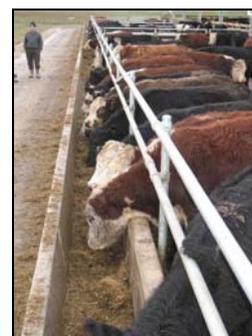




LIMOUSIN

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Summer 2013 Newsletter
www.limousin.co.nz

It's been a busy year!

2013 has been a significant year in the history of Limousin in New Zealand. The highlight was certainly the 40th anniversary celebrations in Nelson last April when past and present members came together to reminisce the many memories of past years. The 40th anniversary magazine was well received and provided a snapshot, rather than a full history, of some of these occasions.

The aging membership of our association is of obvious concern. However it is wonderful to welcome three new members to our wonderful organisation.

We welcome Jarratt Wyeth and family as full members. Jarratt has established the Lochburn stud just north of Christchurch using foundation cows from the Silverstream and Piwakawaka studs. Rumour has it that he has had one of the older cows on a halter already and has even been leading an impressive unweaned bull calf around the paddock. We wish Jarratt well!

We also extend a special welcome to new junior member Amber Doggett of Wellsford. Amber is only 16 years old but has already had success showing at the recent Whagarei A&P Show. More about Amber's success later in this newsletter.

Finally we warmly welcome Janine Dunlop who joined the association as a full member in August. Her foundation cows came from the well known Millhouse herd. Janine owns a property near Hamilton and runs the very successful Phoenix Park thoroughbred stud. Some members will be interested in learning that she practises a natural approach to raising animals.

Her main focus is on preparing horses for a Ready to Run Sale in the lead-up to Karaka, as well as a vendor at the annual Karaka sale. Earlier this year she sold 23 lots at Karaka for an average sale price of \$123K (2012 average \$126K) and was third top vendor. We hope this success rubs off on the Limousin stud sales!

In what is a first for New Zealand, we congratulate our Chairperson and ALBS representative, Daryl Bott, in being elected Senior Vice President of ALBS. This is a significant appointment and we wish him well in this influential role.

The NZ Management Committee extends their best wishes to all members and friends of the association and trust that you all enjoy a restful and safe festive season.

Vale Estelle James



It was with great sadness that we farewelled our friend and loyal member, Estelle, who passed away 7 August 2013 after a short battle with cancer.

Estelle and Roger were there from the beginning establishing the Benmore herd in 1973 (#2 in the herdbook). Benmore is the last remaining foundation herd.

Our thoughts are with Roger, Warrick and Cece, and families as they re-adjust to a life without her.

Don Robertson wrote these words in Estelle's memory.

"We will miss Estelle.

There are many ways to describe Estelle – always immaculate, generous, a great hostess, a great wife, mother and

grandmother, and a mother and friend to us all in Limousin.

Estelle and Roger travelled the world attending many World Limousin Conferences on behalf of the NZ Limousin Society. She also did a marvellous job of organising the World Limousin Conference when it was held in New Zealand. The last party held at Benmore Station was a memorable night!

The annual Benmore Limousin sale was always a highlight on the Limousin calendar and Estelle again was such a great hostess putting on lunch for everybody with hot soup, scones, fruit cake and hot drinks along with the refreshments after the sale.

Estelle did many other things for the Limousin breed and it's members and liked to enjoy herself at all the Limousin events. Her name appeared on the list of registered Limousin judges until early this year.

Thank you Estelle and long may you be remembered."



NATALIE ROBERTS

Natalie was elected to the Management Committee for LBBNZ earlier this year. She manages the very successful Snake Gully herd in Northland along with her parents, Dannie and Bethley O'Shea. This following article provides some insight in how Natalie became so committed to breeding Limousin cattle.



Right from when she was a pre-schooler Natalie was keen on farm activities. When her parents, Dannie and Bethley O'Shea, purchased the original 880 acre beef property at Omana Road and built a house on it Natalie with big brother Tom became real contributors to all stock work. Number two out of five in the pecking order, when the farm size increased so did everyone's involvement.

