

◆ Cameron ◆

Volume 42, Issue 1

February 2008



**Vivienne McConnell.
6 Mar 1928 - 16 Jan 2008**

We were saddened to hear of the tragic death of Vivienne McConnell in a road accident near Te Araroa.

Vivienne's husband Bob, two grandsons, and her sister's grandson were injured and are recovering.

A funeral service for Vivienne was held in the chapel at Cook Hospital Gisborne on 17th January, followed by a private cremation

A public Memorial Service will be held in Te Araroa at a later date

Vivienne on Scheherazade at the Spanish Fiesta (page 6)

Waipu 2008

Looking along
'The Avenue of the Clans'



In the Next Issue: "The Cameron Men" by Ian Abernethy

Bay of Plenty – Waikato Clan Gathering – 2007

The morning of Saturday 6 October turned out to be fine, although when looking at the Kaimai Ranges we were a little bit hesitant about what we might find over the top. But all was well and we were well represented with 18 Bay of Plenty members in total.

We all thought the decision to hold the gathering at the Matamata Primary School was a very good one and then to have the school hall as the focal point was just great. There were over 80 registrations on the day.

Our Host Clan, the Clan Stewart was well organised and we were delighted to see last year's Host Clan Davidson well supported by their members. Registrations were received in a camper outside the hall and then we were entertained by a 'mock' battle on a small hillock inside the school grounds, that made the battle all the more realistic and with clansmen falling over in great number, the local reporter was taking photographs with much gusto. We had Piper Bryan Mitchell from Cambridge playing the appropriate tunes to fire up the clansmen and women to more action. One could imagine just what it might have been like in days of clan interaction.

About midday, we gathered for the well attended Clan March down the main street footpath, over the pedestrian crossings; all the while making the waiting traffic a little nervous of having to stop in the presence of burly Highlanders fully kitted out with their Lochaber Axes; all 9 foot in height, as they were in days of old. The reception from all the

shopkeepers was one of awe and we were clapped all around the town of Matamata.

We came back to the school and then sat around in picnic groups to have lunch. The camper stove was red-hot trying to keep up with requests for hot water. Once the picnic was over we made our way into the hall, where the representatives from the various clans talked about their history and other interesting items. We were pleased to welcome Clan Cunningham to our day of festivities.

Next on the programme was the ceilidh, which went on to about four o'clock. When one item finished, another one took the stage and we came away well satisfied with the whole day's proceedings. We had pipers and drummers from Auckland, Te Kuiti, Paeroa and Cambridge. Highland and Scottish Country Dancers, poetry and song were also on show.

Well done Clan Stewart, especially to Ian Stewart from Tokoroa who was the master organiser for the day. We look forward to next year's gathering and wonder which new clan will be selected to be the host for the day.

This was the 13th year, that the combined clan gathering has been organised and we in the Bay of Plenty Cameron's are very proud, to think that we planned the first gathering. In those days we called it a 'Tartan Night'. Later it was known as a 'Combined Clan Luncheon'. At these gatherings we invited the Clans Gunn, MacNeil, MacLachlan, MacNicol, Sutherland and Ross to be our guests. As they say – from small beginnings

by Joy and Denis Cameron

My Apologies for not printing this in the December issue - Ed.

New Hawke's Bay Branch

The Hawke's Bay members have agreed to "go it alone" from the first of January, 2008, and it is hoped that this will be approved at the Clan Annual General Meeting at Opotiki in May.

In 2003, Joy and Colin Cameron of Manawatu approached Shane East with the suggestion that we should establish a Branch in Hawke's Bay. At that time there were five members of Manawatu who were resident in Hawke's Bay. These were Shane, Helen Shaw and Monica Olsen who all had strong affiliation to the Manawatu and Wanganui branches, and Ian and Len Cameron. A luncheon was held at Shane's home in mid 2003 and several members of Manawatu travelled to Hawke's Bay to meet the local Camerons.

We have held many social gatherings since that time and have presented ClanCameron displays and a memberships drive at each Hastings Highland Games since.

In 2007 we commenced with seven members and two associate members: Karen Tobin Wanganui and Mike Topham Gisborne. It is due to Shane's enthusiasm and hard work, ably supported by Helen we now have twenty two members with three prospects in the pipeline.

