

SHORTHORN FLYER

August 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members

I hope the weather over the winter months has not caused too much concern and that the livestock have come through successfully. While the North appears to have had more than enough rain and flooding, Southland apart from a period of very severe frosts in mid June has had a very dry and benign six weeks. With calving and lambing about to begin this could all change very quickly but with soil temperatures several degrees higher than normal and our stock on top of the ground we are in a very good state at present.

In early June Lindy and I made our first trip to Australia's Dubbo National Bull Sale. With bulls aged from 2½ years down to 18 months there were some very impressive animals on show. However with no spectacular prices received and a clearance of only 75% there were some disappointed vendors. Despite that I was able to meet some of the Australian breeders and saw some interesting genetics coming through. Following Dubbo we visited two studs on our drive to Adelaide where we caught the "Ghan" and over 3 days travelled to Darwin in the far north. On our coach trip from Darwin to Broome we travelled through the Northern Territory and East and West Kimberly country. On the trip we heard the history of the settlement of this very hard country by two families who drove their 7500 cow herd of Shorthorn cattle from Victoria for 3 ½ years through droughts and floods and incredibly difficult country to the land they were to make their home over 150 years ago. While the more tropically suited Bos indicus cattle have now become more dominant the Shorthorn influence is still obvious. There was an Australian Shorthorn farmer on the tour and between us we made sure the Tour Leader knew what SHX cattle looked like! They certainly farm under different conditions to ours.

At our AGM in May, Life Membership was awarded to Timothy Plummer. Ken Morton and Jim Syme spoke of Timothy's involvement over many years and of his enthusiasm and encouragement to other breeders. It was also lovely to have Timothy's wife Mary make a surprise arrival for the award. Congratulations, Timothy well deserved.

At the meeting a presentation was made to Bill and Judy Austin marking the occasion of the dispersal of Austin's Shorthorns. While Bill and Judy are still very much part of our Association your council felt it was timely to mark the occasion.

Jim Syme has taken over the office of Treasurer from Fraser Fletcher who has served a four year term. Thank you Fraser for your time and expertise in that office. With slowly diminishing cow numbers and increasing costs we have to run a tight budget. It was passed at the meeting that cow fees would go up by \$2 per cow from next year.

As most members will be aware our Beef Expo Shorthorn sale was more than disappointing. With 12 bulls catalogued we only had 7 arrive at the sale for various reasons. It is impossible to get a good display of the breed with so few bulls. Council is at present considering ways to encourage a top line-up of our top bulls. I will report more in our pre-Christmas newsletter.

Congratulations to the Syme family for parading the Champion Shorthorn bull for the second time in 3 years.

Other Shorthorn bull sales also saw some good prices and satisfactory clearances.

Our World Shorthorn Conference is now only seven months away. A lot of time and planning has gone into the preparation of this big event. The itinerary and costs are out and early bookings are starting to come in. We urge all members to take part in all or part of the tour and Conference. Our AGM will be held at the Bay of Islands before the Conference.

I wish all members and breeders a successful lambing and calving this spring and look forward to meeting many of you on your farms in the coming months.

Kindest regards

*John Dobson
President*

Allan McCallum Sutherland (Mac)

RUNGAHIWI STUD

by David Holmes- Pakaraka

Mac Sutherland purchased his original Shorthorn cows from Ian McLeod, Martinborough in 1966. His first bull purchased was a bull sold by Karamu Land Co (Phil and Mildred Bayly) called Pennan Parade Imp. Two other bloodlines to feature early in the stud were Coronet Max Leader 3rd and Kai Iwi Akimbo x45.

In those days the breeding cow was a very valuable part of the hill country stations on the East Coast and there were big weaner sales in both Masterton and Martinborough. Mac's clients were very faithful to him and he supplied these big stations for many years, families whose names read high up on his client list were Riddieford, Didsbury and Jury. A client from the Gisborne area David Savage visited the stud once and for 20 years he annually purchased 2 or 3 bulls unsighted, he relied entirely on Mac's honesty which showed the integrity of the man.

In the 70's and 80's TB was a major problem on the East Coast, no one was immune and Mac had a reactor which just about cost him his herd, but Mac being Mac who had lost many of his top cows he struggled through and rebuilt the herd.

The stud was run from "Burnside" at Pirinoa, they also had land on the coast. In 1984 Burnside was sold and the move was made to "Tauanui" just down the road. The Rungahiwi stud was run from there until Mac and Gaye moved to Greytown and son Roddy now runs the farm. A memory to me every time I visited them at Tauanui was that Gaye kept extending the garden.

In 1986 Mac and I purchased at the Sydney Royal show Major Implicate, a white bull from David Perry's stud at Warren in NSW. Phil Bayly was at the show and purchased the bull at auction for us. Trevor Melville from Dalgetys organised the importation.

He also sold and bought bulls at the National bull sale in Palmerston North and was prepared to pay for bulls he liked and often prided himself at being a wonderful underbidder.

In 1992 under the astute eye of judge Gerald Spry from Australia Mac purchased the top priced son of Instant Enticer for \$9,200 from Ken and Betty Morton. Another notable purchase was Stirling Dazzler for \$12,000. It is fitting that in 2004 Mac had a son of Sterling Dazzler who was reserve champion bull at the National. That was the last time Rungahiwi sold at the National.

He served on the Shorthorn Council from 1974 till 1983. He was also a breed inspector scrutinising bulls prior to the National sale, a job he shared with Neville Moffat and Ian Brown for some time.

