



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

With Christmas quickly approaching and with it the usual end of year break ups, prize giving's and parties.

It is nice to reflect on the record Beef and Lamb prices and with the world markets screaming out for more Protein it's nice to finally be on the right side of the ledger.

With the Heifer Sale and South Island herd Tour approaching, I'd like to take the opportunity to encourage everybody to contribute the best you can. As a small breed I see a genetic female sale as an important benchmark for the Breed. I've had many members over the years interested in buying new female genetics, so here is your chance. Fraser has an Itinerary in this newsletter and I encourage everybody to have a look at it.

Heifer Entries need to be in as soon as possible and we need to know the number of members who will be attending the Herd Tour and AGM which is scheduled to be held during the tour. I look forward to seeing many of you there. AgInnovation is confirmed for another year and Angus and Hereford committed to selling good numbers of Bulls. I would like to think we will have a good number of quality bulls at Expo which is still the premier event for selling top stud bulls in New Zealand.

At council we have just signed off on the PBB Service agreements. Caren Bailey, the new PBB General Manager has brought stability and quality leadership to the office.

The herd book should have been received in the mail. This could be the last one so enjoy it.

Dates to take note of are:

- AgInnovation - 8th -12th May 2015
- 2015 Royal A&P Show will be hosted by the Hawkes Bay A&P Society from the 21st -23rd October. It would be nice to have a strong number of Shorthorns there.
- Next World Shorthorn Conference in Uruguay will be from 2nd April 2016 to 14th April 2016, 12 nights visiting 13 farms.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and may the season be good for all.

Kind regards,

**Craig Morton**  
President



Sarah O'Connell at the Canterbury Show with heifer Brigadoon Alba 244, a 2 yr heifer bought from John & Lindy Dobson in Winton. Her calf is Brigadoon Elvis by Brigadoon Lockyer.

# SHORTHORN TOUR - MARCH 2015

Planning for the Southern Shorthorn Tour is well underway for next year. Outlined below are times and dates of where we will be visiting.

## Wednesday 25th March 2015

Lunch time (time TBC) Anita Erskine's  
Westwood Stud - Tuatapere

Afternoon (time TBC) John and Lindy Dobson's  
Brigadoon Stud - Winton

Evening Meal and AGM at Croydon Lodge in Gore  
*Accommodation*  
Heartland Hotel Croydon, Gore 03 208 9029  
Rooms are available at \$130/night.

## Thursday 26th March 2015

Morning (time TBC) Alliance Plant Matura  
Lunch time (time TBC) Fraser Fletchers  
Glendhu Stud - Lawrence  
Afternoon 4pm Elite Heifer sale at Fraser  
Fletcher's Heriot property

Evening Meal and Accommodation at Alexandra  
*Accommodation*  
Centennial Court Motor Inn 03 448 6482  
Rooms are available at \$130/night.

## Friday 27th March 2015

Morning (time TBC) Bev Helms  
Rough Ridge Stud - Ranfurly

For those who are going to be flying in, the preferred option is to fly to Queenstown and there will be around a 2½ hour drive to Anita's on the Wednesday morning. We intend to finish at Bev's around lunch time on Friday so allow another two hours to return to Queenstown for those who want to fly home on the Friday afternoon.

Dunedin and Invercargill are other options for flights but bear in mind that we are making our way from Western Southland to Central Otago over the three days so allow enough travel time if you are flying out of the same airport.

We will attempt to look at providing transport if people require it and depending on numbers attending.

We have provided two places in each town where we will be staying that have accommodation available on the nights. It is up to members to book their own accommodation on these nights. Please quote the NZ Shorthorn tour when booking at these places as we have pencilled in rooms for accommodation.

If you would like to stay elsewhere in these towns it is up to you but both these motels have rooms available on these nights.

We would like to have registrations in by Christmas as to who is intending to come on this tour. This will allow us to organise transport if available and plan for catering. If you can let me know directly on 03 204 2052, 027 497 8104 or [fraserfletcher@gmail.com](mailto:fraserfletcher@gmail.com) by 23rd December that would be great.

