



Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

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Bluebells by the Glade - *Photo Bill Cameron*



Taking a keen interest in our First Lighter Lochiel - *Photo: Lochiel/Nielsen*

“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

Well we have passed Matariki and the winter solstice so we start to see the days lengthen. The celebration of the New Year and the solstice is an old Scots custom and it's great to see it established here in Aotearoa once again as part of our Māori celebrations.

It was great recently to attend the annual Clan Cameron Manawatu annual dinner at the wonderful homestead of Wharerata on the Massey University campus. Thanks to Russell Cameron and Anne Walker the evening was a great success. Lovely to have some visitors from Clan Ayson in attendance. Local member Patrick Coogan piped for us and it was a few days off him representing the Rangitikei electorate at the 2025 Youth Parliament. Auckland branch president Rob

Cameron attended. I did my usual trick of drawing my own ticket out of the raffle.

A highlight was the video message of our First Lighter Lochiel Nielsen from her first month in Scotland. We were able to celebrate Neil Cameron's appointment as New Zealand patron. Stewart McKenzie Pipe Major of the Manawatu Scottish Society did an excellent job of being the guest speaker. Their band as New Zealand grade A champions are off to the World Championships in Glasgow and it was great we could wish them the very best for the competition.

Our guests from Clan Ayson remarked how much fun the evening was, full of energy and fellowship. Clan Chief Hugh and Mary Francis commented 'The is so important that we honour the traditions of our forebears who came to New Zealand for many different reasons, clearances, religion and feuds. They all came for a better life and they were presented with many struggles on arrival. It was certainly an honour to hear the sound of your treasured Blenheim Pipes that would have comforted them on their journey and beyond'. Indeed it was.

I was also invited earlier in June to be the guest speaker of the Manawatu Scottish Society's centennial Burns Dinner. I spoke about the important connection with the society and Clan Cameron New Zealand. I also brought the dreaded AI into the equation and imagined Robbie Burns in New Zealand!



*Dale Cameron Bailey and Briar Hamilton,
Chief of Manawatu Scottish Society, at the
100th Anniversary Burns Dinner in
Palmerston North*

Our chief Lord Cameron of Lochiel has called our first annual video conference of the Commissioners around the world. It will be held around the anniversary of the last Annual Gathering and will discuss what's been happening and when and where the next international gathering will be held. It has been suggested that it might be held elsewhere from Scotland building on Neil's initiative with our gathering here in Auckland and followed on by Brisbane a few years later.

Thank you all for your support of
Clan Cameron New Zealand.

Aonaibh ri Cheile

Dale

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Sept 2025

Printed By

Tartan Day in the USA

by Sandi Cameron (Rocky Mountain Piper, USA)

April 9 Tartan Day What is Tartan Day?

On March 20, 1998, the U.S. Senate passed Resolution 155, designating April 6th of each year as National Tartan Day.

This day recognizes Scottish Americans and their achievements and contributions to the U.S.

The House passed Resolution 41 on March 9, 2005, and George W. Bush signed the Presidential Proclamation on April 4, 2008.

On this same day in 1320, Scots signed the Declaration of Arbroath, formally declaring their independence from England.

In 1998 the first Tartan Day parade consisted of two pipe bands and a small but hardy group of Scottish Americans walked on a sidewalk from the British Consulate to the United Nations in New York City. In 2002, the Parade was brought to 6th Avenue for the first time, attracting a record number of pipe bands from all over the World and led by Sir Sean Connery and Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The National Tartan Day Resolution 1998

Whereas April 6 has a special significance for all Americans, and especially those Americans of Scottish descent, because the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence, was signed on April 6, 1320 and the American Declaration of Independence was modelled on that inspirational document; Whereas this resolution honours the major role that Scottish Americans played in the founding of this Nation, such as the fact that almost half of the signers of the Declaration of independence were of Scottish descent, the Governors in 9 of the original 13 States were of Scottish ancestry, Scottish Americans successfully helped shape this country in its formative years and guide this Nation through its most troubled times; Whereas this resolution recognizes the monumental achievements and invaluable contributions made by Scottish Americans that have led to America's pre-eminence in the fields of science, technology, medicine, government, politics, economics, architecture, literature, media, and visual and performing arts; Whereas this resolution commends the more than 200 organizations

throughout the United States that honor Scottish heritage, tradition, and culture, representing the hundreds of thousands of Americans of Scottish descent, residing in every State, who already have made the observance of Tartan Day on April 6 a success; Whereas these numerous individuals, clans, societies, clubs, and fraternal organizations do not let the great contributions of the Scottish people go unnoticed: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate designates April 6 of each year as "National Tartan Day".

The Development of Tartans

Tartan has a centuries-old history, based on tradition, district colours, familial patterns and other factors.

The unique patterns are created by weaving colored threads (warp and weft) at right angles to each other, resulting in a pattern of alternating bands and squares.

Tartans are recorded by the number of threads of each color in the pattern, known as the thread count, which also describes the width of the stripes and the colors used.

