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WINTER NEWSLETTER 2022

From the Chair

I am sure, like myself, that many of you will be looking forward to life moving back to some sort of normality. The effects of the pandemic on the processing of livestock have again been a major problem this season. With the cattle processing season only now gathering momentum, we can expect major delays during this winter. In the southern South Island, the compounding effect of record drought has caused much anxiety for farmers. Thankfully, other areas of the South Island and the North Island have had an exceptional season and have been able to take store stock. It is always disappointing, as a farmer, when you cannot make the best of good market prices.

Sadly, over the past year, as a society we have farewelled several longstanding breeders and members. My thoughts go out to their families, and I would like to acknowledge their contribution to the breed over many years.

After much deliberation, the committee have once again decided to hold our AGM via ZOOM at 8pm on Monday 16th May. It was agreed that the current uncertainty made it too difficult to ensure people would be able to attend safely.

Consequently, I would encourage all members to look forward to attending the 2023 AGM that will celebrate 50 years of Limousins in New Zealand. It would be great to have as many past and current members attend this event as possible.

Good luck to all those selling bulls this autumn and I welcome any members to contact me on any matters.

Best wishes,

Clark Scott



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Limousin Beef Breeders Society New Zealand

AGM 2022

Due to the continued restrictions and uncertainty of Covid the AGM will be held via teleconference on **Monday 16th May 2022 at 8.00pm.**

All Full Members should have received an email with copies of LBBSNZ AGM 2021 minutes, LBBSNZ Agenda for 2022 and LBBSNZ 2021 Financials, although anybody is welcome to join us. Please contact Natalie Roberts if you have not received these.

The following directors are up for re-election in 2022 (Two Year term 2022/2023):

Clark Scott

Erik Van der Velden

The following directors are to remain on the board for 2022:

Natalie Roberts

Colin Phillips

Please find below the Zoom link to join the meeting.

Topic: LBBSNZ AGM

Time: **16 May 2022 at 08:00 PM Auckland, Wellington**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84232067494?pwd=UIBLMU5tTWpRVXNDTRKNzg2NkJsUT09>

Meeting ID: **842 3206 7494**

Passcode: **006912**

One tap mobile

+6498846780,,84232067494#,,,,*006912# New Zealand

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Dial by your location

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Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84232067494?pwd=UIBLMU5tTWpRVXNDTRKNzg2NkJsUT09>



ILROnline Tutorials

Click Here to download and save a copy of the ILROnline Youtube tutorial Links



https://mcusercontent.com/f629292b2a0e3a18f6181b2e0/files/e3633687-bd75-7268-439a-3dfa7895212d/ILROnline_tutorial_Links.pdf

New Member

I was first introduced to the Limousin breed back in the 90s when an OE to England turned into a 10-year stint as my partner at the time was breeding and showing Limousin and Limousin x Belgian Blue cattle. There were also trips to Banbury market and, annually, a trip to Carlyle in Scotland selling bulls.

Upon my return to NZ in 2000, I had the thought of one day trying my hand at breeding Limousin because I felt they had a place here and would handle the NZ conditions well.

The following 15 years, however, were spent building up part of the family Agricultural Contracting Business, which is based in Pukeatua on the south side of Maungatautari Mountain, with business partner Campbell Chittick. Between ourselves and my parents we provide most services that Dairy farmers require including Grass and Maize Silage harvesting, Baling, Cultivation, Drilling and Truck Cartage.

Approximately six years ago we were able to purchase an 85ha block in Te Akau, north of Raglan, and bought 40 Angus cows to start our herd off. I set about looking for a Limousin bull to put over them and our first purchase was *Snake Gully Kieran*.

The herd has now increased by another 20 cows made up of *Kieran's* best daughters, keeping five or six each year and as first time calvers we put a Stokman Angus bull over them. This year those Limflex cows calved down to *Snake Gully Premier* and we have been very impressed with the offspring.

We keep an extra 25 of the best calves each year to fatten and my parents buy the remaining approximately 25 to fatten at home in Pukeatua.