With a birthday on August 10th Natalie reached the ripe old age of five and started school three weeks prior to Tauraroa High School's scheduled three week holiday. Calving was in full swing and kids were useful

when mustering, by blocking tracks and following cows and calves that needed shifting or bringing back to the yards. Going out with Dad meant days when they would be out the back working from nine in the morning until three in the afternoon with nothing but a drink and maybe an apple. You didn't come home until the job was done and if that meant hours on horseback that was what happened.

Falling off the horse usually received a "you're ok, hurry up and get back on" with maybe more instructions about where would be the best place to mount up again.

It was a case of these are the work conditions and either accept them or stay home there was no time to mess about. You were there to help not hinder. Stock work on horseback was a major part of life on a rough hill country farm.

At the end of the holidays Natalie made an announcement to the family. She had been to school and it was alright but she preferred to stay home and work with Dad.

At that time she didn't get her wish but her involvement with stock continued all through her school years. One of her first calves for calf club was a Jersey/Hereford cross that was absolutely mad. The calves that year had been purchased from a dairy farmer – it was them or nothing. Big brother Tom aged seven thought he would show her how to handle it and hung onto it as it tried to get away. As it charged off back to the paddock through the gateway with Tom doing a somersault through the air on the end of the rope his watching parents yelled 'let go' and he survived winded but with no permanent damage. Natalie persisted with that calf and was rewarded on show day by it gaining her a ribbon for third in rearing and a beautiful black eye when it kicked her.



Natalie had a calf every year for thirteen consecutive years and was awarded a special award for her efforts. Competition amongst the family was great but Natalie seemed to be the queen of rearing. Her grooming skills were great. One year her calf had a major name change after her sandpaper efforts saw it almost bald. No hair on it – it was renamed Baldy but by Calf Club it looked great with its black shining coat.

After leaving school Natalie spent 10 years working as a Computer Systems Operation/Receptionist at a firm in Whangarei called Foodstuffs (e.g. PakNSaves, New Worlds and Four Square) distributing from Kaitaia to Warkworth.

Before her marriage to David, Natalie was still available for help on weekends and afterwards David also became involved. David's father bred cutting horses and so David was an extremely welcomed help around the place when needed.

Not long after their marriage Natalie and David purchased a house and eight acres. This little block close to Maungakaramea became quite a show piece and was for them the first step towards owning something bigger. Sean was hardly a year old when Dannie and Bethley went overseas and Natalie was acting farm manager. By then the farm had quad bikes as well as horses for Natalie and Sean to do the stock work. Also the farm

was now better fenced and raced but the stock numbers were pretty high.

Natalie had grown up as part of the work force so Sean and Brady were encouraged along the same path. Both boys rode from an early age and handling stock was second nature to them.

Sean won the Young Handler Award at the Whangarei A & P Show when he was four years of age against others up to seventeen years of age. The spokesman for the presiding judges said that his absolute control of the animal was evident in all the required movements of the course.



As Snake Gully Stud was formed her boys were able to have Limousin calves for Calf Club but they didn't stop there. They featured in the results of many shows from Broadwood to Warkworth.

Winning the Young Handler became the main aim for them and an event which they featured annually with consistent success.

Other friends of the boys were encouraged to have calves and soon Natalie and David had open house for many children who came after school on the bus to do calves and stayed the night.

More than one parent was heard to say that without the help given to them their children would not have been able to have calves.

Leading was always the most important part of the education and kids and calves spent many hours leading along roads, up farm tracks, through bush over hills and flats. Road leading had to be supervised when the children were young but in later years they would go for many kilometres much to the amusement of passing trucks and motorists who rounded a corner in the middle of nowhere to be confronted by sometimes four limousin calves and handlers walking in single file.

Natalie and David's contribution to Calf Club didn't stop with their own little group and local School. They have spent many years as voluntary workers for Whangarei Central Day and the Whangarei A & P Show of which they are both members. Natalie has been and presently is Secretary of the Whangarei Central Calf Club Committee even though her children are no longer at school.