Outside of farming Mac was a very good rugby player and represented Wairarapa for many years. He was in the Wairarapa team in 1966 which was just beaten by the British Lions 6 - 3. His club rugby was played for Gladstone, Featherston and in 1976 he was instrumental in establishing Tuhirangi Rugby Club, he also coached there.

He also loved racing horses and had some very smart horses with good friends, they raced MacRobert, Super Quad, Super Track and others. One of Mac's highlights was campaigning in Australia with MacRobert and competing against another very good Kiwi horse My Eagle Eye owned by fellow Shorthorn breeders Phil and Mildred Bayly. MacRobert managed 3rd in Brisbane ahead of Phil's horse. Amazing how over the years these two had gone from cattle to horse racing.

He served the Shorthorn breed for 38 years and the herd was dispersed in 2004. He loved the breed and was a very willing mentor for lots of budding new breeders. He also enjoyed the friendship of breeders and Mac and Gaye's hospitality was always appreciated, they were great hosts. He was great to travel with and there were never any dull moments.

His contribution to the Shorthorn breed has been immense and he was widely recognised within the industry.

Mac is survived by his wife Gaye daughters Mary, Megan and sons Richie, Hamish and Roddy.

CANTERBURY A&P ASSOCIATION

150TH JUBILEE SHOW

This year Canterbury A&P Assn celebrate 150 years. The organizing committee are hoping to have the three original beef breeds on show. I would urge anyone who could manage to have some Shorthorn cattle represented to do so. After many years of being on show it is now a while since we have had Shorthorns exhibited.

DNA PROFILES

A reminder to all members to get DNA profiles done for all service bulls to be used in stud.

OBITUARY

Gray Siteman of the Alonzo stud passed away on the 31st July at Taumarunui. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Siteman family.

SHORTHORN REGISTRY NEWS

MATING SIRE DNA

Profiles need to be submitted to the Office as soon as possible so as not to delay calf registrations. Hair collection envelopes are available from the Office.

TRANSFER AUTHORISATION CERTIFICATES

These are now available from the Shorthorn website at www.shorthorn.co.nz under Information and Download Forms. These can be printed, completed, signed and sent to the Office for processing.

NOTE: Animals sold at the EXPO are the vendor's responsibility to transfer.

IMPORTED SIRES, DAMS & EMBRYOS

Please supply pedigrees and DNA to the Office as soon as possible so as not to delay calf entry and next years sire mating details being entered.

GROUP RUNS

These are now happening monthly, so the deadline date for data to be at the office is the 10th of each month. Notification of resulting reports is emailed. If you don't have an email address you will not be notified. Please contact the Office for assistance with this.

Linda Shailer - lindas@pbbnz.com
Shorthorn Registry

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IMPORTANT CONTACTS

The PBBNZ Service Portfolio

 <p>REGISTRY SERVICES</p>	<p>Our registry team through the management of its ILR2 database is able to provide you with a range of animal statistics and information across several breeds. Our experienced team can assist you with getting the answers you need promptly.</p>
 <p>GRAPHIC DESIGN</p>	<p>Pivot design specialises in graphic and website design, offering creative solutions for sales catalogues, flyers, business cards, brochures, banners, vehicle signage etc. With its unique agricultural focus, no job is too small or too big and the Pivot team will ensure your requirements are met quickly, efficiently and at the best price.</p>
 <p>EVENT MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>Over the years PBBNZ has developed the skills and systems to deliver great events. Beef Expo is just one of those. In 2013 PBBNZ will have a role in delivering the 'Royal Show' to the Manawatu. No event is too small and our staff can assist with all facets of event delivery or give advice.</p>
 <p>TAG SALES</p>	<p>PBBNZ offers competitive pricing in a number of tag products including Allflex, Zeetags and Leaders. Our tags sales team understand the industry and can assist you with tag selection. As registered NAIT information providers we can also assist and advise you on what you need to do to meet the regulatory requirements. Call or e-mail the team on 06 3234484 or tags@pbbnz.com</p>
 <p>NZ BEEF TECHNOLOGIES</p>	<p>NZBT is an arm of PBBNZ and created to identify, develop and deliver technical information and ideas. Over February and March PBBNZ managed the delivery of the 'Better bull buying decisions.' Seminars that met with great feedback from those that attended. If you would like further information or have a suggestion contact us at nzbt@pbbnz.com.</p>
 <p>ON FARM SOFTWARE</p>	<p>HerdMASTER 4 animal inventory software was launched in October last year and has already attracted 60 plus users and is getting fantastic feedback. The software is regularly updated and NAIT friendly. Contact us now for your free trial disc and information at support@pbbnz.com.</p>
 <p>SHEEP IMPROVEMENT BUREAU</p>	<p>PBBNZ is a bureau for New Zealand's leading sheep recording system and is able to record up to 150 different animal traits. Although not beef, it is a service we believe aligns well with our business.</p>
 <p>DNA TESTING</p>	<p>In partnership with Massey University's testing facilities PBBNZ can offer you a solution to all your animal testing requirements. Results can be quickly turned around and results available online as soon as they are completed. Our team understands the tests and are available to give you advice.</p>
 <p>ADMIN & ACCOUNTING SERVICES</p>	<p>PBBNZ is able to offer a variety of administrative services including; mail distribution, database management, bulk e-mail and document collation/distribution and accounting services. The PBBNZ facility also includes two meeting/conference rooms and we can help with all facets from meeting invites through to catering and minute taking.</p>