

ISSUE

01

June/July/August
2023

THE SILVER BULLETIN

Newsletter of the New Zealand Murray Grey Society



Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2023!

Hope the weather has settled down at your place. It has been a very challenging season for most around NZ, our thoughts are with those that have been affected by the recent horrendous weather. Heres hoping this Winter and Spring are a kind one.

This is our first newsletter – and will be released each Quarter with the second issue due in September – make sure you contribute! More information on Page 6

Silent Auction for the Society

At the recent AGM Trevor Beer, a life member of the NZMG Society and former Chairman, has kindly donated some items to be sold to raise funds for the **Roly Twistleton Fund** which sponsors NZ Youth in Herdspersons competitions both in NZ & overseas – Page 3 for more information



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FROM THE PRESIDENTS Paddock: BARRY MACDONALD

Dear Members,

At the recent AGM of the NZMG Beef Cattle Society I was privileged to be elected President for the next year. In taking over from Tony Powell, I want thank him for holding the reins in what has been a challenging time in so many ways. I also want to thank those people who attended the AGM whether in person or via zoom.

A few days after the AGM I chaired a council meeting via zoom at which Zarrah Blackwell was elected to the position of Vice President and Peter Stachurski was confirmed as the society Treasurer. We also coopted member Hayden Fletcher from Canterbury onto the council. We welcome Hayden and along with other members of the council (apart from the President) we have a youthful feel about the council, which can only bode well for the future.

I would also like to express my thanks to George Climo who has officially stepped down from the council after many years as a councillor and President. George has been an enthusiastic proponent of our breed and our younger members and the society is grateful for his contributions.

The agenda of our council meeting was full and a great deal was achieved in the time available.

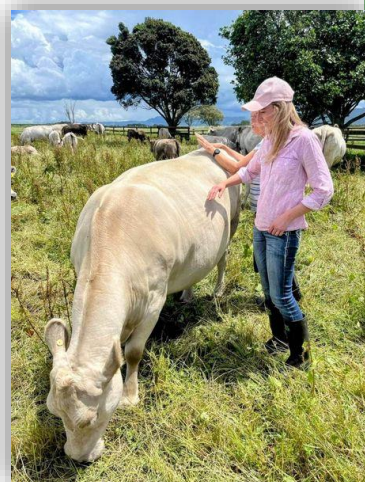
Main Points:

- Newsletter: A regular newsletter to all members
- Magazine: A magazine to be on hold for future consideration/discussion
- Calendar for 2024 to be compiled. (self funding.)
- Contract with ABRI/Breedplan renewed till end of 2023 with increased costs (all breeds have faced increased costs in their contracts)
- Breed tags: following the discussion at the AGM and input on what other breeds have achieved/or not, it was felt that up take in the commercial sector would be hard to achieve. Recommended the idea be put to bed.
- Book Donation: Life member, Trevor Beer has donated original MG books to be sold, with the funds to boost the Twistleton Fund. Sue Clarke is organizing a silent auction of the books via Facebook. The society sincerely thanks Trevor for his contribution.

In general: there are many aspects of what the society does in relation to recording, data input and breed analysis and our place in the beef industry that are in flux at the moment and the council will be looking at all the options to ensure the best path forward for the breed and our members. I will update as we progress.



Torrisdale



Chequers



Yorkvale



Silverfern



MG YOUTH: NZ EXCHANGE TRIP

“What an unreal collection of cattle we have been fortunate enough to cast our eyes over”

Hannah Hogg won the Australian Murray Grey Youth Senior Ambassador Award at the MG Youth Show in 2019. Due to Covid her trip to Texas wasn't able to go ahead as planned. However Hannah was able to use the trip coming to New Zealand instead. Hannah and her husband Wade live in Clare, South Australia. Hannah is a mixed practice veterinarian and Wade is a farm hand for a broad acre crop and sheep farm. Both love all things agricultural and Hannah's parents own the highly successful Ballyvaughan Murray Greys.

Wade and Hannah spent two weeks in NZ travelling around the country visiting different MG studs. They had an ball meeting some very genuine cattle breeders, and would like to extend thanks to Jane Burke of Chequers, Sue & Trevor Clarke of Yorkvale, Mary Kilsby of Arawa, Michael Malmo of Kaihinau, Carolyn & Chris McIntosh of Silverfern & Barry Macdonald of Torrisdale.

