

LIMOUSIN

Carcase, Yield, Efficiency.

Limousin Beef Breeders of New Zealand Inc.

Spring Newsletter

September 2018



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Murray Childs – Limo/AngX taken to
Maungakarama Sept Spring Fair 2018 - \$1226
Average Price



Mangatawhiri Herd – (L Maslin) at NZ AGM 2018

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Report from the Chair LBBNZ

I hope everyone's calving is going well or has gone well. The calf is the result of so many breeding decisions which affect the Limousin herd into the future. The calf is the building block of the future. The highly successful SI Hoof and Hook Competition results suggest the outcomes of those breeding decisions are pretty good.

It is good to hear that both the South Island and North Island Bull Trials will go ahead this year in spite of *Mycoplasma Bovis*. Nevertheless, we must be respectful of the responsibility not to allow the disease to be spread and keep an eye on MPI guidelines to reduce the risk of spreading the disease. Last year the SI trial tested for disease which seemed a good safeguard for our customers. Closer to sale time we can hope for better testing capabilities.

The upgrading of the NAIT system is also something we must be vigilant to comply with.

Our website, www.limousin.co.nz continues to be well patronised with the facebook activity fluctuating depending on the posts. Thanks to the people who have sent their photos and good news for us to put onto the site and facebook page. Breeders can use a customised page to draw attention to their stud. It is something that many of you have said you would like to do and it certainly is a cheap form of advertising. If anyone needs a hand to compile a page, take a look at the Breeder pages on the site and use them as a template or contact me or Natalie. I am sure we can help out.

Three Ways to Use the Website for Advertising

Bulls/Females for Sale Page – Free at the moment

Front page rolling ad - \$10 per month

Customised page - \$100 for two years

DNA Testing

You will be aware of the new system for having hairs DNA tested and analysed for polling, colour, tenderness gene. To have calves registered you need the minimum 50SNP DNA test on the registered sire. I have included specific instructions for NZ members (p6). It is the same process as for Australian members, as listed on the Australian website but **NZ members need to include a current ManufacturersDeclaration/Import Permit**. The current



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permit is included below.

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On the Australian website I noted how few NZ members were listed and on contacting the office was told that after a time, people have not paid their membership fee, are removed from the list. It is important that you stay current on the Australian database so you can remain on the NZ website registered breeder list.

Natalie Roberts has completed the list of 2018 Elite Cows – see more info on the criteria on p6. Congratulations to 2018 achievers: Mangatara, Piwakawaka and Snake Gully.

A number of our members have provided bulls for the Dairy Progeny Test this year. Last year Piwakawaka Kagan was accepted. Hopefully some other Limousin bulls will also be selected to gain some exposure in the dairy industry.

I received news of the passing of Bev Sanft who was President of LBBNZ 1990-1993. See the tribute p10.

Yours in Limousin , Peta Lean

From your ALBS Director

Spring is such a busy but exciting time as calves are born to herald the next generation of genetics. I hope the calving season is progressing well for you.

The big news is that ALBS has been awarded the 2022 International Limousin Congress following a presentation at this year's ILC in Denver. The proposal is to hold it in Victoria and South Australia in Sept-Oct 2022. The proposal also includes a post-tour opportunity to New Zealand and we look forward to developing this programme going forward.

The ALBS Board are working hard on the financial side of the business. With the recent changes in office personnel, it's been challenging to keep on top of this. With Mardi now at the administrative helm, backlogs are being reduced and customer service improved. Caitlin Berecny remains on-board as our Registrar and it is her job to sort out any matters around registrations etc.

The Board has also faced increasing costs at a time when there has been downward pressure on cow registrations and membership across all breed societies. ALBS still has a significant debtors' list. If you know you have an amount outstanding, please give this a priority.

Interestingly, Australia are working towards an AGM weekend much like ours which involves workshops, visits to studs, and a bit of sight-seeing. This will move it away from the National

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Show & Sale in Wodonga and allow the weekend to move around different regions. Further, it could possibly be held in NZ in the future.

I would encourage you to use the NZ website as a medium to market your animals. Peta and Natalie are doing a great job in keeping the website fresh and interesting, and advertisers are enjoying plenty of hits and follow-up inquiry.

The showing season begins soon and we wish the handful of breeders involved our best wishes. It is always great to see Limousin cattle being paraded. Obviously, the M Bovis issue is paramount but with appropriate protocols in place the risk will be minimized.

Finally, congratulations to both groups on getting their 2018-19 bull trials up and going. These showcase a wide variety of existing and new genetics and provide a focus point for members. In isolation it is difficult to know how well we are progressing. Being involved in a bull trial under the same management conditions shows the true genetic differences in the animals.

Kind regards,

Gary Kennett

ALBS Director (NZ)

New Zealand Elite Female Awards

In 2012 New Zealand Elite Female Awards were introduced for high performing females of the breed.

