



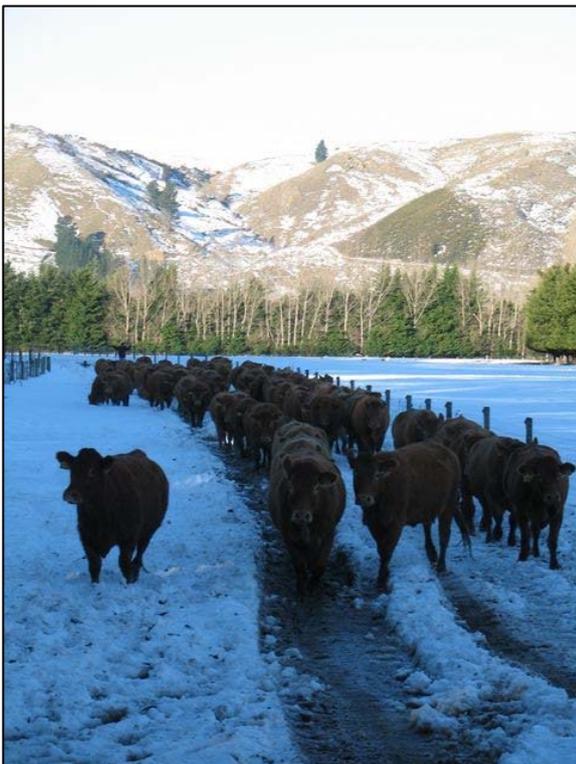
Winter 2012 Newsletter

www.limousin.co.nz

Winter has arrived!

This always seems to be a busy time of the year with the NZ AGM being held in late April and with three bull sales over the last three weeks. These sales are the culmination of years of breeding work and preparation and it is a great feeling when it all comes together. Even better when the buyers recognise the quality in their bids.

Back on the farm the calves have been weaned, weighed and docility scored, and the cows have been preg tested and culls put on the truck. The next few months will be the daily routine of feeding out and checking stock before calving begins again.



Winter came early in the South Island with a massive amount of snow falling in early May. Thankfully there was plenty of notice given by weather forecasters and few stock losses.

Ten members travelled to Victoria, Australia, in late April to visit local studs and attend the ALBS AGM and National Show & Sale at Wodonga. An Australia visit after the NZ AGM is planned to become a regular event every three years.

In this newsletter we profile Robert & Marion Hunt who have run the **Huntlands Stud** in Whitford, Auckland, since 1989. Of special interest is their use of a wintering barn for their older cattle to reduce pugging on the heavy clay soils.

South Island AGM

The AGM for the South Island Limousin Breeders' Group will be held over the weekend of 7/8 July. It will begin at 1pm in Alexandra with a visit to Little Valley Station where they successfully use Limousin as a terminal sire. They regularly top the Omakau weaner sale in autumn. The AGM will be held during the early evening followed by a formal meal. Judy Miller has further details ph (03) 485 9229. Everyone is welcome!

Life Memberships awarded to Allan & Mary McKenzie



At the recent NZ AGM life memberships were awarded to Allan & Mary McKenzie for their outstanding contribution to NZ Limousin over many years. Eileen Evans read the following citation in support of their nomination.

Allan and Mary are the third generation to farm the McKenzie family land near Wellsford. It is beautiful but challenging as the fertile flats near the river are prone to flooding which happened last year when the rains came over from Australia. The hills behind give fantastic views and because of the gradient Mary uses her horse riding skills to move the cattle.

They ran a Jersey Stud (a useful experience for their later Limousin Stud) but gave up milking cows around the time that their fourth daughter was born. Perhaps the non arrival of another male milker influenced this decision. Also at the same time the cowshed and milking equipment needed replacing.

Then they farmed sheep and beef (mainly Angus) until Allan observed how well some first cross dairy Limousin weaners developed and saw the light. Thus he found the best beef breed and they joined the New Zealand Limousin Society in 1994.

