



New Zealand Boer Goat Breeders Assn Membership Newsletter Autumn 2023

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 June 2023**

Presidents Report

Hello members,

The Executive have been engaged with two projects since the start of the year. One is the upgrade and revamp of the website, and I can say progress is being made. Thank you to Marita who is responsible for driving this along, with input from the other Executive members. The other is based around Whitestone Boers Dispersal Sale to Hedley John with the immediate and future implications to be considered carefully. It is probably the first known sale with the Stud name sold with the goats for the NZBGBA. This comes under the Registrations and Transfer Portfolio headed by Brian Loughhead. I will assist Brian to bring closure to this Stud name transfer in the near future. There has been quite a few emails and the odd zoom meeting around both these projects to date.

As usual at this time of year Boer goat sales are taking place for our members. Please take time to read the information in this newsletter about your responsibility to register all goats you breed and complete the transfer when selling to another stud. All responsibly rests with the Breeder/Seller.

You will also find information for the AGM in May at Dunedin in this newsletter – see you there.

There is still interest being shown for Export orders to South Korea and to a lesser extent to South America. If you have not been approached by these buyers, it is because they decide who to buy from. The NZBGBA has no authority to direct International Buyers to who they will buy from. Often these orders will not be completed due to the large numbers required or circumstances outside of the exporters' control like airfreight costs, currently anywhere from .5 to 1 million dollars for a suitable freight plane.

For those who are interested about the Boer Goat Breed in New Zealand and Australia most of us know something of how the breed came to New Zealand but not about establishing the Breed Australia. In this newsletter we have included an article that documents the arduous process and personal time and cost that went into starting the Boer Goat in Australia. We included it for the history of the Breed, not the personalities involved.

Some people have heard of Geof and Celia Burnett-Smith, the principals of the great Terraweena Stud, while others have met them in person. Celia and her son Angus have judged in New Zealand. Personally, I owe the Burnett-Smith family as they ensured that I had steppingstones in place to pursue my judging ambition in Australia and elsewhere and improved my overall knowledge of the Boer Breed. I just had to decide whether to step or not and I can tell you I am more than happy that I stepped!

If you have done something to promote the Boer Goat in your area the Executive would like to hear about it, maybe feature it in the next newsletter. What have I done lately in this respect? Being in the heart of the Waikato Dairy Goat Industry I usually pester one of the Dairy Co Op Directors on a yearly basis about using Boer bucks as terminal Sires which has in the past fallen on deaf ears. I did have an enquiry from a farmer who was rearing over 5,000 Dairy goat kids for the Capretto market in 2020 that lead nowhere.

Recently I was approached by a director about a trial using a Boer buck over some one-year-old new milkers as a terminal sire. The resulting progeny will be reared as Capretto with a similar number of straight Saanen kids and will be compared for meat yield and texture. The aim is to add more weight quicker and possibly go up a weight bracket. This Saturday I will deliver a donated, reasonably grown 2022 Boer buck kid that has passed a Yersinia & CAE blood test to his 10-20 new girlfriends at an 850 Dairy Goat farm in Waikato. 10 - 12 months from now I hope to be able to share the meat yield / texture result with you all. I will try to remember to take some photos on Saturday for an update in the next newsletter.

I would like to congratulate Owen Booth on being appointed Boer Goat Judge at Wanaka and Chris Hampton who is the 2023 MacKenzie Highland Show President. To you both I know you will have an enjoyable Day.

Happy selling and see you at the AGM.

Regards

Warwick – NZBGBA President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wanaka A&P Show – held on Friday 10th & Saturday 11th March 2023. Boer goat classes are judged on the Friday. www.wanakashow.co.nz Contact John Binnie 020 4113 4402.
- South Island Agricultural Fielddays (SIAFD) – held on Wednesday 29 – Friday 31 March 2023 at Kirwee, Canterbury. The NZBGBA have a stand and will have animals and information on display. Help with manning the stand is appreciated, please contact Jenny Bassett on 021 318 369 to offer assistance.

Tuesday 28	Jenny & Guy to set up tents, pen & publicity signs
Wednesday 29	Jenny on site
Thursday 30	Geoff on site
Friday 31	Jenny & Geoff on site during day & pack up late afternoon

- Mackenzie Highland A&P Show – one of our long-standing NZBGBA members Chris Hampton is the show president in 2023, so we congratulate Chris and wish him a successful show. To enter the boer goat classes which are held on Easter Monday, 10th April, at the Fairlie showgrounds see www.mackenzieshow.co.nz – entries have been extended but close this week. Contact Jenny Bassett on 021 318 369 for further information.

