



Issue 26 ■ September 2015

Simmentales

*Targeted News from
The Industry Heavyweights*

HI EVERYONE,

Hopefully by the time you get this the worst of the winter will be behind us, and you are enjoying the slightly longer days. For most, bull selling season is past, and it was great to see and hear of so many solid sales around the country. Undoubtedly, there will be new seasons calves on the ground and you are enjoying your first glimpse of some new blood lines or genetic crosses. Unfortunately, this mail out also comes with news of great sadness, as we take time to reflect on the passing of one of our breed and beef industry greats, Craig Martin. Fortunately, we were able to celebrate Craig's enormous contribution to our breed with his wife Rosanna, and a number of the Martin clan at our annual breed dinner. Rather than write an obituary, I thought it would be fitting to share the speech about Craig from that evening.

CRAIG & ROSANNA MARTIN

Craig began his time on council in 1994, back in the days when the Simmental NZ office was on Oxford Terrace in Christchurch. Apparently, Craig's election to council, was worth noting, as the annual election had been held, and everything was done and dusted for that year, until Craig picked up on a procedure that hadn't been followed. The election needed to be reheld and the outcome was that Craig made it onto council with John Scott as President. I think it would be safe to say, not much gets past Craig –and thank goodness for that.

In those days, breed society council meetings were very formal affairs, and there was a real "old boys network" culture. The expectation for new councilors was to behave yourself and wait a good three or so years before you said anything. I think we can all appreciate that trying to fit Craig into that mould would be an impossible task today, so I can't even think of a word that would describe how difficult that would have been twenty years ago.

Very early on, Craig took on the role of finances, a responsibility he continues to hold today. Craig's vision and foresight has enabled council to make some very astute financial decisions over the years, and this has put us in the strong position we are in today. Council decisions, like selling shares at the top of the market before the bottom fell out of it, and investing in commercial property at the most opportunistic times have often been initiated by Craig.

In his financial role Craig has often gone above and beyond the call of duty. When I arrived on council, we had a handful of bad debts that had been slowly accumulating. Craig was extremely persistent in recovering those debts. He was determined that they would not be written off. On numerous occasions, Craig did a job, that no-one

enjoys, and phoned these people requesting they paid their dues, which they eventually did. So a big thank you to Craig.

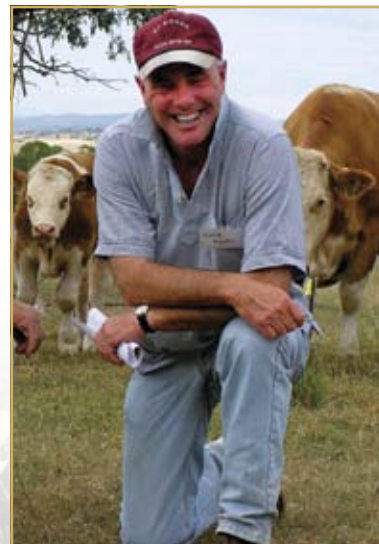
Craig was also one of the team, who were instrumental in shifting the Simmental NZ office from Christchurch to Feilding. This was a really significant political move for our breed. At this time, the main breeds were based in Feilding, and we were sort of out on a limb in Christchurch. Shifting our operation up to Feilding, and taking a quarter shareholding in Beef Holdings along with Hereford and Angus, has enabled us to become pivotal part of the hub of beef breeding in NZ. Predictably, this was a difficult move politically, and Craig was able to manage it with exceptional charm and skill.

Craig has since gone on to be Vice-President and President of our society and he has represented us on the PBB board with great passion and vigor. Once again, there have been difficult times here and Craig has stepped up and handled the issues with the upmost integrity and empathy.

Craig's technical knowledge is second to none; he always has time to talk through the technical aspects of the likes of Breedplan, for example. Craig encourages healthy discussion about issues that may arise and he always approaches decision making from the perspective of what he believes is best for our membership and breed.

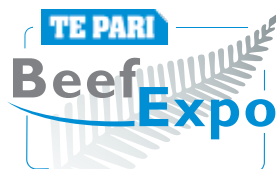
So while Craig is clearly brilliant in the political arena, I think it is also fitting to note that he has bred some pretty handy Simmentals in his time, and winning the Supreme All Breeds Champion at Expo with Moneymore Earthquake, must have been one of the many highlights. Spending so much time away meetings, and being able to keep things progressing well on the farm at home, is a real challenge, and Craig has clearly managed to do this.

Finally, Rosanna, we would like to thank you for sharing your husband with us. I know it is not only Simmental stuff, Craig is away for, but I'm sure over the years, he has been away at meetings almost more than he has been at home, and clearly he could not have done this without the unfailing support from you and your family.



