



Murray Grey Newsbrief

President's Message

Greetings to you all.

My wife and I have recently returned from visiting Israel and Ireland.

Agriculture is vastly different but farmers face the same challenges no matter where they live. Beef is reasonably strong but other commodities are really struggling especially dairy.

The Murray Greys in New Zealand have had strong sales with both our on-line sale and Barry McDonald's sale having good results. Sales also in Australia are good with increased prices.

I trust winter is not being too tough on you with calving coming soon.

All the best,
MERVYN MITCHELL - President

Annual Dinner

After the AGM business Trevor Clarke gave an informative talk on the poultry industry in New Zealand. Some interesting statistics were provided and created some discussion among those at the meeting and continued during pre dinner drinks. The annual dinner was held at Essence Restaurant Feilding. Those attending included Bebette Buchanan, Trevor and Sue Clarke, Sarah Rodie, Trevor Beer, Tony Powell, George Climo, Wayne and Jean Allerby and Lindy Lawrence and Andrea Bullivant from PBBNZ. Merv and Judy Mitchell were unable to attend as they were flying out of Wellington that evening on a trip to Europe.

Cattle Sales

Recent sales of Murray Grey cattle include the Rawnsley girls' entry in the heifer class at Beef Expo. This very smart looking heifer drew some competitive bidding and was finally sold for \$3000 to George Climo who hopes to show her at Christchurch next November. The Murray Grey Agonline sale went very well with at least 10 registered bidders. There was good bidding on most of the yearling bulls with a top price of \$2500 and a lot of interest in the calf heifers. Thanks are due to Micheal Phillips for organising entries and encouraging breeders to bid. Barry McDonald's sale also went well and all bulls sold with some spirited bidding resulting in the auction time being extended several times before results were finalised. Top price was \$6500. There was surprisingly little interest in the female cattle but most of those also sold after the sale.



Allflex NZ Heifer Sale
Lot 67:
VALLEY RIDGE GRENELDA K03



Maxine and Roxanne Rawnsley's heifer Valley Ridge Grenelda K03 sold to George Climo for \$3,000.

Annual Meeting

At the recent AGM held in Feilding Mervyn Mitchell was re-elected as President. Following the AGM Tony Powell was co-opted onto council, replacing Anne Marie Morgan who resigned.

Tony runs the Willow Gully Murray Grey Stud near Waimauku, West Auckland.

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NZ Murray Grey Breeders

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HERD WALKS

Next morning members gathered at Mary Kilsby's property to view some of her commercial Murray Greys. Mary and late husband Peter Halliday operated the Arawa Murray Grey Stud for many years and produced some very successful Murray Grey sires that were used both in NZ and Australia. The quality of the cattle that remain as commercial Murray Greys was appreciated by those viewing. Some well grown R2 heifers and an even line of yearling bulls were among groups of cattle on display.

Following a finger lunch at Sue and Trevor Clarke's, those remaining did a circuit of the Yorkvale property to view the different classes of cattle. These included a line of yearling bulls which included a bull entered in the Murray Grey Society's online sale, a mob of mixed age cattle containing the yearling heifer entry for the same sale. Some interest was shown in a shed near the hayshed where cattle can shelter in poor weather or where they can be contained when calving. Two in calf heifers that were also for sale were to be found in a paddock closer to home.

In all it was a good day where even the weather cooperated in the main.



Jean, Sue, Janice, Mary and Tony at Clarke's Property.



Yearling bulls at M.Kilsby's property.



The professional at work - Trevor Clarke photographing yearling bulls.



Yearling heifers at M.Kilsby's property.

2016 Australian Youth Exchange Report

By Maxine Rawnsley



Maxine speaking to her placing in the cattle judging.



Maxine in paraders competition.

I was lucky enough to be selected to represent the New Zealand Murray Grey Society at the Australian Murray Grey Junior stock show which was held in Wodonga, Australia from the 15th - 18th April. I was also lucky enough to be a part of the Murray Grey national show and sale the two days after, which was their 50th anniversary of the event, so I was very fortunate to be a part of such a big and successful event.

I arrived in Melbourne around lunch time on Saturday 19 April where I was picked up by Stephen Koch from Atriem Murray Greys, then handed over to my hosts for the next 10 days, the McRae family at Dajory Murray Grey's.