This was very fortunate for our society as Allan has many talents which, with Mary's support, he contributes to various clubs and societies including golf, squash and photography. Many of the photographs in our publications, catalogues and at Mystery Creek were either taken by him or enhanced on his computer.



Also using his computer skills he prepared Society and CNI publications such as the Prime Advocate including the 25 year jubilee edition. As publications officer he produced the *Midas Touch* and the *Introducing Limousin* booklet. Most recently he set up the *LimousinNorth* site for the use of Limousin New Zealand and the CNI group including their bull trial.

With his experience and knowledge of clubs and society procedures he rewrote the Limousin New Zealand constitution and later totally rewrote it for the amalgamation with the ALBS. So he spent many hours at his computer for the benefit of the Limousin Society and its members.

Further to these activities he took on official roles for both the Society and the CNI. He joined the New Zealand Council in 1997 and

became President having previously held similar positions in the Northland and CNI Groups.

As loyal CNI members, Allan and Mary contributed to both our annual special events i.e. the Mystery Creek display and the Bull Trial. At Mystery Creek, with various helpers over the years, they attended most days, provided excellent displays including photographs and even exhibited their own cattle.

On one famous occasion they set off from home for Mystery Creek with a heifer in a hired double horse float. They were extra careful after a previous unfortunate event when one of their animals fell from the back of a commercial truck on the way to the works. So, when the heifer became restless Mary volunteered to keep the animal company in the float. All went well then as far as the motorway in the centre of Auckland when they were trailed and finally waved down by a police car followed by two more police cars! Allan's licence was requested but it had not been successfully located prior to departure. The police seemed impressed by the Mystery Creek destination and they were let off with a warning. A female police officer told Allan that it is illegal for people to travel in the float but "if she does tell her to keep her head down"!



Over the years the Bull Trial has been very important to the CNI and Allan and Mary have been exceptional supporters travelling to the grazing farms to undertake weighing and other assessments as convenors and last year in difficult circumstances they took the trial to their own farm. The success of this endeavour was proved by the successful sale. Of course all the trial catalogues for over ten years were produced by Allan.



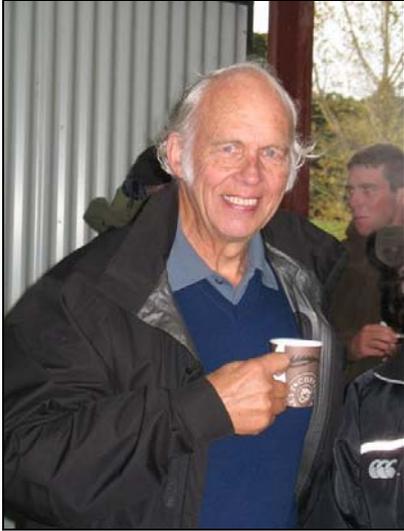
Even the most talented couple can have an occasional lapse. They enjoy travelling together and visited many members on their farms without navigation problems. However there was an occasion in London when planning to cross the river Thames from South to North they discovered that they had managed to cross the river three times.

For relaxation Allan enjoys using his rural "Big Boys Toys". Currently he is working on the local golf course with his digger. We look forward to even more of Allan and Mary's outstanding and unique contributions to the Limousin breed in New Zealand in the future. They are certainly worthy recipients of this official recognition and appreciation from the LBBNZ Society.

Eileen Evans (Grayleen Limousin)

Breeder Profile

Robert & Marion Hunt live on a farmlet near Howick in Auckland where they run the Huntlands Stud. Robert writes...



I purchased my first Limousins from the Limousin Beef Breeders' 7th Annual Sale at the Frankton sale yards in 1989. Lot 11 was a R3 heifer in calf, from the Miranda Stud of the late Alan Lane, and lot 12 was a R3 heifer in calf to Haltcliffe Rembrandt from Eileen and the late Graham Evans' Grayleen Stud, Pukekohe. The Grayleen heifer (BD 81) bred on particularly well and is related to Lot 5 in this year's North Island Bull Trial.