Back in Pukeatua, on my home block, I have a small herd of Limousin cows, made up mainly of some good old French cows, thanks to Natalie Roberts, and their offspring. Running with some of them this summer, as well as a stint with a herd at Te Akau, was the new bull from Erik Van der Velden's Mangatara Stud by *Junior PP*, so I am looking forward to seeing some of his offspring at the end of the year.

I am aiming to breed a bull or two for the farm at Te Akau, perhaps a few bulls, if the quality is there. I tried to freeze some semen this year for a few local farmers who were interested in trying Limmy over their Dairy cows but, unfortunately, age wasn't on *Kieran's* side (being eight years old) and his semen didn't survive freezing. I have a good bull calf by him this season so am hoping when old enough, to try him and hope he has inherited his father's easy calving trait.

I personally like the French type cows and am fairly strict at not keeping anything that doesn't show good docility. I want to keep the easy calving trait and try to breed towards more polled cattle, if possible, as that will be a positive trait for the future; with the way regulations seem to be heading.

When all of the work has quietened down and the cattle have been checked out at Te Akau, you'd quite likely might find me with partner Micky and the kids at the end of the farm down on the beach, trying to catch a fish.

Just to make sure I don't stop for too long, we rent out the bach for anyone wanting an Off The Grid experience which might involve relaxing or fishing. Not what you are thinking though. No Solar Powered Energy or Bamboo Sheets there, just a good solid wood fire and a diesel generator keeping you warm (and heating the planet) one kilojoule at a time :-)

P Holmes



Kieran bull and dam



Snake Gully Kieran



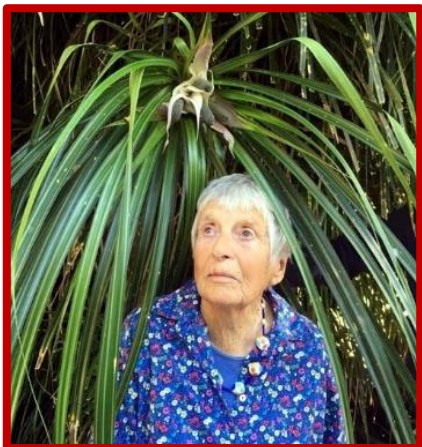
Snake Gully Kieran and his girls

TRIBUTES

Sheila Coombs

Life Member of Limousin Beef Breeders Society of NZ

Died 20 January 2022 aged 98 years



Sheila farmed in Feilding, with Bev Sanft, developing the Totara Farms Limousin Stud from 1973. They were there at the beginning of the NZ Limousin Beef Breeders Society Inc. Bev became the President of LBBNZ in 1991 to 1994.

Sheila's niece, Clare Crawley, approached LBBNZ and returned the Bronze Limousin Bull to the Society. Sheila had to downsize as she moved into Parkwood in Waikanae. Clare duly presented the bull at our Palmerston North AGM in 2016. Murray and I spent a very interesting morning with Sheila at Parkwood. She struck me as an animated, energetic person with a keen intelligence and a passion for Limousin. Professing to increasing blindness, she had her computer screen enlarged and installed software to be able to blow up the words in her

emails and documents. She proudly showed us the memorabilia she and Bev had lovingly built up over their years of Limousin breeding. She donated many plates, books and Limousin paraphernalia and it is hoped to offer these Limousin treasures to members at the next NI LBBNZ AGM.

At that time Sheila was working on having her new book published, and it is a tribute to her vision and tenacity that the book has been published. 'Paddock Profiles' shows an insight into Sheila's love of the land and Limousin. In purchasing more land near Feilding, she talks about the excitement of crafting the landscape as well as crafting an income from Limousins. Her book follows the development of each paddock, starting with the Yards Paddock to the Front Paddock, Willow Paddock and so on. Each paddock is named to reflect its characteristics and the farming stories that occurred there. Many native trees were planted, including, of course, totara which eventually attracted the native birds. It is a personal read reflecting Sheila's love of animals, particularly early Limousin bulls, cows and calves. There are also stories reflecting the strong maternal instincts of Limousins. Sheila relates their possessiveness in a matter-of-fact way and that, of course, she lived to tell the tales.