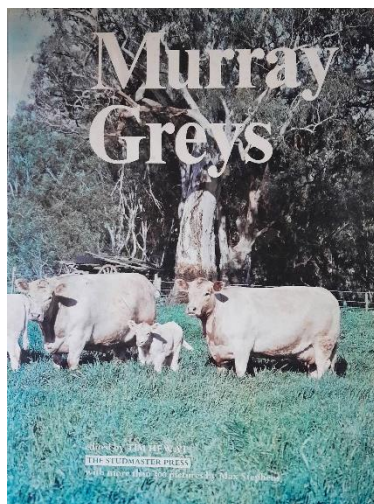
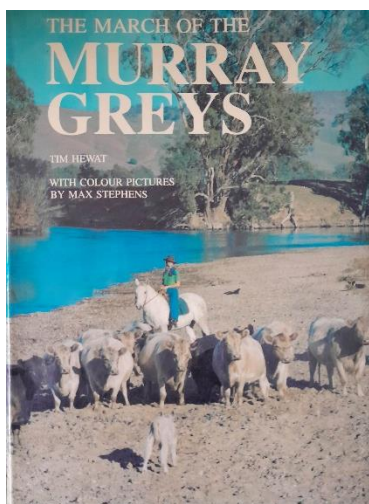
Thank-you to everyone that has opened their homes and made us feel comfortable. Another special thank-you to Murray Grey Youth Australia and especially Errowanbang and Arki Murray Grey Studs for their sponsorship of the trip. We feel very privileged to have gained this experience to further my (Hannah's) veterinary and cattle breeding career.



Torrisdale



Torrisdale



Things to remember!

Calving is just around the corner... have you ordered your tags through PBB yet?

Its that time of the year when tag suppliers are flat out processing orders – make sure you don't miss out and get tags delivered on farm in time



SILENT AUCTION OF DONATED MURRAY GREY HISTORY

Thank-you to the very generous donatation from Trevor Beer a silent auction is being held for the above books – with all proceeds going to the Society for the **Roly Twistleton Fund** which sponsors NZ Youth in Herdspersons competitions both in NZ & overseas . What a fantastic initiative to get behind!

Lot 1 – “Murray Greys” published 1972 (middle photo)

Lot 2 – “March of the Murray Greys” published 1978 (left hand side)

Lot 3 – NZ Herd books from 1974 – 1997.

Bidding by silent auction which finished Noon June 30th

To bid or if you have any questions please contact Sue Clarke yorkvale@xtra.co.nz or check out the NZ Murray Grey Breeders facebook page

MURRAY GREY COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Barry Macdonald

Vice President: Zarah Blackwell

Treasurer: Peter Stachurski

Carolyn McIntosh

Tony Powell

Caitlin Brooks

Hayden Fletcher

Michael Gray

Keep an eye out as we introduce a Council Member each Newsletter!

Active Dam List

It is not far away from getting your annual ADL form to fill in and return – this is crucial for Cow fees. Make sure you fill in the appropriate fate per animal.



Xalt & Exalt March 2010



Xalt in 2010 aged 8 years



Above: Exalt 2009 bull calf who went on to sire 143 calves

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE GIRLS!

Focus on Cow Families : Yorkvale Xalt

"Xalt had 15 calves for us, her 2009 bull calf Exalt was shown very successfully and went on to sire 143 calves at Paradise Valley"

Possibly one cow that has left a lasting impression on our herd is Yorkvale Xalt, born in 2002.

When I look at her performance records they are nothing startling by today's standards but she has left a lasting impression on our herd and a few others.

A daughter of Yorkvale Sugar who herself was a cow that gained a number of show ribbons and had 9 calves for us. Sugar was out of a Newfields Cherry, a cow bought at the Newfields dispersal sale in 1990. She had Lochaber Braes Diplomat and Robern Mr Muscle in her background

Y.Xalt was sired by Okaharau Target, by Orcadia Park Manhattan, a bull bred by Kearneys that we bought at the Waikato National MG sale in 2000.