Tartan makers historically relied on natural dyes derived from plants like woad (for blue) and other local sources. The evolution of tartans includes a wider range of dye colors and weaving techniques. The patterns have been adapted and reinvented, as well.

Clans, geographical areas, and organizations have adopted specific tartan designs. Each clan typically has one or more of its own unique pattern.

The Scottish Register of Tartans maintains an official record of specific tartan designs.

Although one has the freedom to wear any tartan, but the pattern you choose should reflect your respect and support of the clan (or organization) and its leadership.

For instance, just because Cameron of Lochiel tartan is sold worldwide, one's respect for Lochiel and his extended family would likely negate it as a clan member's choice.

However, because Clan Cameron has such a nice array of tartan patterns and colours, we have many meaningful options to choose.

Some wives keep the tartan of their birth family while others choose their husband's clan (or sept) tartan. Again, choices exist when choosing the pattern.

In the Rocky Mountain Region, it is common to see Clan Cameron members wearing the modern, the muted, the military, or a sept tartan, such as Taylor or Martin. Check any major Highland store for your favourite!

International Tartan Day

International Tartan Day in 2025 will be on July 1st in Australia and New Zealand. It is celebrated on this date in these countries to commemorate the anniversary of the Repeal Proclamation of 1782 annulling the Act of Proscription 1746 and its Dress Act, which had made wearing Highland dress (by males) an offence in the Highlands, punishable by up to seven years' penal transportation. While April 6th is Tartan Day in the US and Canada (see above), July 1st is the date for Australia and New Zealand.

In Auckland, Tartan Day is celebrated with the Kirkin' o' the Tartan in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church on a Sunday near July 1st.

According to the tradition, the Kirkin' o' the Tartan originated in Scotland. After defeating Jacobite forces in 1746 at the Battle of Culloden, the British government outlawed Highland dress. Legend has it that during this period, Scots would hide small pieces of tartan fabric on their person while attending church services. When it came time for the blessing, they would touch the bit of cloth. However, there is no credible source for this tale. (Wikipedia)



A parade of Banners. Kirkin' O' The Tartan at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Symond Street, Auckland, on 29 June 2025.



From the Branches....

Auckland by Rob Cameron

I flew down to Palmerston North to attend the Manawatu Mid-winter Dinner on 28th of June. It was great meeting some of the other members I don't usually get a chance to see. Stewart McKenzie spoke about the Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band who are having their centenary this year and are heading back to the Pipe Band World Championships this year. Dale attended a Manawatu Scottish Societies dinner 2 weeks prior and took the Blenheim Pipes with him, so I was able to play a couple of tunes at the dinner. For those interested, Stewart's ancestor Margaret Fraser also came out to New Zealand aboard the Blenheim along with other Cameron families of the area.

The same weekend was a busy one in Auckland. City of Sails Pipe Band performed again at the Last Night of the Proms with the Auckland Symphony Orchestra. The St Andrews Church also held the Kirking of the Tartan service, five clans attended including Brian and Pam Cameron and Bryan Haggitt on behalf of the Camerons.

Dale asked me if I wanted to join him to walk the West Highland Way with him next year so one of the early training sessions we did was the Auckland coast to coast, a 17km trail starting from the Onehunga Bay Reserve, up One Tree Hill and Mt Eden, through the city ending at the Ferry Building in the CBD. It is a well signposted trail that leads through some areas of the city that are not normally travelled and I would recommend it for a fine day.

We will be holding our Annual Dinner on the 16th of August - just putting the final touches on the program. It is shaping up to be another good night. We have the Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club performing for us which I am looking forward to hearing.

We are starting to plan for the Annual Gathering which we are hosting next year. At the moment, we don't have much in place but are looking to host it about April or May.

Manawatu by Anne Walker Long

The Clan Cameron Manawatu Branch dinner was held on Saturday 28th of June at the Wharerata Conference Centre, Massey University. It was an evening of great company and excellent entertainment.

This year we chose to celebrate and honour the Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band in their centenary year. The association we have with this top-rated Pipe Band is longstanding and valued. We were able to host six members of the Band including Stewart McKenzie (Pipe Major Number 1 Band) Stella Dobbs (Piper Number 1 Band), Pipers Patrick Coogan (Number 2 Band) and Ashton Murphy (Manawatu Scottish Youth Band), as well Debbie Benton (Treasurer, Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band), and her husband Durry Benton, stalwarts of the Band, and organisers of annual Turakina Highland Games. Stuart McKenzie outlined the history of the Band and its association with Clan Cameron. (see the article in this newsletter for further information).

Profit from the evening will enable us to donate to the Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band's Travel Fund, to support their trip to Glasgow in August where they will compete in the World and European Pipe Band competitions. Members and supporters of Clan Cameron Manawatu joined us for the night from Auckland, Wellington and everywhere in between, and we were extremely grateful for everyone's support and enthusiasm.

First Lighter Lochiel Neilson prepared and sent a personal video message which we were able to play to the attendees. She was obviously enjoying her first few weeks in



Scotland on her First Light Exchange and has already seen and done a great deal.