The criteria for Proven Focus Cows and Prospect Focus Cows are as follows:

Proven Focus Cow

- The cow must be currently active and owned by a current member of ALBS
- The cow must have produced a minimum of 5 natural calves before she turned 7 years of age.
- The cow must have an average calving interval of less than 400 days
- The cow must have a milk EBV in the top 30% of the breed
- The cow must have a 200 Day Weight EBV in the top 30% of the breed
- The cow must have a docility EBV above the current breed average
- The cow must be (PN) Protoporphyrin Free Tested or (PF) Protoporphyrin Free by Pedigree.

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Prospect Focus Cow

- The cow must be currently active and owned by a current member of ALBS
- The cow must have produced a minimum of 3 natural calves before she turned 5 years of age
- The cow must have a milk EBV in the top 30% of the breed
- The cow must have a 200Day Weight EBV in the top 30% of the breed
- The cow must have a docility EBV above the current breed average
- The cow must have an average calving interval of less than 400 days.
- The cow must be (PN) Protoporphyria Free Tested or (PF) Protoporphyria Free by Pedigree.

How do you as a breeder increase the chances of one of your cows meeting the criteria for Proven and Focus dams?

- Make sure your cows have their first calf before they are three years of age
- Record all calves with the Breed Society
- Performance record the progeny of the cows in BREEDPLAN and especially make sure that 200 Day weights and docility scores are submitted on the calves.

Congratulations to the Award Winners 2018

Proven

- **Piwakawaka Fern**

Prospect

- **Snake Gully Happy**
- **Mangatara Halle**
- **Mangatara Henrietta**

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Prospect Elite Cows 2018

Mangatarā Henrietta



Snake Gully Happy



Mangatarā Halle



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DNA Sampling

The ALBS website has the directions for sending hair samples for DNA and other testing. It is written for Australian members. NZ members must send their hair samples directly to Geneseek, accompanied by a current import permit - manufacturer's declaration.

- **NZ Members ONLY**
 - Print a copy of your test request to accompany your samples in the post.
 - Print a copy of the import permit below (Note it is only valid until September 2019). Bundle your request and samples together and post to the address on the following Import Permit
- 

GAA- Import
Documents and Instru
- We recommend using registered post, so your samples can be tracked.
 - Clear instructions for how to attach the import permit and include the samples are on the first page of the permit. Remember Australian Customs deals with the package first and then sends the samples on to Geneseek in Australia.

2018/9 North Island Limousin Bull Trial

The new NILB Bull Trial is about to begin. The bulls will be at a new farm for 2019. Richard and Diana have been excellent hosts of the past four Bull Trials but unfortunately have had to give up the role this year. Mangatawhiri's Dorothy Kroef has generously agreed to host the trial for this year. All participants are very happy with the offer after Dorothy and Hein's longstanding involvement with NZ and NILB Bull Trials. Read the article about Mangatawhiri p8 in the newsletter.

Fifteen bulls are listed to join the trial at the end of September. After last year's positive sale, the group of breeders has increased in number. Each of the breeders has registered two bulls. Mangatawhiri still has three yearling bulls that they have entered.

Robert Hunt (Convenor)

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South Island Bull Trial underway

It is pleasing to report that seven breeders from throughout the South Island have entered sixteen yearling bulls this year. Again there is an interesting range of genetics including some proven NZ lines from sires like Snake Gully Fergus and Riverheights Berti, but also new genetics from sires like Wulfs Accumulator, Wulfs Amazing Bull and RUNL Zingray.

The trial officially started last week with each bull being drenched and receiving MultiMin. Thank you again to Merial and Virbac for their ongoing sponsorship of the South Island trial. Hair samples were taken for DNA analysis.

The top weight on entry was 486kg with an average weight of 395kg. This average is slightly up on last year.

Once again it promises to be an interesting trial as we see the bulls mature and develop.

Gary Kennett

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Mangatawhiri Heifers at 2018 AGM (Photo by Liz Maslin) Mangatawhiri Bulls at the AGM (L. Maslin)

Mangatawhiri – A Lifetime with Limousin

Mangatawhiri is known for having great Full French Limousin cattle. It was always Dorothy's dream to have a Full French herd, something she achieved at the highest level.

Mangatawhiri, owned by Dorothy and Hein Kroef is a highly respected Limousin Stud. They set up the stud when they moved to Mangatawhiri in the late 80s. It was a real family time with the whole family involved in developing the property they still own and have recently added to. Dorothy and Hein have been members of NILB and LBBNZ for near on 40 years. Dorothy breeds the cattle and Hein is the engineer, developing innovative technology to help feed and manage the cattle. Their contribution to the Limousin breed is reflected in the quality of the herd we walked amongst at the 2018 LBBNZ AGM. Little did we know the entire herd was soon going to be for sale.