Photo from the 2021 Mackenzie Highland A&P Show – Chris Hampton 3rd from left



- NZBGBA AGM – Saturday 20th May, venue Dunedin. See information following.

NZBGBA AGM 2023 – DUNEDIN

Saturday 20th May

Meet at 12pm for lunch in the conference centre of the 555 Motel in South Dunedin.

The conference room is perfect for the meeting with projector, whiteboard, plenty of space and a fully equipped kitchen.

They have plenty of rooms for people to stay in and we will get a 10% discount as a group, but **everybody needs to book individually**. Rooms are about \$145-155 per night. Contact details below.

Please mention the Boer Goat conference and Marita's name for a discount.

Telephone Number
+64 3 4555 779

Email
stay@bwdunedin.co.nz

Address
555 Andersons Bay Rd
Dunedin Otago 9012.
New Zealand



AGM follows at 1.30pm.

Following the AGM, we may have a speaker (TBC) or discussions from topics raised by members.

Group evening dinner – details TBC.

Sunday 21st May

9.30am – Meet for morning tea at Burkhard & Marita Eisenlohr's, Raynbird Boers, 590 Portobello Road. Followed by a farm walk (bring appropriate footwear & clothing).

Lunch at a local café is optional – members may want to head home after the farm walk.

Otherwise for those who don't need to head away quickly, Marita has offered to show us some Otago Peninsula sights in the afternoon if members were interested. We can carpool and go for a drive up the Peninsula to show us a fair bit of the sights that you would pay a lot of money for going on a tour!

Please register your attendance at the AGM and dinner to Marita at nzbgba@gmail.com

Marita Eisenlohr
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590 Portobello Rd
Company Bay 9014
Dunedin
Email: marita@raynbirdbaygroup.nz
Mobile: 021 1922 877



AGM documents (proxy, minutes & agenda etc) will be sent out at a later date.

TRANSFERS OF REGISTERED ANIMALS

- Any new membership applications or animal registration transfers need to be completed on the current forms, found in the membership section on www.nzbgba.co.nz
- The Vendor is to send these completed forms to the NZBGBA promptly after the time of sale. Please note that the NZBGBA request that this is no longer than six months after the date of sale to minimize any issues with transfers between parties.
- Please ensure that the purchaser, if not already an NZBGBA member, has completed and sent in an NZBGBA membership application form requesting their stud name and prefix along with their contact details, etc. Membership form is found at www.nzbgba.co.nz
- The Vendor will be invoiced transfer fee/s by the NZBGBA once the membership (if new) and animal transfer forms have been received and approved by the NZBGBA executive.
- The NZBGBA will advise Genetic Gains to action the transfer of registered animals to the new owner.
- It is the responsibility of the NZBGBA member to keep your herd register current. As a minimum, this should be on an annual basis with a completed kidding list (template is emailed out by Genetic Gains each year).
- Contact Julia at julia@genetic-gains.co.nz for your current herd list & pedigrees, and update any animals on the register that have been sold (not for stud), died, etc.

NZBGBA SHIRTS & CAPS

Hello all, we ran out of our NZBGBA branded merchandise - t-shirt and cap - some time ago and have decided on a new colour scheme. The attached photo shows Geoff modelling the proposed new combination. The NZBGBA logo will be on the front of the cap and on the top side of the shirt.

We are taking orders from you, so please contact me asap so that we can do a bulk order.

Price will also depend on numbers, but a ballpark figure would be \$75 - \$80 for both the cap and shirt.

Kind regards
Marita Eisenlohr
Secretary NZBGBA

nzbgba@gmail.com



NEWSLETTER

The editor welcomes articles, photos, etc for inclusion in the newsletter. Please email nzbgba@gmail.com or bassettag@outlook.com

INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTION – TERRAWEENA BOERS

Article kindly authorised by Celia Burnett-Smith

CHAPTER 1

Both Geof and I were born in Africa where we lived until 1985, when political events within Zimbabwe led us to emigrate and head, thankfully and gratefully, for Australia.