We were honoured to hear a medley of exceptional tunes played by pipers Stewart McKenzie and Stella Dobbs, and the individual performances of our member, Patrick Coogan, and 14 year old piper Ashton Murphy. Ashton has recently received a Vic Nicholson piping scholarship from Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band. The entertainment finished with Rob Cameron playing a tune on the precious Blenheim pipes.

Clan Cameron Manawatu are planning a Spring event for Sunday 14th September 2025. This will be an afternoon tea and visit to Villa Candotti – a local Tuscany-inspired garden.

After the success of our first calendar featuring photos of Scotland beautiful landscape, we are again preparing a 2026 Calendar with photos from Scotland. Funds raised will support First Light Scholarship and other Clan activities. The calendar will be available by 1st September. \$25 each, and pre-orders are welcomed. Do consider these for Christmas gifts. Domestic and international postage is only \$5.00, and pick-up from Palmerston North is free. For pre-order and enquiries, please email clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com.

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

There is no disputing the obvious in that the temperatures and constant over-cast outlooks have really signalled that winter is here. Hard to reconcile that only a few short weeks ago, at a balmy Napier AGM, we were all being mesmerized by the life and deeds of an International Red Cross nurse operating for decades in practically every war-torn disaster area of the world. Andrew Cameron's exploits over decades have been published in book form as well as highlighted on film plus being honoured by various governments around the globe.....none of it of his own instigation.

At sometime or other we have all been subjected to some character proudly claiming their motivation in life was to "make a difference in others lives"..... Well, here is the template others could measure themselves by ---- all done with a completely disarming humility.

Canterbury branch – in the form of big brother Nick – certainly did H.B. a favour by persuading Andrew to be their after dinner speaker ! On the few times a year Andrew gets to come back to N.Z. his home base becomes the family farm at Porangahau, on the southern coast of H.B. So it should not surprise anyone, that on suggesting he become a Clan Cameron member, he should nominate H.B. as his Branch of choice... and are we chuffed at thatWelcome Home Andrew.!

Canterbury by Nick Cameron

Since the last newsletter we have not achieved any thing of note for our branch. Unfortunately our executive is not functioning properly... we now need the younger members to replace Brian Cameron and Pat Tarbotton who were key members. Our next event will be the Hororata Games on the 8th November. I am hoping to get some support from Allan and Morea Cameron again to help man the tent as I will be competing again with the Cales. Having just heard that the Blackball Butchery has won haggis of the year ..we will try their product out in the tent this year.

Wellington / Wairarapa by Graeme Cameron

The lunch we were planning at Brewtown in Upper Hutt on 31st May was cancelled due to lack of numbers. Hazel and Graeme represented the branch at Manawatu Branch's mid-winter dinner on 28th June at Massey University.



Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:

Auckland Branch: Sally Cameron

Waipukurau

*Ceud Mìle Fàilte One
Hundred Thousand
Welcomes*

With Lochiel in Scotland

Hello everyone!!
I'm thrilled to share that I've made it to Scotland. I arrived on May 19th and was warmly welcomed by Finlay Cameron, who many of you might remember as a First Lighter who visited New Zealand in 2022.

I started off exploring Glasgow and Edinburgh—both stunning cities! I had the chance to visit the Kelvingrove Museum, which was absolutely fascinating, and took a tour of Edinburgh Castle—a truly incredible experience. From there, I caught a train to Inverlair, where I stayed with Finlay's parents, Ken and Rhona Cameron. I visited the Clan Cameron Museum, which offered such amazing insights into the history of the clan, and even saw the ruins of old Achnacarry.

One of the highlights of my trip so far was attending the Atholl Highland Games. We watched Finlay's brother, Sandy, compete in the solos and saw the Atholl Highlanders parade down from Blair Castle to the field—such a spectacular and unforgettable sight! We also toured Blair Castle and its beautiful gardens.

We took a trip into Fort William for a lovely lunch at the Highland Soap Co. Café, and later explored Glen Nevis with Ken's brother, Ewan. Unfortunately it was a very cold and pouring with rain so I couldn't hike up Ben Nevis, but it's definitely on the list for next time!

I'm now in Invergarry, working at the Glen Garry Castle Hotel, which is going really well. During my days off I have been traveling around a bit and seeing different places. I have been to Fort Augustus and watched the amazing engineering with the Canals letting the boats through by draining and adding the water through the different parts. I have spent time in Inverness looking around the city, went to the small Highland games in Invergarry and watch the local Lochaber school pipe band play which was really cool to see.

More recently I have been to Mallaig with Ken and Rhona and got to watch horses be transported by boat across from the Isles to Mallaig which was very interesting. I have also just brought a car to help me with my travels so I can explore more places.

I am off tomorrow (the 13th of July) to meet with Roddy Cameron who is the president of Clan Cameron Scotland and he is going to show me around Perth and I am sure we will talk lots about the exchange. I am very excited and looking forward to meet him. My parents, brother and sister in law are coming over in August and we will do a tiki tour around Scotland and even up to Orkney and Shetland Isles.

There's still so much to see and do, and I'm really looking forward to discovering more of this beautiful country.

If you want to follow my adventures I have a Facebook and Instagram page under "Seven Generations Later".