In 1990, I was fortunate to procure an exceptional Peaston cow at the time of the Tod family's Limousin dispersal sale. She was Peaston WP477 (Winnie) out of a very good dam, Benmore Phillipa. Huntlands Bob was a bull trialist in 2008 with Winnie as its maternal great-grand dam. This remarkable bull sired four bulls in the 2011 North Island bull trial returning the sale's top price of \$7700.

While having an on-property stud bull is an option, I have chosen to use AI as much as possible. Although more expensive, AI introduces new genetics to NZ and

increases the chances of producing a top animal.



After being brought up as a country boy in the South Island (Waimate), my pharmacy training took me to the North Island. Our family settled at Whitford after purchasing two pharmacies in Auckland. The property was within easy commuting distance of the shops and more importantly within reach of the launch moored at Pine Harbour.

The soil structure of Whitford has a clay base. In fact the first brickworks were situated there and the bricks barged around to Auckland city from its estuary. Because of the heavy soils and difficult terrain, the ground pugs easily. Consequently I have developed hard-stand areas and built a wintering barn for the heavy cattle. During winter they are hard-fed hay. I leave the calves and yearlings in the paddocks and they don't seem to create any surface problems. The heavier cattle are let out in spring once the ground starts to firm.

Marion & I have an affinity with UK Limousin farmers, having lived in England in the 1960s, with trips there and to France, Brazil and Argentina later. Ina and the late Denis Lomas, breeders from England, won the Royal Show All Breeds Champion in 1994 with Goldies Gigolo, and favoured me by sending some AI straws. He also sent me straws of Fanfan (sire: Tarvis) that he bought from France. Fanfan is the sire of many of my more successful progeny.



I have “chewed the fat” with many other U.K. Limousin breeders. These include Jack Neal from the west country (Nealford Omar); Ronald Dick (Broadmeadows Cannon); Edwards family from Wales (Jockey); Doug Edgar from Scotland (Shire Milton); Brian Jones from Wales (Greensons Gigolo & Marron); Matt Ridley (Sympa); John Logan from Scotland (Homebyres Stud); Graham Sims (Simbo Stud); Peter Pilcher (Cockleshell Stud); and Norman Cruickshank from Scotland (Normande Stud).

When Marion & I were overnighting with Johnny Thompson in Cumbria, I showed Johnny a list of my AI sires that I held at home. Knowing how well he had done breeding from Broadmeadows Tombola, I shouldn't have been surprised when he said that the only good straws I had were those of Broadmeadows Tombola!

I would like to see more marbling in Limousin meat to give it more juiciness and taste. About once a year, we seem to have a young animal that is surplus to our requirements and we call in the home-kill butcher. Sometimes we give some of this meat away to family and to our surprise have had feedback along the lines that it is very lean but lacks flavour. In my opinion we should not only scan for eye muscle area and the amount of rump and back fat, but also for IMF (intra muscular fat) – or in other words, the marbling content. Marbling contributes significantly to the quality of

beef enhancing taste, tenderness and palatability. The amount of marbling depends on genetics rather than feed. No feeding program alone will give it without the marbling genetics.

A common belief has been that the amount of external fat is related to the amount of internal fat or marbling. In other words, in order to increase the amount of marbling, one could feed the cattle longer and put more external finish on the cattle. However, there is evidence to suggest that the amount of external finish does not influence the degree of marbling. With the help of scanning, we will all be able to select cattle with both a sufficient degree of marbling and a relatively lean back fat.



I was disappointed at our last CNI meeting when one person said that he did not see benefit in scanning, and another said that scanning increased costs. However, happily, both people accepted scanning of their bulls at the time that the main mob at the bull trial was done.

In conclusion, Marion & I have enjoyed over two decades of breeding and have met some wonderful people both within NZ and overseas along the way. It is indeed a privilege to work with such magnificent animals. We will continue to do our bit for the breed and strive for even better genetics.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT (June 2012)



It is with pleasure that I deliver this first report as Chairperson and welcome all new members and readers to the Limousin groups.