The interim committee is:- Helen Shaw - President, Shane East - Treasurer and Mike Topham – Secretary.

Shane East

Shane descends from a Donald Cameron of Strone who migrated to Australia about 1850, with his wife Ann, daughter Charlotte and five sons. About 1860, four of those sons including Donald Cameron Jnr. [1846 –1906] Shane's

grandfather, emigrated to Hokitika to try their luck in the west coast gold fields.

After a time of prospecting the Cameron brothers established a coaching, stabling and horse hire business. They are reputed to have bought the first Clydesdale horses to the west coast to operate their mail and coach lines. They took over the Empire Hotel which had its own stables as a base for their operation. Shane's parents, Margery and Pat Herbert were foundation members of Clan Cameron Wanganui.

Helen Shaw

Helen descends from Big John "Mor" Cameron (1781 – 1881) through his son Archibald (1831 – 1902). This family came to New Zealand from Invermallee, Invernesshire on the "Blenheim" in 1840. They spent some time in Wellington and the Wairarapa before travelling "The Beach Highway" to Turakina where they had farms "Invermallee" at Beach Road, "Glenmore" in the Turakina Valley, "Wangaehu" and at Mangahoe near Hunterville.

The family, who were founders of the Turakina settlement are extensively reported in many Cameron publications. Helen's uncle Douglas Cameron was a foundation member and President of Wanganui Branch from 1963 – 1989.

By Mike Topham

Picture shows Helen Shaw on left and Shane East on right with Jean McQueen at the Hawke's Bay Highland Games last year



Welcome to the following Members who have recently joined us:



Bay of Plenty Branch

Phil & Lyndsay Cameron (Tauranga)
Anne Stewart (Matamata)
Shirley & John Baillie (Te Aroha)

Hawkes Bay Branch

June Armstrong (Napier)

Jan and John Willson (Napier)
David and Ann Chalmers (Taradale)

Auckland Branch

Neil Cameron (Thames)
William Taylor (Whangarei)

Waipu Highland Games

If the Waipu Caledonian Society needed any proof that its annual Highland Games is among the foremost events of its kind in New Zealand it came with the 137th event on the Waipu sports ground on January 1.

With a flick of rain disappearing about breakfast time, the day turned sunny and hot, and the usual breeze improved the comfort level.

People came from near and far -- 7000 in fact, very likely twice as many who have attended recent festivals. No fewer than 17 clans had their special tents set up, forming The Avenue, a walkway for hundreds of people who paraded past, looking for some Scottish connection of their own, and patronizing the food and Scottish regalia stalls.

The MacLeod clan have their roots going back to the start of this delightful Northland area, and the latest event had the MacLeods as the host clan. The MacLeods had pride of place in the morning march of the clans into the sports ground, and also in the grand march of clans and and pipe bands in the middle of the day.

The MacLeods marked the occasion by having John MacLeod, the 18th Chief of the MacLeods of Raasay (near the Isle of Skye) and now based in Tasmania, as their special guest. Canada was also prominent, as Ms Penny Reedie, High Commissioner for Canada in New Zealand (accompanied by her husband Don Quiring) performed the official opening of the Games.

Also in the VIP list was The Lord Sempill, who answers to "Jamie," and is co-director of The Gathering 2009, the July 25-26 meeting in Edinburgh of clans from around the world. Camerons were at Waipu in good numbers. Neil and Ruth pitched the Cameron tent, with some help from Valmar Cameron and the writer, the night before the Games, and may well have secured three new members the next day.

Members Glenis Cameron and Chris Lyons (with his two youngsters) joined in the grand march later in the day, and also joining the Cameron ranks was a Canadian lass, Rochelle, and her four young children.

by D J Cameron.



Lord Jamie Sempill and Jenny Gilmour, Co-Directors of *The Gathering 2009 Ltd*, pose with Ruth in front of the Cameron tent.

Jamie and Jenny were at the Waipu Games to promote *The Gathering 2009* to the Clan Societies and visitors to the games, as they have been doing at Highland Games and Gatherings around the World.

The Gathering 2009 Ltd has been set up to promote the first major International Clan Gathering, to be held in Edinburgh on 25 July 2009.