Geof had long held the vision of transferring hardy African genetics (goats and cattle) to Australia. This seemed an unlikely outcome for a family (ourselves and 4 children) who were virtually refugees as we were not permitted to move any money out of Zimbabwe.

We initially settled in Adelaide, South Australia, despite long standing family roots in Queensland. Our decision to do so was firstly based on Adelaide being a smart little city with excellent education on offer. Secondly, we decided it was a good place to seek funding for our very 'unhumble' ideas!

Fortune smiled upon us as, through contacts made, in 1988 we signed a Joint Venture agreement between the Burnett-Smiths, 2 private businessmen and the State Government Insurance Commission of South Australia (SGIC). The management company was named Australian Breeding Management (ABM).

..... and so began the long journey!

Geof's vision had come to fruition and we were enormously gratified to be given this extraordinary opportunity. Let me state clearly that there was NO FAT in the system for anything other than the horrendous expenses we were to incur throughout the process. We neither sought, nor expected any fat other than being a shareholder and employment for Geof as Managing Director of ABM. With tongue in cheek, I ruefully noted that my own position was covered in the budget under 'postage, photocopying and secretarial services'!

Not only was there a requirement for the establishment of a protocol between Africa and Australia, but there was a vastly intricate and detailed agreement made between ABM and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). This was to be our 'bible' over the 5.5 years of quarantine isolation. It's function was to protect Australia from any chance of bringing disease in from Africa, most particularly scrapie - the caprine version of mad cow disease (in cattle) and Jacob chron's disease (CJD - in humans). The disease in all species is a terminal and degenerative brain disorder for which there is no cure.

Thus, the legislation governing our project was known as the Scrapie Freedom Assurance Program (SFAP). It was to govern our every move and the isolation period would only be activated once the animals entered Australia.

A small complication the embryos had to be implanted 'offshore' under a brutal quarantine regime. They would only then be permitted to arrive, as kids, in Australia, at which time AQIS's clock would start ticking, as did it's cash register!

Soames Island in Wellington Harbour in New Zealand became the primary 'off shore quarantine location'. More about that in the next Chapter.

In the meantime we purchased and set up the property 'Terraweena' in the south east of South Australia.

CHAPTER 2

So we became 'locked in', in legal and all other terms, to a duty to conduct a successful importation of Boer Goats from Africa into Australia. In those days South Africa was still persona non grata with the rest of the world for their political stance. In other words they were 'off limits', politically as well as health wise.

The reason we managed to secure the investment was based on this scenario (in economic terms). We (Australian Breeding Management - Terraweena) were to become the staging post for the world. I'm sure most of you will know how money works and walks and talks. What a platform we had created and with the backing from SGIC we could do it so well!

Excellence was our 'bar' and adoration of the breed was our motivating force.

However, we failed to take the corporate world and the political movements of the world into account.

CHAPTER 3

So followed some years of breeding up and cutting back. This was necessary due to our limitation of quarantine acreage and the mandatory culling process to meet the SFAP regulations, it was pretty horrendous. In fact, it was a monstrous exercise that we prefer not to even remember, let alone talk about.

During this period when we could not sell a single animal locally, throughout the quarantine duration Geof and I marketed the breed overseas. Asia was the obvious market and China became our biggest customer by miles! More in The Book (TB) which will happen before too long.

America was also a juggernaut. More later.

During these years we invited and hosted the leading South African breeders to our Australian shores. We asked them to train us, guide us and judge our shows. This included Boetie Malan, Syce Botha, Pip Henderson, Nico Botha and Lukas Burger, to name a few, amongst many others. They were informative and obliging. We owe a lot to those early South African breeders who taught us so much.

We have screeds of information, videos etc, pertaining to all this. One day it will all be accumulated and recorded. One day there will be 'The Book'. 📖

In the meantime, I do ask that you recognise the changes that have and are occurring in the world of Boer goats. Please note how the Boer is slipping away from being a commercial animal. Look at it - measure it - evaluate it and ask yourselves why you breed Boer goats. Beware the 'get rich quick - fast money-making machine' that lurks at shows with specifically selected judges. Rather become involved in assisting in the establishment of a new (and modern) agricultural industry.

CHAPTER 4

There was not a lot of external activity in the first phase of 'Terraweena Quarantine' 1990 + 1991.