Totara Stud reflects the history of Limousin in New Zealand. Set up in 1973, along with LBBNZ, the Limousin Stud grew and held on farm sales. Limousin were popular on the show circuit, something which Sheila and Bev enjoyed and had success with. Sheila talked lovingly about the well-known, **Totara Colorado** (top right). I even note that there is some Totara Colorado semen in the Kivlean tank.

Sheila and Bev were innovative in their approach to the sustainability of the land to match their development of Limousin to move the breed forward. Sheila is remembered with fondness by those who knew her and we thank her for the donation of her book to the Society.



Sheila's heifers

Dannie O'Shea

03 January 1938 to 23 February 2022

Snake Gully Limousins

Thomas Daniel O'Shea (Dannie) was born 03 January 1938 and spent his early life living on a dairy farm in Tangihua, Maungakarema with his parents and three siblings. Family involvement with many local community organisations saw him supporting community organisations, particularly rugby and tennis. After completing his education at Sacred Heart College in Auckland, Dannie became determined to succeed in rugby and by the 1960s he had become a skilled rugby player representing both Counties and North Auckland.

In 1964 Dannie and Bethley were married and lived on Dannie's dairy farm in Tangihua where their first three children were born. During these years Dannie was involved in local club rugby, not just as a player but also as a coach of the teenage teams and was also very active on the committee. As a past representative player of North Auckland, Dannie qualified to be a member of the Vikings RFC which he joined in 1974. During the 80s he was Sole Selector Coach for the North Auckland B then A teams.

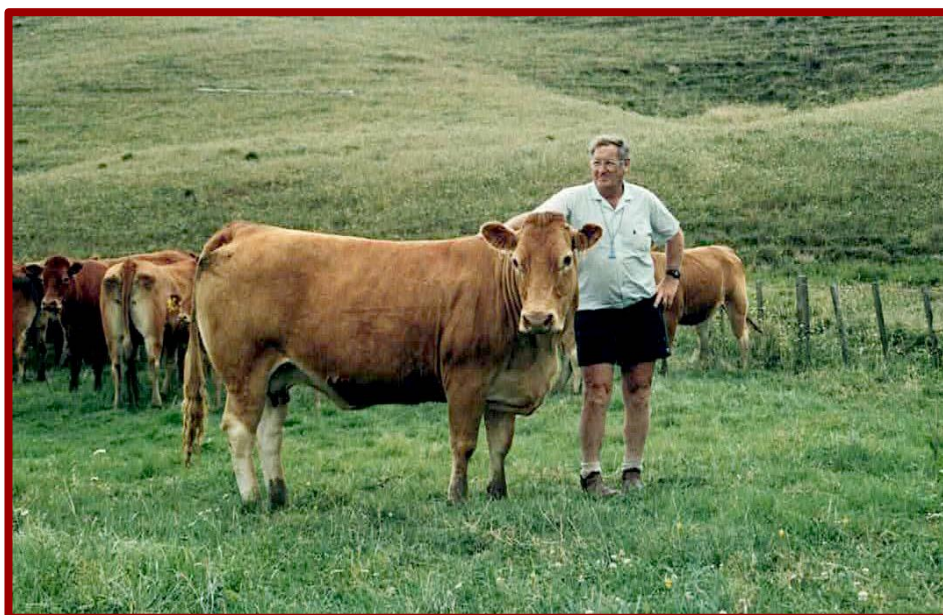
The aim of the Vikings Club has always been to promote rugby in the North. Dannie led the way by introducing new ventures for other Vikings members and he was rewarded by being made a Life Member of the New Zealand Vikings Ruby Football Club where he had filled positions of Club Captain, President and Patron. Dannie believed that if you belonged to a club, you should always strive to achieve the very best service to it. He lived by this belief which became very evident in anything he became involved in during his life.

