



Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.

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Footsteps in the snow on the summit of
Ben Nevis at sunrise. *Photo Bill Cameron*

Clan Cameron NZ

90

years old in 2026



The new Canterbury President, Allan Cameron,
with his wife Morea



Vale - Jo Cameron

“Cameron”

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

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A Message from our Commissioner....



Nga mihi nui, failte, greetings

We have just completed a very nice annual gathering in Auckland. It was great to meet and connect, discuss what has been going on over the last year and talk about plans for the future. We have been celebrating our 90th birthday with Clan Cameron being discussed onboard the *SS Orama* in Wellington Harbour on 29th December 1935 and the first meeting held in November 1936. That meeting was of course so close to the original anchorage of the *Blenheim* which arrived at the same time of year in 1840 almost a century before. Our primary founders were Dr. Percy Cameron, (who served as the first President), Ian D. Cameron, P. M.

Cameron, and D. C. Cameron.

Though wars and pandemics have disrupted our development we can still be very proud of the modern clan in New Zealand. We have members across the country interested in continuing of Scottish heritage, learning about our history and customs and investing in the future. I said at the AGM that one of our Crown jewels is the First Light Exchange which has reconnected us with Lochaber and introduced some of Scots Camerons to the beauty and diversity of our country on the other side of the World. I then went on to acknowledge how important our Newsletter was to our connection. The meeting passed a vote of thanks to the stunning work of Neil Cameron who has produced what must be one of the best Clan newsletters now for 20 years. Thank you so much Neil. (He was re-elected for another year)

A special thanks needs to go to President Rob Cameron of the Auckland branch for the wonderful hosting of the gathering in Parnell. Thank you to you and the committee for the excellent preparations and the warm welcome to Tamaki Makaurau. At the very heart of being a member of a Clan is coming together to share our stories, customs and foods.

Can I thank all those who freely give of their time and energy to Clan Cameron in the many roles and leadership positions. It is great to have you enthusiastically continue the 90 years of activity and fellowship. As the Chief Donald Lord Cameron of Lochiel observed in his video message “just 10 more to go to make the centenary.” Thank you all for re-electing me as President for another year.

I was heartbroken to learn of the passing of Jo Cameron of the Manawatu branch. Jo was an amazing genealogist and researcher. She led the international Cameron DNA project and learnt so much about our ancestors and their families. Our deepest condolences and thanks for what Jo did for us to Dean and family. I was able to join the funeral online and Jo's Cameron legacy was beautifully relayed to her service by the family.

I also want to acknowledge the passing of another Clan Cameron Manawatu member Sam Cameron. Sam was a wonderful and generous member of Clan Cameron and we extend our condolences to her loving husband Bruce Cameron.

Aonaibh ri Cheile

Dale Cameron Bailey



Left: President Dale with Lena Orum,
Chair of Clan Matheson New Zealand

Next Magazine Deadline is 15 July 2026

Printed By

Obituary Joanne (Jo) Cameron

By Dale Cameron Bailey, New Zealand President.



Joanne “Jo” Cameron (née Wood), of Feilding, passed away peacefully at home on Monday 4 May 2026, aged 54, surrounded by her family after a long illness borne with great courage. Beloved soulmate of 33 years to Dean, devoted mother of James, Daniel, and Emma, treasured daughter of the late Marie Wood (née James), and much-loved daughter-in-law of Ross and the late Shirley Cameron, Jo was also a dearly loved sister,

sister-in-law, cousin, aunt, and friend to many.

Jo will be remembered as a woman of intelligence, kindness, humour, and generosity whose presence enriched every community she served. A long-time member of Clan Cameron Manawatū, she was a regular and valued presence at Clan events and a dedicated co-administrator of the Clan Cameron Manawatū Facebook page, where she faithfully shared news, stories, and items of interest with members near and far.

Together with Dean, Jo helped coordinate the Clan Cameron Branch presence at the Turakina Highland Games for a number of years, ensuring the Clan tent was raised in Clan Avenue and that visitors were warmly welcomed throughout the day. Her service to the Clan extended internationally through her co-administration, with Loraine Smith of Canada, of the global Clan Cameron Y-DNA Project. Her knowledge of Cameron lineages and genetic history was widely respected, and she proudly shared the project’s progress with the Clan at the International Gathering in Scotland in 2024.

Beyond her Clan work, Jo made a lasting contribution as a teacher aide at Feilding Intermediate School, where she supported and encouraged many students over the past decade. She gave generously of herself in every sphere of life and will be forever loved and deeply missed by her family, friends, colleagues, the wider community, and all whose lives she touched.

