



New Zealand Boer Goat Breeders Assn Membership Newsletter December 2020

Contact us: nzbgba@gmail.com

www.nzbgba.co.nz

Facebook: NZ Boer Goat Breeders Assn

<https://www.facebook.com/nzbgba/>

Material for next edition by **20th Mar 2020**

Presidents Report:

Hello Members,

Well, 2020 has been a very different year.

With Covid19 impacting worldwide we have seen all International borders closed, air travel cease except for NZ qualified returnees who then must enter and pass 14 days of forced mandatory quarantine and the domestic lockdown that we all managed so successfully. If you look at New Zealand's situation leading into Christmas, I think a lot of countries wish they had a hard lock down like us to start with. We must stay vigilant to beat this horrible virus.

Covid19 has forced International goat buyers (meat and stud) to source from whom ever has an airfreight route operating, which is not many countries. The NZBGBA has been answering 3-4 International enquiries a month, many without Import protocols from NZ which means no sale. Even one for 150 goats by boat to Saudi Arabia. The sinking of the cattle freighter a few months ago has had a small impact on shipping goats as livestock. You now must provide an up-to-date ship survey and depending on length of voyage a full-time vet on board. Worldwide the easiest way is by semen or embryos.

Kidding should be over for all and I am sure that you all have a future Champion amongst your 2020 kids. There is some interest around for an export order around March / April so try not to ring all your buck kids. If you had an unlucky kidding like myself - 16 buck kids and 5 doe kids I feel for you, surprisingly from 5 sires.

The Buck Evaluation Project is not far away from "farm entry day" being a few days before or on 30/01/2021. The host farmer will be Tony Grayling (Sunny Park Boers) with help from Dougal Laidlaw and Wynn Cruickshank. Tony's farm is in Alexandra Central Otago. Tony, on behalf of the NZBGBA I would like to thank you for agreeing to have this project on your farm for 12 months.

Not many people know that Tony has over many years been the quiet supporter for many Boer goat endeavors like importing new genetics when needed in the early 2000, financial backer for semen imports, Shingle Creek involvement and supplying gates off his farm every year so the Wanaka Boer Goat Show can take place. Thank you, Tony.

To those who have entered bucks into the project you will receive an email during the next 10 days with guidelines to follow so that all bucks arrive at Tony's safely and healthy.

Happy New Year to you all, be kind and be safe, as many of you will know family or friends who have suffered greatly through COVID-19.

Regards

Warwick Ferguson

NZBGBA President

MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

We are Brian and Philippa Loughhead, of Amberfield Boers. Brian has served for many years on the Executive and president for 4 years. Philippa is a Level One judge, and has judged in both New Zealand and Australia. Brian is Business Manager at Medbury School during the week, and Philippa runs a successful business from our property, called Décor Creations, which makes drapes and roman blinds etc. for new and existing homes, as well as looking after our stud.

STUD NAME	Amberfield Boers
BREEDER	Philippa & Brian Loughhead
LOCATION	Amberley
FARM AREA	10.5 acres / 4.2 hectares
NUMBER OF BREEDING AGED DOES	35
ELEVATION	Approx 65m asl
RAINFALL	300mm pa
CLIMATE	Dry in summer
SHELTER / ASPECT	Shelterbelt around boundary

We have owned and bred Boer Goats for 14 years, but have been involved in the goat industry with Angoras for 13 years prior to this. After many years of breeding Angoras, and struggling to find shearers (not all shearers will shear goats due to their soft skin), we decided to investigate the Boers. We purchased a few commercial (really ugly) Boers and bred them for a season. We were very impressed with their ease of kidding, and how the kids were up following mum around so quickly, unlike the angoras who tended to stay put for 3-4 days. We were hooked.

Travelling into Christchurch one day, I followed a ute with a Boer buck on it. It stopped, so I stopped and spoke to the gentleman about his buck. It was Tony Grayling. We chatted and he told us about his property. We arranged a visit to see Tony and Wyn, and selected and purchased our first Registered Boer does. These does arrived in kid, to us on the afternoon of my father's death. A very sad day for us, but happy day in a goatie way.

From here on, despite having had goats, we continued to learn. We visited the Canterbury Show that next year to see the Boers, and met some amazing people who have help guide us through our Boer goat journey. Warwick Ferguson has been a great support (and friend) and sounding board over the years.