The Roberts family have been great promoters of Snake Gully Stud. The standard of animal and conduct of the competitors has been second to none. Presentation in the ring and pride in what they have been doing have all contributed to good profiling of the Limousin Breed. Dannie has always considered carcass competitions the most valuable publicity for the true worth of Limousin but presence at Shows is important as long as you select the best possible animals to display and prove the docility and quality of the breed. Natalie, her family and their friends have done this.

Following Bethley's health issues in 1998 Natalie's husband David became a permanent member of the workforce at Snake Gully. After some years the opportunity to purchase land next door on Omana Road came up and so Natalie and David were now both employed to work on the home property. Sean and Brady were to witness and participate in the work of the farm and together with their parents their contribution has been valuable.

Until this time Bethley had been in charge of recording and paper work for the stud but following her head injury changes had to be made. In her usual capable way Natalie undertook all this and has moved on into the on line recording.

When the Stud down sized in 2008 Natalie took on the position of Farm and Stud Manager and continues to run both the Roberts hundred acres and the hundred acres belonging to Dannie and Bethley at Omana Road. She also runs a small Texel Flock which sells Rams each year. David now works for Culham Engineering as a Crane Driver.

To have true stockman skills is something special and Natalie grew up within a family bred to farm. Sean has chosen a career in hill country farming. His stock skills saw him "Best on Farm" at Otiwhiti Station in 2012 and he now owns a team of working dogs, some of which compete in Sheep Dog Trials.

The Aim of Snake Gully Stud has always been to promote the Limousin Breed. Natalie is now the major player for Snake Gully and the development of the stud over 25 years has given her a solid base to work with.



The next Snake Gully Sale is scheduled for Tuesday 10th June 2014 @ 1pm.

JUNIOR MEMBER ENJOYS SUCCESS!

Amber Doggett of Wellsford, New Zealand has recently joined the Association as a junior member. Amber has admired Sean and Brady Roberts showing their Limousins for many years and was thrilled when given the opportunity to show a Limousin of her own. Amber has been showing since the age of five but has become serious in the last four years after deciding her future was to be in farming.

Amber is 16 years old and attends Rodney College where she has been doing farming papers through video conferencing with Telford, a division of Lincoln University. Next year she will continue doing papers through the Star and Gateway programmes. She is already training a heading pup of her own and looks forward to a future in the farming industry.

Amber's mother Vanessa Doggett runs the Caroo Brahman Stud at Wellsford and Kaiwaka with her partner Stephen Corry.

On the 7th/8th December Amber and her calf Strongbridge Jana attended the Whangarei A & P Show. Participating in the Calf Club Section and competing in a very strong showing of Dairy/Beef Cross/Beef she successfully gained 1st Rearing, 1st Beef Type and 5th Leading.

Amber and Jana then went on to win overall Champion Youth in the afternoon triumphing over the winner of the dairy calf

and handler youth section.

Amber returned on Sunday to participate in the Beef All Breeds Section where she gained 2nd Heifer Calf and 3rd Senior Handling.

Amber's younger sister Cara kept her honest with several ribbons and took out the young beef handler (13 to 19) champion to Amber's 3rd.

After purchasing the calf from Richard and Brigitte Wells of Strongbridge Limousins, Amber reared Jana on milk powder. This makes her successes even more impressive as, when competing in the Beef All Breeds section, all other heifer calves were running with and being reared on their mothers. Jana's dam is Snake Gully X-Cess and sire Snake Gully Drummer (includes Ionesco and Dauphin bloodlines).

Amber is presently trying to get a show team together for the future. She will be attending the Sydney Royal Show in April where she looks forward to gaining knowledge from other Limousin Breeders.

We extend a warm welcome to Amber and wish her well for what promises to be a very exciting future in Limousin.



Duncan James wins again!