Until next time,

Lochiel Nielsen

First Lighter 2025



Left: Lochiel and the Glenfinnan Viaduct. Centre: Mallaig—Horses being transported by boat from the Isles to the Mainland. Right: The very colourful Victoria Street in Edinburgh.

Coming Events

Saturday 16 August 2025
Auckland Branch Annual Dinner
The Parnell, Gladstone Rd, Parnell.
\$70 per head.

Flyer on CCNZ website.

Saturday 13 September 2025
Scottish Clans Assn Auckland
AGM and Ceilidh
Harmony Hall, Wynyard St., Devonport.
AGM 2pm, Ceilidh 2pm.
Price for Ceilidh \$15 or free for students.

Sunday 14 September 2025
Manawatu Branch Afternoon Tea.
Afternoon tea and visit to Villa Candotti
— a local Tuscan-inspired garden.

Saturday 8 November 2025
Hororata Highland Games
Hororata Domain.
www.hororatahighlandgames.org.nz



The Parade, Fort William



Lupins by the River Lochy



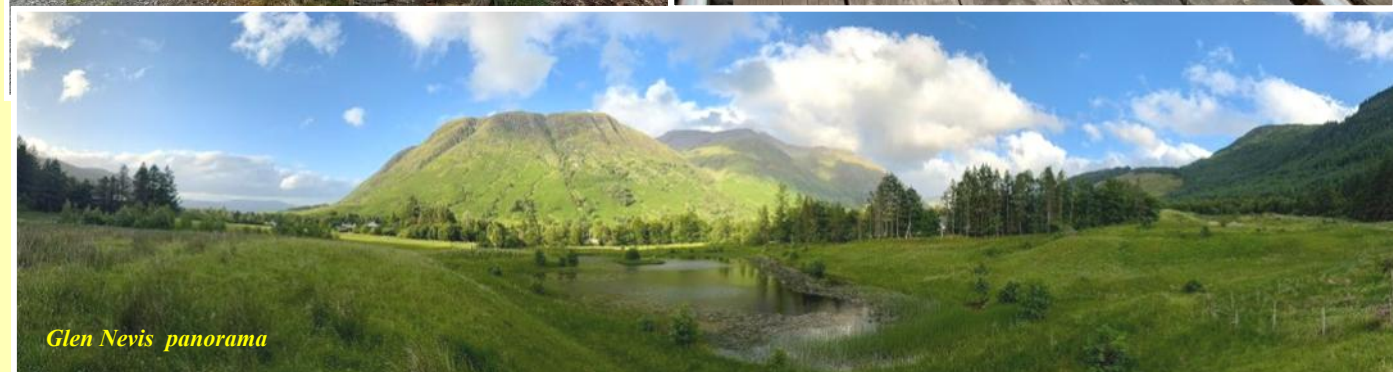
Claggan daffodils.



The old settlement of Drulmarbin.



The West Highland Line from Loch Eil.



Glen Nevis panorama

With Lochiel in Scotland



A selfie taken on top of Edinburgh Castle



I went to the museum and saw this machine, which is how they make tartan kilts and clothes.



The ruins of the old Achnacarry where only the stone chimney remains.



Edinburgh and the Park



Amazing view of Edinburgh Castle from the street.



Got to see and have a tour around Blair Castle.



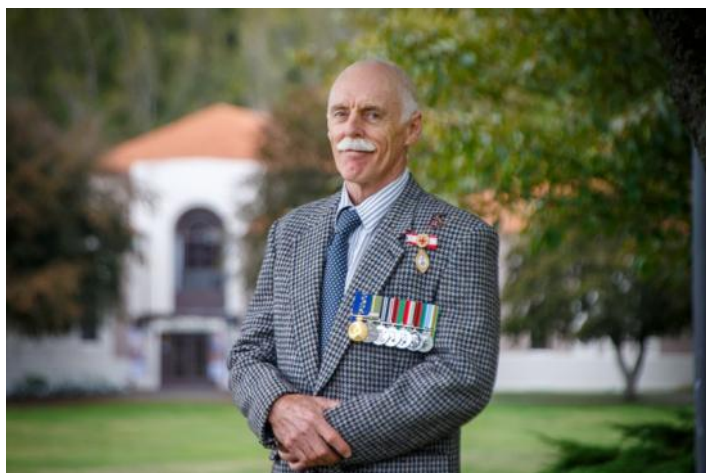
Two best dogs Toddy and Bothy which are Lochiel Terriers



Went to Ben Nevis and had a tour with Ken's Brother Ewen Cameron around the beautiful holiday park and campsite he has set up and I got to meet this lovely Highland Cow.

From pioneer nurse to global humanitarian: a life of service, compassion, and lifelong learning.

With thanks to Massey University



When Andrew Cameron left high school, he never imagined a career in nursing. “I was working in market-gardening for a couple of years,” he recalls. “Then I met a male nurse-in-training at Napier Hospital while visiting an injured friend. I thought that such a caring profession might be a possible career for me — a chance to enter an occupation which makes a true difference to the lives and welfare of others. I gave it a go and it just seemed to stick with me. Actually, I think nursing chose me.”