Dannie and Bethley sold the Tangihua dairy farm in 1968, rented a house and purchased a run farm of 880 acres on the Omana Road. Essential buildings such as house, stage one barn, and an implement shed gradually appeared but before things were really organised the opportunity came up to purchase an adjoining block of 500 acres. Full of blackberry, ti-tree and gorse it was a few years before it became a useful asset. The house provided room for two additions to the now complete Dannie O'Shea family.

In 1985 Dannie purchased three Full French Limousin Bulls to use over their 450 herd of commercial beef cows. The increase of yield and quality of the beef produced resulted in he and Bethley establishing the Snake Gully Stud in 1989. It was difficult to purchase high quality Full French females from other breeders so the O'Sheas embarked on a lengthy embryo programme with a very docile, structurally correct dam called *Sterling Sheree*. By using imported semen from the UK and France and later introducing selected proven dams to the embryo programme, the stud developed. The growth in numbers was relatively easy, but the growth in quality must be attributed to the willingness of Dannie to cull anything that did not reach his high standards. He and Bethley ignored the costs of failed investments in imported semen and would not sell anything that they would not keep themselves. To this day the policy remains firm and its success is proven by the number of repeat buyers at Annual Sales that span 28 years since the first sale in 1995.

The 90s also saw Snake Gully Stud become a full member of Australia Limousin, advertising each year in the summer edition of their Limousin publication and enjoying many trips, mainly to NSW and Victoria, visiting studs and making many friends while attending each AGM. A link with France and the UK included visits to many overseas studs with

Snake Gully hosting return overseas visitors. The move was made quietly so that it did not cause any problems to the New Zealand Society or damage the Limousin breed in any way. Progressive Limousins of New Zealand was formed to enable the Limousin publicity campaign to continue, which Dannie had started at the Dargaville Field Days. This venture had begun with Dannie, Bethley, Sterl Roadley and



Terry Quin running a Limousin Steak Sandwich stall at the three days of the Field Days. This became so popular and efficient that by the time it ceased 13 years later there were at least twelve people working there each day, with many of Dannie's family and friends lending a hand.

At this time a Full French herd sire was purchased in NZ only to find when his papers arrived that he was only pure. As he had already been with many females there was now an unwanted pure grade in the stud. This mistake became a positive by introducing Polled Limousins into the pure section of the herd.

In 2008 Dannie purchased a black female, *Premier Temptress Z16*, in calf with a bull calf at foot. He had travelled to Australia to see all the Premier herd prior to the sale and she was his choice. Red tape prevented this dam from actually coming into NZ, but her progeny was the foundation of black Limousin in the Snake Gully Stud. One of her sons, *Snake Gully Expensive*, became a most successful sire as his progeny consistently threw true Limousin qualities.

Snake Gully Stud was now established on property owned by Dannie and Bethley's daughter Natalie and husband David Roberts. Natalie and David had many years of experience of Limousin and commercial cattle. Since the year 2000 they had both been involved with the management of the stud plus, following Bethley's accident in 1998, Natalie had taken over the stud recording and also mastered the Bull Sale catalogues. It was no easy thing for Dannie to realise that he was no longer able to run the stud but, at first, he was content to run the weaned heifers on the 20-acre property at Maungatapere while continuing to introduce new sires to the stud. He maintained his interest in all the various families within the stud and could still name mothers and grandmothers of all the stock he had watched grow and mature. By 2017 it became necessary to leave the 20-acre property at Maungatapere and move into Whangarei where care for Dannie was more available.

Finally in 2017 the stud changed hands, Dannie was delighted that Natalie and David had decided to keep the Snake Gully Stud name as it represented the fulfilment of his life's dream. He and Bethley had shared all the disappointments and joys experienced while growing the stud and where rugby had been his passion in his youth, Limousin cattle was the great passion of his mature years. Dannie still liked to keep up with everything happening with the stud – wanting to know weights of the young stock as well as calving details. The Roberts boys, Sean and Brady, had grown up doing stock work and training stud animals for show and calf club competitions. Their ability to handle stock successfully, at very young ages, against older competitors was something Dannie was very proud of. He has two more grandchildren that have become involved in farming and another four who are successful and happy in their chosen professions and he was equally proud of them all.