Congratulations to Duncan James who won the Junior Beef Youth Herdperson Competition at the Canterbury A & P Show in November. Duncan won a trip to next year's Beef Expo to compete in the hoof & hook judging.

Canterbury A&P Show 2013

The 151st Canterbury A & P Show was held over 3 days in Christchurch mid November. It is now the largest show of its type in NZ.



This Show remains one of the few occasions where Limousin retains a strong presence in the showring. The James' Family (Ben More) have been stalwarts for almost 40 years and again had a strong representation. Gary Kennett and Marilyn Montgomery (Piwakawaka) have become regulars and again turned up with a three animals.



A number of local breeders were also there to support the show teams. These included George Finlayson (photo above), Judy Millar and Clark Scott (who were showing Dorpers – how about bringing a Limo up next year Judy?), Jarratt Wyeth, Don & Delma Robertson and Stuart Hill.

One of the guest judges was Daryl Bott. Daryl judged a number of classes and received very positive feedback from the commentators and other judges for his thorough assessment when announcing his decisions. Daryl will no doubt be invited back after such a strong performance.



The yearling heifer class was keenly contested with a very even line-up of four animals. A three year old cow and calf shown by Gary & Marilyn took out the Supreme Champion award and then went on to be placed in the prestigious Meat and Wool Cup.



Results:

Supreme & Grand Champion Limousin
Piwakawaka Florence (with calf-at-foot)

Reserve Champion Limousin
Ben More Ginnie

Grand Champion Junior & Yearling Heifer
Ben More Hazel

Reserve	Champion	Yearling	Heifer
Piwakawaka	Hine		

From the Chair

A great spring has certainly helped with feed and animal conditioning in most parts and is a welcomed contrast to this time last year.

While it is somewhat disappointing that numbers are down in both bull trials from previous years, it is good to see growth rates are as anticipated and bulls are growing out well.

If it is not proto it is something else, and most of you will have heard or read recently about "Theileria in cattle", a very severe anaemic condition brought on by a blood parasite called *Theileria orientalis*. The parasite is transmitted by infected ticks who have become carriers by sampling the blood of infected animals. Where there are areas of tick infestation, animals do build up an immunity to the parasite. When those animals who may be hosting a tick or two are moved to an area where there are few or no ticks, or cattle that have not had the opportunity of immunity are moved to a tick infested area, cross infection can occur and the condition, if contracted, can be severe. It has mainly been in the dairy industry where herds or part herds are moved long distances and in large numbers either into or out of affected areas.

In most farming situations where ticks are plentiful at certain times of the year, most farmers have their regular parasite treatments and cross infection is controlled.

On a more pleasant note, I was recently invited to Judge cattle at the Canterbury 150th A&P show. The two day judging was a rewarding experience, judging the Limousin, and Shorthorn classes and Interbreed on the first day, with the Junior and Senior Meat and Wool cups on the second day. It was a pleasure to see well bred and well presented cattle on display.

The two Limousin show teams did the breed proud and the presentation and handling skills were of a very high standard.

The second of two ALBS board meetings for 2013 was held on the 9th November in Armidale where included on the agenda was the upcoming retirement and replacement of Alex MacDonald who has served the Society so well for the last 21 years. The Board will do its best to find a suitable replacement when Alex retires in June 2014. In the meantime, we are very fortunate to have the services of Lisa and Fran who are able to field calls and look after member inquiry.

Flying from Sydney to Armidale all you could see was brown drought in every direction, it has been a long dry winter and spring with not too much relief on the horizon. As a result of the dry and drought conditions, the 4th Information Nucleus Project has had to be cancelled due to there not being available a contracted "host herd" who could handle the full requirements of the program from mating and calving through to weaning. However, visiting the Tullimba feedlot, I was able to inspect the cycle two steers and heifers being finished for slaughter and data collection. It was interesting to have pointed out the best and the worst steer of a group both coming from the same sire, so I guess that places a lot of emphasis on the dam at selection time.