Craig Martin

BEEF EXPO ROUND UP



Once again Simmental was well represented in all aspects of this year's Beef Expo. While numbers were not huge – the cattle presented for sale were of a very high quality, and all exhibitors need to be congratulated for producing such quality stock.

FUTURE BEEF

Our younger participants had a very busy weekend involved in future beef activities. This is a fantastic event to promote and encourage youth into the beef industry, and once again SNZ was a class sponsor. The team from Kerrah, Amy Hoogenboom, Sue Wylie and Tom Dever did our breed proud with their Simmental and Simmental X entries. It was also great to see some of our more experienced members namely Peter McWilliam and John Hammond supporting this event sharing their time and expertise. Special mention should also go to Tony Thompson, who some years ago, took Amy Hoogenboom (who was a young girl living in town and interested in cattle) under his wing to work with his cattle and show team. For Amy to have won the Senior Beef Ambassador award this year is a huge honour for them both I am sure. Here is a précis of the results:



IN THE HOOF SECTION...

Tom Dever	3rd lightweight crossbred steer	Simmental/Hereford
Sue Wylie	1st purebred heavyweight steer	Simmental
Kerrah Simmentals	3rd purebred heavyweight steer	Simmental
Kerrah Simmentals	1st crossbred heavyweight steer	Simmental X
Kerrah Simmentals	4th crossbred heavyweight steer	Simmental X
Sue Wylie	Champion heavyweight steer	Simmental
Kerrah	Reserve Champion heavy weight steer	Simmental

IN THE HOOK SECTION...

Tom Dever	3rd lightweight crossbred steer	Simmental/Hereford
Kerrah Simmentals	3rd purebred heavyweight steer	Simmental
Kerrah Simmentals	3rd crossbred heavyweight steer	Simmental X

OVERALL...

Tom Dever	3rd lightweight crossbred steer	Simmental/Hereford
Kerrah Simmentals	2nd purebred heavyweight steer	Simmental
Sue Wylie	3rd purebred heavyweight steer	Simmental
Kerrah Simmentals	2nd crossbred heavyweight steer	Simmental X
Kerrah Simmentals	4th crossbred heavyweight steer	Simmental X

IN THE HEIFER SECTION...

Glen Anthony	1st Purebred heifer	Simmental
Glen Anthony	Grand Champion Heifer	Simmental

HANDLING...

Lauren Knauf	3rd Intermediate
Amy Hoogenboom	2nd Senior
Amy Hoogenboom	Reserve Champion

FBNZ MODULES...

Lauren Knauf	2nd Intermediate
Amy Hoogenboom	1st Senior



JUDGING...

Lauren Knauf	1st Intermediate
Amy Hoogenboom	2nd Senior
Amy Hoogenboom	Allflex Senior Beef Ambassador



Amy Hoogenboom receiving the Senior Ambassador Trophy from John Rutherford, Allflex North Island Manager

QUEEN OF HEARTS

PREMIER ALL BREEDS HEIFER CALF SHOW & SALE



There was a lovely line up of heifers in the Queen of Hearts sale. The Champion this year was Glen Anthony Cameo AC06, a first win for Tony and Glennis in this event. It was also great to see 2 Simmentals in the top five placings, continuing the strong showing our breed has traditionally had in this event. The revised format of auctioning the heifers in the show ring immediately after the show was a good initiative, and the top priced heifer was Glen Anthony Cameo, sold to the Peplow Stud.



Queen of Hearts winner Glen Anthony Cameo AC06

BULLS

Warren Burgess had a busy time judging the Simmental bulls at Beef Expo- as always it was a challenging job, especially having to compare led and unled animals at two different locations. SNZ would like to thank Warren for the thorough job he did to decide on his champions. Champion bull was the Ruaview entry, who was well presented in the ring by Ben Burgess. The Champion unled bull was MF Rushmore AB0009, a real powerhouse terminal sire, who certainly turned a few heads and went on to be named the Supreme Champion Simmental bull. MF Rushmore AB0009 was the second highest priced Simmental bull sold at expo for \$12,500, only to be pipped at the post by his stablemate MF Rushmore AB0016 who sold for \$13000 to a commercial buyer. The strong demand for these bulls is testament to the excellent reputation the Martin bred cattle have around NZ.



Supreme Champion Simmental MF Rushmore AB0009

On behalf of the vendors, SNZ would like to thank the many people who supported the sales at Beef Expo, both by purchasing and underbidding. Your support is always appreciated, and we wish you well with your purchases.

