

**NZ MINIATURE HEREFORD
BREEDERS GROUP
NEWSLETTER
MAY 2014**



Spot the mistake!

What an exhilarating AGM weekend we had in Ashburton. Those present would like to see our AGMs now alternate between North and South Islands and Chairman Graham is especially keen for a winter meeting down there as he wants to get “snowed under” with the real stuff! For entertainment I will bring my ice skates which I haven’t used for 50-odd years. But, Graham doubts the Southern Alps exist as the Mainland was under cloud cover all the time he and Melanie were touring down there.

Five of the six breeders in the South Island were present and it was a pleasure to finally put names to faces for many of us. They are enthusiastic about minis and prepared to get behind efforts to promote these cattle in order to expand membership especially in the southern area.

Our Guest Speakers provided a variety of topics from which we all learned plenty and thanks to Lisa Olier who organized it all.

Lisa, who is a Field Consultant of CRV Ambreed, spoke about “The Philosophy and Function of CRV Ambreed”. Although the main focus is on the dairy scene much of it can be applied to beef animals. The philosophy is to establish a long-lasting and productive herd using genetics which build real value for the herd. She covered such breeding values as efficient processing of what cattle eat; structure and strength of udders to meet the demands of production (or, in the case of beef the demands of the calf); fertility for more likelihood of conception; rump angle enabling easier calving which in turn leads to a better chance of getting back in calf within the mating timeframe and longevity so that the cow can be retained in the herd thus avoiding the expensive need for continual replacements. For

further information Lisa can be contacted by phone (03) 310 8355, mobile 027 2440 254 or email lisa.olier@hotmail.com.

Hazel Foley, of OSPRI, discussed how her work concerns helping the country become TB free and the role of NAIT in monitoring herd movements which can play a part in controlling BVD, TB and other possible threats to biosecurity concerns. Some members spoke of their experiences with TB control measures for possum, wild pig, ferret and other infection carriers while some of the NAIT compliance requirements were questioned. Hazel's explanations were well received. She also sent out a Feedback Survey for those who were present which was worth answering. If you wish to contact her regarding these topics her phone is (03) 363 3085, mobile 022 060 6603 or email Hazel.Foley@ospri.co.nz. Her North Island counterpart is Jenna Hoverd, mobile 022 043 3481.

Amy Avery and Laura Mulshine from VETLIFE Ashburton, spoke about "Animal Health Plans". They stressed the importance of really knowing your animals so you can observe any changes which may occur with their wellbeing. Planning to improve performance and achieve targets is important with monitoring at strategic times of the year and taking the necessary action. They also discussed BVD testing, vaccinations, drenching, weaning and weighing to record the animal's progress. For further information about this you can contact Amy and Laura by phone (03) 307 5195, fax (03) 308 2452 or email ashburton@vetlife.co.nz.

My own talk was about "Breeding a New Zealand line of Polled Miniature Herefords" during which I outlined the procedures from selection of foundation dams, identification of calves born and what is required to record progeny with NZHA. If you are interested in reading about that I can send you a copy of the talk. Contact me about it by phone (09) 439 2420, mobile 027 393 0049 or email riverlets@gmail.com.

ELECTION RESULTS WERE:

Graham Hunkin (Chairman) email hunkin-garden@xnet.co.nz

Debra Hamilton (Secretary) email dhamilton@xtra.co.nz

Helen Russell (Treasurer) email helen&chris@amberleafarm.co.nz

Dimi Cooper (Registrar) email bruce_dimi@inspire.net.nz

Janet Poole (Editor/Publicity) email riverlets@gmail.com

Sharon O'Brien email sharonobrien@kinect.co.nz

Natalie Fletcher email fletcher4@vodafone.co.nz

You can contact any of these Councillors for advice, discussion, etc., regarding NZMHBG matters.

Helen stepped in and recorded the Minutes of the AGM (attached) as Debs was unable to attend. It is hoped next year's AGM will be at the Feilding venue with another good line-up of speakers and we encourage as many people as possible to attend as it helps to fuel enthusiasm among breeders.

Saturday evening saw most of us go to Robbie's Restaurant for dinner. There was more food there than we should have eaten and the service was excellent. Sunday morning we had the last two speakers then everyone dispersed for various destinations.

The newsletters will now come out bi-monthly instead of quarterly so communication between NZMHBG members and other interested persons can be strengthened. If there is anything you would like to see appear in the newsletters whether it be questions, references to something you consider important, perhaps field days or workshops you've attended, photos and so on please send them into me at riverlets@gmail.com.