It has certainly been an enjoyable, rewarding and action packed two months for me since the AGM at the end of April this year. The spin off is, that it has all been positive with the interest and commitment of members being high, which looks for a brighter future with Limousin.

From all accounts and reports from members and farmers, from both the North and South, I have spoken to, report their animals going into the winter in a healthy, forward condition and most have good backups of supplement to get them through should the winter not be too kind.

My term as Chairperson started with a group of NZ breeders travelling to Australia visiting studs, other breeders and ending with the Australian National Show and Sale. It was a most enjoyable time with the group comprising of both North and South Islanders.

The last two months has seen the three major Limousin Bull Sales pass, and the standard of bulls presented for sale has been reflected in some very good prices paid for the top animals with good sale averages being realised at the fall of the hammer. Collectively this indicates a good acceptance and growing market for top breeder bulls. What has been pleasing to me is the recognition and desire of breeders to continue searching and using genetics in their programs which compliment their herds and produce breeder bulls and females which suit our markets and conditions.

Top prices paid this year for bulls around the sales have been, South Island Group Sale, \$9000, North Island Group Sale, \$8000, and Snake Gully Sale \$12000. I look forward to next year's crop of bulls and will follow them with interest.



Breeders continue to enquire and act in testing their animals for protoporphyria and it is pleasing to see those breeders being proactive and looking to the future in their herds.

Just recently Colin Phillips and Stephen Clearwater followed approximately 30, 2 year old, purebred Limousin bulls, belonging to Colin, through the Alliance processing plant in Southland. The objective was to monitor the kill weights, yield, etc and to see how advanced the much talked about grading system is working, or plans to work. Unfortunately at this stage, they are no further ahead now than what they were 12 months ago when Colin sent in a similar number of bulls.

It is important to note, all of Colin's bulls went M1 in terms of grading, which is the best, and a comment from process supervisors were that "they were the best line of bulls they had seen go through the plant." Colin is not giving up, and continues to challenge the system to reward those farmers who produce animals like we know the Limousin breed can produce.

I hope you all have a favourable winter and successful calving.

Regards,

Daryl Bott

4th South Island Bull Trial Sale (2012)

The 4th Annual South Island Bull and Invitational Female sale was held Monday 21 June. The bulls had all come through the ten month South Island bull evaluation trial. Breeders from throughout the country were well-represented at the sale. As expected there was strong interest for the higher performing animals.



The top price of \$9000 went to Riverheights Fred, an impressive bull bred by Don & Delma Robertson, and purchased by Colin & Jennifer Phillips from Southland. \$5700 was paid for Springcreek Friend, a very stylish bull bred by Bob & Grace Neill and purchased by commercial buyers Neville and Bernadette Leslie from Balclutha.

The average selling price for the bulls was \$4128. Unfortunately the lack of commercial buyers at the sale meant a number of lots were passed in.

The invitational female sale that followed again proved its worth with all but one lot selling. Whilst prices were down on previous years it seems that breeders recognise this as an opportunity to obtain quality genetics.

Our special thanks must again go to Brian O'Connell who again did an outstanding job managing the bull trial this past season.

Warrick James

18th North Island Bull Sale (2012)

Twenty bulls were presented for sale at the 18th Annual North Island Bull Sale near Morrinsville (NZ) on Tuesday 5 June. 26 bulls entered the North Island bull evaluation trial last October and the vigorous testing regime reduced this number to 20 by sale time. Despite adverse weather, a pleasing number of stud and commercial buyers attended. The umbrellas and wet weather gear did not prevent buyers from pulling their hands out of their pockets to bid.

Top price of \$8000 was paid for Lot 2, an apricot son of Mandayen Vision Y329 bred by Daryl & Jan Bott and purchased by Stephen & Belinda Clearwater for stud use. This bull had exceptional length with a very nice top line and was supported by an impressive set of EBVs.