BREED DINNER

This years Breed Dinner was also a special event, as in addition to the usual prize giving, we had four life memberships to award. Craig Martin, Tony Thompson, Peter McWilliam, and John Absolom were all acknowledged for their outstanding contributions to the establishment and development of our breed in New Zealand. This was a great opportunity for a "walk down memory lane" and I think it would be safe to say a most enjoyable night was had by all. For those who were unable to attend, I have included the speeches that were presented about these people. Please note, most of the information in these speeches is based on anecdotal information from a number of people, and while they were all quite sure their dates were absolutely correct – there was some variation, so apologies if we are a year or two out in places, you'll get the main idea anyway.

TONY & GLENNIS THOMPSON

Those of you who have ever loaded or searched a Glen Anthony animal on internet solutions, must have noticed the herd number of 0299, and I know the first time I saw this number, I thought, wow – these guys have been around a while, and they have.

I guess Glennis knew what she was in for early on, when her and Tony discovered Simmental cattle while they were touring Europe in the 1960's, I'm guessing they were on their OE like so many do in their early 20's.

Thankfully, they made it home to New Zealand again, Tony began his career as a vet and in 1973, the G.A. stud was born. Their first purebred cow was Woolstons Fasan, who they imported.

Now I know I said earlier on, that maybe Glennis was finding out what she was in for on that trip around Europe, but what goes around, comes around as they say, and by 1974, it sounds like Glennis had sent Tony out to get his veterinary career established, while she set about replacing the crossbred cows with purebred ones. So maybe, it was Tony who didn't know what he was in for when they first spotted those cows in Europe.

Either way, G.A. Stud has done a wonderful job of raising and maintaining the profile of Simmentals throughout NZ in the showing arena.

It would be fair to say, that the showing of cattle isn't as popular these days as it was ten years ago, and I thought I would share a couple of snippets from the G.A. website, as I think they paint pictures worth sharing...

Along comes October 2006 and the Hastings A&P show. It was great. Over seventy Simmental entries! A whole ring full of yearling bulls. A magnificent Simmental Display.

And...

November 2006. With help of a truck leant to us by Kerry and Linda Nankervis and a truck driver in the person of Don Foster from Huntly we had our own 'Convoy'. With two trucks and Sue Wyley's ute with horse float in tow we set off to Christchurch for the NZ Royal Show.

The titles and successes are too many to list. But I can tell you G.A. Simmentals have won over 35 Meat & Wool cups over the years.

The G.A. Simmentals have certainly travelled the length and breadth of the country.

The terms Beef Expo and G.A. Simmentals are a bit like Fish and Chips. If you take the time to read our trophies, you will see what a dominant force G.A. Simmentals is. An absolute highlight must have come in 2013, when G.A. Zodiac not only won Champion Simmental, but went on to win the overall Champion of Champions.

The G.A. successes have not been limited to the show ring, as in 2010, they won the European section of the Steak of Origin, proving these cattle can compete on the hooks as well.

The G.A. showing team is often as large as twenty animals and has, at times been as large as twenty five. The time and effort that goes into keeping these animals in pristine show condition is mind boggling.

We all see how immaculately presented your cattle are, and how professionally they are exhibited in the ring, but also the behind the scenes work shows such thorough attention to detail, which says a lot about your whole operation.

This is our chance to say thank you for the wonderful job you do in keeping the profile of our breed in the public eye and long may it continue.

PETER & SUE MCWILLIAM

Well with Peter McWilliam it is all about genetics.

Undoubtedly, Peter has cattle breeding genetics in his blood. Hailing from the Scottish Highlands, Peter's family can trace cattle breeding back to before the 1850's, where they had a Shorthorn stud, and Peter's father exported cattle all over the world.

Peter completed a Diploma of Agriculture in Scotland, and as a part of this qualification, he spent six months in the boning room at a butchery, and the knowledge gained from this experience still shows through today, in Peter's passion for cattle with quality carcass.

In 1972, Peter moved to Australia. Here he worked with a variety of breeds and studs. Perhaps, one of Peter's most significant roles, was spending eight years as stud manager at Dunmore Stud. At the time, the stud was the largest Simmental herd in Australia, with 700 breeding cows. This

was a time of great opportunity for Peter. There were significant showing successes – with nineteen Grand Champions spread across the Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane Royal Shows. Peter also qualified as a Royal Show judge, and somewhere in there, he also managed to meet Sue, who had been brought over from NZ as a polo groom.

In the 1980's, Sue returned home with Peter in tow, and they set about establishing their Simmental Stud at Gladstone, under the Wai-iti prefix. Peter's passion for Simmental was based around, and I quote, "their splendid frames, great mothering ability, easy calving, and excellent cross-breeding potential".