Loraine Smith, Jo’s friend and co-administrator on the Cameron DNA Project, reflected that Jo’s “solid understanding of Cameron lineages, agile intelligence, delightfully irreverent sense of humour, honesty and humility, deep kindness and generosity” left a lasting mark, and that her work for the Clan “will endure for generations.” Jo’s work with Loraine was featured in the International Gathering’s official publication documenting the project and the Cameron genealogies. Jo was in high demand at the gathering at Achnacarry and was our Clan Cameron New Zealand flag bearer.

A very fitting celebration of Jo’s life was held in Feilding, on Friday 8 May 2026. Clan Cameron was well represented with Bruce Cameron piping and with a recorded performance by First Lightner Finlay Cameron. The eulogy beautifully acknowledged her deep interest in Clan Cameron and genealogy. It also spoke of a loving mother and a caring compassionate person.

By Loraine Smith

Jo’s world and mine intersected in 2017, shortly after BigY testing revealed the surprise of a common genetic origin between Clan Cameron and Clan Macnab. Right from the jump, I was impressed with a handful of things: her solid

understanding of Cameron lineages, her agile intelligence, her delightfully irreverent sense of humour, her honesty and humility, her deep kindness and generosity. Over the course of the next almost 10 years, we forged a fantastic collaboration on the Cameron yDNA project, but more importantly, a true friendship. She was the best friend I never met.

There isn’t a Cameron alive who shouldn’t be grateful to Jo; the work she did on Cameron lineages and on the DNA project will endure for generations.

She loved her family fiercely, and was gutted to be leaving Dean and her children behind. I know she’ll be watching over you There’s a Jo-shaped hole in our lives.

Tioraidh an-dràsta, mo charaid. Gus am bris an latha.

Loraine Smith
Cameron DNA Project Co-admin
Seannchaidh to the Chief of Clan Macnab



Above: Jo and Dean at the 2024 Achnacarry Gathering with Lochiel walking in the background

Below: Our honour party ahead of the march pass, Jo Cameron, Dean Cameron, Sarah Mc Queen



From the Branches....

Auckland by Rob Cameron

We held our Branch AGM on the 19th of April at the Parnell Cricket Club Junior Pavilion. After many years securing the Branch's finances, Neil passed the responsibility to Hillary Hakaraia who now acts as the Branch's Secretary/Treasurer. We discussed the final plans for the Clan Gathering before holding a barbeque for those who attended.

Dale decided to host the executive meeting, we usually have before the National AGM, digitally on the 4th of May, two weeks prior to the AGM. It was a great idea to split the meetings like this so that we can concentrate on the rest of the weekend.

We held a 'meet and greet' barbeque at the Carlton Cornwall Bowling Club on May 15th, prior to the Gathering AGM, this was attended by a small number of people. There was a good amount of discussion at the AGM.

The Gathering dinner on May 16th was the jewel of the weekend, one of the best we have organized. The guest count reached 100, supported by other clans and other branches. The Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club were particularly good this year having a line up of young talent including a solo from Sophie Madsen. We had a very popular raffle selling all available tickets raising over \$700 for First Light. We had two update videos from Scotland, one from our Chief, Lord Lochiel, and one from First Lighter Lochiel Neilsen.

Clan members were invited to the First Presbyterian St Andrews Church for their Sunday service as the final event of the Gathering. Again there was a small number of people who attended.

The Scottish Clans Association has a lot to do this year. With the help from Dale and Lena, the association is hosting a Tartan Day event at the Auckland Museum on Saturday June 27th. This will have demonstrations of Scottish Country Dancing, Highland Dancing, Piping and Drumming, and of course the Haggis Address. This free to the public event will be a great advertisement for Scottish culture.

I also attended a meeting with various stake holders for the Auckland Highland Games at Lloyd Elsmore Park in Pakuranga. This included the Parks Rugby Club, the Howick Historical Village representatives, the previous runners of the Howick Tattoo, and City Council. Everyone there was very keen to get the Highland Games back up and running, so keep 21st of November free in your calendar.

Manawatu by Anne Walker Long

It is with a heavy heart that I write this column for the newsletter. Clan Cameron Manawatu sadly lost two of our precious members in the last couple of months. Samantha (Sam) Cameron, and Joanne (Jo) Cameron, having been ill for some time, both passed away within a month or so of each other. We are deeply saddened to lose these wonderful women too soon, and our thoughts and aroha remain with Bruce, and Dean and their respective families during this time.

Sam farmed alongside husband Bruce Cameron at Turakina, and loved her farming life there. At Sam's memorial we learnt a lot about this resilient and capable woman, her love for her family, and friends, and the respect with which she was held in the Hunterville community.

