's favourite tunes *Maire's Wedding*.

We all thoroughly enjoyed meeting Robert who is a talented musician and a very good Ambassador for Clan Cameron and we trust his Exchange visit has been interesting and enjoyable.

First Light News *by Mary Barber*

We have recently hosted Robert Nairn, the First Lighter from Scotland.

Robert spent most of his time in the Wanganui and Manawatu areas. He was hosted by Roz and Ewen Grant at first, then spent several weeks at the property of Ian and Sue McKelvie near Tangimoana. While there he worked on the farm and was generously provided with a vehicle to use so was able to drive around the district and meet people.

During August he spent a few days visiting with a cousin, then travelled to Masterton where he was able to

attend the Wellington/Wairarapa AGM, before being taken to Hawkes Bay to meet members there. He then travelled to Gisborne and Opotoki and then on to the Bay of Plenty and Auckland where he attended and spoke at the Branch Dinner.

I was very grateful for the support from all branches and especially Roz and Ewen Grant and Ian and Sue McKelvie for their help.

The Working Group is shortly meeting to consider some recommendations for future First lighters, and we will forward these to the Executive meeting at Turangi for discussion.

Theresa " Tess " Alice Willock 1926 - 2008.

Theresa passed away at Leighton House, Gisborne on 18th September, 2008.

A direct descendant of John Cameron of Corrychoillie, her great grandfather was William Cameron, the third son of Corrycholillie. William emigrated to South Australia in 1851 and arrived at Port Chalmers, New Zealand in September 1855 to eventually settle in Riverton.

Theresa, the third child in a family of eleven, was the daughter of William and Mary Cameron of Patutahi, near Gisborne.

She was employed in secretarial positions with the Union Steam Ship Co. and National Airways, culminating in her appointment

as Secretary to the General Manager at Wellington.

Theresa married Dick Willock in Wellington and several years later they returned to Poverty Bay to take up horticultural farming before retiring to Gisborne.

Theresa was a devoted supporter of the Anglican Church, the Camellia Society and many other community organisations.

A foundation member of Clan Cameron in Gisborne in

1986, Theresa made her home available for Clan gatherings for many years until she moved to Leighton House. Theresa has seldom missed a meeting of the Gisborne Branch, has served on Committee and been Secretary/Treasurer for many years.

Theresa is survived by her two daughters, Mary & Cate, their husbands and four grandsons who all live in the Gisborne District.

A large gathering attended the funeral at Holy Trinity Church, including her brother Willie Cameron, her five surviving sisters and thirteen members of Clan Cameron Gisborne. Marion Lewes placed a floral tribute adorned with Cameron tartan ribbons on the casket.

(Theresa features on page 147 of the CCNZ History Book.)

Mike & Trish Topham

Ethel Bain Cameron

Ethel passed away peacefully on September 16th in her hundredth year. Loved wife of the late Matthew and mother and mother-in-law of Harold and Betty, Barry and Mary.

Denis Cameron

Cameron Castles in Lochaber

Part One

by *Bill Cameron*

Capped by Britain's highest mountain, some of the deepest lochs in Europe and countless scenic views – such an exhilarating mix of natural beauty creates a rugged splendor that is Lochaber. Now a much sought after area in all seasons for outdoor enthusiasts who journey from near and far to run, walk, cycle and climb over this unique landscape. Similarly in the Victorian era others came looking for an adrenaline hit also made their way to Lochaber either to hunt the native wildlife, or explore the high mountains. Welcomed visitors aside, let us not forget the local people, the caretakers of the land, many of them Camerons who have lived, worked and played here for many generations within the lands of Lochaber – The heart of Cameron Country.

Within the following article I would like investigate the dwellings, or Castles, of the Cameron Chiefs in Lochaber. From the first recorded island dwelling on Loch Eil, following their progression northwards along the Great Glen to the present day Achnacarry House. The journey will take us from a primitive island dwelling to the recently renovated Achnacarry House - covering a period of some six hundred and seventy three years, during which, I hope to offer an understanding as to why the Cameron Chiefs moved four times in the Clan's history and examine whether indeed there is such a thing as a Cameron Castle in Lochaber.

The lands of Lochaber have long since been linked with the Cameron Clan. As far back as 1335 we read of the de Cambrons, an early derivative of the name Cameron having a property on *Eilean na Craoibhe* - the island of the trees situated on the narrows between Loch Linnhe and Loch Eil. The location of this island settlement being so close to Loch Eil would suggest that this is where the Clan Chief's patronymic title 'Lochiel' originates from, although they are of course spelt differently.