## Heifer sale:

As members are aware we will be holding an **Elite Heifer sale @ 4pm on Thursday 26th March 2015 at Heriot.**

All members are encouraged to enter a heifer in this sale. Entry forms will be out before Christmas.

Entries close for this sale on the **16th January 2015.**

For North Island members we will look to bring your heifers south in mid February, depending on the availability of transport to bring these down. Council will pay for the freight from a central point in the lower mid North Island down to Heriot. It will be up to you to get your heifer to this point and once they are all there we will bring them down together.

For South Island members heifers can be sent to myself anytime from mid February onwards.

It is our intention to heavily promote the heifer sale nationally and I encourage all members to not only look at entering a heifer but also to purchase one.

The heifers will be catalogued by drawing them randomly out of a hat. On sale day we will hold a public judging with the three most popular heifers being auctioned first.

There are no entry fees for the heifers but council will be taking a 3% commission on top of what the auctioneers take. This 3% will be used to cover promotion and the costs of the catalogue etc.

## All heifers are to be:

- PTIC
- TB tested and cleared within 12 months of the date of sale with the exception of cattle from a movement control area which must have been tested and cleared within 60 days of the sale.
- Theileria tick management - all animals must be treated with Bayticol or similar product at time of leaving vendor's property
- Ear Tagging - all cattle must be identifiable with current AHB identification requirements

**Any questions please do not hesitate to ring me - Fraser Fletcher 03 204 2052, 027 497 8104**

# WESTWOOD SHORTHORNS

## - MOST WESTERN SHORTHORN STUD IN NZ



The Erskine family have been farming at the bottom of the South Island in Western Southland for four generations with the original farm being purchased in the 1880's. This was farmed by Hugh Erskine, then by his son Ebenezer (Ben) Erskine, then by Ben's son David Erskine, and is currently (in 2014), farmed by David's two sons Quinton & Eric, and one of his daughter's Anita (the other daughter, Kathryn, lives in Christchurch). There is also a DOC lease at the back of the original home block, which is prone to flooding due to the Waiau River, which starts up at Lake Te Anau and flows past the back of the farm. In 1997, two more blocks of land were purchased to add to Westwood, these blocks are 5 kms away from the Home Block.

The farm now totals 410ha (1013acres) with 325ha (803acres) effective and 85ha (210acres) rough grazing and scrub. The farm is flat to easy rolling ranging from 10 to 210 feet above sea level.

Where the four blocks are run as one big unit, Anita does run, in her own right, the Beef Shorthorn Stud and Black and Coloured Sheep. The four blocks run approximately 4300 stock units, made up of 75% Romney sheep and 25% Beef Shorthorn cattle.

It is understood, that in the 1930's a mob of all sorts cows were purchased plus a Shorthorn bull, but it wasn't until the early 1950's that the first pure bred Shorthorn cows came to Westwood. These were purchased at a clearing sale and originated from the Miller's Stud at Waimumu.

Back in the 1970's Mandalong Super Elephant semen from Australia was used over some of our best cows. This was

done to retain size and a quick maturing calf. From about the mid 1980's we went back to purchasing bulls at the South Island sale in Temuka. The last few bulls purchased have been from breeders in the North Island, as we try to obtain fresh genetics that will suit the southern environment.

The Stud was started in 1997, with cattle from three studs throughout New Zealand and also some AI bred heifers and cows inspected for registration. Having both studs and commercial Shorthorns at Westwood, with approx 110 cows calving every September, we know if the bulls we are using suit an operation where the cattle are not pampered.

The emphasis of the commercial Westwood Shorthorn cows is to produce good replacement heifers and top steers for the works. The emphasis of the Westwood Shorthorn stud cows is to produce replacement heifers and top bulls that I would be willing to use in the commercial Shorthorn herd. (If I wouldn't use a bull for some reason in the commercial mob, I won't sell him and he's off to the works).

All heifers at Westwood must calve unassisted as a 2 year old, (if not in calf by the age of 16 months they are culled), rear a good calf and get back in calf to stay in the herd.