Jo made a huge contribution not only to our Branch activities, and to Clan Cameron by co-leading the global Clan Cameron Y DNA project, which has helped map the genetic history of our Clan. Travelling to the International Gathering in 2024 was an opportunity for her to share this project with the



Clan members, and travelling with Dean and daughter Emma, made this trip memorable for them all.

Both Sam and Jo will be deeply missed by their families, and by us all at Clan Cameron Manawatu.

Issac Grant had intended to take up the 2026 First Light opportunity, but Issac's travel plans changed due to the current global upheaval. Accordingly we cancelled that planned farewell in early May.

We are concentrating on our next event being the Annual Mid-Winter Clan Cameron Manawatu dinner on Saturday 13th June at Wharerata, Massey University. We have secured a great local guest speaker, Jerry Shearman, will have piping entertainment throughout the evening and the essential haggis ceremony to opening proceedings. All Clan members and friends are invited. Please see the advertisement in the current newsletter, or contact clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com for more information or to register interest. Come and join us for a great night. Cost is \$65 and RSVP date closes on Sunday 7th June.

A few of our Branch members will be attending the Annual Gathering and AGM in Auckland on May 15-17th and we look forward to hearing back.

Canterbury by Allan Cameron

Greetings clan members,
By way of introduction, I am a descendant of the Blenheim Cameron family headed by Donald "The Weaver". My line is through Donald "The Piper", Walter, Ronald and Rodney, my father. Morea is my wife, and our son Rob is the current Auckland branch president.

I was born in Masterton and spent my early years in the Wairarapa and Rangitikei regions. After leaving home in Ohingaiti, I joined the Airforce in 1978.

After serving twenty years in the Airforce specialising in jet engines, I transitioned to civilian life, working for Safair Ltd and now Airbus as an aircraft engineer based in Blenheim. Throughout my career, I have served on numerous committees, gaining valuable experience in the essential facets of voluntary organisations. I firmly believe that such groups must be led by inspiration and will not survive disharmony.

From a young age, I have been aware of Clan Cameron, and I appreciate the importance of family connections and shared history. These values have brought us together and must be preserved for the benefit of future generations.

I believe our clan is prominent both here and in many other countries because of the inherited values of lineage and the significance of continuing our proud heritage. Clan Cameron members are intelligent, resourceful, and adaptable, capable of tackling any challenge. This diversity enriches us all and forms the vibrant tapestry of Clan Cameron.

Being elected president of the Canterbury branch is an honour and I am committed to serving our South Island members—past, present, and future. I have several initiatives to discuss with our committee, focusing on engagement and recruitment, which are priorities for many organisations today.

I look forward to meeting all members and hearing any ideas you may have to ensure our clan remains relevant for generations to come.

Kind regards,

Allan



First Light News

by Bryan Haggitt—First Light Convenor



Since my April Report there has been only one major development in that Isaac Grant is not now going to Scotland. The uncertainties of recent international events and flight restrictions have led to Isaac withdrawing from the Exchange. He was only to have gone for the UK summer - needing to be back so as to return to West Australia for the harvest there – earning to carry him through 2027 when he returns to university. Fortunately he and President Dale have managed to obtain a full refund of Isaac's return ticket.

Perhaps sad but maybe a wise decision and Isaac may be able to take up being a First Lighter later following his graduation from Lincoln. What was most pleasing was that Isaac flew up to Auckland and attended our Annual Dinner at The Parnell – great for him to meet our wider membership and for them to meet him!

Also in Auckland were Lochiel Nielson's parents, Garry and Malissa, and they attended both the Friday evening BBQ at the Carlton Cornwall Bowling Club and the Dinner. Meantime, as reported in April, Lochiel herself is now working in Edinburgh and flatting with an Australian friend. Her job is in early childhood education. Her video, which was shown at the Dinner, shows that she is very much enjoying the work and really making the most of her First Light experience. Lochiel has grown so much in confidence and demonstrates hugely the benefits of the First Light Exchange! I reported previously of the interview Lochiel gave to the reporter from the Lochaber Life and the great coverage that she got – full cover photo and another full page inside the newspaper. No bites yet from any young Scots to come here but, surely, some with Cameron blood must have a sense of adventure?

Those with spirit couldn't all have left the homeland in

the 19th and 20th centuries – yet again, I ask that some young Cameron apply to come out for our 2026/27 summer and take the opportunity to widen their horizons!