Hein's father, Wilham, bought Dorothy her first Limousin heifer in 1981, Sycamore Ondine and in 1982 she bought a recipient heifer who produced Whangamarino Tracy. Tracy's Dam was Iris and Sire, Bedell Maurice. Herman and Truss Kroef are listed in the 1993 Limousin Year book as owning the Saamen Stud. Dorothy's children, Gregory, Robert, Matthew and Trudy helped to show the family Limousin. Dorothy's love of Limousin grew from her contact with the breed in the Netherlands. Dorothy's brother in law's father, Mr Jan Lepoutre was a well established Limousin breeder in the Netherlands and was an avid promoter of the breed in terms of its carcass yield. When the family visited Mr Lepoutre, Dorothy found his large breeding herd impressive. They were outside and although Dorothy was a stranger to them, she was able to wander freely among them. Mr Lepoutre valued temperament as well as conformation in his breeding programme. Dorothy and Hein's first Full French heifer purchases have grown to become one of the major Limousin Studs in NZ.

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The herd started by breeding up, using Limousin bulls. As well, Dorothy trained in AI so she had more control over the mating of the animals. In the 90s, Dorothy was highly successful in the carcass competitions with regular wins in the hoof and hook competitions. In 1991 a Full French steer took first on the hooks in the heavyweight class in the Waikato region and came third in the national contest.

Mangatawhiri has held true to the Full French Limousin. The herd has cattle going back to many famous AI sires: Harris, Goldenview Krugerrand, Highlander, On-Dit, Donna Valley Poll Enterprise. She also used NZ Sires such as Snake Gully Blamey, Snake Gully Yancy, Snake Gully Temuka, Snake Gully Fraser, Snake Gully Jackson. Some of Dorothy's best cows have been Dahlia, Greta, Wendy. Recently Meriden Polled Heavy Duty and CF Dandie have been added to the mix.

When NILB desperately needed a new home for the 2018 Bull Trial, Dorothy stepped into the breach. It was a very popular decision and meant the Trial could run this year. Her career in Limousin breeding has turned full circle. Mangatawhiri won the very first Bull Trial held at Te Rapa in 1994 with a bull called Marcus, (S. Goldenview Krugerrand out of Mangatawhiri Jacinda) bought by Rae and Murray McQuoid for \$8000. In those days it was a National Trial before splitting into North Island and South Island trials. Mangatawhiri has been a supporter of the North Island Limousin Bull Trial ever since their first dabble in the trial. Dorothy has been heavily involved in the trial. She is a regular at weigh-days and her hearty sale day soups have always been a hit. Her extensive knowledge of breeding and stock handling as well as her ever positive contribution to NILB and LBBNZ will be sorely missed.

Dorothy eases out of full on Limousin Stud breeding but she and Hein retain their Mangatawhiri property, with a new focus on drystock. To her credit most of the cows and young heifers have gone to breeders who will carry on the excellent breeding tradition. Stephen Dance (Springfall Farms Ltd) has purchased a number of what are impressive cows and heifers. New member, Owen Clements has also been the recipients of some very good cows. Bruce Polley who is also new to Limousin has picked up the Mangatawhiri young heifers.

Bethley O'Shea sums it up "Dorothy has been a true gem for the Limousin Society. Number one has been her dedication to the breed and the effort she has made consistently to produce top quality animals and never hesitate to cull anything that was not up to her own high standards".

Dorothy bows out of breeding stud Limousin, knowing she has the respect of all of her fellow breeders over the past 40 years.

Sources: 1990 Yearbook, Bethley O'Shea, Various Bull Trial Catalogues.

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Tribute to Beverley Sanft

Life Member of Limousin Beef Breeders of NZ

Past President of Limousin Beef Breeders of NZ 1990-1993

Clare Crawley (niece of Sheila Coombs) emailed to tell me of Beverley's passing in September. The tribute comes from information from Sheila and the piece Beverley wrote for the 25th Anniversary of Limousin, reproduced in the 40 Year Magazine, 2013.

Beverley farmed with Sheila Coombs near Feilding, developing the Totara Farm Stud. They joined the fledgling NZ Limousin Society in 1973. They were there from the beginning.

Like many others, they bred up the Limousins using Limousin bulls. Limousin grew on Beverley as a handsome breed and Totara Farm showed Limousin regularly in the Hawkes Bay. Eventually, not to be outdone by the Full French Limousins of Roger James and Frank Allen, they joined them. Three heifers, Bewick Lucy, Barleybank La Vache and Marsden Leslie were purchased from an Australian who had brought the heifers over from England, flushed them, and getting the genetics that he wanted, he sold them in NZ. Beverley thought they were a bargain at \$3000 for the trio. It was Marsden Leslie who captured Sheila and Beverley's devotion and respect.