Dannie passed away peacefully on the 23 February 2022 having filled his dreams and leaving his family proud of his legacy.

Kevin Wickens

22 April 1941 to 23 February 2022

Sentosa Stud

Kevin and Marion Wickens set up Sentosa in 1997. After leaving their work and raising their family on the North Shore, in 1999, they purchased 100 acres at Maungaturoto in Northland to farm Limousin. They bought their base cattle from Framoire in Northland along with many other well-known NZ Studs (See newsletter link below). Marion and Kevin were very proud of the cows purchased from Murray and the late Pixie Rintoul's Rototira Stud, with Leudal Nana being one they particularly loved.

Kevin and Marion prided themselves on the docility of their cattle. Both Kevin and Marion have a good eye for natural docility to support excellent conformation. Sentosa was known for how quiet their Limousin were and consequently their bulls were keenly sought after within the NZ market. The other trait for which Sentosa was famous was the soft fleshiness of the cattle.

Kevin was known to choose quiet and often smaller in frame Limousin bulls. They were characteristically well rounded and well covered. This type led the change to what now dominates the breed. A number of Limousin purchasers over the years have trusted Kevin to choose the best

bull from bull sales and he would purchase them sight unseen by the new owner. Often, they were not the biggest bull in the sale but usually had the most meat.

Kevin was a keen member of NILB and LBBNZ for many years. Both he and Marion were very well respected in both groups, taking active leadership roles. Kevin supported Marion as Treasurer of NILB for many years as well as her role in the running of the NILB Bull Trial at Cambridge. Sentosa supported the North Island Limousin Breeders Inc bull trials and sales. Many of the Sentosa bulls took out the full range of awards over the years.

Sentosa's first NILB Bull Trial winner was in the 2003 NILB Bull Trial with Sentosa Westminster.

Westminster was sold to Glencairn, Rob and Jean Johnstone for \$6,500, after being judged first in Conformation and 3rd in Weight Gain.



In the 2004/5 Trial, **Sentosa Yorkshire** (above left) was first in Weight gain, 5th in Conformation with Docility being AAA+. He was sold to Kevin and Beth Walker (Taumaruiti) for \$8,200. During the same trial, **Sentosa Yarrow** (above right) was judged first in Conformation, second in Weight Gain and he was sold to Colin Phillips for \$5,500.

At the 2012 Bull Trial, **Sentosa Fabian** was judged first in Conformation and sold to the Crombies for \$7,100.

When Kevin suffered his early heart issue, it led to the Maungaturoto farm being sold and Alan Pascoe bought the cows and the Sentosa name. Still close to family in Auckland, Marion and Kevin moved to Whangarei and they maintained an interest in all things Limousin. They loved to attend the Limousin sales and ran a keen eye over the cattle on offer.

Kevin was a very good man and a very good friend to all Limousin Breeders. He was respected by everyone with whom he came in contact. No one ever said a bad word about Kevin Wickens and he always kept good relations with everyone.

He moved the Limousin breed on in temperament and type, leaving an enduring legacy within the Limousin Breed in NZ.

Below, is a link to the 2012 LBBNZ Newsletter which details the history and breeding goals of the Sentosa Limousin Stud (*ctrl click the link*). Kevin and Marion wrote their own story, in more ways than one. Kevin will be sorely missed.

Peta Lean
For LBBNZ

<https://www.limousin.co.nz/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2012NewsletterSentosa.pdf>

Vale Roger James

31 August 1932 to 24 April 2022

New Zealand Limousin lost a stalwart in Roger's passing on 24 April. He was in his 90th year.