A day at the Froghollow stud at the foot of the Black Mountains where my hosts were Matt and Jenny Friend was an eye-opener for me, experiencing first hand the drought and effect it has on even the best of animals. Matt assured me when rain does come, both the pasture and animals will come back and bounce away. A true test of constitution and fortitude on the part of both animal and farmer.

Best wishes to you and your families.

Daryl Bott (Chairman LBBNZ)

NORTH ISLAND BULL TRIAL

The North Island Limousin Bull Trial has seen some excellent growth rates now that the grass has hardened off in the Waikato. The 13 bulls are being run in the hills behind Matamata, in fact very near to the world famous Hobbiton tourist attraction.



The bulls are weighed monthly and after 2 months the heaviest bull, a son of Mandayan Vision is 558kg with a weight gain of 77kg or 2.8kg/day for the last month. The highest gain in the last month was 85kg achieved by a son of home bred Sentosa Emperor. The average daily weight gain for the group was 2.43kg so all bulls are doing well. They are also judged for temperament whenever they are handled. The bulls are settling into the routine well and this time they even came into the yards to the call. The weighing was uneventful with good behaviour from both handlers and bulls!



We are quite fortunate with the support from the steering committee as well as Richard Maxwell and his band of helpers. Richard has been overseas but left the farm in capable hands and even the neighbour turned up to help. Convenor Liz Maslin manages the process and keeps a watchful eye over progress.

The Maxwell property is a commercial operation with a good proportion of strong hill country. There are also new yards and handling facilities which will work well for the on farm auction planned for early June 2014. It is important that the bulls are run under commercial conditions that are comparable to the conditions they are required to work in once sold. In New Zealand's North Island commercial beef operation conditions vary considerably but many are on steep country similar to parts of the Limousin region in France.



A good mix of international and home grown genetics are represented this year as well as a good proportion of polled bulls. The focus is on producing high quality bulls under normal pasture based conditions. It is important to keep introducing new genetics, but at the same time it is interesting to note that some of the best performing bulls at previous trials under these conditions have come from New Zealand genetics.

Julie Evans

North Island Bull Trial Secretary

SOUTH ISLAND BULL TRIAL

The 6th South Island Limousin Bull Trial commenced early September near Dunsandel. 12 yearlings were brought onto farm during August for the settling in period. Again we are very fortunate to have the services of Brian O'Connell who manages the trial on our behalf.



At the most recent weighing on 3 Dec, average daily weight gain for the month was 1.9kg compared to 2kg the previous month. This is a pleasing and consistent weight gain on a grass-fed regime. Top weight was 550kg.

One bull put on 2.5kg average per day although this is probably due to compensatory growth coming off a lower entry weight.

The trial group this year has quite a diverse genetic mix. Bloodlines include On-Dit, Patocle, Ionesco, Ideal, Mandayen Vision, Vital, amongst others.

Most animals have now lost their rougher winter coats and now have a smoother summer look. Canterbury has experienced some fairly hot conditions recently and this has certainly helped.

All the bulls have now been DNA tested for their proto status. Only animals shown to be proto free are put up for sale.

Sale date is scheduled for 19 May 2014.

Warrick James
Convenor

Proto testing & DNA typing

Congratulations to the many breeders who have submitted hair samples for proto testing. The incidence of proto carriers seems to be falling if test results are any indication. The best way to breed it out is to use proto free sires. Please send hair samples in a suitably labelled envelope to Daryl Bott, Waiau Pa Road, RD 4, Pukekohe 2679. Ph (09) 232 1468.

It also makes sense to collect a second hair sample from potential sires for DNA typing. Calves can only be registered if their sire is DNA typed. New testing protocols are being developed so contact the ALBS office if you require a 'kit' or need further details of this process.

NZ Website

The NZ website (www.limousin.co.nz) is regularly updated and administered by ALBS. Please remember that you are welcome to advertise stock in the "for sale" section.

If you have any articles, photos or experiences of interest please contact Gary at gmkennett@paradise.net.nz or phone (03) 329 6380.

LBBNZ Management Committee

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