



# Cameron



*The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.*

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2023

**The Ben from Loch Lochy, Clunes.** *Photo: Bill Cameron*



These items came in the *Blenheim*

## *AGM and Gathering Masterton 2023*



Descendants of Donald Cameron the Weaver who arrived in the *Blenheim*



Descendants of settlers who arrived in Wellington in the *Blenheim* in 1840

*Photos: Editor*



## “Cameron”

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

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## A Message from our Commissioner...

Naumai haere mai, Failte. Welcome

Thank you all for the successful annual gathering just held in Masterton. It was great to get together and talk about what we have achieved and where we want to go. While we are always on the lookout for new members, we are very lucky to have such amazing commitment to our joint heritage. In that vein I want to make special acknowledgement of the life membership awarded to past President Nick Cameron, who was our Commissioner for seven years. Lochiel our Clan Chief sent the following message:



*“It has been a great pleasure to have had Nick as my Commissioner in New Zealand over the last seven years. He has been extremely efficient and diligent and has performed his duties with great enthusiasm and great good sense. I hope very much that he continues to support clan Cameron in the coming years. I would like to thank him most sincerely for all that he has achieved. I send him my very best wishes.*

*Donald Cameron of Lochiel”*

Thank you very much Nick for your ongoing interest and dedication to Clan Cameron. Congratulations on your award of a life membership.

I would secondly like to acknowledge the work of our national Secretary Tania Cameron who stepped down this year. It's been great to have your enthusiasm and dedication to all things Clan Cameron.

A big topic of conversation at our Annual Gathering was the success of the visit to New Zealand of Finlay Cameron and the resurrection of the First Light Exchange. One of the original drivers of the exchange when set up at the turn of the century (and Millennium, hence the name) was to reconnect to the Camerons of Lochaber. It will be really great to continue the momentum and continue this connection.

I want to really thank the Auckland branch and Bryan Haggitt and Rob Cameron for their tireless work to get Finlay here. Special thanks to all members of Clan Cameron NZ who hosted so enthusiastically.

We are also looking forward to next year's gathering at Achnacarry and invite any of our members to consider making the long journey to Scotland.

Thank you very much for your support of Clan Cameron.

Aonaibh ri Cheile

Dale Cameron Bailey

### Clan Cameron Gathering. Achnacarry, Scotland.

August 1st/4th 2024



*Accommodation is often difficult in Fort William at that time of the year so early booking is essential.*

*It would be nice to have a strong representation from New Zealand.*

**Next Magazine Deadline is 15 July 2023**

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[www.clancameronnz.co.nz](http://www.clancameronnz.co.nz)

## Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Manawatu Branch

Mark Barber  
Scott and Shelley Turner

NSW Australia  
Palmerston North

*Ceud Mìle Fàilte  
One Hundred  
Thousand Welcomes*

## Vale Isabel Cameron



**Isabella (Isabel) Henderson Cameron,**( Nee Binks.)  
9-10-1944 to 1-4-2023.

Isabel passed away on the 1st April in the Ashburton Hospital with daughter Shona and husband Colin by her side. Isabel was born in Glasgow and was so proud of her Scottish and Celtic heritage.

Isabel and Colin arrived in NZ in March 1967 after a 6 week sea voyage, drove from Wellington to Auckland, and set up roots in Howick in East Auckland.

Isabel's first job was in the X ray Dept. at Auckland Hospital, before joining Air NZ in their personnel department in downtown Auckland in 1967, then moving to their engineering base at Auckland Airport, and taking a few years off from 1975 to raise daughter Shona.

Isabel was one of the first members to join Clan Cameron Auckland and was so proud when Shona was selected to be our first-first lighter to make the exchange to Scotland.

Isabel was a member of the embroiderers guild (NZ) and a member of the local gardening club here in Ashburton, and she will be sadly missed by many.

She attended all the Clan Cameron activities that she could until not fit to do so. Rest in peace Isabel, you were loved and are sorely missed.

*Colin Cameron*

## A Bonnie Prince Charlie is now our King

*By the Editor ....*

I was thrilled to be able to watch, in full on the big screen, the ceremony of the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla. This is a series of ancient rituals, having its roots in the ninth century, and is a deeply religious service which has been modified and updated over the years. I was very interested to see what part Scots took in the service.

A part of Scotland is the Stone of Destiny or Stone of Scone, an ancient symbol of Scotland's monarchy, which was placed underneath the coronation chair. This has been part of the ceremony since the 14th century, after having been seized from Scone Palace by Edward 1 of England in 1296. Edward's rule over Scotland was short lived, as Robert the Bruce led the rebellion which saw him crowned King of Scotland in 1306. However, the Stone was retained and not returned to Scotland until 1996. It was brought down for the ceremony and was returned to Edinburgh Castle on completion.