Xalt had 15 calves for us and in the end old age and stiffness got the better of her. Though a big cow she had some hefty calves that grew well, but always calved unassisted. Her 2009 bull calf, Exalt, shown both as a calf at foot and up to 18 months old won several broad ribbons. Winning champion Beef animal at Masterton Show as a calf, the All Breeds bull calf class at Feilding Best of Beef and also at Horowhenua All Breeds bull. He was offered for sale as a yearling at the National MG Show but didn't get a bid. He was later sold to Paradise Valley stud where he has left 143 calves.

Many other of her calves have gone on to other herds and we still retain two daughters Koromiko and Nutmeg. Koromiko born in 2015 has had 6 calves and her daughter Nikau born in 2018 has a heifer Puriri who calved for the first time in 2022 and has weaned a great bull calf this season. Nikau whose 2022 bull calf Tank by Torrisdale Quasi is being retained for use in the herd this year. He has tested DNA 10/10 tenderness genes and has got a nice set of figures to go with it to carry on his great grandmothers legacy.

Sue & Trevor Clarke – Yorkvale Murray Greys

Do you have a cow family that you would like to feature in this section?

Send a small write up and photos to Caitlin whinnie456@yahoo.co.nz for your chance to feature! It's a great opportunity for some free advertising!



Above: Koromiko 452 daughter of Xalt



Above - Great Grandson T14 Tank born August 2022 who has been retained for stud use and DNA tested 10/10 for tenderness



COUNCIL MEMBER PROFILE:

*Zarrah Blackwell from
Mangaotea Murray
Grey Stud*



Mangaotea Murray Grey Stud is situated in central Taranaki on Mangaotea Farm. The stud was established in 2010 and run by my parents Robin and Jacqueline Blackwell alongside their Angus and Hereford Studs to breed Purebred, Registered bulls for their Annual On Farm bull sale.

I purchased my first Murray Grey Cows in 2016 and the remainder of the Murray Grey Females being purchased off Robin and Jacqueline in 2018.

Mangaotea Farm is 339ha effective of flat, rolling and steeper hills approximately 15 minutes from Stratford and Inglewood. We have an On Farm Sale in September where 180 Bulls are sold undercover in about 2 hours. The breeds are Murray Grey, Angus, Hereford and Jersey. Most of these bulls go directly to the dairy market.

The breeding goals are to breed cattle of Moderate birth and excellent calving ease and temperament. The females must also have a good constitution and fertility as the mating is only 7 weeks long. No holdover cows are kept. If a cow or heifer does not get in calf she does not get another chance and although this may seem harsh the benefits are now paying off. All cows are mated in the spring to calve from July 25th through till mid September. They must also be able to summer on the hills with the Angus cows and Sheep.

The founding females bloodlines are a majority of Kotare Stud (Wayne and Jean Allerby), Yorkvale (Trevor and Sue Clarke) and Okaharau (now dispersed from Hawkes Bay)

Sire Bulls have been purchased from Torrisdale, Murray Downs and Yorkvale. With the purchase of Torrisdale Ringmaster R10 in Spring 2021. R10 was used over the whole herd this year and had a very good incalf rate in the first cycle. His EBVs will add a whole new level to the breeding programme which is very exciting.

Being on the Murray Grey council ***allows me to have the opportunity to help the association progress forward and surrounded by keen breeders it is a very positive environment.*** We are looking forward to the future and new opportunities.



CLASSIFIEDS

If you have a Murray Grey related Classified – get in touch to have it included here! – Registered stock for-sale, semen/genetics, breeder books etc – photos are welcome

- **“Murray Greys” by Max Stephen’s 1972 For-Sale**

Offers over \$600 plus shipping/insurance – enquires to Mary Boyd 0274 750 599 or 03 448 6362

WANTED – CONTENT FOR THIS MAGAZINE!

The only way we can keep this Newsletter interesting and informative is to have contribution from our members – photos, articles on bulls/cows, updates from around the country – please make sure you drop Caitlin a line (and a few Murray Grey Photos!)

Deadline for the next Newsletter is August 20th for the September/October/November issue due on the 1st September.

Email address for content – whinnie456@yahoo.co.nz

