

# \$IMMENTALNZ THE MONEY MAKER

TARGETED NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY HEAVYWEIGHTS

## Hi Everyone

Greetings from myself and the 2021 Simmental NZ Council. 12 Months ago we were embarking on the strangest journey most of us will make in our lifetimes, and we are still emerging from it. Thankfully we are approaching this year's bull selling season with a reasonably safe and healthy population and a lot more confidence in 'normal' sales being able to take place, not to mention much better farm and weather conditions over most of the country.

At the recent AGM we farewelled Colleen Knauf from Council and the role of President. Colleen's 12 years of service were gratefully acknowledged. At the same time we welcomed Jon Knauf who accepted his nomination to join Council as our newest member. A profile probably isn't needed for



the stud master of Kerrah Simmentals, but we will try to have one for the next newsletter anyway.

Another highlight of what was the 50th AGM of Simmental NZ was the awarding of honorary life membership to two very deserving members; John Hammond of Ohakune and Alastair Miln of Kimbolton. We were able to present John with his certificate at the AGM and a copy of his citation follows. We will be organising a presentation for Alastair later this year and will publish his citation then also.

Lastly, please take an hour or two to look at your operating procedures and recording habits as breeders and stud principals. Too often some of the basic requirements are being overlooked such as the collection of DNA samples of bulls sold to stud prior to them leaving the sellers property. Another common fault is the lack of transfer documents being submitted for change of ownership. I'm sure there are other areas we all could do better in – let's just do it!

Any brickbats, bouquets or otherwise, please feel free to contact any member of your council, our details are on the back page and the website – we are here to work for all things Simmental

Regards

**Tracey Neal - President**

## John Hammond Life Membership

### Life Membership Award

– Simmental Cattle Breeders of New Zealand Inc.

It is with pleasure that we present John Hammond with Honorary Life Membership of the NZ Simmental Society, in recognition of his services to the breed.

John and Helen Hammond started Ruaview Simmentals in 1992. The third generation of Hammonds on the family farm at Ohakune, they converted the former dairy farm which had been home to Ruaview Friesian Stud. In their 29 years of breeding Simmentals, John has been much more than just another breeder.

With his passion for cattle, and the people who breed them he has, always with Helen's support alongside him, educated, promoted, judged, organised, mentored and served Simmental New Zealand in a multitude of ways.

John and Helen have shown cattle at many venues around the country. John has also judged at many shows, including at least one Royal Show. They have supported the National Bull Sale/ Beef Expo with strong results in the Bull Sale, twice being awarded Supreme Champion Simmental in 2008 and 2016, and entries in the Queen of Hearts Heifer sale, not to mention Steak of Origin with a Best of European title in 2013. At present John is only one of two qualified Beef Class Assessor's in New Zealand, and the only current cattle breeder. He has run workshops, given freely of his time to welcome and mentor new breeders and promote the Simmental breed whenever possible.

John served on Council for 15 years, from 2005 until 2020. This service was interrupted up by John's near fatal illness of Leptospirosis which took a toll on all the family, but again brought to the fore the unwavering support of Helen, who took on much of the workload of the stud among other things in those long months of recovery. This included being John's chauffeur to Council meetings and cattle inspections amongst many other roles.

John's work as a councillor has seen him hold positions of Sponsor Liaison, New Member Liaison, Beef Expo Simmental Representative, also holding the position of Vice Chairman of the Beef Expo Executive, Beef Class educator, Test Station Inspector, National Bull Sale Inspector and Vice President amongst other roles. He said once he aspired to the top job, but the timing of his illness and later the conversion of their



farm back to dairy, meant he did not feel he could do justice to the role.

In 2014 John and Helen moved most of the Simmental cattle onto a lease block, where the cattle have to climb hills more in keeping with their history and converted their home farm back to dairying. This has brought them full circle, although John tries very hard to keep away from the milking shed! He has however been instrumental in bringing milking Simmental genetics into the herd and is as enthusiastic about the results from this as he is about his other business venture involving black cattle, yes he has ventured over to the dark side, but we won't hold that against him.

To John, and Helen, congratulations and well done

## Welcome

To new studs Hillbrae at Palmerston North, Black Shed at Kihikihi and associate members Ian and Robyn Marshall in Taranaki. It is great to see some of the newer studs taking a little time to send a breeder profile into Lindy for the website. Please contact Lindy for a template if you are keen to have yours added or updated.

## Simmental Tour Report

The NZ Simmental 2021 Tour began with a group dinner in Palmerston North on Sunday 28th which allowed old friends to catch up and new friendships to be made.