An important part of the ceremony was the presenting of the Holy Bible to the King by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Right Reverend Dr Iain Greenshields. He presented it to the King saying,

*'Sir, to keep you ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of*

*Christian Princes, receive this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; this is the royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God.*

The King then placed his hand on the bible to take the oaths.

On completion of the oaths, the Ceremony of the Anointing took place, during which the choir sang in English, Welsh, Gaelic and Irish. The verse in Gaelic is below, with it's English translation.

*Fada bhuain iomain ar nàmh  
Agus builich sa bhad do ghràs  
Ò, treòraich sinn, a Cheannaird àird  
Bho bhuaidh gach beud agus cràdh.*

*Anoint and cheer our soiled face  
With the abundance of thy grace.  
Keep far our foes, give peace at home:  
Where thou art guide, no ill can come.*

Most of you will have watched all or part of this magnificent ceremony, which was carried out with such precision, skill and splendour. The processions were thrilling to watch, especially the glimpse of the combined pipe bands, leading the troops back to the barracks.

# From the Branches....

**Auckland** by Rob Cameron

Dale opened a Scottish exhibition at Kinder House on April 1st, an event which was supposed to wrap up at the end of April but has been extended right into June. The exhibits pieces supplied by Clan Matheson along with Clan Cameron and the opening included haggis, whisky, poetry, and music.



On April 2nd, we held Finlay's leaving lunch held at the Parnell Cricket Club. Organised by Bryan and Jenny Haggitt, the event was attended by many people who had helped out Finlay in one way or another while he has been in the country. It was a great afternoon, which included a haggis ceremony, piping, and Finlay showing us photos of his travels throughout his trip and some other snaps of Scotland where he and his family live. We were also able to quickly set up a camera and invite Finlay's parents Ken and Rhona to join us for the lunch via Skype.

The next weekend was Easter, and I followed Finlay over to Hawkes Bay to watch the competition at the Hastings Highland Games held at the Lindisfarne College. I stayed with Hamish and Joan, while Finlay stayed with Nick and a few Canterbury pipers, in a hotel close to the event. It was great to see Finlay take out the A grade 2/4 March, a competition with the country's best pipes. Finlay also placed in the Hornpipe and Jig as well as the Strathspey and Reel.

Returning to Auckland on Easter Monday, Finlay flew out at about 6am the next day. As he was spending most of the day in Brisbane, Finlay got himself a day visa so he could leave the airport while in Australia. I feel we did a good job wearing Finlay out before he travelled to Basel for a week of tutoring their local pipe band.

It has been great having Finlay here over the last 6 months, the benefits of which have exceeded our expectations. The RNZPBA have asked for an article for the pipe band magazine about Finlay's experiences which should give more exposure to First Light.

In May I travelled to Glen Innes in the Australian Highlands to perform with Clan Celtica at the Australian Celtic Festival. Over 5 days we had several daily performances including a busking session in the middle of town. We were interviewed by the local radio station and our band featured on the News.

The festival held at the Glen Innes Standing stones was across the weekend which included numerous other talented musical performances, pipe bands, various historical re-enactment groups and clan tents. Between performances I was able to catch up with our Western Isle branch counterparts meeting John and Chris (Australian Vice President and Treasurer) at the Clan Cameron tent. I also met Iain Cameron who asked if I could pipe for his weaponry presentation in which Michel Tent and I played Shoshana's Lullaby.

On Sunday May 14th we held our branches AGM attended by a small group at the St Aidan's Church Social Rooms. The meeting ran smoothly with all officers re-elected plus one addition, Don Cameron, as committee member. The meeting was followed by a BBQ.

As I write this I am preparing for the Executive AGM. Friday 19th May, I will be driving down taking Bryan and Jenny Haggitt with me and I look forward to catching up with the other branch members over the weekend.

**Manawatu** by Anne Walker

Our local Committee is very active and busy organizing our calendar of events.

Members of the Manawatu Branch are looking forward to attending the 2023 AGM and gathering in Masterton on May 19<sup>th</sup>, and a chance to visit the Wairarapa.

On Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> the Manawatu



Branch are hosting their annual Clan Cameron Manawatu dinner at Wharerata Function Centre on the Massey University Campus. All Clan Members, friends and family are very welcome.

The evening will follow the usual format with a haggis ceremony, and piping, and our guest speaker for the night is Fraser Greig, a Scotsman who settled in New Zealand about 16 years ago, and who is a broadcaster working as the Station Manager for Manawatu People's Radio, our local community radio station. Fraser is a natural raconteur and will be entertaining.