Neil, Don and Valmar Cameron at Waipu



Some of the clans march past

A message from our President



Dear Clan Members

Welcome aboard for 2008. Holiday time is a precious commodity. Did you make the most of your time off from your work, studies and not the least, did the home-maker have a welcome break. We sincerely hope that you enjoyed the Festive Season and are now well and truly refreshed and looking forward to new challenges that

will no doubt come your way.

I am extremely proud of the way in which our members took up the challenge of going out and finding new members. We are pleased to say that we found 32 new members last year. Already we have 8 new members ready to be welcomed aboard for 2008. Well done everybody.

To our newly found members of the Clan, I would like to personally welcome you and your families and sincerely hope that you will enjoy our friendship, the social occasions and meet people who have the same feeling of wanting to get to know the Cameron's. We are all very proud to be part of the Cameron family here in New Zealand.

Make a Wish - Clan Cameron: My challenge is still the same as last year – if only each member of CCNZ went out and found one new member - then all our problems would be solved in our longevity of the Clan here in New Zealand. Numbers of members will save the Clan Cameron. Have you asked other family members - perhaps your uncles and aunts and don't forget your cousins - have you approached them?

Make a wish - My challenge is still the same as last year!

As to other challenges we may be good with our hands, but we're also great with our ears. So when we say we were thinking of you when we have our meetings - that's not quite true. We are also listening to you and your suggestions. We have much to thank the various branch committee members for, those who do such hard work with sincerity and probity.

This year, looks to be really exciting with the National Conference being held at Opotiki in mid May. Opotiki is really looking forward to being able to welcome you to their region. Numbers are essential to make this occasion vibrant and successful. See more in the newsletter.

We now have more of an idea of how we would like the Group Tour to progress. Some of our members have asked if they can find their own accommodation while in Edinburgh and Fort William. Of course you can, and it makes sense as it could help your finances at the same time. There are plenty of B & B's and other places to stay at, as shown on the internet. Some others may like to stay as a group and we are looking at places to stay as near as possible to the venues.

It is all looking very positive and it is quite exciting to be a member of the group. We have tried to plan to see some of the historic places that have been part of the Cameron's history.

Both Joy and I look forward to seeing each of you in the New Year.

“Leis gach deagh dhurachd and Slainte mhath”
[With every good wish and good health]

Denis Cameron

Proposed Trip to Scotland in 2009

We thought it was the appropriate time to put on paper a resume of what could be happening on the trip to Scotland.

We have two travel companies who have been asked to put on paper the projected costs of the tour. This would include travel and hotel costs.

We have suggested that we use Emirates and board the plane at Auckland for Glasgow, having 3 stops of about an hour each at Brisbane, Singapore and Dubai. This will give us four comfortable flights, all less than 8 hours and a chance to stretch our legs at each stop. Total time is 30.5 hours, leaving Auckland at 4.55pm and arriving Glasgow at 12.25pm

We suggest that we leave New Zealand on **Wednesday**, 22nd July, arriving at Glasgow **Friday**, 24th July 2009, the day before the International Gathering at Edinburgh. After our arrival at Glasgow, we could take the train to Edinburgh or perhaps hire a bus for the duration of our time in Edinburgh. This might be the best option. We have suggested that we stay close to the Royal Mile which will be within easy walking distance to Holyrood Park over the weekend.

To date we have 24 members wanting to be on the tour. We may need to restrict numbers so it is important to register with us as soon as possible.

The travel agents feel that it would be much easier for the tour members to leave New Zealand together, and after the gathering has finished at Achnacarry, to carry on and do their own 'thing' before coming back home. Some members want to stay with their children and other relatives after the gathering and at the same time want to make use of the tour arrangements. I understand it is best to pay for your travel costs in New Zealand before you leave.

The 'Homecoming Scotland' events will be held at Holyrood Park on **Saturday and Sunday** 25th and 26th of July. There will be a Clan March to Edinburgh Castle. Our plan is to stay in Edinburgh until **Monday morning** [27th] when we would take a bus to Fort William and on the way stopping at Bannockburn and Stirling Castle, arriving that night for our accommodation.

Tuesday [28th] going by bus to Culloden Moor and then calling into Fort George to see the history and displays about the Cameron Highlanders all on the same day.