Clan Cameron Manawatu

Invite you to join us for a
Mid-winter Clan Cameron Manawatu Dinner
Saturday 13th June 2026— 6pm pre-dinner drinks
Wharerata Function Centre—Massey University

** Enjoy the **Haggis Ceremony** in the ambience of the historic Wharerata homestead at Massey University, Palmerston North
** Cash bar available ** Wonderful **Raffles** **
Piping and entertainment throughout the evening

Cost **\$65** per person. Please note Wharerata is a cashless bar—EFTPOS available.
Please RSVP by
Sunday 7th June 2026 - by emailing
clancameronmanawatu@gmail.com, or
Phone/text 027 415 4105.

Please pay by internet banking to
Clan Cameron Manawatu
02-0727-0307628-00 noting your full name and 'dinner' as reference

With Lochiel in Scotland

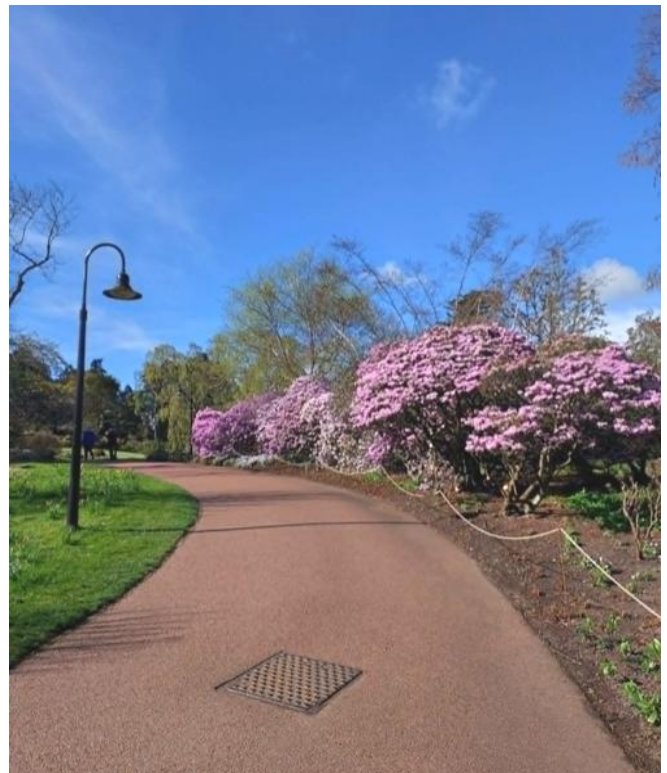
Lochiel Nielsen

Hello everyone! Here is a little update from me. I've been living in Edinburgh for about 2-3 months and I'm honestly loving it so far. It's such a beautiful city, and it's been really fun slowly getting to know different parts of it and settling into a routine over here. It is starting to slowly warm up with the start of summer coming up which is quite nice! Work has also been going really well. I've started a job in early childhood education, working in a nursery. It's been busy, but really rewarding, and I'm learning a lot every week and building lots of experience.

I recently went to Copenhagen, which was an awesome trip. Denmark is where my dad's side of the family originally comes from, so it was really special to visit and see where that side of the family has its roots. It is such a vibrant and cool city with lots to do and some very yummy bakeries!! I'm hoping to do a bit more travelling over the summer while I'm living over this side of the world.

One thing that's happened recently that I have joined a pipe band and learning tenor drumming. That's been a lot of fun so far, although I'm definitely still learning. At the moment I'm mostly focused on improving and getting comfortable with everything, but hopefully later in the season we'll be able to get into a few competitions as well.

Hope everyone's doing well back home, and keeping warm!



Colourful trees slowly starting to bloom in the Spring in Edinburgh. Photo: Lochiel Nielsen

2026 AGM and Gathering

Photos: Jean, Dale, Rob, Bryan



Clan Matheson members at the Gathering dinner



President Dale and Treasurer Hillary Hakaraia preside at the AGM



Longtime members Jean and Duncan McQueen



The wonderful Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club Band entertain us.



Auckland President Rob Cameron, who masterminded the Gathering programme.



At Jo Cameron's funeral. Peter Cawkwell, Jessie Annabell, John Annabell, David Weston, Anne Walker-Long, Bryan Barber, Bev Morrissey, Bruce Cameron, John Cameron, Ros Grant, Barbara Barber, and Lindsay Campbell. A large proportion of the folk shown are part of the approximately 200 Cameron - McDonnell of Turakina descendants that Jo Cameron was instrumental in bringing together through her genealogical DNA work. Lindsay Campbell is also part of the same Cameron - McDonnell group. Photo: Elizabeth Shearer

2026 AGM and Gathering

Photos: Neil, Dale, Jean, Rob and Bryan



The display of the wonderful Raffle Prizes donated by members.