The evening commences at 6pm with pre-dinner drinks. The cost for the three course meal is \$60 per head. Cash bar. RSVPs please by Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Hawke's Bay** by Hamish Cameron

Writing this report is just another step in restoring some pattern into the calendar, and the running order we would normally expect. ----- Not the chaos and unpredictability we've had for the last couple of months - courtesy of Cyclone Gabrielle.



As a Branch, our focus is always on the Hastings Highland Games, which is held at Lindisfarne College on Easter Weekend. Usually held outside on the sports grounds, it is immediately visible to passing traffic etc and is easily accessible to the public. This accessibility and the sight of Clan tents, stall holders and fast food vendors is probably what ensures lots of mildly interested "foot traffic" -- our designated targets. However, the Games has suffered several cancellations recently because of COVID, and the advent of GABRIELLE was looking like another big "spanner in the works" -- making the state of the grounds unacceptable. The easy answer was another cancelled games -- and in the circumstances quite logical.

"Not so fast" implored the local business and tourism sectors. Faced with these pleas the Games organisers, alongside Lindisfarne College, set about finding spacers within the College buildings to accommodate all the projected Piping and Highland Dancing events.

Once again the Clan tent became a trestle set up in the main entrance hall --- too busy a place to really engage with the interested. But the main objective was to hold the competitions as scheduled -- and in that the organisers succeeded magnificently.

One who will have mixed memories of the Games, and of his time in Hawke's Bay, will undoubtedly be our Scottish First Lighter -- Findlay Cameron.

These games would be the last of Findlay's Piping competitions in N.Z before flying home via Switzerland. Here he would spend a week instructing at a music based course in Basel a city considered by the Swiss to be their countries cultural centre.

Cyclone Gabrielle's devastation right down the East Coast and into Hawke's Bay meant the previously planned hosting and showcasing of our region to Findlay was severely impacted. Therefore a revised and restricted itinerary was hastily put in place. This entailed a "Fly in -- Fly out" approach (because of road access) in which his H.B visit was restricted to a few days free time before his Games commitments. It was in these preceding days that we observed just how much Clan Cameron's desire to expose him to the whole country, had drained him. However, as others had noted, "just put him in the company of bagpipes" and he immediately becomes invigorated.

To see him amongst other pipers was to see him in his "happy place", and it becomes very evident the camaraderie that exists, nation wide, in the piping fraternity.

After an exhausting -- but successful -- weekend it didn't get any easier for Findlay. His farewell to Hawke's Bay was, a 6am flight back to Auckland, to be followed the next



morning, with another 6am flight to start his journey back home.

To Findlay -- I commend your attitude and willingness to accommodate all those who prevailed upon you, no matter where you found yourself. This is not an easy demeanour to maintain whilst constantly being moved about a strange land - all the time wondering "what next." You have not only fulfilled Clan Cameron New Zealand's desire to restore a worthy reciprocal programme, but also awakened Scotland's missing involvement. A feat that, I am sure, will be recognised by both our countries in the years to come.

### **Bay of Plenty** by Tanya Cameron

The Bay of Plenty branch hosted Finlay Cameron and Bryan Haggitt with a lot of changing of plans, but we managed to find him some interesting places to be. Gisborne Branch member Colin Cameron (my cousin) hosted Finlay for several days and Finlay was able to help the Gisborne Pipe Band repair some of their bagpipes that were damaged in the recent floods in the area.



Finlay and Bryan then came through to Whakatane and stayed with me at my Mums house that I was housesitting at the time. We had a great night at the RSA including my son in the outing and giving Finlay some young people time.

The next day they went off to visit David Cameron from our Branch and learnt about his lathe and woodworking workshop (previously written about in our magazine) and then they headed off to Rotorua for a night in the wilderness. Once they had enjoyed the local tourist locations, they headed over to the Potaka household (another cousin) in Tauranga and some more young people time for Finlay. On their way back to Auckland, another of our branch members Shirley and John Baillie hosted Finlay for dinner on his way to stay in Hamilton with Brendan Eade.

We hope you had a great time with us and that your visit will encourage the First Light program to be reinvigorated. Although you didn't arrive as a First Lighter from Scotland, you were certainly treated as one.

I am attending the National AGM in Masterton in May and I will be making the most of the time with our other branches.

### **Canterbury** by Rae Magson

We were sorry to read of the passing of Isabel Cameron recently. Our sympathy is extended to husband Colin and daughter Shona. Colin was the President of the Clan Cameron Canterbury for sometime, and Shona went on the First Light programme to Scotland.



### **Wellington/Wairarapa** by Graeme Cameron

The Wellington-Wairarapa Branch was pleased to host Clan Cameron New Zealand's 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering at Masterton on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023.