Wednesday [29th] Local visits which may include Glenfinnan, the Inverlochy Castle ruins, the West Highland Museum, Glen Nevis and perhaps Glencoe. A very full day.

Thursday and Friday [July 30th and 31st] we would be shown around the Cameron Estate, Achnacarry Castle, have various talks and visit the Clan Museum.

Saturday [1st August] the Clan Gathering at Achnacarry where we will meet up with Lochiel and his family and the other Cameron's from throughout the world. Probably a ceilidh on the Saturday night in Fort William.

Sunday [2nd] in the past there has usually been a Church Service at St Ciaran's Church, in the morning, which is about 200 yards past the main gate at Achnacarry. On Sunday afternoon there is a Shinty Match between the Cameron's and another clan.

I am sure that all persons on the tour will be required to put down a deposit some months before to show their faith that they are interested in going. No doubt if things do not turn out then a refund would be arranged.

Denis and Neil Cameron – [Tour Organisers]



Aonaibh ri Cheile

Cameron

is the newsletter of the Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand (Inc) and is published on or near the 1st day of every even month of the year

Deadlines for articles are on the 15th of the month before publication. Items of urgency or importance may be accepted up to 10 days later.

Articles about Camerons, Branch activities with photographs, and advice of Coming Events are especially welcome.

Deadline for the April issue:

15 March 2008

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Hereditary Chief and Captain of Clan Cameron

Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel,
Lord Lieutenant of Inverness,
Achnacarry, Spean Bridge,
Inverness-shire, Scotland. PH34 4ES

Coming events

Saturday 9 February 2008

Paeroa Highland Games

9am to 9pm

Call at the Cameron tent.

Friday 7 / Saturday 8 March 2008

NZ Pipe Band Championships. Bruce Pulman Park, Papakura. Concert in the Park Friday evening. Cameron tent will be there on the Saturday.

Website: www.rnzpbanats2008.org.nz

Easter 22 / 23 March 2008

58th Hawke's Bay Easter Highland Games.

Lindisfame College, Pakowai Rd, Hastings.

Come and visit the HB Cameron tent.

Enquiries to Mike Topham 06 879 8215 or

Helen Shaw 06 844 8398.

16/ 17 May 2008

Clan Cameron AGM and Gathering. Opotiki.

See Page 7

Useful Websites

Clan Cameron New Zealand website
<http://camclan.orcon.net.nz/>

Clan Cameron Online
<http://www.clan-cameron.org/>

Clan Cameron Scotland
<http://www.clanccameron.org.uk>

Clan Cameron Australia
<http://www.clan-cameron.org.au>

Scottish Clans Association Auckland District
<http://www.scottishclans.co.nz>

Clan Cameron DNA project
<http://www.clan-cameron.org/dna/>

A Great Site showing Images of Lochaber by J.A.Cameron (includes archive of old postcards)
[Http://mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/FortWilliam](http://mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/FortWilliam)

The Gathering 2009
www.thegathering2009.com

Homecoming Scotland 2009
www.homecomingscotland.com

Music of Scotland
www.musicsofscotland.com

Clan Cameron NZ Webmaster:
Warren Cameron
camcraft@orcon.net.nz

By Editor: Following Vivienne and Bobs' memorable celebrations in Te Araroa, Mike Topham wrote an article for the newsletter. Subsequently Vivienne also wrote an article which was posted on the morning of her death. Below are extracts from both.

Te Araroa Celebrations

by the late Vivienne McConnell and Mike Topham

The sleepy little East Coast village of Te Araroa sparkled into life on the first weekend in January with the celebration of Bob & Vivienne McConnell's Golden Wedding Anniversary and combined 80th Birthdays on the Friday, followed by a Spanish Fiesta the following day to celebrate the gathering of the descendants of Manuel Jose. Bob & Vivienne's children and five of their six grandchildren attended. Their daughter Jean had travelled home from Belgrade in Serbia. Over 300 people attended the Golden Wedding celebrations where they were welcomed onto the Hinerupe Marae.

Official guests included the Mayor of Gisborne and the East Coast districts, Meng Foon and Mayoress Ying who presented a certificate in recognition of the McConnell's contribution to the community, together with Senor Emilio Perez de Agreda, the Deputy Head of Mission at the Spanish Embassy to New Zealand, and his daughter Alexandra. Clan Cameron was represented by six couples and several of Fraser Cameron's grandchildren. Fraser spoke on behalf of Clan Cameron and his whanau gave the waiata - that grand old Scottish favourite "A Cameron for me, a Cameron for me, If you're nae a Cameron you're nae use to me" (with apologies to the Gordon's!)