REGISTRATIONS AND ADLs

As you will see in the attached Minutes there was a drop in calf registrations in 2013. There will be a variety of reasons but if you do have calves born in 2013 they should have been registered by the end of April this year. The ADLs (Animal Disposal Lists) which show which animals are retained and which removed are due in by June 1st. Unless you indicate an animal has been removed (using one of the code numbers) you will be charged female fees for all that remain unchanged.

FRAME SCORES

As with pedigree backgrounds and the mating predictor system these are very useful when deciding which cow to breed to which bull. Frame Scores are also an asset when selling animals as it will be helpful for a prospective buyer to decide on a purchase which will suit their breeding programme.

WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER:

Dale Sutherland lives at Oratia, West Auckland and her Stud is called "Carvelli". She is enthusiastic about becoming a breeder and has two cows and a steer from Esprit. With any luck she will increase that by another two next Spring!

A NORTHERNER TRAVELS SOUTH – Janet Poole

While travelling to and from Ashburton for the AGM I had the chance to stop in at four Miniature Hereford Studs, two in the North Island and two in the South Island. The first port of call was at Barry and June Houston's place in Upper Hutt. At present Barry's Mount Marua Miniature Herefords are not on the property but he has mini Highlands (including "hummels" which are polled) and alpacas. Next stay was with Carole Steele, Ruzak Park, near Hildethorpe just north of Oamaru. On the return trip I broke the trip to Picton at Lisa Olier's Rosaville Stud just out of Rangiora. An adventurous journey followed which saw the road and rail between Kaikoura and Picton closed soon after I had got through. After a delayed ferry departure we crossed the Cook Strait only to have Cyclone Ita whip her tail around when we were mid-voyage to provide more than a roller coaster ride. From Wellington I headed north again and stopped in at Kim Wright and Doug Baird's new stud, Kiri Point. This kind of "visiting" is really worthwhile and I would recommend it to any mini breeders when travelling.



Barry's 6-month old hummel mini Highland bull



Up to their knees in grass at Ruzak Park



Suppa cuppa for a wee Rosaville orphan - Rangiora



Placid cows in their new Kiri Point home - Drury

FOR SALE

Grovenorth – Alistair and Jules Hargrove have some heifers and a bull for sale. Contact him by phone (09) 407 1044 or email hargrove@xtra.co.nz

Kracka – Sarah Wright has three females and a 2 yr old steer. Contact her by phone (09) 292 7474 or email nzmf@xtra.co.nz. Kracka Fleur Belle, 5yrs, in calf to Kracka Gonzales (Bronze Winner in World Hereford competition), due Sept. 2014. Kracka Jacinta, 6 mths, weaned? Riverview Suzie, rising 10 yrs, in calf to Kracka Gonzales, due Sept. 2014, reliable and consistent breeder. See photos below.



Kracka Fleur Belle



Riverview Suzie



Kracka Jacinta

Ake Ake Tahī – Roelof and Kathryn Lourens have a lovely little heifer, Ake Ake Tahī Mary for sale. 17 mths old, both parents FS 00. Contact them by phone (07)543 3534, mobile 027 2763563 or email roelof.kathryn@xtra.co.nz

Ruzak Park – Carole Steele has a 20mth old heifer, Ruzak Park Abigail for sale. Contact her on phone (03) 431 3737, mobile 021 500 476 or email csteele@ruzak.co.nz

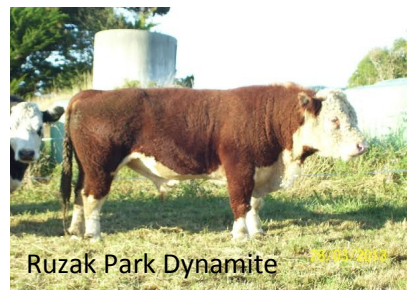
Coats-Arnold – have a rising 5 yr old bull, Ruzak Park Dynamite for sale. Contact Paul by phone (03) 434 1184.



Ake Ake Tahī Mary

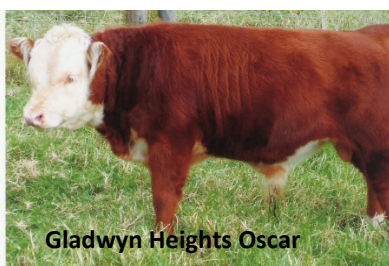


Ruzak Park Abigail



Ruzak Park Dynamite

Gladwyn Heights – Sharon O'Brien has two R1 bulls for sale. Gladwyn Heights Oscar born 14/009/13 and Gladwyn Heights Oben born 11/10/13.