We spent a lot of time making sure we were complying with unbelievably stringent regulations. We lived inside 11 kilometres of double fencing and had to build a house at the only ingoing/outgoing gate of the property. In this residence we had to house and pay for an AQIS vet to monitor our own activities on a 24 hour basis. Luckily we had a couple of very pleasant 'AQIS gaolers' 😊 who sometimes helped on the farm, in a practical sense, in times of need.

When the incumbent vet went away, even for a weekend, a replacement vet was sent down from AQIS HQ, Adelaide (200 kms away) to cover for the weekend - all paid for by ourselves, of course!

We were fortunate to have the most outstanding staff across the board. Really, we could not have done better! Living on the property were:

1. Our very excellent farm manager, wife and family - Craig and Julia Tully and 'kids'; and
2. Most extraordinarily wonderful Cathy Lee, a young New Zealander who had established and managed our recipient group in NI, NZ. She then flew over to Australia with our kids in February 1990 and stayed with us for 10 years. Her knowledge of goats was unsurpassable and her dedication to the animals - legendary. I still miss Cathy.

In addition to these exemplary employees was Stephen Hancock - a bright young lad from a nearby farm with an easy smile and a brilliant work ethic.

Our Terraweena team made life bearable and even sometimes..... fun, during our endless and often stressful isolation period.

Every doe had to kid indoors to ensure that the placenta was accounted for and not carried away by birds or foxes. Every death had to be autopsied with a full report to AQIS, Canberra and during this period we had to undergo a horrible 'sentinel exercise' which we don't really like to think of. In the interests of historical correctness, I will skim over it here 🤢

This involved us dividing our flock in half and sacrificing one half (males and females) to becoming 'sentinels' and having their own lymph nodes introduced into their brains to create a situation of maximum exposure to the dreaded scrapie disease. With the logic that lymph nodes captured any 'nasties' present and then, by introducing them into the brain (scrapie being a neurological disease) we were creating a situation of ultimate exposure to scrapie disease, if it was present in our gilt-edged animals.

The sentinels had to be sacrificed at the end of the 5.5 years and their brains tested for presence of the disease. Extraordinarily conclusive and efficient, but the scientists who dreamt that one up and wrote the SFAP regulations clearly had no intention of being there for that process! 😞

So that was a necessary but unpleasant Chapter to write. I needed to record the depths and expense of the nature and stringency of the SFAP.

I shouldn't think it was much fun to read either. That done, I can lighten up for Chapter 5 which will follow on soon. Thanks to those who are still 'hanging in'!!

CHAPTER 5

I am encompassing the events that occurred throughout the years 1991 - 1993/4 into a summary. They were too many and too varied to itemise individually.

The major event of over-riding significance was our first foray into America. This will require a record of its own - to follow.

Our company policy was to assess, select and breed up (multiply, through artificial insemination and embryo collection and transfer) the most superior genetics of our large importation.

Before I start, I will recount my favourite 'happening' of all time which I think about almost daily, even now. It gives me such comfort and strength.

Going back just a little.... from that original collection in Africa, from the two breeds (Angoras and Boers) that we collected for this 5.5 year SFAP quarantine importation AND notwithstanding all the interference of IV drugs, super ovulation, loss rate of embryos of 50% (embryos into kids) etc etc, that applied - 50% males and 50% females were born in the case of the Boers. In the case of the Angoras, there was one extra male as there was an odd number of kids born.

Dare anyone explain this? Vets? Scientists? Doubting Thomas'??

Back on track. The years became an endless round of:

(a) artificial breeding, followed by natural breeding from the same females. This caused havoc with breeding records as you can imagine. It took a long time not to be tripped up by the fact that one female could have, say 10 babes born from females we had used as surrogates/recipients for her embryos, then kid naturally herself 2 months later with a different sire! I must compliment everyone concerned for getting their heads around this.

(b) kidding out the ever increasing number of kids. Thank God for Cathy and her helpers!

(c) maintaining them, growing them out, caring for them and implementing regular Kidplan assessments (in those days called Lambplan) - the all important background for EBVs.

This information is proving invaluable to this day.

(d) complying with the SFAP. That should have been (a) !

(e) promoting and marketing. Visitors, national and international, were incessant.

We thoroughly enjoyed that part.

