



Murray Grey Newsbrief

President's Message



Dear Fellow Members

As I write this I am looking out the window at the snow still well down the Pisa Range, the weeping willows are bursting into leaf and the orchards are beginning to blossom. Spring is now officially arrived and calving in the North Island is well advanced.

In the South Island most of us are yet to start. It is always an exciting time checking the new borns and seeing what our good cows produce. Will it be a bull or heifer? The future of the breed is arriving. Let's hope we can make good use of the new genetics.

Yearling bull buying season is upon us. Many of our bulls go to the dairy industry. We have had advertisements in the Dairy News and the NZ Dairy Farmer. We still need to be promoting our own Bull Sales to local agents and direct to fellow farmers. Always be prepared to promote another Registered breeder if you cannot supply in your area. The names and phone numbers are in the Murray Grey magazine.

NOTES FROM THE TELE-CONFERENCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD LAST MONTH

We are having a discussion on how we incorporate Australian genetics within the NZ system. We are making progress and will have further discussion at the next council meeting in Fielding on November 24th.

For some time we have been concerned that we have not known what is happening within Australia Murray Greys. After contacting the Australian President Rob Walker, he agreed to join our tele conference. He reported that they have been going through some major changes. Cow numbers have dropped to approximately 6500 from 8-10,000 five years ago. Beef prices very strong – up to \$7/kg

Rob, who was on council a few years ago along with Charles Wallace another experienced councillor, has been asked to help steer the way forward as Australia has had three presidents in the last couple of years. They have had major decisions to make. Rob indicated as decisions are made at Board meetings that he will keep NZ informed on how this could affect NZ.

It was good to share together and we hope this will become a more regular occurrence.

All the best,

MERVYN MITCHELL
President

Bulls sold into Dairy Industry

We would like to get an idea of how many Murray Grey bulls are sold into the dairy industry each year. If members could please contact Lindy Lawrence at the office and let her know that information. **P:** 06 323 0742 or **Email:** lindy@pbbnz.com.

2017 AGM

The 2017 AGM will be held in the Waikato region in mid April. Full details will be sent out in due course.

2017 BEEF EXPO

The dates have been confirmed for the 2017 Tru-Test Beef Expo for Friday 12th to Tuesday 16th May.

Australian Youth Exchange

Harris Thompson from Mighty Murray Greys stud in Western Australia won a trip to New Zealand and he will be in New Zealand from the 7th November for two weeks. Harris will be attending the Canterbury Show with George Climo and visiting some other areas.

REMINDER

Members are reminded that they must have their sires DNA profiled and CA tested. Only sires of registered calves need to be tested.

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Please contact a councillor if you would like any help with your Murray Grey business, especially if you're a new member.

NORTH ISLAND MURRAY GREY VISIT

Carolyn and Chris McIntosh - Silver Fern Murray Grey Stud



With the spring lambing and calving still to start here in the deep south, we took an opportunity for a little break up north before we get extra busy. A whirlwind trip visiting five MG studs in the mid and lower North Island. 4 days in our wee white rental vehicle travelling approximately 2000km to see the scenery, say hi to some of our MG breeders and also to view their cattle.

After flying into Hamilton for a business meeting – the following day we drove to Otorohanga to Mike Phillip's 'Paradise Valley Stud'. On view were the Autumn calving cows and their calves grazing the harder hill country, these cows were mainly from Sea Spring's descent. We viewed four very well grown 17 month old bulls including *PV Katapult* and *PV Kimbel* (a very muscular son of *Yorkvale Iceman*). Great to see a friend *Silver Fern Braveheart* settling into his new surroundings - Mike had just recently purchased this young sire from Chequers Stud. Paradise Valleys impressive stud sires were also looking a picture - *PV Highway Star* and *PV Jack Frost*.



Paradise Valley Highway Star.



Silver Fern Braveheart.

As we had a couple of hours up our sleeve a visit to the very touristy town of Waitomo to view the Glowworm calves – Although we do have our local Glow worm caves here at Clifden and Te Anau they certainly don't compare with these impressive caves.

Later that afternoon we visited the rolling picturesque green pastures of Cambridge to see Allan and Patrica Hayward of 'Oakview stud'. Jumped on the Honda LUV to view both large numbers of Angus and silver Murray Grey cows with lovely spring calves at foot being strip grazed - Two stud Angus bulls that Allan had recently purchased (1 @ \$15,000 and 1 @ \$20,000). – A very nice *Southend Emperor* yearling bull and Stud sire also by *S Emperor*. Unfortunately, due to a swollen ankle and darkness I wasn't able to take any photos of this visit.

An Early start to day three as we headed off to Whakatane to Neill and Jane Burke's 'Chequers Stud'. Lovely to drive the new Coastal Highway and to enjoy the picturesque surroundings. Lovely Autumn and Spring calving cows/heifers and calves were viewed being stripped grazed with some still on the coastal block of sand dunes. Very pleasing to see the nice calves by *SF Braveheart* with *C Mclvor* one to watch for the future, also a fantastic 6½ month old ¾ bred black MG showing excellent muscling. The *Woodbourne*

Warrior A69 calves viewed looked very solid showing lots of promise, as were the three well grown yearling bulls by *Cadfor Genesis*. Left later that afternoon feeling very happy with Oranges for our son Brad and six beautiful spikes of orchids. Arrived at our accommodation in Taupo on dark – lovely to sit down to a beautiful taster meal at Rose on Roberts – this gastropub restaurant comes highly recommended.

Day four started in fog so no view of Lake Taupo as we drove through mid-North Island to Inglewood in Taranaki – interesting country so glad we had our navman - 4 hours later we arrived at Kotare Stud, welcomed by a nice cup of tea. Loved the tractor tray ride to view Wayne and Jean Allerby's cattle. A large number of yearling bulls grazing on the hills and the cows and spring calves stripped grazed on the flats. These lovely cows were all in great order, with some beautiful coloured calves on show. Their very nice herd sires *Sea Spring Hamlet* and *Yorkvale Kanuka* were also on display. The Allerby's later joined us for tea at New Plymouth for a great chat. So impressed with our accommodation that night 'King and Queen Suites' – a beautiful character Hotel with an impressive tub, zebra skin seat and a wonderful comfy bed.



Sea Spring Hamlet.



Cows and calves at Yorkvale Stud.

Final day – travelled down to Feilding viewing Mt Egmont as we passed – very pictureque – Another meeting at Feilding and also had an opportunity to visit the PBBNZ office, where the staff were very welcoming and showing me around the building. Our last visit was to 'Yorkvale stud' all the stock were in great condition, grazing on the lush green grass, many mls of recent rain had made the ground very slushy. Their beautiful large framed cows and heifers looked a picture with calves at foot by *Kilradie Steamroller* a well grown *Monterey Steamroller* son which we also viewed. Two lovely grey *Wallawond Under The Radar* yearling bulls were also seen – *Y Kauri* impressed with his size, length and muscling, he should certainly perform well in the upcoming show season.

Last night - Our accommodation in Palmerston North was very nice - we had completed our very enjoyable trip, flying home the next day to reality - (Orchids in hand). Many thanks to all for welcoming us and for all of your great hospitality – which hopefully we can repay in the near future. So nice to see good cattle with some strong new bloodlines.

We wish you all well for the season with your Grey's.