Second highest price at \$7200 was Lot 8, bred by Kevin & Marion Wickens and purchased by repeat commercial buyer G Crombie. This bull was assessed 1st place in the trial and impressed with his thickness and nice top line. Both his sire and dam are from Snake Gully bloodlines.

Kevin & Marion Wickens then paid the third top price of \$4800 for Lot 12. Bred by Erik & Lyn van der Velden (Ag Farming Ltd) this bull impressed with his softness and easy calving shoulders. He was sired by Mandayen Guardian A488.

Overall 17 bulls sold for an average price of \$3438 with the organisers declaring it a success.

Special thanks must go to James & Leigh Needham who hosted and managed the trial on their beautiful property for the first time, and also to Liz Maslin who worked so hard as Convenor.

Daryl Bott

18th Annual Snake Gully Bull Sale

17 bulls and 8 females were presented for sale at the 18th Snake Gully Limousin Sale at the Maungakaramea Sale Yards (NZ) on Tuesday 12 June. The vendors (Dannie & Bethley O'Shea and Natalie & David Roberts) had done a superb job in preparing them for sale day. A good crowd and a pleasant winter's day set the scene for what was a successful sale.



The top price of \$12000 was paid for Lot 3 Snake Gully Forge, an apricot son of Wilodge Tonka out of a dam with an Ionesco and Highlander background, and purchased by Tim Grant of Temoananui Limousin (Milton) for stud use. Rarely has such an impressive young bull been offered for sale within NZ in recent years and the price reflected the quality of this animal. A growthy type bull, Forge was balanced and structurally correct, with good length and width along the topline, and supported by an impressive set of growth EBVs.

Second highest price at \$6500 was Lot 7 Snake Gully Fleetwood, another impressive bull sired by Wilodge Tonka, and purchased by commercial buyers Kohete Trusts Partners (Inglewood).

Lot 2 Snake Gully Fergus was third highest price at \$5200 and purchased by Colin & Jennifer Phillips (Tuatapere). Sired by ROMN Tow Truck, Fergus had scanned with the highest EMA.

Repeat buyers Murray Child, Phil Gaudin, the Liberty Fishing Company and Mangatawhiri Limousin Stud headed a strong competition for the remaining lots of a very even line of bulls from some bloodlines not commonly available in New Zealand. Apart from ROMN Tow Truck and Wilodge Tonka other sires included Sauvignon, Vigot, On-Dit and Premier Dauphin D27.

Overall 16 bulls sold for an average price of \$4237.



Three mixed age cows were presented and sold with an average price of \$1633. Top price of \$2000 was paid for Lot 21, an Ionesco daughter, and purchased by Ag Farming Ltd (Erik & Lyn van der Velden) of Mangatara Limousin (Whangarei).

Four of the five heifers sold with an average price of \$1975. Top price of \$3100 was paid for Lot 22, an impressive Mandayen Guardian A488 daughter, and purchased by Peta Lean & Murray Kivell of Kivlean Limousin (Hamilton).

The vendors provided scanning information for all lots and had DNA tested for proto status and F94L. This information was appreciated by the buyers present.

NZ Contingent enjoy Aussie trip

Ten NZ breeders travelled to Victoria late April to visit studs and attend the National Show and Sale in Wodonga. After attending the NZ AGM in Auckland on 22 April, the group flew out to Melbourne.

The group included Jan & Daryl Bott, Erik & Lyn van der Velden, Gary Kennett & Marilyn Montgomery, Stephen & Belinda Clearwater, & Colin & Jennifer Phillips.



A special thanks to our hosts over this time; Joan & Ian Symons (Lanaud), Greg & Marilyn Frost (Frontiere), and John & Carolyn Menadue (Menadue). A number of other local breeders took the time to join us at these studs which made it even more worthwhile.



We were overwhelmed with the Aussie hospitality. For some of us it was the first opportunity to put a face to a

name, and for others it was certainly a chance to catch up with 'old friends' from the ILC in Italy, etc.