The island of the trees lies just off the shore from Corpach where the recently demolished paper mill once stood. When the mill was at the height of production, the island would see ships berthed alongside as wood chippings were unloaded into an advanced pipeline system (known locally as the dolphins) feeding the material past the island and into the factory hoppers for the paper making process.

Although it is difficult to say what type of building would have once stood on the island, the fact that it was only accessible by boat would suggest that it might have been a fortified structure. Today, amid a cluster of trees, it

continues to live up to its old Gaelic name – *Eilean na Craoibhe*; now only a couple of large boulders offer a clue to it's historic past as the first possible Cameron Castle or settlement of the Clan Chief. Until recently you could walk out onto the island from the shore on rusty metal walkways which carried the woodchip pipeline - the last remaining relics of the islands industrial past. Either through corrosion, or intended demolition, one section of the walkway has fallen into the waters of Loch Eil, returning it once again to its original 'island' status.

The surrounding communities are now asking for the island to be cleared of its industrial past with removal of the dilapidated walkways, thereby returning the island to its natural state.

From the island settlement on the shores of Loch Eil we head northwards to the second Cameron Castle where Ewen MacAllan, the 13th Chief of the Clan and the first Cameron Chief to use the title 'of Lochiel' moved to *Torr a chasteil* – Tor Castle, meaning bluff rock of the castle sometime around 1528.

Standing high above the dark waters of the river Lochy, Tor Castle now exists as a bracken covered outline, its moss-covered rubble hiding a dark but not forgotten past between the feuding Camerons and MacIntosh's. The Macintosh's of Tor Castle amongst others, had a building on the site prior to the Camerons until 1527 when King James the 5th granted Ewen MacAllan the lands surrounding Tor Castle.

From this elevated site you are offered wonderful panoramic views of Lochaber's Nevis Range, as the dark

waters of the river Lochy flow into the infamous Cat Pool below. It was here at Torcastle that the 13th Chief indulged in black arts with Gormshuil – The Witch of Moy in an attempt to lift his sadness after the death of his son Donald. The result of which saw him skewer a cat over a fire in an attempt to



Torcastle

find out what acts of penance he should carry out. After receiving his instructions for penance, the poor cat was released and leapt into the pool below and so it has been known ever since as: *Poll a' chait* – The Cat Pool.

It is also worth mentioning the almost forgotten avenue of trees down below Tor Castle, known as 'Banquo's Walk'. Named after Banquo - Thane of Lochaber who is most notably remembered in Shakespeare's famous Scottish play. It is still believed by some local people that Banquo's ghost haunts the surrounding area.

Part Two of this article, featuring the old and new

Achnacarry, will be published in the December magazine



At a BOP gathering to meet Robert. From left: Jean Barker, Alison Jordan, Anthony Jordan, Patricia Duncan, Audrey Cameron
Photo: Denis Cameron



At same gathering. Joy Cameron, Hazel Cameron and Hazel's grand-daughter Grace.
Photo: Denis Cameron



At the Auckland Winter Dinner. Front: Bryan and Jenny Haggitt. At back: Jill and Norman Cameron, John Hawthorn, Bryan Haggitt Jr, Rebecca Wharton.
Photo: Editor



At a Gisborne luncheon to meet David. At rear: Mike Topham, Robert, June Cameron, Trish Topham. In Front: Ann & David Cameron, Marion and Don Lewes.
Photo: Shayne East (inset)

Robert Nairn - man of many talents!

Playing the Button Accordion



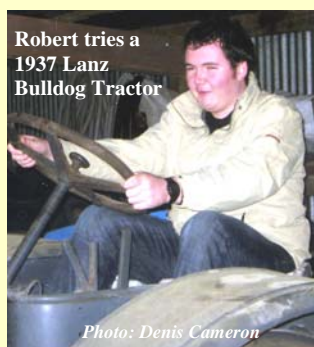
Photo: Jean McQueen



Playing the historic 'Blenheim' Pipes
Photo: Denis Cameron



Playing Shane's mother's violin
Photo: Shane East



Robert tries a 1937 Lanz Bulldog Tractor
Photo: Denis Cameron



Helen and Phil Renner at the BOP gathering

Photo: Denis Cameron



At the Auckland Winter Dinner. From Left: Cass and Hillary Hakaraia, Lena Orum and Dale Bailey.
Photo: Editor



Auckland Branch Piper, Andrew McQueen, plays at the dinner.
Photo: Editor



Auld Lang Syne. The end of a perfect evening in Auckland
Photo: Jean McQueen