

# SHORTHORN FLYER

February 2014

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members

Hopefully most of you will have had an opportunity for a short break over Xmas-New Year. While it comes at a busy time on the farming calendar it is a chance to catch a few days with the family even if it is not off-farm. Summer in most parts of NZ hasn't been up to much for beaches etc to date but it has been more conducive to growing grass.

Nature has a way of balancing things out and after last autumn's drought it has been a great relief to everyone to have enjoyed six months of good farming weather. Farming in export dependent New Zealand we have to ride the commodity cycles and while we will not mention dairying, beef is also looking quite positive at present. Factors that affect the US beef industry ultimately have a big impact here either positively or negatively.

Meat companies appear to be gradually moving towards rewarding quality which will put our Shorthorn breed in a good position. It concerns me a little that some companies tend to name specific breeds for preference. Other major companies are totally non breed specific and reward on what the carcass is.

Your council decided recently to produce a Herd Book this year. While many breeders do not use books as they once did some members do and it is a good hard copy record of Shorthorn stock in NZ. The Herd Book this year will contain three years registrations including 2013 born calves so be sure to get your registrations in ASAP to be included.

Steak of Origin entries close on 21<sup>st</sup> February. It would be good to see a few more Shorthorns entered.

As will be mentioned elsewhere in this publication, council is planning a southern South Island herd tour in the autumn, 2015. As part of the tour it is hoped to hold an IC heifer genetic sale. With that in mind it is probably unlikely that there will be any Shorthorn entries for the Queen of Hearts sale this year although any breeder who wishes to enter a calf is quite able to do so.

Although we have not heard any details to date the Ag-Innovation week is to be held as usual in Feilding from 10th-13<sup>th</sup> May. Entry forms for the Bull Sale are available. Make sure you are on time to meet requirements. Along with TB and BVD testing and vaccination a new treatment to prevent tick movement is also planned this year. The protocol for this treatment is included with the Conditions of Entry/Sale.

Our AGM and breed dinner will be held in Feilding on Monday 12 May. Definite times and place will be notified later.

May the sun keep shining, the showers keep coming, the grass keep growing and our lovely cattle stay healthy.

Kindest regards and hope to see many of you in Feilding,

*John Dobson*  
President

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www.shorthorn.co.nz

# BREEDER PROFILE: ROUGH RIDGE SHORTHORNS, HERD NO. 2284

MALCOM & BEV HELM: ALLISON LANE, RD 4, RANFURLY 9395

WE HAVE THREE CHILDREN WILLIAM 8, ISABELLE 5 AND THOMAS 3.

Malcolm and I jointly run the Rough Ridge Shorthorn Stud on Malcolm's family farm 'Maniototo Homestead'. Maniototo Homestead has been in the Helm family since 1923.

The Maniototo Homestead's biggest challenge is the climate; it is a dry farm which has been very prone to drought over many a year. The Maniototo has extreme seasons with the winter months having plenty of hard frosts and some snow, and the summer heat can sometimes climb to 35°+. With our rain fall being only 400ml average and having no irrigation, feed can be at a premium. In saying all that it is very healthy stock country and what feed that is around the stock thrive on.

18 years ago the Toi Puke Shorthorn Stud had their dispersal sale. Nic and Spencer Clarke were neighbours so I'd spent years looking over the fence and admiring their cattle. On the day of the sale I asked Spencer if there were any cows he thought I should buy and he pointed out an older cow who certainly didn't look the part but proved her worth well and truly when it came to producing. We bought 14 cows that day and I have also purchased cows from Ross McKenzie, Rungahiwi Stud and most recently eight cows from the Austins Stud.



Possibly the most influential bull we have used was Austins Gus U41; his offspring are still the top cows in the stud and he really stamped his traits throughout the herd. Bill Austin has told me that U41's mother was one of his better cows, the cows are big robust easy doing cows that have plenty of milk.

We are running about 50 cows at the moment. We AI a lot of cows; last year we used Paint Earth Rama and Nero Lock Enhance and are more than happy with the results. We have had an exceptional conception rate with Enhance, 17 calves out of 20 cows that were Artificially Inseminated.

Last year was our first year selling our bulls on farm. This year we are looking to offer around 12 bulls and we think there are some quite exciting animals out in the paddock. Paint Earth Rama has three bulls, all of them are thick easy doing bulls with great hindquarters. Our aim is to have bulls with very good temperaments and top carcase qualities. I like my bulls to have a good masculine head, plenty of bone and muscle in the hind quarter.

We wish everyone all the very best with their Shorthorns this selling season. Shorthorns are one of the best carcase scanning beef breeds - **lets promote them.**



## SHORTHORN PROMOTION

### WE HAVE A PLAN!

The plan is to run an ad similar to last year's half page in the Farmers Weekly with a map of NZ with everyone's sale date or private sale on.

We will run this ad from 1<sup>st</sup> April until June in the Farmers weekly and Heartland Beef.

So I need from everyone their sale date, numbers of Bulls for sale and contact phone number. This also applies for private sales. We will also put a list of sale dates on the website, etc.