That decision would lead Andrew to a nearly five decades-long career of courage, service, and compassion.

Breaking ground as a pioneer

Andrew began his nurse training in the 1970s, when male nurses were rare, and role models were even rarer. “Being a male nurse in the 1970s meant I was one of very few,” he says. “Being a male midwife in the 1980s was even more rare. I had no one to look up to as a role model, so I had to forge a way ahead as my own kind of pioneer.”

His journey wasn’t always easy, but it was filled with purpose. “I pressed on with my chosen career and did the best I could,” Andrew says. “I’ve met many wonderful people along the way and have kept a record of all the unusual and interesting moments I experienced – I even wrote a book about them.”

Andrew graduated from Massey University with an Advanced Diploma in Nursing in 1984, and he later completed/graduated with or returned to study a Bachelor of Nursing degree.

Andrew describes Massey as “a great place to study.” “I credit Massey for giving me the foundational skills to take on challenging work. The knowledge in biosciences, evidence-based practice, integrated care, and acute care skills have set me up well to manage this kind of work.” These core skills would prove critical in the most demanding environments – from remote outposts to war zones.

A turning point with the Red Cross

After 15 years of growing his nursing skills, Andrew made a bold shift to humanitarian work. “Yes, it was a turning point,” he reflects. “The Red Cross is a wonderful worldwide organisation based on neutrality, independence and impartiality. I only have great words to say about my deployments, the people I worked with, and the results we accomplished.”

Since 2005, Andrew has worked in crisis zones across the globe with various organisations – including Afghanistan, South Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Sierra Leone, Georgia, Rwanda, Djibouti, and the Solomon Islands – often in the most extreme circumstances. Most recently, Andrew served in a military trauma ward in eastern Ukraine, providing care for wounded soldiers and civilians amid armed conflict.

“This was an immense privilege. I worked in the triage area for the wounded, the operating theatres – as a scrub nurse or nurse assisting the surgeon – and in the dressing clinics, dealing with traumatically amputated limbs, gun-shot wounds and so on. It was not so easy on an emotional level, but the soldiers seemed to like having me to care for them.

“I had no set hours of duty, so I decided I would work almost every day and put in as many hours as possible. Every bit of help I can provide is deeply appreciated – it feels like a unique privilege to care for the injured in this conflict.”

Finding strength in difficult moments

Andrew has also faced moments of deep challenge in a long service career. “Several of my close colleagues have been killed in the field of duty. This is never an easy situation to deal with,” he shares.

During one deployment in Yemen, he was falsely accused of being a spy. “I was once locked up in a prison for a few days... My interrogator threatened me with execution. This was rather a tough challenge to deal with.”

He credits the Catholic Sisters of Compassion in New Zealand for helping him find peace and strength. “For me, those sisters are a marvellous source of quietude, solace, peace and light.

Courage in the face of adversity

Andrew returned to the stage as a guest speaker at Massey’s recent graduation ceremony. He reflected on the personal value that has defined his career: courage.

“Courage is one of the driving forces of my life as a nurse. It is one of the most essential qualities in nursing. It is not about being fearless but about taking action in the face of that fear.”

Andrew knows this reality well. He has served in places where few others dared to go. “It has been better to choose the



Andrew with elders at a meeting in Afghanistan.

more difficult option,” he said, recalling his choices to work in challenging locations such as Lashkar Gah and Tarin Kowt in Afghanistan, or a windswept outpost south of Baghdad. “Looking back, I gained a far greater sense of accomplishment than I would have otherwise.”

It’s a perspective grounded in experience and humility. “The value is not in perfection, but in the courage to act, to strive, and to keep going – when things get difficult,” he said in his speech. “You will make mistakes, but these shall not define you.

Lifelong learning and teaching

Andrew’s dedication to professional growth is extraordinary. As he puts it, his nursing studies have been an ongoing journey. He began as a hospital-based trainee at Hutt Hospital, where the programme was 90% practical skills and just 10% textbook learning. After three and a half years, he gained his New Zealand Nurse Registration Certificate.

Realising the importance of formal qualifications for advancement, Andrew pursued a Diploma in Nursing at Massey University – an opportunity he remains deeply grateful for. But change was coming quickly. “Almost overnight, it appeared that the new Bachelor of Nursing (BN) Degree was necessary,” he recalled. True to his commitment, Andrew enrolled again and completed his BN degree.

“It seemed to me then that lifelong learning was going to be essential,” he says. And he’s lived by that belief ever since. He

completed a Master of Tropical Public Health, researching malaria endemicity in the Solomon Islands. He also undertook postgraduate studies in an extraordinary range of fields: Health Economics, Prisoner Health, Infectious Diseases, Radiography, Emergency Nursing, Pre-Hospital Trauma Life-Support, Midwifery, Intensive Care, Immunisation, Ebola Virus Disease Management, Remote and Isolated Practice, Care of the Dead from Mass Casualties, and Gender-based Violence in Emergencies, among others.

