

\$IMMENTALNZ THE MONEY MAKER

TARGETED NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY HEAVYWEIGHTS

From the President's Table

Hi everyone

I'm sorry for the length of time it's taken to get this newsletter out. Since our tour in March the ever-evolving process of investigating and comparing genetic evaluations and reporting processes has seen the goal posts shift numerous times and some of it without Council being fully informed or in agreement. Council are breeders too and we are just as frustrated as everyone else.

I URGE you to read the Update in this newsletter if you haven't already and phone a councillor if you want to discuss anything further.

Wishing you all a safe and productive calving season and we will be in touch as developments come to hand.

Cheers

Tracey Neal



Membership Updates

Farewell to **John and Helen Hammond** and Ruaview Simmentals – their on-farm dispersal was very well supported. Read newsletter April 2021 in the online archive for more on the Ruaview history.

Welcome to New Members

Eddie Conlan

Tara Hill Stud, Gore

Eddie is a former breeder from the 80's who has restarted.

Richard & Jessica Boersen

Matatoki Stud, Thames

Josh and Lexie Howe

High Peak Stud, Urenui

More colours available than shown

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Samantha, Sage and Lisa
PBB Registry Team

E: registry@pbbnz.com

P: **06 323 4484**

Housekeeping

If following the year letter practise – 2023 is M.

Please remember to make certain you have DNA on file from your herd sires, especially important if you have bought in-calf cows into your herd. If in doubt, ring the breeder or PBB DNA desk.

If you have sold a stud bull this year, it is time to get the transfers done once you have a DNA result back. Don't leave it until calf entry time please

ADL's

These are due in NOW. Make a date with your computer or the desk and get them done before the big workload begins...

Simmental NZ BREEDPLAN Update

Greetings Simmental Members

This is an update on where we are at with our animal evaluation providers. For decades we have been working with our existing genetic evaluation provider in ABRI/AGBU with our counterparts in Simmental Australia in a combined analysis (TransTasman BREEDPLAN). The main advantage of this combined analysis was the larger population of Simmental and therefore phenotypes (data) to make for a more accurate analysis. It also allowed for direct comparison between the NZ and Australia Simmental and therefore the ability to use and market genetics seamlessly across the Tasman.

Over twelve months ago the Australian Simmental Society started investigating moving away from ABRI to International Genetics Solutions (IGS), a multi-breed analysis run by the American Simmental Association. Fearing the loss of a significant chunk of our database, your Council also started trialling IGS.

In March 2023, with no formal warning, Simmental Australia made the decision to move their database to IGS and remove all their data from BREEDPLAN. When informed that this could have large implications to our data, Council agreed to temporarily freeze the BREEDPLAN analysis until NZ bull sales had finished.

Recently ABRI started republishing EBVs on Internet Solutions. They have adjusted the base to rescale the EBVs to a higher level. This was done to accommodate a number of Australian breeders who chose to stay with ABRI. NZ Simmental had no say in the matter. Our breed averages and percentile bands have also been changed to reflect just the NZ animals. Previously the averages were TransTasman. This was always to our advantage because of many of the Australians lack of focus on performance.

So where are we now? BREEDPLAN continues as normal. All calves born this spring will be registered into BREEDPLAN along with any other weights and traits, so please continue to input data and calf entries as per normal till the end of the year at least.

Council continues with Beta runs at IGS to fully test their system. We intend to have both options fully analysed over the next few months and will present that analysis, along with a recommendation.

It is fair to say all Councillors are aware that the situation we are currently in is less than ideal, but we are working to get the best long-term solution sorted. This is taking a lot of time and is an ever-evolving frustrating process for the Councillors.

We wish you a good spring and calving and should you have any questions feel free to give a councillor a call to discuss.

Tracey Neal	07 877 8009
Jon Knauf	06 838 6793
Garry McCorkindale	027 242 6735
Daniel Absolom	021 989 067
Tom Sanson	027 248 9098
David Timperley	027 437 5881

Simmental Tour and AGM 2023

After a year off, and which led to a Zoom AGM with mixed results, it was a relief to assemble in the 'winterless' North. A casual dinner in Kerikeri for most of the tourists was enjoyed the first evening, although the Lynmar contingent had flight issues and had to endure a late bus trip to the motel. It was great to see some of our younger members and new breeders as well as our very own Lindy Lawrence joining the trip this year, along with some retired breeders. Your tour reporter didn't do the greatest job on notes this year but would like to comment on the exceptional temperament of the majority of the cattle we inspected, a real credit to the breeders.

Monday 21st : We met our bus driver as instructed, who went into a panic at the sight of us with our suitcases as he had been dispatched in a bus with no 'boot'! Being laid back cockies we happily loaded our luggage into the bus with us and set off with a bus driver frantically ringing base to organise a bigger bus pronto!