After a late night it was an early start next morning for the Spanish Fiesta. At 8 a.m. we assembled outside the School where a Powhiri and challenge was extended to Emilio who replied to the Maori songs with his rendition of "La Cucuracha". The entire village had dressed up for the occasion and the explosion of colour was spectacular. Even the smallest boys were dressed in Gaucho pants with red cummerbunds and their black hats tilted at just the right angle. The little señoritas were absolutely gorgeous in their tiered dresses and mantillas. Visitors and locals alike mingled in their colourful attire and entered into the spirit of the celebration.

Vivienne, looking elegant and splendid [as always] in her Spanish riding costume, led the Cavalcade of riders and runners for the running of the bulls through the main street of Te Araroa. It was an amazing and amusing sight to see the young men of the town in full flight. Cameras were at the ready to record that special photograph. Afterwards we all gathered at Rugby Park for the Fiesta and had great fun visiting and making purchases from the variety of stalls on hand. Spanish music dominated throughout and tourists we spoke with from Russia and Germany found the whole Fiesta amazing. That evening a Fiesta Ball was held and we were treated to Flamenco dancing and saw the Te Araroa debutante's presented to Emilio. Once again everyone came in Spanish attire and really joined in the celebrations with gusto. Ole!

Both the McConnells have been for many years very much involved in the activities of the descendants of Manuel Jose, an early Spanish trader on the East Coast, of whom Vivienne is a direct descendant. Bob, in 1979, produced for

the Jose family the book "Olive Branches." It contained the names of more than 6000 family members. An update ten years later listed over 9000 names. It was because of Bob & Vivienne's efforts to record this information that Spain established an Embassy in New Zealand.

Clan Cameron has been one of their interests and Vivienne's contribution has been varied. She has traced over 1000 of the descendants of her great, great grandfather John Cameron of Corrychoillie, the famous Highland drover.

For a party of clansfolk visiting Achnacarry in 1989 at the time of the Golden Wedding of the late Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, she produced a booklet of songs, prose and history. She and Bob at the request of Clan Cameron New Zealand produced a brochure aimed at promoting membership of the Clan Cameron Association. Vivienne, and Neil Cameron were assigned the task of producing the Clan Cameron New Zealand banner. The cover of the "History of Clan Cameron New Zealand" is her design. "Heirlooms and Anecdotes" of early Cameron pioneers of New Zealand was a project of hers to which she contributed much. She led the informal Gisborne Branch to become fully part of Clan Cameron NZ and took on the role of Secretary/Treasurer. More recently she had again taken up the role of Secretary after serving for a year as President. Her contribution to the Clan was praised by Fraser Cameron, President of the Bay of Plenty Branch, in his speech in Rongomaitapu Dining Hall.

Other speakers at the celebratory feast praised their contribution to the community especially Bob's research and writings, the publication of which gave Te Whanau a Hinerupe and Te Whanau a Tuwhakairiora access to their history and an invaluable resource for student study. Bob has been a JP since 1967. For his contributions to the community Bob was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in the year 2000.

A hobby of Vivienne's has been the collection of many hundreds of photographs mainly of events, people and places in the area that has graphically supplemented Bob's writings.



Vivienne leads the New Zealand contingent in a vocal item, using her song booklet, at the Ceilidh in Spean Bridge in 1989. This was a part of the Clan Gathering at Achnacarry to celebrate the Golden Wedding of Lochiel and Lady Margaret. This Gathering was very well attended by New Zealand Camerons.

Manawatu News

The Manawatu Branch attended the Palmerston North Highland Square Day in December as usual, selling tea and coffee, sausages and haggis sandwiches at our stall. These are always greatly appreciated by the pipers and general public alike.

We will be holding a stand at the Turakina Highland Games on January 26th. The Clans' Parade of banners will be a Memorial for the late Neil Corballis of Wanganui. Margaret Cameron of Scotland will be attending a study course at Massey University from March 7th - 22nd. Dan Morgan from the Snow Goose Mountain Centre in Lochaber will also be attending at Massey at the same time.