The National Show & Sale in Wodonga was quite an experience. It was a real treat to see so many beautifully presented animals paraded. The chance to view progeny from well-known sires unavailable in NZ was invaluable. Erik & Lyn van der Velden recognised the quality of these genetics and purchased three stunning heifers for breeding purposes. This bold move will certainly be a wonderful boost to the NZ genetic base in future years. [See following article.]



The trip was a chance to renew and build friendships. No doubt some of the discussion will lead to new genetics becoming available in NZ. We expect these tours to become more common and the plan is to programme them into our AGM & Conference every three years. In the meantime next year's NZ AGM & Conference is tentatively planned for the Nelson region in April.

Finally, thank you to Alex McDonald for facilitating the trip and to Daryl & Jan Bott for organising it from this end.

Gary Kennett

New Zealand raids Aussie National

(reprinted from the ALBS website)

New Zealand breeders skimmed the cream off the junior females at this year's Australian National Limousin sale, paying to a top of \$11,000.

Erik and Lyn van der Velden, of Whangarei selected two apricot and one black female, including the junior champion heifer, to use in an embryo transfer program.

Mr and Mrs van der Velden paid the national's top female price of \$11,000 for Mandayen Abigail G1872, a May 2011-drop daughter of Hunt Mr Jock. The double polled and black pure French heifer was offered by Mandayen Limousins, Murray Bridge, South Australia. The unjoined heifers boasted eight production traits in the top one per cent of the breed.

The second top price female at \$10,000, Chateau Gin 'N' Tonic, will also head into the van der Velden's embryo program. The 14-month-old apricot, polled, pure French heifer was sired by TMF Whiskey Jack 616W and out of Chateau Wealth. She was offered by John and Bev McIntyre, Chateau Limousins, Wangaratta, Victoria.

Selected by judge Graham Brown as the junior champion, Mandayen Special Cookie G1835, was sold to Mr and Mrs van der Velden for \$9000. Exhibited by the Mandayen stud, the 12-month-old heifer was sired by Wulfs Realtor and out of show cow Mandayen Special Cookie Z344. Apricot and polled, the heifer has seven production traits in the top 10 per cent of the breed, plus growth traits in the top one per cent.



Mr and Mrs van der Velden were impressed with the female offering at this year's National show and sale. The couple run 45 registered

females and will have 90 calves on the ground this year through an extensive embryo transfer program.

"We were looking for both black and apricot females with polledness, good growth and docility." Mr van der Velden said.

He returned to breeding Limousins three years ago after a break of some 20 years to establish the Mangatara stud.

"I have always loved the breed and now have the opportunity to grow and progress with it."

"New Zealand doesn't have a vealer market – most steers are sold as weaners or taken through to 15-18 months, and even up to 30 months of age, to be hooked."

"The breed is still small in numbers and it is a struggle to get people to look at them. But, the quality of the cattle is a lot better and people are using Limousin bulls in crossbreeding programs mainly with Angus and Hereford cows."

2012 Hoof & Hook Future Beef NZ

Limousin starred in the 2012 Hoof & Hook competition. Organised by Future Beef NZ, the competition is part of Beef Expo.

This year's competition included 55 competitors/handlers and almost the same number of steers.

Tim & Katy Button (Balclutha), Bob & Grace Neill (Oamaru), and H Bracegirdle (Inglewood) enjoyed outstanding success with Limousin steers.

Hoof Competition

1st Lightweight Purebred Steer (T & K Button)

4th Lightweight Crossbred Steer (T & K Button)

Res Champion Lightweight Steer (T & K Button)

Hook Competition

1st Lightweight Purebred Steer (B & G Neill)

1st Lightweight Crossbred Steer (H Bracegirdle)

Champion Lightweight Steer (H Bracegirdle)

Overall Results

1st Lightweight Purebred Steer (T & K Button)

4th Lightweight Purebred Steer (B & G Neill)

4th Lightweight Crossbred Steer (H Bracegirdle)

Champion Lightweight Steer (T & K Button)

This competition would seem to be an ideal forum to showcase the superior carcass qualities of Limousin. The challenge is out to other breeders to become involved in this competition next year. Please talk to Bob Neill for further information (03) 434 6618.

