



Murray Grey Newsbrief

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members

Hi All,

I hope calving has gone well for everybody. The grass is certainly starting to take off in Canterbury at the moment so plenty of feed for the young stock. Bulls have been in demand and have gained good prices. All four breeders who had an on-farm sale have had very successful sales – well done.

On-farm bull sale results

PARADISE VALLEY – MICHEAL PHILLIPS

28 yearling bulls all sold at an average of \$2671.

Top price \$4260

FILMAREE MURRAY GREYS – AITKIN & FAMILY

Thirteen 2 year olds at an average of \$2615

MANGAOTEA MURRAY GREYS – ZARRAH BLACKWELL

Three 2 year olds at an average of \$3600 and eight 2 year olds at an average of \$4675

TORRISDALE MURRAY GREYS – BARRY MACDONALD

Five 2 year olds at an average of \$2828;
thirty nine yearlings at an average \$2998;
Top price \$3800

Council Rambling

It was decided at the last council meeting that any breeder with cattle for sale (male and female) may advertise on the Murray Grey website for free. To do this please contact Mike Phillips who will make all the arrangements.

Our website is being upgraded. Thanks to the Southern North Island Branch who have generously donated funds for this. Please use this site as we will be posting lots more information.

Our NZ Murray Grey Breeders' Facebook page is also full of good discussion points. At the moment there is a good discussion on bull selections and EBVs. Please join up and follow these topics.

Reminder – Registering Calves Please remember when registering calves, that a recorded DNA profile and a contractual arachnodactyly (CA) test is required for sires of all registered cattle born from 1 June 2015.

THINK TANK The Council is looking at holding a Think Tank meeting in February where ideas will be put forward and discussed on topics such as steer competitions, fees, and do we support local bulls into AI programmes etc. If you would like to contribute any thoughts on how we will go forward into the future with Murray Greys please contact a councillor so these can be discussed.

We are still hoping to have the AGM in Marlborough in early May.

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PIVOT DESIGN, PBBnz

PGG Wrightson Livestock

Neogen Presentation at PBB - 17th Sept 2018

Sue Clarke, on behalf of the Council, attended a briefing at PBB on the 'SNP programme'. This is her summary:

Presentation by Jason Lily, Vice President Corporate development USA and Sarah Butterworth, Sales and Marketing Queensland. The Simmental Society and the Murray Grey Society were represented along with Megan Ellett and Harry Faas from PBB at this meeting.

The other breed Societies had earlier contacts and Hereford and Angus already do their genetic testing and parentage verification through Neogen

There seem to be great benefits from having the testing done through Neogen due to Australian and American Murray Grey Societies already submitting their data to them, as does UK I think. This means the gene pool to verify the accuracies is much bigger than just using NZ based animals.

Harry was working with Massey and (Northern Ireland) to see if there were cost benefits with going with them for SNP testing through Massey. There are cost savings when bulk SNP tests are purchased which they will look into a cost share basis.

There would be economies of sending all the breed samples to Neogen through PBB over to Queensland in bulk lots with the other breeds. They would act as agent for collecting and consigning samples.

The tests available include parentage and sire verification along with whatever genetic defects we would need testing for. They can also test for BVD and this is a relatively cheap test which could be done first and if the animal was a PI and would be culled no further testing is done. Testing for things like Tenderness (Calpain) and double muscling can be done on request as well.

The preferred sampling method was a TSU sample. These are put in a collection 'tube' and can be stored for time without need for care/ refrigeration etc. I think they can be done by an ear punch at birth-but not sure on that one!

This explanation of what SNP testing is all about might be helpful.

<https://bit.ly/2EuZUXP>

Obituary Arthur C Watson-Ambassador Murray Greys

Condolences from the Murray Grey members on the death of a stalwart of the early years of the Murray Grey Society in New Zealand.

Arthur served as President from 1989-1992 and was a member of Council for a number of years, as well as a member and Chairman of the Manawatu West Coast Breeders group, which later became the Southern North Island group.

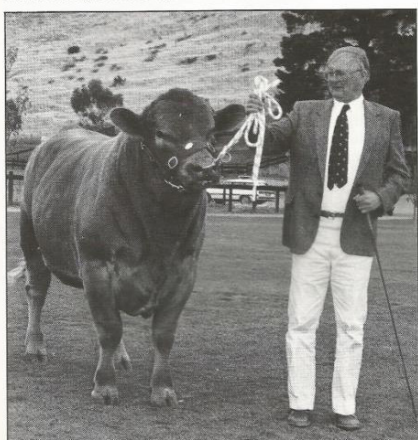
The Ambassador Murray Grey herd was situated on SH1 at Sanson near Palmerston North and moved to Temuka in 1994. It was founded in 1971 with Angus cows sourced from Hawkes Bay and Arthur travelled to Western Australia to purchase Koojan Hills Bugler 2nd and Koojan Hills Bolinda 2nd, returning in 1974 to purchase the "Cleopatra"

family from Koojan Hills, in calf to Glenelg Timothy. Bugler sired numerous National sale bulls for Arthur, realising top money on the day.

In 1990, in partnership with Charles Wallace, Woodbourn stud Tasmania, Arthur purchased Newfields Vo Rouge for a then NZ record price of \$26,000. Vo Rouge was exported to Tasmania and used by AI in several studs in New Zealand as well as leaving over 600 progeny in Australia.

Arthurs knowledge and experience around the judging rings was well respected for both cattle and Romney sheep, of which his Isla Romney stud was also held in high repute.

A New Zealand record price was created when the partnership of A.C. Watson, Ambassador Stud, Sanson, New Zealand and C.P. Wallace, Woodbourn, Tasmania, paid \$26,000.00 for Newfields Vo Rouge at the first Production Sale held by John Wyllie, at Newfields Stud, Amberley.



Arthur Watson with Newfields Vo Rouge, which he purchased with C.P. Wallace for \$26,000.00.

New Zealand semen rights have been retained by the Ambassador Stud and Vo Rouge will be departing for Tasmania early in July.

Our Pedigree Shows . . .



Mr and Mrs Arthur Watson of the Ambassador Stud, Sanson, Palmerston North, winners of the ANZ Bank Trophy for exhibiting the Supreme Champion bull, "Ambassador Challenger" at the 1987 National Murray Grey Show and Sale at Claudelands, Hamilton. G. May photo

FULL CONTACT DETAILS OF THE MURRAY GREY COUNCIL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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Please contact a councillor if you would like any help with your Murray Grey business, especially if you're a new member.



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

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