One of Wai-iti's early stud sires was Kindara Galaxy. Galaxy was successful in the show ring, and semen and embryos were exported internationally. This passion for seeking out and sharing genetics has continued. Over the years, Peter and Sue have travelled the likes of the USA, Canada, Scotland, Germany, and Zimbabwe, searching for superior Simmental genetics. Peter had a policy of only using semen from bulls he has personally inspected.

A career highlight for the Wai-iti stud came in 2005 with the sale of Nutcracker at expo for \$39,000. To this day, this bull holds the record for the highest priced Simmental bull sold in NZ, and Nutcracker genetics feature in many Simmental herds today.

So while Peter was busy building up the Wai-iti herd, he was also busy putting in many hours of work on the Simmental council. Peter was elected to council in 1992, and here he stayed until 2003, serving as President towards the end of that time.

On his retirement from council, Peter commented that one of the reasons he was so proud of the society, was its reputation as being "innovative and instigators of new initiatives". Based on what we have heard about Peter so far, I would suggest that it was no coincidence that a society he has been a part of can claim such a reputation.

While he may have retired from council and made room for Lauren to carry on the family tradition of cattle breeding, Peter has remained actively involved in the industry.

Over the years, Peter has devoted many hours encouraging youth involvement in the cattle industry; he has worked with countless Taratahi students for many years. He has run judging school, and just this weekend gone, put somewhere in the vicinity of ninety young beef enthusiasts, through their paces at the Future Beef event.

So this is our chance to say, thank you Peter, for the huge influence you have had on the Simmental breed in NZ. We are fortunate to have had someone with your knowledge, expertise and drive within our ranks.

And Sue, thank goodness for your interest in ponies! Thank you for bringing Peter to NZ, and thanks for all the support that has enabled him to contribute all that he has.

JOHN & STAR ABSOLOM

The Simmental story started for the Absolom's in the early 1970's. The Rissington Stud, number 49, was registered in 1971 and lucky Star, her and John got to head to America for their honeymoon, to see family yes, but also – to look at Simmental cattle!

John was certainly one of the pioneers of our breed and in the early days was amongst those who began introducing Simmental genetics to NZ. In 1974, John was part of a syndicate who purchased a French heifer called Comete from the government importation. Her son, Rissington Extra, went on to make history as the first ever Grand Champion Simmental in NZ. The year was 1978 and this was the first year the Simmental Society allowed showing to occur.

Another significant milestone for Rissington and in turn our breed, was the purchase of LBJ Jade in 1980 from John Robins in Temuka for \$6500. This was the top priced Simmental bull for that year.

Jade, along with Robyn Lowry's grand old matron Irish Empress dominated the show ring in the North Island and really put Simmental on the map. The final frontier of showing was undoubtedly Gisborne which had always been dominated by the Angus and Hereford breeds. Jade won the Meat Wool Cup there in 1981, 1982, 1983 & was then followed by Rissington Monitor in 1984 & 1985. Jade also won the Royal Show in Palmerston North in 1983. Simmental had well and truly arrived!

With over 1 million dollars of progeny, semen and embryo's sold around the globe Jade definitely left a legacy. I'm guessing if Jade had been a race horse, he would have been a Melbourne Cup Winner. Jade died at the ripe old age of 16 in 1994.

Rissington held the first annual bull sale in NZ in 1983 selling 25 bulls. This built up very quickly to at its peak being over 100 Simmental bulls. The sale of Rissington Major on the day Kiwi won the Melbourne cup to the late Rod Cox for \$20,000 was one of many highlights.

In 1985 Rissington ran a sale of embryo calves from Bar 5 Canada. This importation was followed by television media and broadcasted on Country Calendar. The sale grossed \$325,000 for 40 weaner calves, sold throughout Australasia.

Seventeen years after the establishment of the stud, the passion for distributing Simmental genetics throughout NZ was still burning for John. So semen from the first homozygous polled bull – Leachman Grand Desire, was imported. The relationship with the Leachman Cattle Company continued and in 1992, Rissington held a combined breeds sale of their embryo calves, which included Simmental.

John was a member of the Simmental Council from 1984 – 1995 and has done a large amount of cattle judging during his career. John has judged at every royal show venue in NZ, in addition to countless A & P shows. He has also taken his judging to an international level, officiating in Australia and Paraguay.

You only have to peruse this years sale catalogues to see that Rissington cattle feature in the pedigrees of so many Simmentals in NZ today. Clearly your showing successes and innovative use of genetics has played a significant role in raising and maintaining the profile of our breed.