They will be staying with Maisie and Dick Earle, and the Branch will hold a function at the home of Harry and Mary Lampen-Smith on March 9th to meet with them and hear about the University of the Highlands, and Adventure Tourism in Scotland.

We intend to hold a Pot-Luck Dinner on April 12th to welcome First Lighter, Kimberley Walker home, and hear of her experiences in Scotland.

We are asking all branch members as a membership drive, to enrol a new member this year. We would like to see younger Camerons become involved in Clan Cameron.

Cameron Cameos

If you're within reach of Palmerston North on Tuesday, 4 March, at 12.15-12.45pm, Clan Cameron member Neal Gilchrist will be giving an organ recital at St Peter's Anglican Church, Ruahine Street, that he's called **Cameron Cameos: some organ music of Gordon Cameron (1900-1989)**. The half-hour programme will be most, if not all, of his 'Six Preludes on Hymn Tunes' published in 1942, and 'Fantasia on St. Denio' published in 1945.

John Gordon Cameron was born in Cardiff. He was educated at Ellesmere College in North Shropshire, Christ's College, Cambridge, where he graduated M.A. & Mus.B; and studied also at Edinburgh University. He was organist of St. John's Episcopal Church in Dumfries 1937-44. He then moved to Glasgow and became an organist at St. Mary's Cathedral. In 1945 he was appointed the Cathedral Organist and he also took up a lecturing position at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music in Glasgow. Apart from Gordon Cameron publishing a set of four more hymn-tune preludes in 1948, Neal has no information on his life from then on except that he died in 1989. Perhaps some of you may know more about him. If so, for programme purposes Neal would appreciate you getting in touch with him at ngilchrist@callsouth.net.nz or 200 Grey Street Palmerston North 4414.

Mounts Cameron.

Mike Topham's article has been deferred until a later issue.
Editor

Congratulations to:

Richard Laurence (Dick) Earle, Emeritus Professor, Massey University, Palmerston North, who has been made an **Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit** in the New Year Honours list, for services to engineering. Dick is the husband of past CCNZ President, Maisie Earle.



Clans' Parade of Banners at Turakina Photo: Rob Cameron

Clan Cameron NZ Annual Gathering and AGM

16th and 17th May 2008 at Opotiki, hosted by the Gisborne and Bay of Plenty Branches combined.

Friday 16th 7pm: Executive Council Meeting will be held at the Opotiki Lodge Rooms.

Saturday 17th : Venue: The Opotiki Lodge Rooms
Registration and morning tea: 10.00am.

Annual General Meeting: 10.45am to 12.15 pm .

Light Lunch: 12.30pm

Workshop: 1.30pm – 2.15pm: Ray Crafts and his Calligraphy.

Museums: Visit the Opotiki District Museum and Shalfoon Museums [next door]

Saturday 17th: Venue: The Waiotahi Hall.

Clan Cameron Dinner: 6.30pm - 10pm

Pre-dinner drinks [buying own] and nibbles: 6.30pm

The Haggis Ceremony: 7.00pm.

Clan Cameron Dinner: 7.30pm

Costs:

Registration: \$5

Morning Tea and Lunch: \$10

Dinner and Ceilidh: \$35 (Full Day \$50)

Accommodation is the responsibility of those attending

Registration form will be enclosed in the April Newsletter.

Early registration may be made with the Secretary, Patricia Cameron, Pukehina Parade, RD 9, Te Puke. Ph:07 533 4345



Aonaibh ri Cheile

Volume 42, Issue 1

February 2008
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New Zealand



In This Issue...

'Scots flock to Highland Games and a Spanish Fiesta in Te Araroa'



1. Don leads Camerons in the Grand March at the Waipu Games. Photo: Neil Cameron

2 & 4. Time for a 'cuppa' at Turakina Games. From left Catherine, Joy, Hazel, Graeme, Colin and John (back to camera) - all Cameron. Photo: Rob Cameron

3. At the Spanish Fiesta at Te Araroa. Harold Cameron with the late Vivienne and her Grandson Patrick on horseback. Photo: Trish Topham

5. A great photo showing the spirit of the Highland Games at Turakina. Photo: Rob Cameron

Cameron people

