



filling a gap

RORY CAMERON CAME BACK TO HIS NATIVE INVERNESS IN 2000 ON A GAP YEAR TO WORK WITH HIS UNCLE WILLIE CAMERON. NINE YEARS LATER ITS GAPS IN THE HOSPITALITY MARKET HE'S FILLING

Rory Cameron is the vibrant young director of Loch Ness Coffee Company who own and run the Cobbs Coffee Shop chain.

Rory's main role is Director/Manager of the Loch Ness Clansman Hotel as well as the day to day running of the hotel, together with his fellow Director Fraser Campbell they own a successful outside catering business, most recently operating the Whisky Bar at RockNess.

Here Rory tells us where he came from, how he got where he is today, and of course the future.

Q: What is your connection with the Highlands?

Rory: I was born in Inverness but brought up in Papua New Guinea and Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia. My roots are here in the Highlands where my father Alasdair came from and my late grandparents lived in Inverness.

Q: When you first left school where did you start your working life and had you any ambitions at that stage to do anything in particular?

Rory: My career started off in a furniture making business in Toowoomba, Australia as a apprentice joiner. My goal was to continue as a carpenter and progress into mainly bespoke furniture – how things change!



Also, being able to live and work in one of the most iconic places in the world was an added advantage.

Q: What have been the highlights of your career?

Rory: I was shortlisted for Young Ambassador of the Year in the Highland Tourism Awards. My learning journey to the Jumeirah Hotel Group in Dubai was an eye opener on how customer excellence can be achieved.

"Running Cobbs Whisky Bar at RockNess was an amazing experience. A new venture in our outside catering division"



Rory's journey has taken him to Papa New Guinea, Australia and now the Clansman

Q: How long have you been involved with the Loch Ness Clansman Hotel?

Rory: I have been involved with the Clansman Hotel since February 2007 when our company took over the lease. I have been here at Loch Ness in the hospitality business since 2000. My uncle brought me over from Australia to work at the Drumadrochit Hotel for a gap year and as one can see, it's been a very long gap!

Q: Why did you not return to your original career idea?

Rory: I was totally immersed in the hotel and restaurant culture after starting off as a waiter, then manager of Cobbs Restaurant in Drumadrochit. When the opportunity to become a director arose I grabbed it with both hands and then the challenge of running the Clansman was an opportunity not to be missed.

Running Cobbs Whisky Bar at RockNess was an amazing experience for a new venture in our outside catering division.

Finally, this year I am going to the Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh for three days extensive training.

Q: Your business is in tourism based at Loch Ness – do you believe in the Loch Ness Monster?

Rory: Yes most definitely – I have to as my late grandfather Ian Cameron is well documented as having the longest sighting on record on June 15th 1965. The night he saw it there were nine other witnesses and as we know in any court of law if there are nine witnesses to an incident whose story is the same, judge and jury would find in the positive! The truth is out there – I rest my case! ☐