Mon 1st, 7.30 am sharp saw the group consisting of two minivans, shadowed by 3-4 vehicles leave for Peplow Stud near Shannon owned by Michael Malmo.

Peplow are calving 45 cows, current herd sires are from Hillview, Brooklands and Glen Anthony with GA Flintstone on display. We viewed an impressively docile herd of cows with well grown calves at foot, some R2 bulls and then enjoyed a lovely morning tea served by Gail Malmo.

Then it was over the Pahiatua Track and north to Rakaiatai and the Brooklands Stud of Colin and Catherine Hutchings. Colin started out with Simmental over his Friesian cows and was so impressed he began grading up. They are now the 3rd oldest stud, having notched up nearly 50 years of breeding. Calving up to 70 breeding cows, Brooklands have used sires Kerrah Ezekiel, Glenside Arizona and Leaflands C13. On view in what was definitely the driest area we visited were some of the cows with calves at foot and R2 bulls with some older spare bulls across the road.

A tasty lunch was served by Catherine and daughter Louise, who with husband Karl Humphreys has the Hillview stud. There are

## Housekeeping

Bull selling season is fast approaching, if you have one bull or one hundred, there are lots of options for marketing your cattle. Simmental NZ has a Facebook page which will accept sale adverts, including private/paddock sale, but not individual listings. There is also the option of Catalogue builder, [www.cataloguebuilder.co.nz](http://www.cataloguebuilder.co.nz), an online catalogue option also suitable for private/paddock sales, please ring or email Pivot Design for details and advice on 06 323 0740 or [info@pivotdesign.co.nz](mailto:info@pivotdesign.co.nz). Please be aware if you are wanting to market your bulls the more information and recording you have available the better.

### Registry Reminder -

- \* Calf entries are overdue, please check yours are done.
- \* Group Run - Data is due in by the first of every month, with BREEDPLAN analysis reports released 10-14 days later.

currently 3 generations of Hutchings with their own Simmental studs, grandson Karl Farrell at Taihape has the Lowridge Stud. We are quite certain this is a first for Simmental and possibly any other breeds in NZ. It was great to see Karl join the tour; it is always a pleasure to see newer breeders taking the opportunity to see other studs and meet other breeders.

A short drive to Waipukurau and a timely arrival at Glen Anthony caused Tony to comment it was the first ever Simmental tour to be early! The cattle were penned in easily accessible, quiet groups of cows, R2 and R3 heifers, heifer calves, bull calves and back towards the road, a stylish line of R2 sale bulls. A wee blast from the past, Grant Latimer who older breeders will remember, is now stock manager at Glen Anthony and by all accounts has given Tony a fresh outlook. Glen Anthony is calving 60 purebreds, mainly to Glen Anthony bred bulls, with some AI. Tony doesn't calve heifers until R3, citing animal welfare considerations in calving difficulties and rebreeding. Tony's comparison of human teenagers giving birth was an interesting analogy which caused a few discussions later in the day. We viewed GA Y-Arta, now a sound 11-year-old bull. A delicious afternoon tea was supplied by the local St Johns fundraising ladies, a great way to support the community.

From there we travelled to Napier, arriving at our motel with a short tidy up time before our very enjoyable dinner at The Thirsty Whale on the Napier waterfront.

March 2nd, another early start, leaving Napier at 7.30am for

*Brooklands Cows and calves.*





Milking Simmentals - not just a rumour.



Peplow calves and cow with personal scratching post.



Ruaview R2 bulls.jpg

the drive to Ohakune via Taupo, a change of plan forced by the closure of the Gentle Annie for bridge repairs. We arrived at John and Helen Hammonds home farm at lunchtime, with a few first cross milking Simmentals on display in the front paddock. John explained the production figures, the attractiveness of utilising a dual-purpose breed and the intention of continuing to utilise milking Simmental genetics in their dairy herd, which has the milking platform of 250 acres of the home farm. This leaves 70 acres for John and Helen to finish the Simmental and Angus bulls on. After a delicious lunch on the lawn at Ruaview we travelled out to Raetihi to the 1600-acre sheep and beef property of John Journeaux, between 2,000 and 2300 feet asl. John runs Angus x Friesian cows and had cows and heifers with calves at foot on display for us. He has a once bred heifer system, where all the Simmental first cross heifers are mated to an Angus, calved then killed. Replacement heifers are bought in from a dairy herd. They also calve to an Angus at R2 then are mated to a Simmental, with a total of between 150-160 females calving in October each year. John sells the 18-month steers as store cattle with a keen repeat buyer.