The gathering began with an informal pub dinner at The Farriers Bar and Eatery on the Friday evening.

On Saturday morning the Ranfurly Club opened their doors for the Executive Council Meeting, morning tea, then the Annual General Meeting.

After an afternoon free to shop or visit local attractions, the evening festivities commenced at 5.30 pm. at the Masterton Club where the 60 attendees were treated royally to a number of speakers, and musical entertainment. Piper Graeme Stuart and drummers Hunter Nielsen and Garry Nielsen welcomed the guests as they arrived with a number of lively tunes.

The Wellington/Wairarapa President Graeme Cameron welcomed everyone and presented our NZ President Dale Bailey's wife, Lena, with an arrangement of flowers. A toast was made to his Majesty King Charles III.

Dale addressed the gathering and also thanked our outgoing secretary, Tanya Cameron, for her many years of service to the Clan. Tanya was also presented with flowers.

The haggis was piped in and addressed by Bruce Cameron from Hunterville. This was followed by the main meal.

Bryan Haggitt ran a power point show and talked about the very successful First Light Exchange that the Auckland Branch had initiated. Finlay Cameron from Lochaber has recently visited our shores and enhanced the piping skills of many areas in New Zealand. This exchange has just finished and the Clan is looking at sending a person from New Zealand to Scotland in the immediate future.

The entertainment for the evening was based around the Barque *Blenheim* which had arrived at Kaiwharawhara on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1840 carrying ancestors of many of the people in the room. Items that were on the ship were displayed and spoken about. Gina Hailwood showed and talked about a spinning wheel owned by Donald "Bane the Cooper" Cameron that had been passed down for five generations to the eldest daughter. David Cameron showed a muzzle loading rifle that he had. This came onboard with a broken stock and a new stock was carved and fitted while on the way to New Zealand. Rob Cameron had a dirk that was supposedly made from a bayonet taken at Culloden and handed down for about nine generations. Bruce Cameron played the "Blenheim pipes", a 3/4 set of bagpipes that came out with Donald the Piper and have been brought up to a playing condition. This was the first time these relics had been together again for 183 years!

The piper and drummers entertained us before the evening concluded with the singing of Flower of Scotland and Auld Lang Syne.

## **Coming Events**

**Until 4 June 2023**

**Clan Cameron Exhibition**

John Kinder House, 2 Ayr St, Parnell, Auckland.

Now extended until Sunday 4 June. Well worth a visit.

**Saturday 17 June 2023**

**Manawatu Branch Annual Dinner**

Wharerata Function Centre, Massey University Campus, Palmerston North. See Manawatu Report on left.

**Saturday 24 June 2023**

**Clan Donald Auckland and Districts Annual Dinner**

The Parnell, 10-20 Gladstone Rd, Parnell. 6pm for 6.30 pm. \$65 to Clan Donald, 12-3030-0531551-00  
RSVP by 15 June to Tom McDonald, clan.donald.auckland@xtra.co.nz

**Saturday 16 September 2023**

**Clan Cameron Auckland Annual Dinner**

The Parnell, 10-20 Gladstone Road, Parnell. 6pm for 6.30pm. Pricing and details will be by flyer with the August newsletter.

**Sat / Sun 15/16 March 2024**

**National Pipe Band Championships Auckland.**

The Cameron Tent will be there. Further details at a later date.





# Culloden commemoration 2023



1 Gathering of clan societies at the Forbes Cairn on Culloden Moor. *Photo Bill Cameron*  
 2 Piper Sandy Cameron with President of the Clan Cameron Association Scotland, Roddy Cameron. *Photo Chris Doak*  
 3 Sandy Cameron playing at the Cameron marker stone. *Photo Chris Doak*  
 4 Duncan Cameron receiving his Hon Chieftainship of the association from Lochiel. *Photo Bill Cameron*



Above: The Editor and his family at Culloden Moor in 1989

Right: The Cameron Marker stone.

Left: The Editor conducting the ANZAC service at the William Sanders Retirement Village



By Dale Cameron Bailey.....

This sad little card was in the possession of my grandfather James Quarrie Cameron who served in World War 1. It's a pass for families for the departure of the 21st reinforcements from Wellington on February 8th February 1917 on SS Manuka at 11am.

His father did not want him to go to war, wanting him to stay to work the farm. His father would not speak to him for his decision to go to the War at the age of 21, and perhaps this is his father's unused card.