The poor bucks suffered from having to run in large groups. TBH they 'rooted themselves ragged'. Quite a high proportion looked askance at females after that. They were obviously happy where they were, but it was very hard to get good photographs of top bucks for posterity.

According to the SFAP regulations we were not allowed to cull an animal for any reason other than an accident which had to be reported and approved by Canberra. We also had to do our best to multiply each animal to maximise their exposure to testing for Scrapie. It was arduous to say the least, particularly in the case of the bucks.

The females, bless them, just kept calmly yielding embryos, producing babies naturally, feeding, weaning and thriving. That's when I fell in love with goats.

CHAPTER 6

A little bit more action in this chapter, but first I want to make it clear that this is NOT an advertisement. I have had a few queries asking what we are selling?

I'm not sure why it sounds even remotely like an advertisement. This had never even occurred to me.

For clarity, this is a true account of an historic importation of the first Boer goats (meat goats) from Africa into Australia, which arrived in February 1990. As it is 30 years to the month since their arrival in Australia and in the absence of any other recorded narrative, I decided to place the events on record, myself.

This is only expected to be of interest to a limited audience.

I am dedicating Chapter 6 to an event that became our first major roadblock, although others were to follow. This has to be a somewhat limited version of those events that took place from 1992 for a number of ensuing years. This refers to a large collection of embryos we delivered to America in an arrangement with an American rancher.

To summarise - Geof and I attended a Boer Goat Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1991 where we were left in no doubt whatsoever about the interest in America for the famous South African Boer goats. As referred to previously, there was an embargo on genetic material from South Africa for both political and animal health concerns. Most first world countries applied this ban to South Africa.

As planned, Terraweena was a channel for Boer goats to the world due to the stringency of Australia's SFAP (Scrapie Freedom Assurance Programme) thereby giving importing countries a 'filter' of intensive testing and isolation, all conducted under the eagle eye of Australian government (AQIS) supervision.

Before long, we committed to a contract to supply 2000 embryos over 2 years to a rancher in Missouri. There was then to be a breeding up period and a dispersal sale in America to coincide with the end of our time in Australian quarantine. A perfectly normal, if somewhat 'exotic', business arrangement at a time when the US market was red hot for the meaty Boers.

We arranged for an Australian couple and their son to go to Missouri to manage the project, not only for us, but for the partnership.

We dedicated our resources to fulfilling that contract which was a big ask to achieve from young animals. However, with excellent staff and veterinary support, we succeeded in delivering the 2000 embryos spot on time. 1000 one year and the balance of 1000 the next. It was a mammoth undertaking. It all went seamlessly, to all intents and purposes (up to that moment).

We also conducted the first live export of Boer goats to the same ranch in America with some of our best and most beautiful bucks from Terraweena, South Australia - 10 strong.

To our chilling despair, once the second shipment had been delivered, the mask fell from our 'friendly' rancher's face! An acquisitive and seasoned old rogue emerged, intent on keeping us at bay now that he had the embryos.

Unfortunately I can say little more here, although I shall be enlarging in 'the book' which is in the writing. Suffice to say that we were allegedly not his first victims.

A court case followed some time later.

During that time we were kept from visiting the ranch or attending on the animals for any reason whatsoever. The rancher spent that period reprogramming the does again and again for embryo extraction. It was a travesty and a desperately painful time for all of us at Terraweena. Worse still, it was a monstrous exercise to carry out on prime young breeding stock.

As already stated, I will say no more here, except that our experience in the US courtroom was beyond anything we could ever have imagined. The Judge actually referred to us as 'Aliens'. We hoped that he

had intended to say 'Australians', but that was not to be. He also snoozed through our pm session when our main witness was on the stand.

As in many such wrangles, both sides put their case forward at great legal expense and the matter was settled by a division of the remaining living animals which were sold at a private auction. History does not relate how many embryos, or how much semen could have been 'stashed' by our 'friendly' rancher. This undignified entry of our hard won genetics into the American market was good for no-one. However, as it happened, unforeseen events took over.

CHAPTER 7

So mid 1995 drew closer, slowly but surely. This was to be our MAGIC HOUR, when the torturous process of the SFAP (Scrapie Freedom Assurance Program) would draw to a close. It felt as if it had been forever.

We had a number of breeders who had purchased animals from us in quarantine and had bred them up over the years. Quite a few breeders had a smart little nucleus of breeding stock to take home with them when RELEASE DAY arrived.