Any cull heifers we aim to hang up at the freezing works aged 18 to 20 months at a carcass weight 250+kgs, hang the steers up at the same age but with a carcass weight 275 + kgs, and the cull bull at 300 + kgs carcass weight.

We look forward to welcoming you all to Westwood for the Shorthorn Tour in Southland next March.



# FUTURE BEEF NZ

- Future Beef New Zealand aims to provide young people from all backgrounds the opportunity to learn about and become involved in the beef industry.
  - FBNZ was launched at Beef Expo in 2006 when 40 young enthusiasts attended the day – it has now grown and last year there were 75 participants.
  - FBNZ Hoof and Hook is being held from the 8th-10th May 2015 at Manfeild Stadium, Feilding.
  - Steers are brought to the event and judged on the “hoof” and after the event they are slaughtered and judged on the “hook”.
  - The Hoof and Hook Event includes educational modules, hands on modules, steer judging, handling judging, beef bash and more.
  - Participants are allocated to groups which enable them to work with people of similar age and ability.
  - This year heifers are part of our Hoof and Hook event – details below:-
    - Heifer must be born after 1st June 2014
    - Under 12’s may bring a heifer only
    - Over 12’s must bring a steer to be eligible to bring a heifer
    - Under 12’s can use heifer in handling class but over 12’s must use steer
    - Heifer judging will be after the Handling class on Sunday and the two classes will be purebred heifer and crossbred heifer
    - Pure Bred heifers can go home or may be eligible to enter in the Queen of Hearts (which must be organised prior to event)
    - Cross bred heifers are accepted but will be taken home
- For further information please go to our website: [www.futurebeef.co.nz](http://www.futurebeef.co.nz) or contact Sharyn – [Sharyn@pbbnz.com](mailto:Sharyn@pbbnz.com) or 06 323 0865**



# 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. Envelopes for hair can be requested from the office.

**CALF ENTRIES** Final date for 2014 calf registrations **31st March 2015** or financial penalties will be incurred. Year number for **2014** born calves is **14**.

**TRANSFER AUTHORISATION** forms 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 AgInnovation are the vendor’s responsibility to transfer.

**Wishing you all a very Merry Xmas, and a safe and happy New Year!**

## LINDA SHAILER

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

## PBB Christmas Closing Hours

The PBB office will close at  
**5.00pm on Tuesday 23rd December 2014**  
and reopen at  
**8.00am on Monday 12th January 2015**

### SHORTHORN COUNCILLOR CONTACTS:

<b>President</b> .....	Craig Morton .....	<a href="mailto:mortons76@xtra.co.nz">mortons76@xtra.co.nz</a> .....	07 552 0250
<b>Vice President</b> .....	Russell Proffit .....	<a href="mailto:rnmwproffit@xtra.co.nz">rnmwproffit@xtra.co.nz</a> .....	07 877 8977
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<b>Councillors</b> .....	John Dobson .....	<a href="mailto:dobby@xtra.co.nz">dobby@xtra.co.nz</a> .....	03 236 1139
	Fraser Fletcher.....	<a href="mailto:fraserfletcher@gmail.com">fraserfletcher@gmail.com</a> .....	03 204 2052
	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 0742

### PBBNZ OFFICE CONTACTS:

<b>General Manager</b> .....	Caren Bailey .....	<a href="mailto:caren@pbbnz.com">caren@pbbnz.com</a> .....	06 323 0862
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	Glenn Morton .....	<a href="mailto:graphics@pivotdesign.co.nz">graphics@pivotdesign.co.nz</a> .....	06 323 0863
<b>Website Design:</b> .....	Nathan Doyle.....	<a href="mailto:nathan@pivotdesign.co.nz">nathan@pivotdesign.co.nz</a> .....	06 323 0868
<b>Information Systems:</b> .....	Brett Wilcock.....	<a href="mailto:brett@pbbnz.com">brett@pbbnz.com</a> .....	06 323 0860

**IMPORTANT CONTACTS**