In 1994, John and Star's two eldest sons, Jeremy and Daniel came back to the business, and Daniel is still carrying the baton today. So who knows, by my calculations Daniel, in another thirty years' time, you might be standing up here following in the family footsteps.

FEES REBATE

Looking at our latest budget projections, it is likely we will make another surplus this year. So like last year we have decided to offer a \$3 per female rebate based on your ADL return. These were due on the 31st of July, so hopefully you have yours in.

DATA ENTRY ON INTERNET SOLUTIONS

We would also like to acknowledge the majority of our members who do their performance recording online. This saves our society a significant amount of money in administration costs. To acknowledge the support of these breeders, we have increased the \$1 discount for electronic calf entries to \$3. Hopefully this might encourage members who are not inputting data online, to have a try. Linda Rule at PBBnz is available for technical support if required.



BLG PROGENY TESTING PROJECT

BLG BEEF PROGENY TEST UPDATE

We are proud to announce that SNZ is a funding partner in the BLG Beef Progeny Test. This project is all about beef genetics at a commercial level and we believe it's a shining light for the industry and our breed going forward.

BREED TOUR

After discussions at the AGM in February, we thought it would be good to have our breed tours biennially rather than annually. Part of the reason for this idea, was the level of commitment to host such an event every year is very high, and it is also difficult for members to commit this time away from their farms on an annual basis. In saying that, we still need to hold an AGM, and there seemed to be a general feeling that it would be nice to hold it at a separate time to Beef Expo, linked to some sort of event. So... if anyone is interested in hosting some sort of get together or tour, the opportunity is available. Feel free to contact a member of council with your ideas.

DNA PROFILING OF SERVICE BULLS

Thank you to all the members who have been DNA profiling the bulls they have used in service over recent years. There are however, a number of progeny on our system who are not able to be registered because their sire does not have a DNA profile. These animals are identified by a "temp" under the status section on internet solutions. It would be great to have this tidied up, so please be diligent in collecting samples from your service bulls.

From **Cohort 1(Spring 2014)** Simmental have 8 sires represented, across two herds, Rangitaiki Station, Taupo and Whangara Farms, Gisborne. This includes 6 nominated AI sires and 2 Natural sires. Some of these sires will also be used again in Cohort 2 this spring to link the Cohorts.

SIRE	INSEMS	PREG	LOCATION
Glen Anthony Y-Arta	20	11	R
Glenside Atomic A5	24	13	R & W
Kerrah A456	18	13	R
Kerrah Xfactor AX187	18	11	R
Rissington AB5185	16	9	R
Rissington New Standard AU158	23	13	R & W
Kerrah Yes Sir AY393*	9	5	W
Waikite AA2036*	12	3	W
Total	140	78	56%

* Denotes: Natural sire

Cohort 2(Spring 2015)

We invite our breeders to nominate potential sires for consideration for Cohort 2.

Advantages to the breeder if your bull is selected for inclusion in the progeny test

All progeny data will be incorporated into Breedplan
Actual carcass data on progeny. Currently carcass EBVs are driven by ultrasound and correlated traits so the inclusion of actual carcass data will enhance accuracy of these EBV's

Across breed comparison with Angus, Hereford & Charolais.

So if you believe you have a sire worthy for consideration in Cohort 2 this spring we encourage you to nominate him. If ultimately selected, 26 units of frozen semen are required from the bull.

PLEASE CONTACT:

Email: simmentalnz@pbbnz.com

or ring **Lindy 06 323 0742**

with your nominated sire/s by **WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER.**



Austin's Ultrasound Ltd

Accredited BreedPlan Scanner No. 1036
Structural Beefclass accreditation No. 1036

ULTRASOUND SCANNING REMINDER

Currently the main source of information Breedplan uses to produce carcass EBVs is ultrasound scanning. Breedplan currently produces EBVs for:

- Carcass Weight
- Eye Muscle Area
- Fat Depth
- Intramuscular Fat
- Retail Beef Yield

We encourage breeders to ultrasound scan all yearlings as we believe this is a real point of difference in terms of our breeds attributes versus the alternatives for commercial farmers. To generate meaningful carcass data it is a necessity to ultrasound scan.

To book your ultrasound scanning call Bill Austin (027) 410 0377 or Email: austinbilljudy@xtra.co.nz

HOUSE KEEPING REMINDERS

DNA PROFILES

Please remember to get hair samples for DNA profiling of the bulls you have used in service this past breeding season.

Remember: Calves need to be sired by a bull with a DNA profile loaded onto internet solutions in order to be registered.



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