Sunday service at St. Andrew's First Presbyterian Church



Judy and Don Cameron, Rhonda McIntyre, Glen Putze, Cass and Hillary Hakaraia and Norman Cameron.



Noel Armstrong and Paul Brown lead the singing of traditional Scottish songs



Auckland President Rob Cameron hands over the Vivienne McConnell Banner to the Manawatu President Russell Cameron. On left are the Blenheim Pipes



Clan MacKenzie members Catherine and Nicole Jellard, Philippa and Andre Peyroux.



Rev. Bryan Haggitt addresses the haggis with his daughter Katie on left.



Auld Lang Syne. Malissa and Garry Nielsen with Morea and Allan Cameron (Canterbury President)



Master of Ceremony Duncan McQueen with Linnae Pohatu

I. D. Cameron Dress Cup

By Liz Cheetham and Malissa Nielsen

The Wairarapa Fern and Thistle Pipe Band recently won the I D Cameron Dress Cup for the best presented band at the RNZPBA Wellington Hawkes Bay Centre competition in Palmerston North.

This Cup was presented by the late I. D. (Ian Donald) Cameron, OBE, of Mauriceville, Masterton, to recognise excellence in band dress and uniform standards over all grades in this contest.

Ian Cameron was a prominent figure in Scottish cultural organizations in New Zealand, in particular being Chieftain of Clan Cameron New Zealand from 1959-1983. He was very involved in piping and national highland dancing and in 1946 organised and assisted in founding the first National Academy of Highland Dancing. He was also recognized as a life member and a former president of the Highland Pipe Bands Association of New Zealand and was for some years president of the Wairarapa Caledonian Society. I. D. Cameron died in 1984 at the age of 85.

Ian Cameron descended from Donald (The Weaver) and Christina Mclean. With their son Donald (The Piper) and six other siblings who all immigrated from Scotland arriving on the Blenheim in 1840. Donald the Piper been Ian's grandfather. Therefore Ian has many family connections in the Wairarapa.



Wairarapa Fern & Thistle Pipe Band at the National Contest 2026 Inglewood Taranaki

The Cup was presented in 1955, and this is only the 2nd time the cup has come back to the Wairarapa, with The Wairarapa Caledonian Pipe Band winning it in 1964. The Wairarapa Fern and Thistle Pipe Band, which was established in the 1960s and was quite successful back then, has recently invested in significant uniform improvements with the help of fundraising and grants. The wearing of the uniform correctly has also been attended to.

It was with great pleasure that the W F & T Pipe Band was able to take the cup back home this year. The winning of it significant for a grade 4b band to win an open competition up against all other grades.

It was then that the realization of what was achieved along with the family connections of current playing members who were able to trace their ancestry to ID Cameron making the cup even more special to win.



In the band picture are Piper Lawrence Cheetham, Husband of Elizabeth (Liz) being IDs Granddaughter (2nd from left, back row), Drum Seargent Hunter Nielsen, descendant of IDs Grandfather (9th from left, back row), and Base Drummer Garry Nielsen - Husband of Uniform Custodian Malissa, a descendant of IDs Grandfather.(7th from left, back row)

We also have 4 others in the competition band that have Cameron ancestry, Lisa McKay is from Scotland and her two children Ellie and Jacob. Kit Thomson is the other. (Lisa is front 6th from left, Jacob is back 6th from left, Ellie is front 8th from left Kit is front 9th from left)



Ian D Cameron

Ian D Cameron

By Editor—From Clan Cameron NZ History 1935-2000

Ian Cameron became a founder member of Clan Cameron New Zealand after the visit of the liner *Orama*, commanded by Lochiel's representative Captain Evan P Cameron, to Wellington

The Foundation Committee members in 1936 were:
Dr Percy Cameron, Wellington, President.
Hector Y Cameron, Auckland, Vice President
P M Cameron, Wellington, Secretary/Treasurer
Ian D Cameron, Masterton, Dominion Organiser
(Ian Cameron was entrusted with contacting Camerons throughout the Dominion)

At the beginning of World War Two, clan activities lapsed and the movement went into recess, and then became defunct.

In 1956 Ian attended a Gathering at Achnacarry and was asked by Lochiel, Colonel Donald H Cameron, whether he would revive the Association.

On return to NZ, Ian reformed the branches in nearly all the original centres, and then started new branches in favourable areas.

In the above history reference, the author, Dorothy Cameron Gavin, said that 1959 to 1986 could be described as the era of Ian Cameron, Masterton, who was President throughout those years.

As this is 90th anniversary year, an article about the founding of Clan Cameron NZ will appear later in the year,

Samantha Cameron, who was known to most of us as Sam, wife of Clan Cameron stalwart Bruce Cameron of Hunterville, passed away on 17th March 2026. Sam is greatly missed by her family, friends and local community.