Trooper J Q Cameron's WW1 Victory Medal





Above and Right: Clan Celtica, a tribal style band, was invited to perform at the Australian Celtic Festival in the Australian Highland town of Glen Innes. Michel Tent and Rob Cameron from Auckland piped



Hamish, Rob and Nick Cameron at the Hawkes Bay Easter Highland Games



Above: Finlay competing in Hastings

Below: Holding the Hawkes Bay Championship Award



John Cameron, ( CC Australia Vice President, and Chris Cameron (CC Australia Treasurer) with Rob Cameron at the Australian Celtic Festival



The McQueen family, who do so much in support of the Auckland Branch, at the wedding of Andrew and Nina. With them, from left, are Rebekah, Matthew, Jean, Duncan and Sarah. Photo: Hollow and Co.



Horse at Achnacarry

Photo: Bill Cameron



# Family Tree DNA Advances and Cameron Y DNA Project Update

by Joanne Cameron

As you may know Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) is the company that the Cameron Y DNA Project uses for its testing process and also where we run the Project from. In the last year FTDNA have made huge improvements in their display of Y DNA test results and how this relates to testers and their matches within the Tree Of Mankind itself.

In years gone by a typical Y DNA test result would give you a list of names of men that you matched and a genetic distance which in all reality, unless you had a known cousin who you knew as a match, meant very little to the tester himself. What's more it was also difficult for anyone to understand what all the numbers meant and how that would give them any useful information in relation to their family history research.

FTDNA have worked hard on changing how all of that information is now viewed and understood by releasing last year a new TAB attached to a testers YDNA results panel called "Discover - Haplogroup Reports".

A new webpage is opened once you click on the Discover TAB and it takes the tester to their own personalised Haplogroup Report page where they are then able to view a huge amount of information about their Haplogroup.

The information is displayed over 9 different categories starting with: Haplogroup Story, Country Frequency, Notable Connections, Migration Map, Ancient Connections, Time Tree, Ancestral Path, Suggested Projects and Scientific Details.

One stand out feature for genealogy use is the Time Tree. This graph is a real time image of where the tester sits within the Tree Of Mankind which currently has over 60,000 Y DNA Haplogroup branches.

**Image 1. included in this article is of the McMartin Cameron Subclade.**

The Time Tree looks exactly like a paternal family tree chart because that is exactly what it is! The exception of course is that instead of there being named paternal ancestors, the paternal ancestors are named by their genetic SNP mutation.

This year FTDNA included an extension to the Time Tree and named it Group Time Tree, adding surnames and earliest known ancestors for people who have opted-in to have their results displayed in public group projects, making the chart a great asset for those of us who are trying to piece together the various families within a clade.

**Image 2. Is a section within image 1. but with the Group Time Tree information displayed.**

The new Group Time Tree's are a much better way to display haplogroup family lines, those who descend from a common ancestor within a relatively modern time range that have traditionally been hard to research in Scotland. It is also easier to see how they fit into a wider cadet group. This particular family group all emigrated to Australia, New Zealand and the USA from the early to mid 1800's from Lochaber. Their shared ancestor is the named SNP R-CTS9741 off of which five distinct family lines flow.

The more new testers we get to join the Project the more these trees will grow and in turn the more we learn about various family lines and where in the world they came from and went to.

The same applies for all of our Cameron YDNA Groups, not just those who descend from the Progenitor currently known at R-A6138. One thing that is very apparent is that the Clan as a whole is a confederation of people of whom some took on and now carry the Cameron surname. Our Project is open to all men with the surname Cameron and also those whose surname belongs to the septs of the Clan. Men who do not have the Cameron surname but find themselves matching our Group A members (those who descend from R-A6138) are also warmly welcomed. One more thing to note - if you have only done YSTR testing your Haplogroup information will be limited to the "predicted" Haplogroup that your testing infers you belong to, you really need to upgrade to the Big Y700 to reap the benefits of what your YDNA can tell you.