Gladwyn Heights Oscar

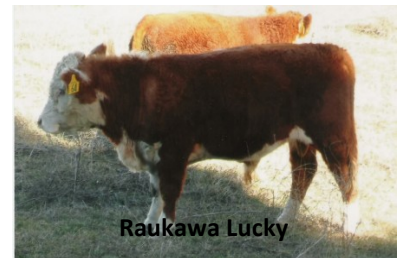


Gladwyn Heights Oben

Raukawa – John and Gaye Long have seven R2 bulls for sale and include a comment on each of them. John has ranked them as he rates them from 1st to 7th.

1. Raukawa Mister (120077) - Sire Raukawa Mahe, Dam Tasmanview Endora. Has no white mane (redneck), one brown eye. Well rounded and good sire for meaty animal.
2. Raukawa Carl (120082) - Sire Raukawa Mahe, Dam Glenrae Lady Adele. Has full white mane. No eye pigment. Bit smaller than the other one.
3. Raukawa Henry (120084) – Sire Raukawa Mahe, Dam Tasmanview Jess. Good markings. Has eye pigment. Smaller bull than those above.
4. Raukawa Lucky (120064) – Sire Raukawa Mahe, Dam Esprit Milly. Lucky was hand reared as mother died a few days after birth. Just a nice all round bull. Has eye pigment to both eyes.
5. Raukawa KD (120083) – Sire Raukawa Mahe, Dam Golden Sparkle Juanita ET AI (IMP AUS.) Pigment to both eyes. Brown spot on left hand side of face.
6. Raukawa BJ (120076) – Sire Raukawa Mahe, Dam Glenrae Miss Monet. Pigment to both eyes. Brown spot on left hand side of face.

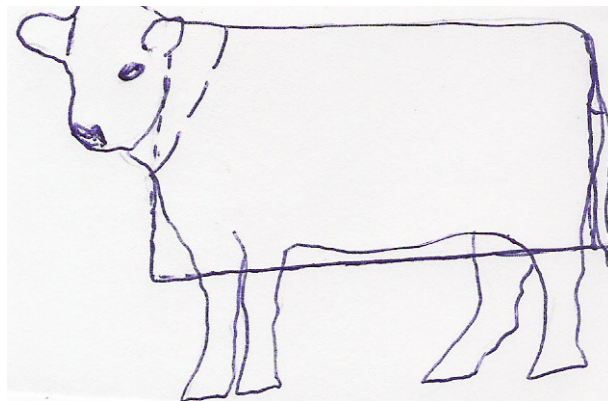
Raukawa David (120071) – Sire Raukawa Mahe, Dam Tasmanview Bella. Small bull.



ANIMAL HEALTH

An excellent document on this subject can be found if you google **Beef NZ** and look up the information under “**Management Solutions for Beef Cows**”. It has been put together by the Taihape and Waimarino Veterinary Services and covers what you need to know throughout the seasons with regard to the health of your stock.

Beef & Lamb NZ have been running workshops throughout the country and a recent one was on **Animal Health**. An annual planning calendar was demonstrated which is used in conjunction with working with your local vet and sets out when to do what and why. Particularly relevant to this time of the year is making sure your cattle have an acceptable level of copper before going into winter **BUT** make sure you find out whether or not they need it as it is very easy to overdose and poison them. Selenium and magnesium are two other important additives if necessary. All calves should have been vaccinated with clostridial vaccine by now. Protection from the elements for early born calves is essential and a cover can easily be made from either jute or woven plastic sacks. Shower and wind proof.



1. Open up one side of sack (this becomes the bottom).
2. Fit over animal then trace shape of neck – take off and cut out this section.
3. Attach tapes to each side of back of cover. Pull cover over head and tie under tail.

The Merry Band of
Miniature Hereford Breeders



Back: Lorraine Wallis (Liberty), Carole Steele (Ruzak Park), Lisa Olier (Rosaville), Grant Marshall (Tata), Lisa Edmond (Shipal), Bruce Cooper (Tantillus)

Front: Helen Russell (Esprit), Graham Hunkin (Riverview), Lesley Quigley (Tata), Janet Poole (Riverlets), Dimi Cooper (Tantillus), Melanie Hunkin (Riverview), Sharon O'Brien (Gladwyn Heights).