Sam shared Bruce's passion for his heritage and Clan Cameron and was a regular attendee at Clan dinners and events around the country.

Sam will be remembered as an extraordinarily capable, resilient, and kind woman. Having begun dairy farming in Otago as a young woman, she worked in various farm, hospitality and caring roles to support her sons, and for a long time lived at Ohingaiti in the Rangitikei. It was there that she met and married Bruce, and cared for his parents, and her own mother, as they aged and actively supported Bruce as a much loved and valued partner on their dairy farm. Sam loved her farming life in Hunterville with Bruce, where together they had a prize-winning Jersey herd. Sam loved her garden, and in particular her roses, and in most recent years had learnt to knit, making many gifts for family and friends as a result.

It was apparent from the photographic tributes at her memorial service, that she was a beloved wife and mother, and an adored grandmother of her two small grandsons who will miss the fun filled happy days they shared on the farm.

What will not be well known is that Sam was a great swimmer and swimming coach. Having had ambitions to be the youngest person to swim the Cook Strait, Sam swam all her life. She taught essential swimming skills to hundreds of young children over the years. Sam was a valued member to the team at the Hunterville Swimming Club, and an integral part of the local community as the many tributes attest. This is a fine legacy to have left, and Sam will be well remembered and never forgotten.



Loch-na-Chlaidheimh The Loch of the Swords

From *The Rannoch Line (Stories from Mountain, Moor and Loch, first published in 1894)* transcribed by the Editor

Late in the 15th century, Lochiel and the Earl of Athol agreed to meet alone at this loch and settle certain boundary disputes. As Lochiel was on his way to the place of appointment, he was met by an old woman, who stopped the Chief on the moor with a significant question, "Where are your men, Lochiel?" The Chief laughed, but the old woman kept her blear eyes fixed steadily on his face, and croaked out again, "Where are your men, Lochiel?" "Peace, old witch!" said Lochiel, "What need have I of a following? I go only to meet Athol," and he strode off. But the uncanny old woman hobbled after him, caught him by the streaming edge of his cloak, and muttered again, with strange persistence, "Where are your men, Lochiel?"

The Chief could not help feeling uneasy at this obstinate prediction of evil, and gave way, returning to the nearest clachan (a small hamlet) and collecting a 'tail' of sixty-five men, who followed him stealthily and secreted themselves among the heather by the loch-side.

Presently the Earl of Athol was seen approaching alone and Lochiel felt ashamed of his anguish. The two Chiefs met, but soon came to high words, whereupon the Earl waved his hand and twenty Athol Highlanders sprang up from the heather, where they had been posted in advance. "Who are these?" said Lochiel. "Athol wethers," replied the Earl, significantly, "come to graze on Lochaber pastures."

Lochiel had arranged that if he turned his cloak so as to present the red side outwards, it was a signal for his men to

show themselves; this they now did, and three score and five warriors came bounding down the grassy slope. Athol started, and "Who are these?" said he. "Lochaber dogs," replied Lochiel, "sharp toothed and hungry, and, oh! So keen to taste the flesh of your Athol wethers. Give up, Lord Earl, your claim to these lands, for my dogs are fierce and cannot much longer be held in leash."

Peaceful negotiations then ensued, and the Earl of Athol, drawing his sword and kissing it, renounced his claim "through summer's heat and winter's cold"; and sweeping his sword round his head, tossed it into the lake, proclaiming that the land should be Lochiel's till the sword was found.

Singularly, in 1896, a boy fishing in the loch, brought a basket-hilted sword to land, and took it to the minister of the parish, but so alarmed were the Lochaber men on hearing the discovery that they demanded its restoration, and it was again thrown into the loch.

This event is also described in page 20 of John Stewart's book "The Camerons" He identifies the Chief of the time as probably Ewen MacAllan and the witch as Gormshuil, The Witch of Moy.

The Clan Cameron War Cry

Chlanna nan con thigibh a' so 's gheibh sibh feòil!" –
"Sons of the Hounds, Come Hither and Get Flesh!"

This fierce slogan served multiple purposes: it rallied clan members during battle, intimidated enemies, and symbolically reflected the Camerons' reputation as formidable warriors. The imagery of hounds and flesh emphasizes both the clan's ferocity and the call to arms for its members.

Is the above story the origin of the War Cry?

Cameron Families in Turakina—Relationships

By David Weston, Clan Historian and Genealogist.