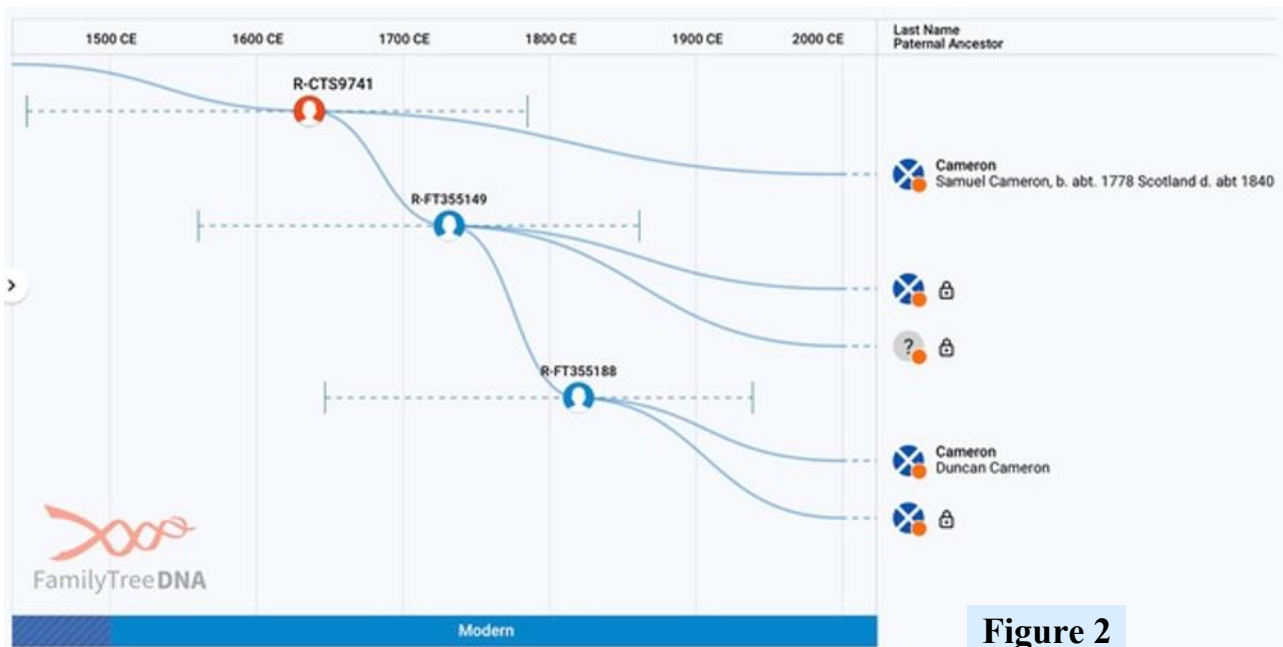
For enquiries about YDNA Testing and the Clan Cameron Y DNA Project email:

Jo - [jocamsclan@gmail.com](mailto:jocamsclan@gmail.com) and/or Loraine - [macnabhistory@gmail.com](mailto:macnabhistory@gmail.com)

If you haven't already taken a Y DNA test you order one here: <https://www.familytreedna.com/products/y-dna> (Y-37 is the recommended starting point)







**Figure 2**

## Samhain, the celebration of the cycle of death and rebirth.

By David Weston, Clan Genealogist and Historian

Samhain marks the end of autumn and the beginning of winter with crops harvested and the fields dormant. In the northern hemisphere this is the end of October and has become connected with Halloween but in the southern hemisphere it is more correctly the end of April and beginning of May.

Traditionally Samhain presents us with the opportunity to once more celebrate the cycle of death and rebirth. In Gaelic societies, Samhain is a time to reconnect with our ancestors, and honour those who have died. This is the time when the veil between our world and the spirit realm is thin, so it's the perfect time of year to make contact with the dead. Obviously it fits in well with our Anzac Day commemorations which also recall our dead who fought for our country.

Back in the past as death was a celebration, not something to be feared as now, it was a time to get together with friends and have a good time. In Scotland it was a time of disguising yourself in fancy dress, often made from sheepskin and sheepheads. This was called guising. Traditionally turnips were used to carve out heads again to stop evil spirits from recognising who you were.

It was also celebrated with the lighting of bonfires and communities would have competitions to see who could have the biggest, as pumpkins were not known until later.

An article in The Scotsman gives more details of the festivities and includes some rare photos taken in the 1930's. <https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/heritage/halloween-the-weird-and-wonderful-scottish-traditions-of-samhain-3018086>

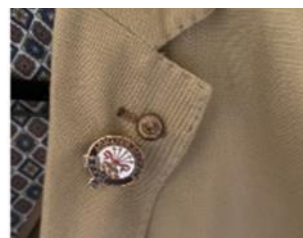
One recipe from the Western Isles is associated with Samhain. The Fuarag, (pronounced "foo-ar-ak") is, at its core, a dish made of oats, sugar, and cream. Before families would dig into this delicious delicacy, they'd first add trinkets to the mix, each of which had symbolic value. Typical items included a

ring (to represent wedding bells in the not-so-distant future), a button (to signify bachelorhood), and a thimble (to suggest spinsterhood).

With the objects safely hidden in the fuarag, everyone around the table would be blindfolded and then take turns removing a spoonful. It was the true luck of the draw which object, if any, you'd receive. The items, their meanings and even the ingredients of the fuarag often differed between villages and regions, with some communities in Nova Scotia including a coin to represent a future windfall.