As a Shorthorn member if you would like your name and bulls put on the ad **YOU MUST** let me know by **7<sup>th</sup> MARCH**. This will not cost you any more to have your name on the ads.

Please get back to me. THANK YOU.

**RUSSELL PROFFIT** - Shorthorn Councillor, **P:** 07 8778977 • **M:** 0273552927 • **E:** rnmwproffit@xtra.co.nz

# REQUEST FOR SEMEN

We have had a request from Steve Hamilton, Traditional Shorthorn Association Club in the UK looking for semen to send to the UK. The request is as below:

We need a price for the following over the next year will be looking for approx 300 straws in batches over this period of time from yourselves.

The following units may hopefully be a first shipment and I would be very grateful if you could estimate a cost. These shipments would be going to Rob Wills, UK Sires.

Alta Cedar Perfect Storm.....	15 Units
Alta Cedar Signature 119N.....	10 Units
Austins Gus.....	15 Units
CC Cujo.....	10 Units
Ingleton C111.....	15 Units
Mandalong Royal Errol.....	10 Units
NDSU Thunder 05W3.....	10 Units
Newark Frosty Fog.....	10 Units
Paintearth Rama 53U.....	10 Units
Stonelea Winchester.....	10 Units
Weebollabolla Theodore T85.....	15 Units

The 3rd batch we would be seeking would include all the bulls listed to fulfil the estimated 300 straws required. All bulls have been used in the UK before.

Bayview Gardener 2.....	15 Units
Belmore Masal.....	15 Units
Broome Quality.....	15 Units
Eden Park Red Rattier V001.....	15 Units
Eionmor Mr Gus 80C.....	15 Units
Moombi Beef Baron L16.....	15 Units
Sprys All Class N6.....	15 Units
Sprys World Class.....	15 Units
Waukaru Chaps.....	15 Units
Wyarama Vicar.....	15 Units

If you have any of the above semen available can you please contact:

**JOHN DOBSON**

**P:** 03 236 1139

**E:** [dobby@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dobby@xtra.co.nz)

# SHORTHORN TOUR 2015

At our recent council meeting it was decided to hold a **National Shorthorn Tour in 2015**. This tour is to take place in Otago/Southland in the March 2015. I will keep members updated with information on the tour throughout this year so cheap flights can be obtained for those travelling from abroad.

As part of this tour we are going to run an **"Elite National Shorthorn Heifer sale 2015"**.

Every Shorthorn Breeder will have the opportunity to enter one heifer into this sale. These Heifers will be 18 months of age and will be mated. It is our intention to bring the heifers together four to six weeks prior to the sale and run them as a mob at my place in Heriot. This will allow the cattle travelling to settle and look their best for the sale. This is an unled sale.

Council has agreed to subsidise the freight for the North Island members and we will co-ordinate freight for them to come down as a group.

During the tour we will hold an auction of these heifers. This will be a feature event with lots of ideas how Shorthorns can maximise coverage from this.

This is an outstanding opportunity for us as breeders to share genetics. I encourage those who are thinking of entering a heifer to look to purchase one as well and look at this as a genetic sharing opportunity! If we as a breed get behind this it will be a great event for the breed.

We intend to market this sale through the media and we hope it will encourage new people to come and look at Shorthorns and also people to support the tour.

I will be in touch during the year with more details on the tour and information regarding the Heifer sale

**FRASER FLETCHER**



# AGINNOVATION 2014

AgInnovation is to be held 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> May with Future Beef taking place on the Saturday/Sunday as usual. The farmer Science & Tech programme will again be run this year with an impressive line-up of speakers and workshops taking place. Once again all the genetic sales will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

## NZBT WORKSHOPS

The team from SBTS in Australia are once again coming to New Zealand to run a series of workshops around the country finishing at AgInnovation. Details of properties where these workshops will be run are still to be confirmed.

## AGM

The AGM and Breed dinner will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May, venue and time will be notified later.

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## SHORTHORN REGISTRY NEWS

### DNA RULE

**All sires used in stud, born from 2008 must be DNA profiled.**

This needs to be addressed prior to calf entry to avoid delaying registrations. Hair collection envelopes are available from the Office.

**TRANSFER AUTHORISATION CERTIFICATES** are available from the Shorthorn website at [www.shorthorn.co.nz](http://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** are now happening monthly, so the deadline date for data to be at the office is the 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

### OUTLIERS

Some of you may have received outlier reports from your Group Run. It is **IMPORTANT** that these outliers are verified with Shorthorn Registry, to ensure the animal in question and its progeny are reinstated into the next analysis.

### LINDA SHAILER

Shorthorn Registry • Email: [lindas@pbbnz.com](mailto:lindas@pbbnz.com)

### SHORTHORN COUNCILLOR CONTACTS:

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.....	Ron Smith .....	<a href="mailto:clairon@farmside.co.nz">clairon@farmside.co.nz</a> .....	07 873 6968
<b>Breed Co-ordinator:</b> .....	Lindy Lawrence.....	<a href="mailto:lindy@pbbnz.com">lindy@pbbnz.com</a> .....	06 323 4484

### PBBNZ OFFICE CONTACTS:

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IMPORTANT CONTACTS