Elite Dams recognised

In a new initiative the Management Committee of LBBNZ has introduced recognition awards for high performing females. The criteria acknowledges longevity, strong maternal qualities, and good temperament. All recipients are well recorded in Breedplan.

Breeders are encouraged to submit data to Breedplan particularly docility scores, 200 day weights and to record all progeny.

Proven Focus cows must have had at least six recorded calves before they are nine years old. Certificates were awarded to:

- Ben More Tessa FT20 – now a 13 year old cow bred & owned by the James family (Ben More)
- Snake Gully Y.W.C.A – now an eight year old cow bred & owned by Danny and Bethley O’Shea (Snake Gully)

Prospect Proven Focus cows must have had at least three recorded calves before they are six years old. Certificates were awarded to:

- Ben More Amiee – a six year old cow bred & owned by the James family (Ben More)
- Glencairn 05 543, a six year old cow bred and owned by Rob & Jean Johnstone (Glencairn)
- Snake Gully Akita, a six year old cow with four recorded calves bred by Danny & Bethley O’Shea (Snake Gully) & currently owned by Tim Grant (Temoananui)
- Snake Gully Casual bred by Danny & Bethley O’Shea (Snake Gully) & currently owned by Erik & Lyn Van Der Velden (Mangatara)

Congratulations to the breeders involved.



NZ Website

A reminder about the NZ website (www.limousin.co.nz) which includes updates, a “for sale” section and current information. The website is a useful vehicle for you to contribute ideas and information so please make use of it.

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

NZ Director's Report (June 2012)

Following the recent Australian tour and Show and Sale at Wodonga I participated in my first Board of Directors meeting in Albury on 28th April.

I take this opportunity to thank the NZ members who supported me in the recent election which allows me to represent the NZ region on the ALBS board.

There are normally two scheduled board meetings per year with opportunity of conference calling and email contact should the need arise. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2012.

I was fortunate to have previously met most of the other nine directors representing the other Limousin regions of Australia. However, it was still a daunting task going into a meeting not completely sure how it would pan out over the course of the day, also not knowing how you would get on with the other directors in a formal environment.

I am pleased to say I was made very welcome and as far as Aussies go they are not too bad a bunch of people.

We, as a New Zealand region, because of climate, size and population, have many differences in the way we farm, in the way we market and promote our cattle, and naturally we have lot smaller numbers of members in our promotion groups with less resources. But, it is very clear there are goals and objectives in breeding cattle that are exactly the same and how we all go about achieving those objectives is quite unique.

As different as the NZ region is to Australia in general, the Western groups of Australia are as different to the Eastern groups of Australia, which brings me back to the roll of a director on the board where decisions and consideration has to be given to all of the groups and members.

The Information Nucleus program

currently under way in Australia continues as a large focus of attention as the results start to come in from cycle slaughters. It is pleasing to see Alex reporting on this program in the weekly newsletters providing updates and information, and while it is easy to say, I would encourage you to absorb what you can from it as it will gain momentum and meaning as time goes on.

The Limousin Youth movement in Australia is extremely strong and from our magazine articles and snippets from Alex's newsletters you can see the commitment and enjoyment the junior members get from their group. I believe we have just the four or five junior members currently and there is opportunity for our junior members to participate in the camps and educational programs run in Australia, so if you have children and grand-children of age who are keen on their cattle and may want to get involved as the Australian juniors do, let your local councillor or myself know and we will investigate these opportunities. The future of Limousin is with our youth.

At my next meeting I would like to present to the board a report on behalf of the NZ region, so if you have any expression of interests or experiences with your cattle you would like to share or table for consideration let me know.

Regards,

Daryl Bott.

LBBNZ Management Committee

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