



Murray Grey Newsbrief

President's Message

Welcome to this newsletter from your new council.

We welcome Micheal Phillips who was appointed at our annual meeting in Oxford and Anne Marie Morgan who although nominated and seconded had sent her acceptance to the wrong email address. As we had a vacancy on the council she has been co-opted at our first council meeting on 4th June at Feilding and was able to attend that.

Our herd walk and annual meeting in Canterbury was a great occasion with perfect weather and great conditions. We thank the Canterbury Club for a wonderful couple of days. We do hope it rains soon for you Sarah as we experienced first-hand what it is like to farm in the midst of a drought.

As we look forward to this year George has put his hand up to try and produce a magazine, Micheal will take charge of the on-line sale, Trevor is getting an advertisement for the dairy magazine and Wayne is producing this newsletter with help from Anne Marie.

All the best for the coming calving and bull selling season, which is close upon us.

Mervyn Mitchell
President

Murray Grey AGM

The recent AGM and the associated mini stud tour in Canterbury was a huge success. Members from North and the far south began gathering in or near Woodend on the Wednesday. Thursday dawned fine and sunny and we all made our way to Ross and Jane Hayes property at Halkett. On the way out there were signs of the changes that have occurred in the region since the earthquakes four years ago. New satellite settlements are springing up north, south and west of the city.

Ross and Jane live next door to the old Halkett Primary School which is now the community centre. Morning tea was available as people arrived and it was a chance to mix and mingle and find out who had travelled to the area. The Hayes cattle were within walking distance and new born calves with dams were on view with a backdrop of snow-capped Southern Alps. Also nearby were yearling and some two year old bulls and a mob of heifers including the well grown Newhall 658 which Ross was offering at the MG on line sale.

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Newborn calves at Newhall Stud.



Trevor Clarke checks out the Heifers at Newhall.

The property has an irrigation system so they have been able to cope with the drier season. Some cropping is done on the property as well. Various members showed some interest in the trailer complete with weighing facilities for new calves that Ross had built. There could be some copies appearing on other MG farms.

After a leisurely lunch back in the old school it was suggested that some might like to take the scenic route via the top of the Waimakariri river and through the Ashley Gorge back up to Amberly and Sarah Rodie's property.



View from the Bridge over Waimakariri.

On arrival at Sarah's property we were all quickly aware of the effect of a sustained dry summer and autumn. There had been a few mms of rain recently and there was a tinge of green on the paddocks but supplementary feeding was costing a large sum each day. Sarah is now assisted by her daughter and son in law and they run an operation involving sheep, cattle, deer and grape growing. After a cross country tour over the farm to look at some of the cattle we went back to the house to sample some of the product from the grape part of the operation.

All then transferred to the restaurant at the Amberly Hotel for the evening.

Next morning cool but fine again and first stop was at the 30 acre lease block shared by George and Glenda Climo and Robin Driver. Young bulls, in calf heifers and some cows were available for viewing including those on offer with the on line sale. George had also organised the services of the local Agrisea rep who gave us an informative talk on soil structure and pasture care. George had also arranged for a lady with a coffee cart to serve morning tea at 10 o'clock. Great idea.



Wayne Allerby, Ross Hayes and Barry Macdonald.



Coffee cart and Tent at the 30 Acre block.

The party then moved out to Oxford where Geoff and Sandra Rountree farm. This is an area closer to the ranges and less dry than other places we had been. Geoff and Sandra supply fresh raw milk under the "Village Milk" franchise. They milk 18 to 20 Friesian cows once a day but all year and customers come with their bottles to collect their milk from the vending machine. Most of us tried a free sample.

Breeders then adjourned to the Oxford Working Men's Club for the Annual General Meeting. Twenty-one people attended the meeting. The elected council was announced and Mervyn Mitchell was re-elected as President. The president outlined the progress that had



Geoff outlines the milking operation to MG Breeders.

been made by PBBnz since the problems with the Royal Show. No financial burden has fallen on the Murray Grey Society. There was some discussion of issues being dealt with by the Australian association. A fish and chip with salad lunch was provided by the club before we returned to the Rountree's property to view some of their MG cows, heifers and weaned calves.

Members then departed with some heading home while others returned to motels and baches near Woodend. All in all it was a very enjoyable two days, well organised and hosted by the local breeders and with a fine spell of weather to cap it off.



Sandra demonstrates the vending machine.



Cattle on Drought Country.

DNA and CA Testing

Just a reminder that breeders must test the sires of calves they are planning to register from June 1st 2015. This is a simple process and envelopes for the collection of tail hair samples can be obtained from PBBnz.

By Laws and Angus Cattle

There was some discussion at the recent AGM regarding the use of Angus cattle in Murray Grey breeding. The by-laws have not changed for many years. The council recently updated the wording but the rules essentially remain the same.

The classes of cattle eligible for registration by the society are

1. Black Angus female cattle of established purity to be known as base stock and classified GR0.
2. Grey commercial female cattle of known purity to be known as Approved Commercial Murray Grey base stock and classified GR0.
3. First cross female progeny of base stock cattle and registered Murray grey bulls to be classified GR1.
4. Female progeny of GR1 females and registered Murray Grey bulls to be classified GR2.
5. Female progeny of GR2 females and registered Murray grey bulls to be classified Purebred.

6. Male cattle from GR1 or GR2 females by a registered Murray grey bull will be classified as Commercial bulls.
7. Male cattle from Purebred females by a registered Murray Grey bull will be classified as Purebred and be eligible for registration as Murray Grey sires.
8. Black Angus male cattle of established purity.
Female progeny of Angus sires and Purebred Murray Grey females will be classified GR1.
Male progeny of Angus sires will not be classified for registration.
9. Murray Grey Cattle registered with a member Association of IMGBCA can be registered with the NZ. Murray Grey Beef Cattle Society (Inc) provided they conform to the above classifications and also conform to our Standard of Excellence.

Note: It may be that some MG sires will have a Murray Grey percentage less than 93.75%

Sale Results

The Murray Grey On-Line Sale was a little disappointing in terms of numbers of registered bidders. However Council would like to continue with this in 2016 so watch this space for details.

Results were; Yorkvale sold 3 weaner heifers for an average of \$817. Kilradie sold their 2year bull after the sale. The Waimak heifer was withdrawn due to injury and the yearling

bull was unsold. The Newhall heifer and bull were both not sold as was the yearling bull from Sherwood. Barry Macdonalds bull sale results; Lot 1 made \$4750, Lot2 \$3500, Lot3 passed, Lot4 Passed, Lot5 \$3500, Lot6 passed, Lot7 \$3500.

Membership Changes

At the last Council meeting we accepted the resignation of Richard Lancaster. Richard has been an associate member for the last few years but was previously a very involved high profile Murray Grey breeder as was his father before him. There will be a number of current members whose cattle will have an infusion of Kensington bloodlines.

NAIT Tags

A reminder to get your tag orders in soon. We would encourage Murray Grey breeders to order their tags through PBBnz. Only a small percentage of us are doing so but by purchasing through PBBnz you are indirectly supporting your own association as we are a partner in that business.

Further Newsletters

Council would like to develop these newsletters into a more magazine like publication. If you have any photos, sale results or other items of interest for the next issue could you please e-mail them to one of the councillors.

FULL CONTACT DETAILS OF COUNCIL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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Please contact a councillor if you would like any help with your Murray Grey business, especially if you have only recently become a member.

ALL OTHER KEY PERSONNEL CONTACTS ARE LISTED BELOW: - PBBNZ OFFICE CONTACTS:

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