"I'm always looking for ways to improve my skills and knowledge," Andrew explains. "The world of knowledge in health care is expanding exponentially, and we have to keep up to date if we are to truly care for the injured and unwell in the best possible way. Standing still is akin to going backwards nowadays."

In 2021, Andrew returned to Massey as a Senior Lecturer in Primary Health Care Nursing. "It was a privilege," he says. "I'm not sure I stuck strictly to the curriculum, but many students told me they found my lectures very useful and thoroughly interesting. The lecture auditoriums were packed."

Recognition and reflection

Andrew's exceptional service was internationally recognised in 2011 when he was awarded the prestigious International Florence Nightingale Medal on International Nurses Day. He stands as the 25th New Zealander to receive this accolade in a century. Further recognition followed with the

Order of Australia in 2013 and the Distinguished Service Award from Massey University in 2015.

Yet he remains humble: "These are more a recognition for the nursing profession as a whole, than for me personally." Andrew continues to write and reflect on his experiences, hoping to pass on valuable insights to future generations.

"Nothing in the world is worth having or doing unless it involves a good deal of effort, difficulty, and even some pain," he advises young nurses. "Life isn't easy, but get up, move, and keep studying. Be a life-long learner."

In his graduation speech, Andrew closed with a message that captured the heart of his life's work: "You are not just graduates; you are the ones who will make a difference in the world. Your kindness, courage and your willingness to grow will shape not only your own future but the future of the patients you serve.

Embrace every challenge, continue to learn, and dare greatly, because the impact you make, will be immeasurable."

And what's next? He's not quite sure – but he's ready for whatever opportunity comes next.

"Life is short, so you have to make the most of such chances."



Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band and the important connection with Clan Cameron

by Anne Walker Long.

Clan Cameron Manawatu celebrated and honoured Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band's Centenary at their annual mid-winter dinner on Saturday 28th June 2025, held at Wharerata Convention Centre, Massey University.

Members of the Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band were hosted by the Clan. Clan members and supporters gathered from as far afield as Wellington, Wairarapa, and Auckland to enjoy an evening of Clan Cameron hospitality, and entertainment.

Guest speaker, Stewart McKenzie Pipe Major for the Manawatu Scottish Number 1 Band, outlining the history of the Band, which was established in 1925 by Gallipoli veteran Vic Nicholson, and the leadership of McKenzie, Easton, Walkey, Cotton and Sinclair families who have continued the legacy throughout the years and maintained passion for the culture and music that resonates with us all.

The Clan Cameron association with Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band began in the 1930's when the Band began to wear the Cameron of Erracht tartan and later the Cameron Modern tartan. In 1963 Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band became the official Clan Cameron pipe band and have regularly piped Clan events.

Many in the Manawatu will recall the visit of Clan Chief Donald of Lochiel in 1984 and the care, pride and precision that was taken by Manawatu Scottish in preparing to pipe for the Clan

Chief during an evening gathering in the garden of the Pukemarama homestead, home of our Branch Patron, Ian McKelvie.

Manawatu Scottish Number 1 Pipe Band is currently NZ Grade 1 Champion, following the Band's success at the national competition in Invercargill earlier this year. They are regular finalists at the World Championship, securing 4 Top 10 finishes, making them the most successful band from the southern hemisphere this century. In August 2025 Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band will return to Glasgow to compete in the World Championships, and European Championships. Manawatu Scottish remains in great heart, fields successful Grade 1 and Grade 2 Bands, and has a large Youth Band under the guidance of Stewart Easton to secure the future.

At Clan Cameron Manawatu's mid-winter dinner, Stewart McKenzie and Stella Dobbs, pipers in the Number 1 Band, played a medley of tunes to entertain us. We were thrilled and awed by the skill of this duo.

In addition, local pipers Ashton Murphy from Manawatu Scottish Youth Band, and Clan Cameron member, and member of the Number 2 Band, Patrick Coogan (a descendent of Donald the Piper) each played a big part in the evening. Both played to welcome guests at the door, Ashton piped in the Top Table, and Patrick piped in the Haggis, and then both played for us individually later in the evening. Fourteen-year-old Ashton's rendition of 'Amazing Grace' was memorable, and pitch perfect.

Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band have published a history of the band entitled "Tales and Tunes" which is now available for purchase at \$50 Contact:

manawatuscottishpipeband@gmail.com.



Insert: Manawatu Scottish Number 1 Band, celebrating their National Championship win in 2025.

NO LONGER FORGOTTEN AFTER 80 YEARS – THE 51ST HIGHLAND DIVISION

By Kenny Grant. West Highland Museum.

ST VALERY-EN-CAUX JUNE 1940

In his book, ‘Fo Sgàil A’ Swastika’ (“Under the Shadow of the Swastika”)(1), Donald John MacDonald recounts what happened when his Battalion, 4th Queens Own Cameron Highlanders, were told of the decision made by the Commander of the 51st Highland Division, Major General Victor Fortune, to surrender to German forces. In Donald John’s account, the order to ‘ground arms’ was given. In their disbelief at this shocking turn of events, nobody moved. The order was repeated. Any lingering reluctance to obey was quickly dispelled by a burst of German machine-gun fire over the heads of the Highlanders. Estimates vary, but between 8000 -10000 troops of the 51st Highland Division became prisoners of war at St Valery-en-Caux, Normandy, on Wednesday 12 June 1940.