I am not aware of many New Zealanders celebrating Samhain, although some of our ancestors may have done so soon after they came here. Certainly a quick search of Papers Past only comes up with articles giving reports from Ireland or discussing plays. It would also be interesting to know if it was celebrated with the northern hemisphere date or was it transferred to May as a recognition of our different seasons.

If any readers recall stories or celebrations specifically connected to samhain rather than the more American Halloween celebrations I would be interested to hear about them.



**Clan Cameron  
Lapel Badges for  
sale.**

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**They can be  
obtained through  
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presidents**

**-or by post from  
Dale Bailey or  
Rob Cameron by  
adding \$5**

*(Addresses on page 2)*



# The Glencoe Massacre

*By Rob Cameron (Auckland)*

The Glencoe Massacre of 1692 was a brutal attack by the Campbell soldiers on the MacDonalds of Glencoe Clan. The Campbell soldiers had stayed with the MacDonalds for two weeks before slaughtering them in their sleep on the order of King William. The MacDonalds had failed to sign an oath of allegiance to the King, and the attack was intended to set an example for other clans who might be considering rebellion against the Crown. The aftermath of the massacre was long-lasting, with the surviving MacDonalds forced to flee their homes, and the Campbell soldiers facing legal and political repercussions for their actions. The event was a result of complex feudal relations between England and Scotland that continue to have repercussions to this day.

The Glencoe Massacre occurred after the Glorious Revolution, which saw Dutchman William of Orange invade England and dethrone King James II. The Highland clans had a tradition of loyalty to their chieftains rather than the central government, and many remained loyal to King James, leading to a significant impact on the relationship between the Scottish clans and the monarchy. William III and his government responded by passing a series of laws aimed at bringing the Highland clans under control, leading to the harsh treatment of the Highland clans, which may have contributed to the

circumstances that led to the Glencoe Massacre.

After William's coronation, he sought to secure the allegiance of the clans. Clan Campbell was one of the first to pledge their allegiance to the new monarch, and William used the Clan Campbell chief to discuss terms with other clans. In an attempt to quell any potential rebellions, William sought to secure the allegiance of the clans. A meeting was arranged with many clan chiefs, including Alistair MacDonald of Glencoe.

Despite issues that arose during the meeting, the clans signed the agreement. However, they were not able to decide on the distribution of reparations, leading King William to issue a royal proclamation that would require all Highland chiefs to take an oath of allegiance before January 1st, 1692, or be punished as enemies of the state.



For a more detailed look at this please checkout my blog post

<https://www.pipesandchisels.com/the-glencoe-massacre/>

- or scan QR code on left

## Culloden Celebration 2023

*By Bill Cameron*

On Saturday the 15th of April, over thirty Camerons from across Scotland came together alongside other clans on Culloden Moor to commemorate the fallen who died in the last land battle to have taken place on British soil back in April the 16th, 1746.

The clan Cameron was instrumental in the Jacobite uprising of 1745 and their contribution to the cause sadly resulted in many hundreds of deaths and a change to the way of life in the Highlands. Highlanders have long memories. The aftermath of the battle and the atrocities that took place continue to resonate down through the generations. What was particularly moving in this years commemoration was that the fallen on both sides were remembered and tributes were paid to the sacrifices made on both sides.

As always the commemoration service was organised by the Gaelic Society of Inverness and centred around the Forbes cairn. The assembled societies and clan associations were led in the sunshine and clear skies from the visitor centre onto the battle field by piper, Sandy Cameron, brother of the most recent first lighter to New Zealand, Finlay Cameron.

The service itself included a bilingual address from the chair of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, Murdo Campbell as

well a moving sermon by Rev Iain MacAskill. Following contributions from various speakers, members of various historical societies and clan organisations were invited to lay flowers around the Forbes cairn. This year the Clan Cameron Association Scotland wreath was laid by Johanna Wilson, daughter of Col. Charles Cameron.

After the main service the Cameron party gathered around the nearby Cameron marker, where daffodils were laid and a stirring rendition of the pipe tune Braighe Loch Iall, The Braes of Loch Eil were played by Sandy Cameron.

President of the association, Roddy Cameron, recited a moving poem at the marker and invited those who were able to proceed to the Cameron line further across the battle field where an estimated three hundred clansmen were killed. Once again this was accompanied by the some fine piping by Sandy Cameron.

After the commemoration service at Culloden, members of the association enjoyed a fine lunch at the Cawdor Tavern, followed by a talk by former factor of the Lochiel Estate, Richard Sidgwick. The talk focused on the history of the Lochiel Estate, much of which had been based on Richards recent book, Clanship to Capitalism - History of the Estates of Lochaber from 1745.

To conclude proceedings, former president of the Clan Cameron Association, Duncan Cameron, was awarded an honorary chieftainship of the Clan Cameron Association by Lochiel after many years service to the association.

