



Murray Grey Newsbrief

Spring is not far away and the arrival of new born calves is imminent. This is probably one of the most exciting times of the year when the decisions that were made previously are worked out with the arrival of this year's progeny. The grass starts to grow, the flowers with their vibrant colours and new life appears every day on our farms.

Our council changed considerably at the annual meeting in May. Garry Carter, Neill Burke and myself are the new members. George Climo, Wayne Allerby and Trevor Clarke re-elected. We are now represented from every part of New Zealand. Garry, from Northland, Neill from Bay of Plenty/Waikato, Wayne from Taranaki, Trevor, from Horowhenua, George from Canterbury and Mervyn from South Otago.

We encourage members to communicate with your councillors and we will try to communicate fully with you.

Some people need special mention and thanks for the great work they have done for our society. Trevor Clarke has been our Chairman for the last 9 years. Without Trevor I don't know where we would be. He has great knowledge of the working of our society and has put much

time and effort into it. Sue also has supported him and had done much of the work on the website and Progress magazine, for which we are most grateful. The internet will be an increasing part of communication with members and provider of information. Wayne continues in his role as Treasurer and keeps a close and watchful eye on our finance.

Our Society has some of the lowest fees of any other Beef cattle breed. While it may seem to be expensive, the Society has run a very tight ship. The Murray Grey Breed has made considerable progress since I started in 1976 with improvement in consistency, muscling and growth rates. We need to continue to get the basics right for our bull purchasers to come back again and again. A satisfied customer will always come back and by consistently breeding cattle with good structure, soundness and longevity this will happen.

Good luck with bull sales for the coming season. May we continue to provide beef cattle that will benefit the whole industry and take it forward.

Mervyn Mitchell
Chairman

FULL CONTACT DETAILS OF COUNCIL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Chairman			
Mervyn Mitchell	7 Hurst Road, Kaiwera, RD2, Gore	03 4157309	mitchmj@xtra.co.nz
Vice Chairman			
Trevor Clarke	198 McLeavey Road, RD20, Levin	06 3686132	yorkvale@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer			
Wayne Allerby	569 Lincoln Road, RD9, Inglewood	06 7568162	wallerby@xtra.co.nz
Councillors			
George Climo	Greig's Drain Road, RD1, Kaiapoi	03 327 6445	ggclimo@farmside.co.nz
Neill Burke	60 Bennett Road, RD4, Whakatane	07 3222680	burkeorchids@vodafone.net.nz
Garry Carter	308 Springfield Road, RD8, Whangarei	09 4329331	thistledu@clear.net.nz

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ALL OTHER KEY PERSONNEL CONTACTS ARE LISTED BELOW: - PBBNZ OFFICE CONTACTS:

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COMPILED BY:
PIVOT DESIGN, PBBnz

Council Meeting notes

Please could all members supply an email address to the office where possible, as in future this will be the main method of communications for newsletters, accounts etc. between the Society and members.

A reminder that the PBBNZ office is an agent for all your tag supply needs and are also registered NAIT delegates if required. A further note that due to the introduction of the NAIT tags, breeders need no longer tattoo their registered stock as a means of identification.

Promotions and Advertising

There have been a number of localised events and articles which have promoted the breed and articles in papers such as Straight Furrow have further enhanced the Murray Grey presence. Members are reminded that Breeders Clubs in the regions are another way of locals getting together to promote the breed in your area. See page 5 of the Murray Grey handbook which was distributed to all members earlier in the year. Contact your closest Council member to find out if there is a functioning Breeders club in your area, or if not to get one re-started!

Participation in the national Steak of Origin carcase competition this year by several breeders entering in the British breeds, cross breeds and retail beef trade gave us some exposure, with Trevor Clarke and Robin Blackwell's entries getting as far as the semi-finals in their classes. The Murray Grey Society provided funding for some of the classes in the Future Beef Hoof and Hook competition, and this also gains exposure as the winning ribbons are presented in front of the crowd of breed supporters. It would be great to see some Murray Grey steers entered in this competition in future. If you have a suitable animal and young person to compete with it, or offer it to a keen young herdsman to train and compete at next years Beef Expo event-which is planned to be bigger and better than ever, then start planning now.

Progress magazine, the annual Murray Grey publication, is in the planning stages. Material and advertising is urgently wanted, along with advertisers. If you would like to advertise your stud, or any other business you are involved in or know of, please contact Wayne Allerby for advertising rates and details. Articles of interest, new member profiles, sales results, accounts of any trips either overseas or within NZ to Murray Grey events, requests for particular information regarding health or beef cattle in general are all most welcome, please send any such material to Sue Clarke. The deadline for receiving material is September 30th, be aware you may be contacted by a member of Council before this date to ask for contributions for articles and/or advertising!

Genetics

Members should now be aware that several genetic defects are known to be present at low levels in Murray Grey and Angus cattle, including NZ bred animals. At this stage the Society is recommending that stud bulls coming onto their property should be tested to determine the status (Carrier or Free) of these defects, especially "Fawn calf syndrome" more correctly known as CA or Congenital Contractural Arachnodactyly so that the presence can be restricted or eliminated. Mating two carriers can result in a 25% chance that the resultant offspring will be born deformed and a 50% chance that the calf will be a carrier. All imported stock and semen must be tested clear of these genetic defects before arrival and registration in NZ. The Australian Society now has the genetic condition status of registered animals on their BREEDPLAN website pedigrees. Performance Beef Breeders is able to arrange samples for genetic testing.

Results of the Cow and Calf
photo competition are as follows,
entries will be posted
on the website photo gallery.



Cow is 'Sea Spring Digga' calf is
'Paradise Valley Gold Digga' (G13).
Calf is sired by 'Sea Spring Ero'