None of this would have seemed possible when the 51st landed in Le Havre in January 1940.

The division, part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF), served initially in the Pas de Calais. However, in April it was placed under the command of the French X (10th) Army and sent to the Saarland area, which included the Maginot Line. This was intended to give some combat experience against German fighting patrols, which were especially active in that area.

On 10 May, the German offensive in the West began. Against all expectation, German armoured and motorized divisions, simply bypassed the Maginot Line. Within a fortnight they had encircled the BEF around Dunkirk. The 51st HD was cut off from the rest of the BEF. After much indecision in the upper echelons of the French military, the Highlanders were eventually positioned on the south bank of the River Somme. Upon the conclusion of the evacuation of British and French troops from Dunkirk, the 51st readied itself for a renewed German onslaught. On 4 June, the 51st launched an attack on the German bridgehead at Abbeville but suffered heavy casualties and was forced back.

It was clear to General Fortune that he did not have the firepower or manpower to withstand the German offensive. Unfortunately, on 8 June General Weygand, the French commander-in-chief refused General Fortune permission to head for evacuation at Le Havre with all due speed. The 51st was obliged to retreat in tandem with the 31st French Division. The latter could only march 18km daily in the hours of darkness, a pace which enabled General Erwin Rommel’s 5th Panzer Division, 2nd Motorised Division, followed by the 5th and 31st Infantry Divisions, to out flank the Highlanders, and cut off their escape route to Le Havre.

The port of Dieppe to the east had been damaged and was coming under pressure from the eastern pincer of Rommel’s forces. Accordingly, General Fortune was obliged to set his forces in a perimeter square around St Valery. Set between high cliffs, St Valery was not any easy port from which to mount an evacuation. It became virtually impossible to do so when the Germans broke through onto the high ground to the west of the port on 11 June. Although the Royal Navy had assembled an armada of over 200 small ships for an evacuation, German shellfire prevented them getting anywhere near the port. In a cruel twist of fate, the relative safety of darkness on 11 June was accompanied by fog. Ultimately, around 2000 British and French troops were evacuated in small

boats from the beach at Veules-les-Roses, a small resort to the east of St Valery. However very few of these came from the Highland infantry regiments still defending the St Valery perimeter and town.

At 0800 on 12 June, French forces in the area surrendered. General Fortune faced an impossible situation. His remaining troops had fought to a standstill. He had no means of replenishing exhausted supplies of water, food and ammunition. His Division was severely outnumbered and out gunned. It was surrounded, with no means of escape. He gave the order to surrender at 1000. Later that day, he set off with his men towards 5 years of captivity.

INDIVIDUAL SNAPSHOTS

The St Valery campaign has many examples of individual courage, fortitude and humanity, as can be seen from the following:

Captain (Reverend) Duncan MacInnes, chaplain of the 7th Argylls. In the absence of the Regimental Aid Post at Franleu, he took it upon himself to rescue the wounded under heavy fire and care for them in the cellar Franleu Chateau. He insisted that his commanding officer make good his escape by volunteering to remain with the wounded and dying until the Germans came to take them prisoner. He was awarded the Military Cross for his actions.

Company Sergeant Major (CSM) MacDonald, B Company, 4th Camerons, was known as the “muc” in Gàidhlig (or “pig” in English) to his men, because he was such a strict disciplinarian. It was widely believed that he would not hesitate to put his granny on a charge, and the rest of his family too, if necessary. During the attack on Huchenneville, near Abbeville, on 4 June, his company commander, Captain the Viscount Fincastle, was killed. CSM MacDonald retrieved his personal effects, including his pocketbook. From it there fell a photograph of the Viscount, Lady Fincastle and their two-year-old son. As he looked at it, tears were seen to be rolling down the cheeks of this most robust of characters.

Lt John McKillop, (Royal Army Medical Corps), a doctor in the 2nd Seaforth’s, was badly wounded when the Regimental Aid Post, located in a barn at St Sylvain, near St Valery, was shelled and set on fire. Knowing his wounds were mortal, he nonetheless insisted on continuing to direct operations, with one unconfirmed report suggesting that he did so from a wheelbarrow, moved around by one of his men. He died of his wounds that evening.

2nd Lt Brian Hay, 1st Gordons, was cut off from his battalion on the St Valery perimeter on 11th June. He encountered a confusing situation there, with groups of soldiers, separated from their units, milling around. He took command of the situation and established defensive positions. A French officer, who had previously surrendered to the Germans, came on their behalf and asked Hay to surrender. In the words of Eric Linklater in his book, *The Highland Division*, Hay gave him his answer, which it would be unseemly to print here: “it was brief, it was loud, it was impolite. ‘Take that to your German General,’ said Hay.” (2)

The nameless Black Watch soldier who scared the wits out of Company Quarter Master Sergeant (CQMS) Gregor MacDonald of the Camerons, then provided a moment of light relief. CQMS MacDonald was leading men of B Company on the retreat from Huchenneville, when he heard a squeaking noise coming towards his group. A moment later a solitary soldier appeared out of the dusk, carrying a pail with a squeaky handle and wearing a balmoral with a red hackle. MacDonald asked what he was doing. “Lookin’ for a muckle great coo tae mulk”, replied the bearer of the rusty bucket. On being told the Germans were in force behind the Camerons, the soldier responded thus: “OK. There’s another ferm further back. I’ll try it.” Off he ambled, seemingly without a care in the world(3).