*See photographs on Page 6*

## Clan Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry, August 2024

A meeting of the planning group for the next Clan Cameron International Gathering took place at Achnacarry castle at the end of April to update and progress plans for the event.

The planning group was chaired by Lochiel and attended by seven other Camerons, as well as Sonja Pollock,

the estate office administrator. Plans are now well underway for the gathering that will take place at Achnacarry from Thursday the first of August, through until Sunday the fourth of August.

A full itinerary will be shared with all the Clan Cameron associations well in advance of the gathering, so that people will be able to plan ahead.

We look forward to welcoming Camerons from across the world to Achnacarry.

*Bill Cameron*



# First Light News

by Bryan Haggitt—First Light Convenor

Since reporting last, First Lighter Finlay Cameron departed New Zealand on 11 April. He had a very hectic schedule over his last weeks here – as can be seen:

**Monday, 27 March:** After our Whakatane/Gisborne/Rotorua/Tauranga trip I left Finlay in Hamilton where, after dinner with John and Shirley Baillie at Te Aroha, he stayed with Dr. Brendan Eade, one of NZ's very top pipers.

**Friday, 31 March:** Finlay drove to Auckland to pipe at the William Sanders Retirement Village – he returned to Hamilton that evening.

**Saturday, 1 April:** Finlay took part in a piping contest arranged by Dr Brendan Eade. Many of NZ's top pipers took part including Greg Wilson, Willie Rowe and Dr Eade himself.

**Sunday, 2 April:** Finlay drove back to Auckland for Clan Cameron Auckland Branch's Lunch at Farewell Finlay. Held at the Parnell Cricket Club with some 50 attending plus, on Skype, shown on the large TV screen – Finlay's parents, Ken and Rhona Cameron.

**Monday, 3 April** Morning: At Brian and Pam Cameron's house to view his remarkable collection of swords, sporrans and various items of militaria some once the property of Sir Donald McLean.  
Afternoon: At Auckland War Memorial Museum's Otahuhu Storage to view the Castle and David Smith collections of bagpipes and flutes.

**Tuesday, 4 April:** Finlay departed Auckland flying to Hastings to be hosted by Hamish and Joan Cameron for the whole of Easter.

**Easter, 7-9 April:** Finlay piped at the Hawkes Bay Easter Highland Games with considerable success coming 1<sup>st</sup> in the March and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Strathspey and Reel – a great finale to his stay in New Zealand.

**Monday/Tuesday 10 & 11 April:** Finlay flew back to Auckland, packed and, on Tuesday, flew to Brisbane where he met another bagpipe maker and exchanged views during his lengthy stopover.

Finlay then flew on to Zurich, had 2 days there before heading to Basel to tutor at the Swiss Summer Piping School. He finally returned to Scotland early May.

Wonderful that Maisie Earle's dream of us linking with Lochaber was resurrected. Also, Finlay arranged for new reeds to be made for the Blenheim pipes and to make a replacement piece for them. He will restore another set of pipes given him by Rob Cameron of Wairarapa and will return them for passing to a deserving young piper here. And Finlay verified that Ken Cameron of Gisborne's Waterloo Pipes "were of that age" ie made circa 1815. Truly marvellous to have had this exceedingly talented young man here and many, many thanks to Clan members who hosted him.

## FIRST LIGHT – THE FUTURE

Sarah McQueen has been chosen to be our outward First Lighter. She should leave for Scotland in September and spend till the end of 2023 in Lochaber. This is subject to the completion of her PhD in biomedicine and future employment options.

Sandy Cameron, Finlay's elder brother, has shown strong interest in coming to NZ next summer. It is hoped that Clan Cameron Scotland will see fit to send Sandy here.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THESE EXCHANGES CONTINUE – WE MUST NOT LOSE THIS MOMENTUM!!



Left: Father Ken Cameron sent Bryan Haggitt this photo of Finlay taken at their home at Inverlair in 2016 with all the trophies he won as a 15 year old!



### By Editor:

Some photos of my grand-daughter, Sarah McQueen, who is the prospective next First Lighter from New Zealand.

On the right she is playing with the City of Dunedin Pipe Band







At the AGM



Neville and Shona Wallace  
Samantha and Bruce Cameron



Hamish and Joan Cameron, Julie and Nick Cameron



John Cameron, Bryan  
and Jenny Haggitt



Presentation of Life Membership to Nick Cameron



Jan Thompson, Lee Elliot, Catherine Cameron,  
Roger Stuart and Maureen Cameron



Warren and Lorraine  
Cameron



Graeme and Hazel Cameron with  
Lena Orum (centre)