Anyone who has Cameron connections with Turakina will have sometime scratched their head about which family they are linked to, not helped by the small number of first names each family used. The interconnections can be confusing so here I have tried to give some idea of the different Cameron families with links to Turakina.

“Big John” Cameron and Janet McGregor

One of the first settlers in Turakina, this family originally came from Invermallee, near Achnacarry where John’s grandfather, Alexander Cameron, was tacksman. They were no longer living there by the late 1790’s and John and his family came to New Zealand from the Lochaline area just north of the Isle of Mull when they migrated in 1841 on the *Blenheim*.

His father and a number of his uncle’s owned or managed sugar plantations in the West Indies and Surinam (a Dutch colony on the coast of South America) and John’s father died in Surinam in 1854.

John and Janet came out to New Zealand on the *Blenheim* with 9 children, leaving 2 or 3 in Scotland. Six of their children settled in Turakina; John, Charles, Anne, Archibald, Dugald and Marjorie. John married Mary Robertson, Charles married Catherine McKinnon, Anne married Francis Baldwin, Archibald married Mary Laird, Dugald married Margaret Mitchell, incidentally a daughter of his brother John’s wife, Mary Robertson, and Marjorie married Cumberland McDonell, another well known Turakina family.

John was probably born around 1791 and died in 1881, although some sources give his age at death as 100. He and his wife, Janet, are buried in the Turakina Public Cemetery.

Angus Cameron and Mary McKechnie

John’s brother, or possibly 1/2 brother, Angus Cameron and his wife Mary McKechnie immigrated to New Zealand in 1857 along with their daughter, Anna, and settled in Turakina. Their son, Duncan, arrived a few years later with his wife, Alice Patrick, and they also settled in Turakina.

Anna married Alexander Simpson and then apparently moved to Taranaki.

Duncan Cameron and Alice Patrick had 8 children, Ewen, Thomas, Alice, Angus, Hugh, Margaret, Alexander and Charles, of whom the 3 youngest were born in New Zealand. Three of their children married other Cameron families in the Turakina area, Thomas married Annie who was a daughter of Thomas Ross Cameron, Margaret married William Cameron, a grandson of Big John, and Alexander married Elizabeth Cameron, another daughter of Thomas Ross Cameron.

Angus died in 1876 aged around 80 and Mary in 1862, also said to be around 80. Angus is buried in the Grant Family Cemetery just north of Turakina but there is no record of where Mary is buried.

Donald (the Weaver) Cameron and Christina McLean

This family came from the Ardnamurchan area of the Highlands arriving in New Zealand on the *Blenheim*, bringing 7 children, Dugald, Alexander, Donald, Catherine, Ann, John and Duncan. Donald himself did not come to Turakina but 2 of his children have Turakina connections, Donald, known as the Piper, and Ann, who married James McDonell. Donald

married Isabella Glasgow, this being the first marriage recorded in Turakina in 1853. After the marriage Donald and Isabella moved to the Wairarapa where Donald had other family.

Ann and James McDonell lived in the Turakina/Bulls area and had 11 children. James was the son of Archibald McDonell and Annie McRae. Archibald died in Scotland but Annie came to join family here and is buried in Turakina. At least 9 of Archibald and Annie’s children came to New Zealand. There were a number of marriages between the McDonell’s and various Cameron families in the Turakina area and relationships can be confusing.

Donald and Christina both died in Kaiwharawhara, Donald in 1860 and Christina in 1872.

Donald (Bane or Cooper) Cameron and Mary McPherson

This was another Cameron family that came on the *Blenheim*. Donald and Mary had 11 children but I am unsure that all came to New Zealand. Those that definitely came were Jane, Mary, Allan, Donald, Annie and Alexander. Jane was married to Dugald McLachlan and Dugald, Jane and 7 children also came out on the *Blenheim*.

Mary married Alexander Grant and their descendants continued to farm near Turakina on a family property, Tullochgorum. Donald married Mary Robertson, later to marry a son of Big John, and died in Turakina but appears to have no surviving children, Annie married an Alexander McDonald in Putiki, Whanganui, and Alexander married into the McDonell family mentioned earlier.

Donald and Mary both died in the Turakina area, Donald in 1854, aged around 78 and Mary in 1874 aged around 84. I presume they are buried in the Turakina Public Cemetery. I do not have any information as to where this couple came from in Scotland.

Thomas Ross Cameron and Annie McDonell

I am unsure how long Thomas and Annie lived in the Turakina area for but they are both buried in the Turakina Catholic Cemetery. They came to New Zealand from the Fort Augustus area near Loch Ness. Around 1852 they lived at Parewanui, near Bulls, but later spent time in Australia where some of their children were born. Their Turakina links are probably from Annie McDonell who came from a large family of McDonell’s who settled in the area.