Our stud has both traditional Boers and NZ Red Boers. We keep our breeding lines separate, making sure that only traditional go into the traditional register. While everyone will know, you can get a Red (or paint) out of traditional parents, this animal can only be registered as a Red on the stud register. If you use Red Boer parents and get a traditional colour kid, it must be registered as a Red on the stud register. We apply this rigorously. The Reds are not any different to a traditional, it is only the colour that comes from a recessive gene (like a black lamb). They are all meat goats no matter what colour, traditional, paint or red.


We have also been part of a number of successful export opportunities all over the world.


Our plans for the future are to continue to breed quality animals, improving, looking for that perfect Boer, with all the top-quality attributes like we saw on our trip to South Africa to the Boer Goat World Championships in 2017. Getting the right balance of conformation and meat. This, I am sure is the aim for us all.

Having a vision of what you want to achieve is important in a breeding programme. Knowing how to make these changes, to achieve this, is the challenge. Nothing happens as once, it takes time, and patience, to get the right mix of meat capacity, and sound conformation, resulting in a stunning Boer.

We welcome people to contact us.
Happy Goat Farming

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REMINDERS

Registrations Are your animal registrations up to date?

- Any transfers need to be completed on the current form, found on www.nzbgba.co.nz
- Contact Julia at julia@genetic-gains.co.nz for your current herd list & pedigrees.

Subscriptions Invoices will be coming out soon, please pay by the due date – thank you.

BUCK EVALUATION PROJECT

This twelve-month project is due to start on 31st January 2021, with 18 buck kids from 9 breeders throughout NZ taking part in the inaugural trial which is to be based in Central Otago. The Executive will keep members informed of progress of the group of animals throughout the year.

WANAKA A&P SHOW

We are delighted to announce that Wyn Cruickshank has confirmed that he will judge the 2021 Wanaka Show. Entries can be made online via <https://www.wanakashow.co.nz/competitors> when the 2021 schedule comes out (currently it is the 2020 schedule). Show membership of \$25 for an individual will give you 1x 2day entry pass and discounted exhibitor fees. See their website for further information.

SOUTH ISLAND AGRICULTURAL FIELD DAYS (SIAFD)

This is to be held on Wednesday 24 March to Friday 26 March 2021. The NZBGBA has booked a site and will be present with live animals on display. We welcome any helpers to be on our site to help with enquiries from the public. Contact Jenny Bassett 021 318 369 if you can help on any of the days.

NZBGBA AGM & CONFERENCE

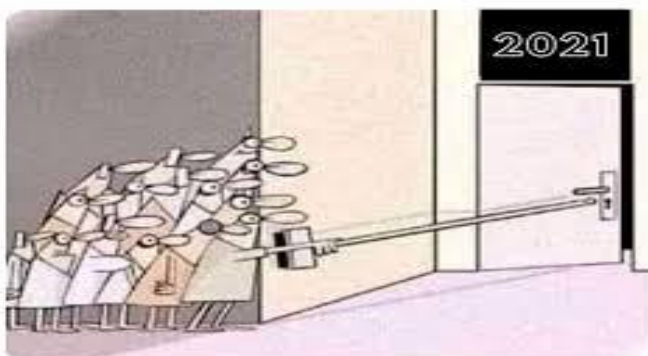
Provisionally the Executive are thinking of having the 2021 AGM & Conference at Alexandra, Central Otago, as was planned in 2020 but regrettably, due to Covid-19, we ended up with a Zoom Conference. Further details will be coming out in a couple of months, but note on your calendars Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 May as the weekend that we have provisionally allocated.

EXPORTING

Ongoing enquiries via phone, email and social media. As discussed in the last newsletter, many of these enquiries do not proceed further as their country does not have an OMAR with NZ, but every enquiry is given due diligence by President Warwick Ferguson. The Executive will advise all members if any export order is imminent and animals are requested.

RULES & REGULATIONS OF THE NZBGBA

Currently the Executives are reviewing the NZBGBA Constitution and ensuring that “verbally known” Rules and Regulations are documented for the benefit of members. This will include information regarding physical tagging of registered animals, recording tag numbers for the Register in the correct format, social media responsibilities and more. The resulting document will be discussed at the upcoming AGM.



Disclaimer: The information and opinions contained within this newsletter are not necessarily those of the New Zealand Boer Goat Breeders Association (NZBGBA). We recommend seeking veterinary advice for any animal health issues.