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GUY JOHN HAMILTON

Guy is the second son of Gavin and Avis Mary Hamilton born on 28 September 1955 at Waipawa. He lived with the family on their farm at Argyll East, Waipawa,

School

Guy attended the Argyll East Primary School and then became a boarder at Lindisfarne College in Hastings for 4 years. He excelled in Cricket, and captained the First X1 for 2 years and still holds the record of most wickets in a match. He was also in the First XV Rugby team for 2 years.

Work

After Lindisfarne Guy gained a Young Farmers Scholarship, and at age 16 went to Minnesota, USA, where he spent 18 months and learning American farming.

On returning to New Zealand he worked in the Research Division of the Ministry of Agriculture at Takapau, (1974) Hawkes Bay. While at the Takapu Research Station he was in a team which developed "*Drought Master*" a Perennial Ryegrass for dry areas of New Zealand. There was also another breeding development of other "*grasses and clovers*" which are now widely used in New Zealand and other grasslands of the world.

Grass grub research became well documented here and has now changed the thinking and the way farming is now carried out in grub prone areas of NZ. He became a Senior Technical Officer in Research and at Takapau co-authored 9 published research papers.

On leaving Takapau in 1984 Guy moved to Wanganui, where he set up and developed the Wanganui Hill Research Station. He became heavily involved in the development of animal fibre from both sheep and goats. Feral wild goats were captured and assessed for their fine cashmere fibre, along with the introduction of the Angora goats for their pure white mid range micron fleeces and finally the Boar meat breeding goats imported from South Africa.

At about the same time Merino's were re-introduced to North Island conditions and sheep from South Island wet areas came to North Island wet areas. This research project became profitable for the Research Station, producing some of the finest micron wools seen in NZ and record prices were paid. Merino procurement and Ram breeding became big business but research funding was withdrawn and the business had to stand alone. Guy travelled the South Island buying stock that suited North Island conditions and became a very successful Ram Breeder. He co-authored another 14 published research papers while in Wanganui.

In 1992 the Government again reduced research funding and Guy closed the Research Station and moved the family back to Hawkes Bay and the Merino's to Cape Kidnappers. The Merino's were share farmed for a further 3 years, at times amongst the gannet colonies. Guy settled at Hastings in 1993.

Guy taught the unemployed Maori youth of the district at Te Aute the basic skills of farming until late 1994 when he joined what is now known as the Brownrigg Agriculture Group as an Agronomist. He has been the company agronomist for 16 years, and has become "A Jack of All Trades" within the business.

Marriage and family

While employed at Takapau, Guy met his first wife **Wendy May Elizabeth Hunt** born 28 December 1959. She was the adopted daughter of a local dairy/pastoral farmer. Wendy's natural parents were Jim and May Parker and her mother had passed away in childbirth. They were married on 3 November 1979 at Takapau.

They had four children:

Stacey May born 26 February 1983 at Waipukurau married on the 10 March 2007 at the Pukeora Winery Estate south of Waipukurau to **Nathan Smith** from Opunaki in Taranaki. They travelled extensively overseas returning to settle down on the family dairy farm on 1 June 2009.

Stacey and Nathan have a child Ryan Owen Guy born 27 December 2012 at Taranki Base Hospital, New Plymouth.

Jason Andrew Guy born 29 October 1984 Waipukurau. Jason is an outdoors young man is at present working in Banff, Canada with his Australian girlfriend They have enjoyed a Canadian winter of skiing and snow board riding.

Warrick James born on 17 August 1988 at Wanganui. Warrick is about to sit his final exams in a geology degree at Victoria University in Wellington, and then embark to the minefields of Perth Western Australia.

Bryce William born 17 August 1988 at Wanganui 20 minutes behind Warrick. Bryce is a Senior Ice Guide on the Franz Joseph Glaciers on the West Coast of the South Island, another who enjoys the callings of the great outdoors.

Second marriage

Guy met his second wife **Madeleine Ash** (born 23 May 1955 at Palmerston North) and subsequently married on the 26 May 2007. She is the youngest child of English parents John and Maureen Ash who were both in the English Army when they relocated to New Zealand. Maureen worked as a Legal Executive for a Law firm in Palmerston North.

Madeleine was educated at St Patricks Convent in Palmerston North and latterly at Palmerston North Girls High School. She worked as a Junior Shorthand/Typist for the Crown prosecutor, Ongley Ongley & Dean for 5 years and then in the printing industry for over 20 years based in Hamilton. Madeleine is currently working as a Real Estate Licensee for Tremains Real Estate.

Maureen had two children to her previous marriage:

Jonathon Bruce born on 15 August 1979. He is a Police Constable in Tauranga along with his partner Anna also an officer in the force.

Katy Frances born on 9 February 1983 is a student at the University of Otago (Waikato campus) studying Occupational Therapy.

Sports

For many years Guy was a Senior Representative Cricket for Hawkes Bay and then Wanganui regions.

He became a Rugby Union Referee at age 20 and retired at 40 by which time I had become a Senior Referee in Hawkes Bay, Manawatu, Wanganui Rangatikei combined and Taranaki.

Other interests/hobbies

These include reading, gardening and stamp collecting following in the footsteps of his grandfather (ABH) who had a large stamp collection.