The McRae's lived on a 50 acre farm in Shepparton. The McRae's have 4 different farms all reasonably close together with about 1000 acres in total and around 400 head, all Murray Greys. I saw 3 of these farms and the land in this area is all flat and dry, the farm where the McRae's lived was irrigated like a few of the green farms in the area, and although the grass is green, at the same time it costs a fortune to run, the rest of the land around was just dirt and you would be kicking up dust.

At the farm where they lived they had 6 Murray Grey animals that had been broken in that were heading off to Wodonga in 5 days' time. They had 2 heifers, 1 steer and a bull which were all for the junior stock show where I was allocated one of the heifers and the others were ballet animals for kids to use once at the stock show. They also had a cow and calf which was in the national show and sale. So in the week leading up to the show I got an insight to Dajory Murray Grey's and got to prepare these animals for the weekend to come.

We were all set to go to the show on the Thursday and arrived in the late afternoon. We stayed in the McRae's big caravan at the showgrounds and other competitors either did the same, camped or stayed in the stables.

The junior stock show started first thing the next morning and the day consisted of a few different stations, the first being about cattle care, the next about parading and then washing. We finished the day off with team activities and bonding games. Night time came and there was an optional clipping competition which I thought I would give a go. There was about 20 of us all aged about 16 and over with our animals all ready to be clipped. We

were given 1 hour to have our beasts looking in top form. The hour was up and I thought I had my heifer looking pretty fancy considering I'm usually a bystander when clipping our stock.

Saturday came and it was all on, junior judging was first. The 70 competitors were split into age groups, junior, intermediate and senior. As a senior we were to judge 3 classes of 4 steers, bulls and heifers then go on to speak about the heifer class. After this I and 9 other seniors, 2 intermediates and 1 junior were selected for the finals first thing Sunday morning.

Next up was the stock classes where I took my heifer which came fifth in her class, and I also took the steer where he was top of his class and then went on to win Grand Champion steer, the McRae's and myself were thrilled with this result.

Once all the classes were finished, the disco and auction was to come! The auction was very successful, they made over \$5000 which all went to the Murray Grey Youth. The night went on to be very entertaining because for most of it I was trying to explain kiwi slang to all the kids. I think over my 10 day stay in Australia I got "say fish and chips" at least a hundred times!

So Sunday morning was here and so was the junior judging finals. We were in the main ring and we were given 5 minutes to judge 4 bulls standing in front of us. Well the 5 minutes was up and I had my top 2 placings and I placed 3rd and 4th as I was walking away looking back at them. We were all sent off to a building where we couldn't hear the other competitors on the microphone, my turn was up and I thought I spoke reasonably well about the line-up which was in front of me.

Anyway that was all over which only left handlers/parader classes before the presentation. Unfortunately I didn't do any good in my class which was disappointing but anyway on with the presentation.

All the winners were announced, I was pretty lucky to get Reserve Champion Herdsperson and ended up getting fifth in Junior Judging which I was stoked with. They weren't only giving out prizes but awarding lucky kids trips all around the place, the Senior Ambassador won a trip to Texas for 6 weeks, one to New Zealand in November for a couple of weeks and to different shows all over Aussie. This was awesome to see.

So with the junior show all over the national show and sale was yet to begin, inspections were straight after the junior presentation. The show and sale started on Monday morning, where I followed Josh McRae with the calf in the show where they placed 2nd in their class. The cow and calf then went on and sold for \$3500. The McRae's also had a semen package for sale which sold very well and created a lot of interest.

That night was the formal Murray Grey dinner held down the road at a hotel, this was an awesome way to spend my last night in Australia with all the people I had meet over the past week or so.

All up I had an amazing time not only at the show but with the McRae family as well. I learnt so much from so many different people and I'd like to thank the McRae's for their warm hospitality and putting up with me the whole time, they made me feel very welcome and I really appreciated it. Also I would like to say a huge thank you to the Australian Murray Grey Society for sponsoring me over and the New Zealand Murray Grey Society for selecting me, it was a huge privilege and I'm sure I'll be back in no time!



Maxine receiving prize from Sue Francis.

General Info

ADL's will be arriving in your mailbox soon. Please complete and return these as soon as you possibly can. Part of our fee arrangement with PBBNZ is based on the number of registered cattle we have at the beginning of October.

A question has been asked about naming your cattle at birth. Names can be added later if you do not wish to provide them with your calf returns. Sometimes it may not be necessary to have a specific name for animals e.g. bulls being sold as commercials or heifers that are not to be used for breeding.



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Please contact a councillor if you would like any help with your Murray Grey business, especially if you have only recently become a member.

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

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