Roger was involved in developing the Limousin breed in New Zealand from the very beginning and was a founding member of the New Zealand Society in 1973. He registered the Ben More Limousin stud as the #2 herd in the New Zealand herd-book and the stud can claim to be the longest continuously breeding Limousin stud in Australasia. Ben More Limousin continues to farm near Coalgate in Canterbury, operated by Warrick and Cece James and grandson, Duncan James.

In March 1972 Roger and wife Estelle headed off to the UK looking at importing new cattle breeds. They were particularly interested in Luing from the Inner Hebrides of Scotland and they subsequently imported live animals of this breed. Whilst over there, they visited Europe and viewed Simmentals and Limousins. On their return they decided to go with Limousin cattle.

Roger and Frank Alan headed off to France in late 1973 to select ten Limousin heifers which were allocated and sold by ballot back in NZ after an extended quarantine period. These were the first Full French genetics in New Zealand and were part of the first direct import of cattle into New Zealand from Europe (as opposed to from the UK). Ben More ended up with Image and Irlanda from the Benyton and Chastenet herds in France. The shipment also included the first Simmental and Charolais heifers imported by other breeders into NZ.

Surgical embryo transplanting successfully followed and a Limousin sale was organised to attract buyer interest from Australia who were eager to source full French bloodlines. Other UK sourced Limousin cattle were added later on, as were embryos from Canada. In the late 1990s, the stud sold some bulls to China; quite an innovation at that time.

The Ben More stud held an annual bull sale for many years with all bulls lead. This became an event not to be missed.

Roger was elected as the NZ Society's second President in 1978. He held this position until 1987. Roger represented NZ at the 4th International Limousin Conference in Argentina in 1979 where he made a bid to host the 1984 ILC in NZ. 1981 saw he and Estelle along with VP Ben and Margaret Clayton attend the fifth ILC at Stoneleigh in England where NZ was granted the right to host the 6th ILC in 1984. At that meeting Roger was elected ILC President, an office he held until the NZ ILC in 1984.

At the ILC in 1986 in Limoges, Roger was awarded the Ordre du Mérite d'agricole by the French Minister of Agriculture for his outstanding contribution to French agriculture. This was quite an honour. Count Louis de Novelle, a French promoter of the Limousin breed, became a close friend and visited Ben More several times.

Roger was entrepreneurial in many other areas. Along with the importation of Luing cattle, he also looked at importing Alpacas on a visit to South America. He imported Cashmere goats and Comeback sheep from Victoria as well as fur rabbits. He was involved with a Kiwifruit and a Nashi pear orchard north of Melbourne and he set up a Nashi pear orchard at Russell's Flat (NZ). Roger also started exporting carrot juice to Japan which led onto other produce.

Roger was very active in the Royal Agricultural Society and in 2006 was awarded honorary life membership. He also enjoyed a very successful showing career at various A&P Shows.

Roger and Estelle were married for 59 years. In 2013 Polly, as she was affectionately known, passed away leaving a big hole in Roger's life.

Roger led a life of service and for that we are eternally grateful. Rest In Peace, Roger.



OPEN DAY

MANGATARA LIMOUSIN

Monday 9 May 2022
10am to 2pm

111 Rakaiatai road, Dannevirke

For sale by private treaty (on the day or by arrangement)

30+Purebred R2 Limousin bulls



Further enquiries, phone

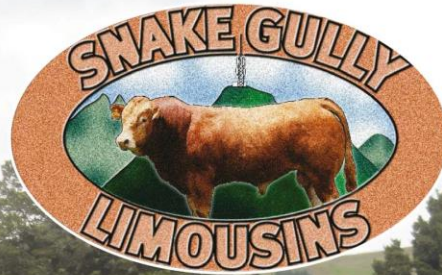
Erik & Lyn van der Velden

06 3741575

or NZFL agents

Clint Worthington 021 209 2236

John Watson 0274 494 1975



28th ANNUAL BULL SALE



**Approximately 18 bulls
and a mixed selection of females**

TUESDAY 14th JUNE 2022 - 1:00PM

ON SITE: 493 Omana Rd, Waiotira, New Zealand

SAVE THIS DATE

LBBNZ 50th Anniversary Celebrations

21-23 APRIL 2023 – CANTERBURY

NZ Limousin will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2023 and it promises to be a BIG weekend! Plans are now underway to hold this in Canterbury (possibly Methven) over the weekend 21 to 23 April. Pick-up from Christchurch Airport can be arranged.