Beverley was President of LBBNZ during the heyday of Limousin. Member numbers were huge and increasing rapidly. Limousin were catching the eye of the beef industry, outstripping all other breeds in the national carcass competitions. Limousin were also having numerous show successes – Beverley recalls the excitement as Wahirata Kiri “fought a battle against 50 yearling heifers to take first place in the All Breeds Class” at the Royal Show in Palmerston North. Later Beverley was instrumental in pushing for the professionalism in judging of cattle, organising judging workshops. During her time as President Limousin bulls were well supported at the Beef Bull Sale week, reaching prices of up to \$14,000.

The early nineties were also a time of encouraging members to use Breedplan to record the performance of Limousin. She saw the move from fractions of Limousin being converted to percentages on pedigree analysis. NZ was the first country to use this type of accuracy. During her Presidency Black and Polled Limousin became eligible for registration.

Beverley enjoyed mixing with other Limousin breeders and met up with members who were showing Limousin and at Mystery Creek at the Field Days.

Many of you will know Beverley and remember her with fondness. We are grateful for the input of people like Beverley to the Limousin Society and the development of the Limousin breed. Beverley and Totara Farm contributed to the foundation for our breed today.

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Beef Week Rockhampton – Queensland

By Clark Scott

In May I travelled to Rockhampton, Queensland with two farming neighbours. 2018 was the tri-annual BEEF WEEK, an important week in the Australian beef calendar. Because of the demand on accommodation in Rockhampton we stayed half an hour away in the coastal town of Yeppoon. I highly recommend Yeppoon as a place to visit or stay if you are ever in Queensland.



On the opening day of the expo we went on a pre-booked station tour to “Barfield Station” around two hours south of Rockhampton near Banana Queensland. As is typical of much of Queensland, Barfield ran Brahman breeders. Brahman (*Bos indicus*) or first crosses of Brahman are the preferred breed of cattle in this tropical climate because of their ability to resist ticks without requiring chemical control. *Bos taurus* cattle, typical of cooler climates have too much hair and require ongoing chemical control of ticks. Barfield used Limousin bulls for terminal sires over some of their cows. They sold their progeny either as store into feedlots or fattened off pasture depending on the season. The difficult growing conditions and often long periods of dry meant that the ability of many stations to fatten stock is difficult. Because of this a large feedlot industry has developed throughout Australia to better manage the continuity of fat stock into processing plants.

The main grass growing at Barfield Station was Buffel grass a native of Africa and parts of Asia. It was believed Buffel grass arrived in Australia as padding in the saddles of early Afghan people involved with the camel trains in the interior. From here it spread throughout much of the arid interior. Although tolerant of drought it does however lack the nutritional quality to fatten stock. In an attempt to better balance the diet an introduced woody legume native to south America called leucaena is grown in rows alongside the Buffel grass. The plant fixes Nitrogen and the cattle actively graze on the shrub. The idea is to manage the plant so it does not get any taller than around four or five feet. Any taller than this and it becomes too woody and requires mechanical topping. One particular problem with the Brahman breed is their poor fertility with sixty odd percent calving fairly normal. Many cows will have a calf one year but are often empty for the following one of two years. Nutrition is a major reason for this along with single trait selection.

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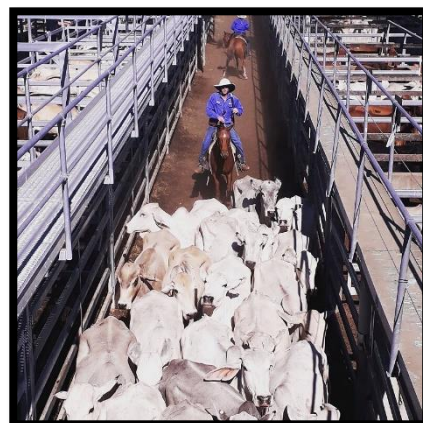


The next three days we spent on the grounds at Beef expo looking at the various exhibits. Limousin Australia had a great site and exhibit which had several breeders cattle and a lot of breed information and paraphernalia.



In particular was a live auction of mainly semen and embryo packages which was very successful. Outside of the individual breed exhibits were also large pavilions of cattle, much as you would expect at most Australian shows. The scale of the event and the huge numbers of cattle on display were impressive. Alongside this of course were acres of trade exhibits associated with the cattle industry. Many international companies, including a few from New Zealand were present and there was plenty to see to interest most people.

On the Friday morning before flying home we visited the Rockhampton selling complex for the weekly cattle sale. Rockhampton sale yards are the biggest selling complex in Australia with acres of sale pens and an indoor selling arena for special sale events. All the cattle are moved around the yards on horseback. There are great viewing platforms for the public to watch the sale from and in fact going to the weekly Rockhampton sale is one of the 'things to do' when you are visiting Rockhampton. Well worth a visit, never saw a sheep all week!



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