Our first stop on a frosty morning was at Blackbridge Simmentals, at Pakaraka, where we were welcomed by Vaughan and Troy Vujcich, both PGGW stock agents and joined by Cam Heggie, whom most of you will know is a PGGW stud stock agent. A stroll around Vaughan and Sue's herd was followed by a generous morning tea on their sunny deck.

Then it was off to the run-off block of Aaron and Bernadette Gubb, Beefit Simmentals. In a different slant, the Gubbs are dairy farmers who began breeding Simmental bulls for use within their dairy herd and are now running their own stud selling the surplus bulls, with the base of their herd bought from Peter Hill's dispersal. A look over the R2 sale bulls in the yards and a stroll around some cows with calves at foot in the paddock followed before we loaded up into vehicles again.

Our last stop of the day was at Aaron (AJ) and Mel Parlane's Caniwi Simmentals. Unfortunately, the rain had set in and the wonderful picnic setting had to be moved into a brand new shed, a top effort by them and their mates in short timing. Our intrepid bus driver got us to the shed despite doing some back bumper damage on the ford! Despite the frequent downpours, most of us got to view AJ's cattle he had on display, when we could tear ourselves away from the sumptuous kai moana including creamed paua they had laid on for us – what a feast!

The AGM and dinner at Hokianga Heads rounded out our day, along with a fundraising auction conducted by Cam, with the very generous donation of personalised plates

'SIMTAL' by John and Helen Ellis as the 'prize'. Tuesday 22nd saw us lined up at the ferry boarding at Rawene. We had to walk onto the ferry while our bus driver negotiated the loading ramp, and we discovered why we had to wait for a bigger bus, more damage to the bumper? Our first stop was John and Sarah Hammond's Owata Simmentals. A lovely morning tea was provided and then the great team from Sloane Livestock ably assisted Hammonds in ferrying tourists up the steep, wet track to the top of the hill. Quite an eye opener for first timers and a chance to see even more variety in where Simmentals are farmed successfully.

After lunch at Awanui, we arrived at Kaingaroa Simmentals. After a tour of the cattle shown us by Shane and Kristy Vinac, we enjoyed more Northern hospitality including exceptionally good seafood chowder made by Shane's Mum. This time we were sheltering in the shed from the sun, not the rain. Dinner and bed at Taipa finished our day, ready for another early start.

Wednesday 23rd back on the bus, we travelled to Mt Camel Farms, Houhora. This is a large family-run crossbreeding operation of 1918ha, one third in grass. Running approx. 450 breeding cows, the vast majority of progeny are sold store as yearlings in the Houhora Spring Fair in September. They use Simmental bulls over their base herd, which converted from Hereford in the 1980's. Originally Red Devon bulls were used over the Simm X cows but now only Simmental are used. It was amazing to drive over some of the property in the bus, right next to the Pacific Ocean. With a mixture of rock, clay, peat and sand, along with fresh and salt water, it is a very diverse property which also includes a 7-8 ha watermelon crop each year grown by a local grower. As they need a new site each year, each old site is regressed. We were very privileged to be invited to this property and learn the clever management of its unique setting and challenges, and how Simmental play such a big part in it. Finally it was time for a team photo and the trip back to Kerikeri, with some of us getting chucked out at the airport on the way. Another great trip, great cattle and great people, our many thanks to the Northland breeders who took part.



Morning greetings at Blackbridge Simmentals



Cows with calves at Blackbridge



R2 Bulls at Beefit



Cows at Beefit Simmentals



Two Kaumatua guard the kai moana – Ray Cameron and John Ellis deep in discussion



It was wet at Caniwi but the cattle (above and below) still put their best side forward



Cows and calves at Owkata Simmentals



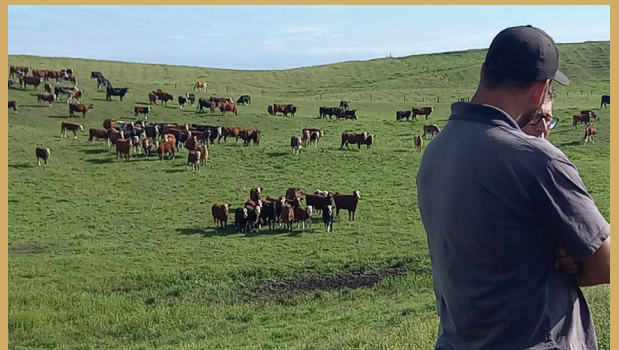
The view from the side of the hill – a long way up at Owkata



Cows and calves at Kaingaroa



A selection of R2 bulls at Kaingaroa



One of the cow and calf mobs at Mt Camel, Houhora



Tour party 2023 with our awesome bus driver Joe