They had 10 children although it is possible not all came to New Zealand. Eight of their children married in New Zealand, Archibald, Annie, Samuel, Flora, James, Hannah, Ronald and Elizabeth. Annie and Elizabeth married grandchildren of Angus Cameron and Mary McKechnie from the Turakina area as noted above.

Thomas died in 1913 aged around 91 and Annie in 1905 aged around 82. They are buried in the Turakina Catholic Cemetery.

John Cameron of Marangai and Anne Sutherland

This couple did not live in Turakina but had a farm on the road between Whanganui and Turakina. John also came out on the *Blenheim* but married Anne, who was employed as his housekeeper, in 1865. John came from the Isle of Mull and Anne from Nova Scotia.

This couple had 5 children, Allan, John, Hector, Mary and James of whom Allan, Hector and Mary married.

While this John Cameron would have known the various Cameron families from Turakina this does not appear to have led to any marriages between his family and those from Turakina.

John died in 1892 aged 75, and Anne in 1884, aged 52. They are buried in Whanganui.

Summary:

Hopefully this gives some idea of the relationships between the families and the complications in trying to sort out these out. Putting John Cameron and Anne Sutherland to one side there were numerous relationships between the 5 families although only Big John and Angus had a blood relationship. If they did not directly marry into one of the other Cameron families there were connections with a number of them marrying into the McDonell family.

I have limited myself to outlining the first generation in this article but if you go down another generation or 2 again there are a number of marriages connecting the different families as well as marriages between cousins within each family.

If any members have further information on these families and their connections I would appreciate receiving this so it can be added to the Clan records.

The 9th Ben Bronze Snowball Run 2026

by Bill Cameron

The story behind the Bronze Model T sculpture in Fort William has been written about a number of times over the years in this newsletter.



The Ben Bronze Model T in Cameron Square. The start and end point of the snowball run.

On the 19th of May 2026, myself and a colleague from Lochaber High made what has now become an annual run up the Ben for a snowball after work.

This year marks nine years since the sculpture was unveiled in Cameron Square on a sunny Saturday morning back in 2018.

The story, however, started back in 1911, when a car salesman from Edinburgh, Henry Alexander, attempted over two days to drive up Ben Nevis in his Model T as an early marketing campaign to sell Model T cars. This early example of motor mountaineering attracted much press attention back in the day and

crowds of people gathered back at Cameron Square to witness the car successfully descend off the snow capped summit and down the meandering rocky track and back to Cameron Square in Fort William from



Gathering snow from the upper slopes of Ben Nevis.



The things we do for a wee bit of fresh ice in a dram.

Since the sculpture was unveiled by the grandson of Henry Alexander back in 2018, thousands of locals and visitors from across the world have stepped up into the car for a seat alongside Henry, or have taken a back seat to have their picture taken. Needless to say the sculpture has been a great addition to the Fort William High Street.

What better way then to celebrate the 9th birthday of the Ben Bronze Model T, than by running up the Ben to gather snow in a flask and run back down to place some snow on the

Scattering some birthday fresh snow on the bonnet of the Ben Bronze Model T.

car bonnet. Thus reestablishing the connection between the car and the mountain.....and maybe the opportunity to have a wee celebratory dram with fresh snow from the slopes of Ben Nevis back in Cameron Square.



A dram on ice, fresh from the Ben.

where it had set off. The Ben Bronze Model T sculpture successfully celebrates this historic adventure up and down Britains highest peak in a car.

Since the sculpture



Aonaibh ri Cheile

The Back Page



Auckland Branch AGM

Above: The Barbecue Team: Cass Hakaraia, Duncan McQueen and Clan Chef Rob Cameron.

Right: Cass and Hillary Hakaraia with Dale Bailey sample the dessert.



Cass Hakaraia, Duncan McQueen, Neil Cameron, Dale Bailey, Jean McQueen, Pam Cameron, Jenny Haggitt, Hillary Hakaraia, Bryan Haggitt, Rob Cameron, Angus Fletcher, Brian Cameron.



Culloden Celebration 2026. The lament played by Sandy Cameron and attended by Lochiel and Scottish Commissioner Roddy Cameron.



The historic paddle steamer Waverley on a misty Loch Linnhe—seen by Bill Cameron on his early morning walk.



A special acknowledgement on ANZAC Day of all that have served. At a time of increased uncertainty in World affairs it is important to remember the service of our Cameron whanau and that of all who served.



An image from the past—No room at the inn! Jean and Duncan McQueen, and Jean's brother John, find their own accommodation for the 1989 Achnacarry Gathering