A POETIC REMEMBRANCE

As we remember the valour and unstinting sacrifice of those who gave their all 80 years ago, it is fitting to ponder on the words of Donald John MacDonald, the Gàidhlig Bard of South Uist.

Na Gillean nach Maireann (The Boys That Are No More)

Thuit à Uibhist gillean uasal – Eadar Deas is Tuath bha ‘n àireamh – Gillean grinn an tùs an òige, Cuid nach d’ fhuaradh bèo no bàs dhiubh.

Camshronaich à tir nam beanntan ‘S far na Galltachd gillean àlainn – Leam is bochd gu bheil sibh sinne Fad’ bhon tìr san deach ur n-àrach.

There fell from Uist noble lads – From North and South the numbers – Fine men in first flush of youth, Some never found alive or dead.

Camerons from the land of mountains And from the Lowlands, splendid lads – Sad for me that you are lying Far from the land which reared you. (4)

NOTE. Maps showing the St Valery campaign can be found on www.51hd.co.uk

REFERENCES

1. *Fo Sgàil A’ Swastika*. Dòmhnall Iain MacDòmhnail (Donald John MacDonald), with an introduction, notes and parallel translation by Bill Innes. Publisher: Acair, Stornoway, 2000.

2. *The Highland Division At War*. Eric Linklater. Publisher: HMSO, London, 1942.

3. *A Cameron Never Can Yield*. Gregor MacDonald. Publisher: Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders Regimental Association, Inverness, 1999.

4. MacDonald, 2000, op.cit. (4)



General Rommel beside General Fortune at St Valery (courtesy of Imperial War Museum)

With thanks to Kenny Grant

Kenny was a valued volunteer at the West Highland Museum, Fort William and The Highlanders Museum, Fort George

Postscript (from the Highlanders Museum Fort George)

The huge number of men killed or taken prisoner was a great blow to the 51st Division. However, the remaining soldiers continued to fight: in the North Africa campaigns of 1942 and in Sicily in 1943. Between 6th-10th June 1944, the 51st Highland Division returned to Normandy, supporting the first wave forces that landed on D-Day.

The 51st Highland Division and the 15th Scottish Infantry Division fought for the liberation of Douvres-la-Delivrande, Caen, Falaise and Lisieux among others. Field Marshall Montgomery deliberately sent the 5th Seaforth Highlanders and the 5th Cameron Highlanders back to liberate Saint-Valery-en Caux, allowing them to avenge the great loss they had suffered four years earlier.

Pictures from “Cameron” of 20 years ago



Lochiel’s representative Lt. Col Charles Cameron and his wife Felicia with the Māori welcoming party at the Powhiri that started the International Gathering at St. Kentigern College, Auckland.



First Lighter Heather Cameron outside the school on the Isle of Eigg, where she taught during her exchange in 2005



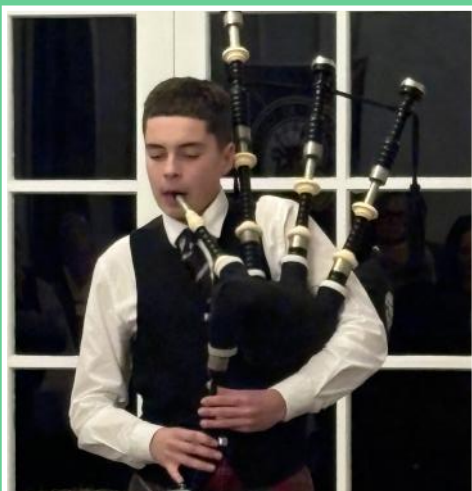


Annual Manawatu Dinner

Photos by Anne Walker Long, Dale and Rob Cameron



*Left: Attendees at the Manawatu Clan Cameron annual dinner at the historic Wharerata homestead at Massey University.
Right: Stewart McKenzie and Stella Dobbs piping*



14 year old Ashton Murphy piping



Rob Cameron with Stewart McKenzie.



Raffle winners Dale and Rob.



Patrick Coogan, with his family, Catherine Coogan, grandmother Margaret Coogan, and Matthew Coogan.



←
Pipe Major Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band Stewart McKenzie was the guest speaker at the Clan Cameron NZ annual dinner. Stewart spoke of the long association with Clan Cameron which is much valued. Fresh off their success at being Grade A champions at the NZ Pipe Band Championships this month they are off to the World Championships in Glasgow this August



Bruce Cameron addresses the haggis



Auckland President Rob Cameron speaks with Manawatu President Russell Cameron



Dale talks about the Achnacarry Gathering