From there it was back to Ohakune, to view cows with calves at Hammonds 150-acre lease block. John uses AI and natural mating, and currently has calves by Glen Anthony Executive, LRX HP Rocket, Ruaview Pinetree and Y-Arta. John explained to the group his breeding philosophy and objectives, then took us around the corner to see his Angus cows with outstanding calves

at foot, wanting the group to see first-hand his progress in this direction and express his concerns. After this thought-provoking talk and some late afternoon refreshments we boarded the vehicles once more to travel to the back of the Hammond home farm to view the R2 sale bulls along with 2 herd sires.

Then it was off to our Ohakune motel for a freshen up, followed by the AGM. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation to our outgoing President Colleen Knauf and the awarding of Life Membership to a surprised and honoured John Hammond for services to the Simmental breed. Alastair Miln was also awarded the honour of Life Membership but was unable to attend the AGM, so his presentation will take place at a later date. We then adjourned to a local restaurant for our breed dinner, which was made extra special by the announcement of the birth in Ireland of Ian and Robyn Marshall's first grandchild – congratulations from us all.

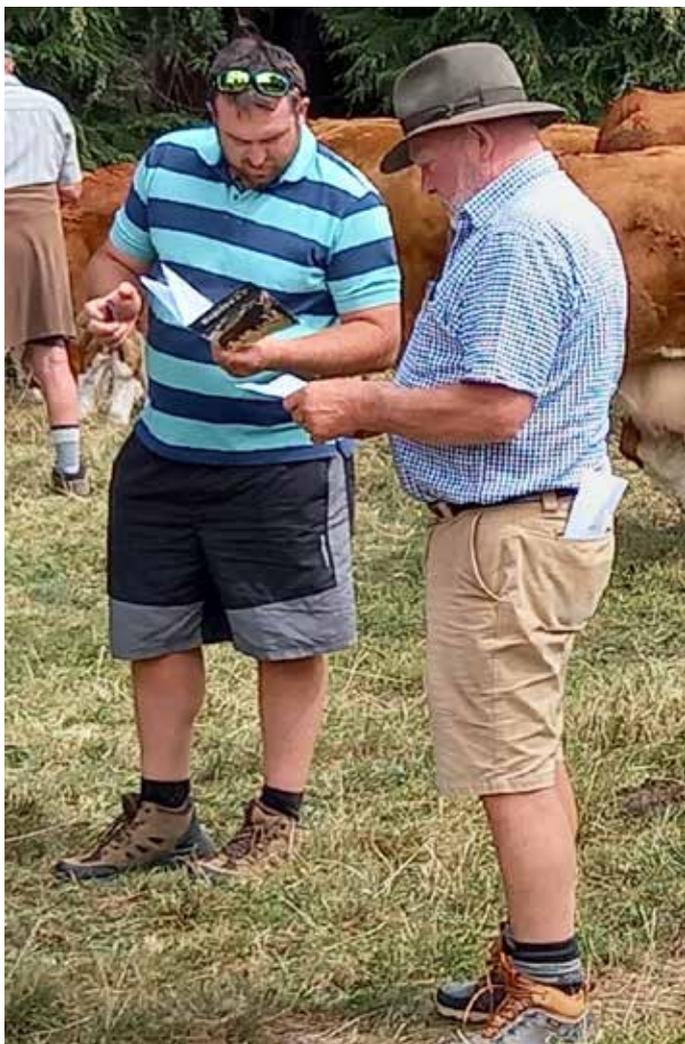
Our last day began with a short trip up the road to National Park to Tarewa Station a 2600 ha former Landcorp property now back in iwi hands. We met Managers Colin Gates and Brendon Church, with Colin explaining the improvements made so far and the rationale behind them. We then travelled through the property, which runs 6,000 hinds between two blocks and 800 cows. Looking across the road at the Tongariro Chateau it was easy to imagine the long cold winters, and the average 2.5 meters of rainfall per annum. We viewed some of the herd sires, a mixture of bulls including Simmentals, with some bulls left from



Glen Anthony R2 bulls.



Commercial Simmental x Angus x Friesian.



The old and the new.



Another memorable tour dinner.

the Landcorp operation.

From here most of the tour adjourned to a local café for morning tea, with some leaving prior to travel homeward. Kerry Nankervis gave us an insight into the embryo transplant procedures as we weren't able to visit his property. From the café we said our goodbyes and ended another very enjoyable Simmental tour. Many thanks again to John and Helen for their organisation, and the Peplow, Brooklands, Glen Anthony and Ruaview Studs for their hospitality.

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