The itinerary will include two days of visits to studs, farming innovations, sight-seeing and exploring the local area. Included will be a return to the Ben More Limousin Stud established in 1973 (NZ Herd No. 2) and the oldest continuous Limousin stud in Australasia. The Saturday evening will be the formal highlight with a gala dinner.

Mark the date in your diaries. It promises to be a memorable weekend

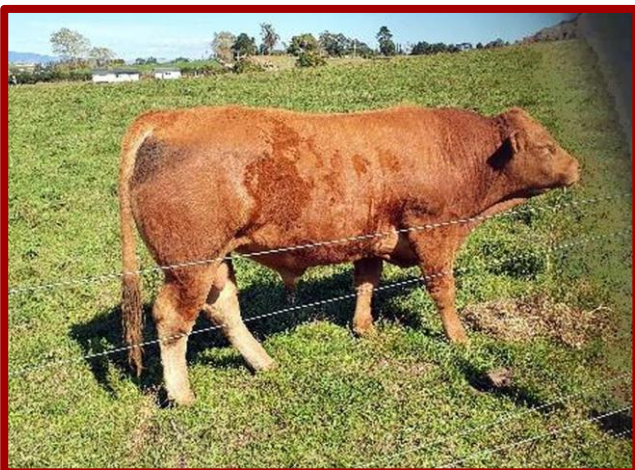
***Kivlean* Limousins** **Bulls for Sale**

There is also a range of heifers for sale: Some currently running with the bull, some 2021 Autumn Born, some Spring Born

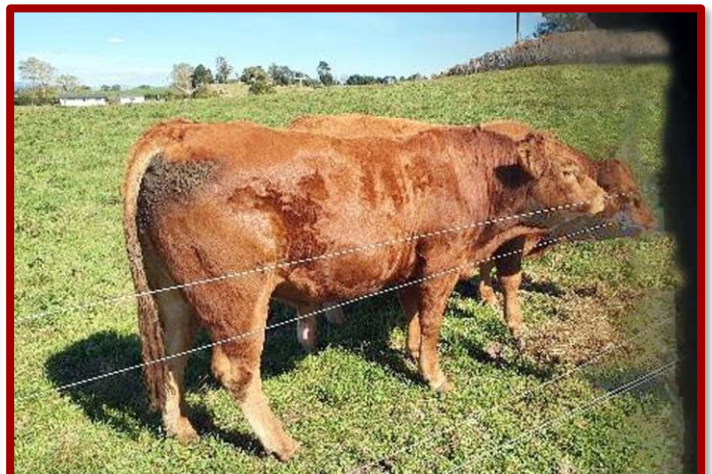
See more on the *Kivlean* Facebook Page or contact Peta

E mail: Kivell.lean@xtra.co.nz

028 258 14890 (mob) 07 824 0948



Kivlean Robespierre (SGMajor/K.Maree)



Kivlean Rico (Dandie/K. Hyacinth)

Grayleen Bulls – Last Chance Sires

With no North Island Bull Trial this year, we have prepared four mighty polled R2 bulls for sale out of the paddock. They have been strictly monitored for docility and performance. Three different sires including B Bar Granite ideal for heifer mating with short gestation and the well proven Mangatawhiri Henri and Kivlean Languedoc. Recent weighing top weight was 730kg, despite the long and severe drought conditions we continue to have.

Grayleen Red River, Revolution, Real Fancy and Regency.

This is your last chance to secure bulls by Henri and Languedoc.

Contact **Julie Evans 021 992 558**