Some breeders, to name but a few :

- Pat, Charlie and Karl Edson of KARBO Stud
- Michael, Jenny and Frank Barnes of MICATHEL Stud
- Peter, Jeanette and Ian Firth of KURRAJONG Stud
- Liz and Frank Wroe who sadly are no longer involved in goats, were tremendously supportive through the years.
- Andrew and Megan Mosely.... the list goes on.

Our days were taken up with visitors from all regions of the world.

Breeders, personnel from Meat and Livestock Australia (now MLA) and other officials and visiting vets all wanting to learn from our long and intensive experience. Ministers of Agriculture from various countries arrived, poising for export. Some folk were intent merely on a good 'look see' at what we had. It didn't matter - we catered for everyone across the board.

Most importantly, I would like to mention the marvellous (now elderly - as we are too) gentlemen and their wives from South Africa who so graciously gave us so much of their time and knowledge in those early days.

They became very special friends to us, in particular Boetie Malan (12 years President of SABGBA) and Syce Botha who held the position of Secretary of the SABGBA for 22 years!

The Jordaan family was involved from the outset and, in later years, Jackie Jordaan worked for our company until he had an horrific accident which has, tragically, left him in a wheel chair.

We could never have achieved so much without those fine gentlemen. Geof and I salute you.

Particularly memorable was a visit from Nico and Koekie Botha and Lukas Burger and their surprise at the scope of our venture.

Back to our RELEASE DAY - the hard job was made tougher by dissension in our corporate ranks, mainly caused by the American situation. So predictable! It's always rosy when all is going well. However, we have noted a weakness of purpose in surprising circles when difficulties present themselves.

Of course, this was unfortunate but we stuck to our guns and with the assistance of a number of highly supportive colleagues, friends and family, not to mention our excellent team at Terraweena, we jubilantly crossed the finishing line. The marathon was complete!

In September 1995 we finally opened the gates with a flourish and held a public auction that was heralded as the largest stud stock sale ever to have taken place in the region. The interest, particularly in the Boers, was enormous.

Whatever else was yet to happen, we had successfully manoeuvred the largest and most stringent quarantine exercise for small ruminants, ever to be conducted in Australia.

We appreciate those of you who have lasted the course, reading patiently through all our years in quarantine.

We felt it was important to record this period for posterity. As far as we know, there is no other record of this exercise. It is invariably, merely stated that 'the animals were released from quarantine in 1995', with neither reference to their source nor of all those key folk responsible for the successful completion of the importation.

I should also record that most of those notable breeders mentioned above (with Geof of course) formed the first board of Directors of the Boer Goat Breeders' Association of Australia (BGBAA). Michael Barnes designed the registration certificates which are in use to this day and our company (ABM) footed the hefty legal bill for the establishment of the Association.

We were set to go and the interest was intense. It was a big year in our world - 1995.

CHAPTER 8

By the end of 1995 we felt as if we were floating on air with the enormous pressure and responsibility of the SFAP behind us! So very many things could have gone wrong. Quite apart from the five and a half years 'behind bars' in quarantine, there had been an additional five years 'in the making' of the project, prior to the clock starting to tick in 1990.

To summarise, following our exit from Zimbabwe in 1985, we had been fully taken up with:

- * establishing ourselves in Australia
- * raising the Joint Venture funding
- * sourcing stock and collecting embryos in Africa, followed by ;
- * the surrogate/recipient preparation program in NZ and then ;
- * the implantation and birth of the African kids in NZ
- * simultaneously, the construction of the quarantine facility in South Australia
- * the transfer of the kids once weaned in NZ - to Australia
- * a complete audit and the lockdown of our animals for the duration and finally ;
- * our release and 'End of Quarantine Sale' in September 1995.....

We had spent almost 11 years conducting our 'not so small and not so humble venture.

Although we consider ourselves ENORMOUSLY privileged to have had this opportunity, our overwhelming sentiment is the gratitude we feel to all those folk, in their various roles (they know who they are) who helped us to get over the line. It would have been an impossible mission without even one of those integral links.

We choose to measure the success of the venture by the animals that walked out of the gate at Terraweena, South Australia in 1995 and the shot in the arm for the goat meat industry in Australia.

Whether or not our importation could be considered a successful project in business terms, is debatable. There was certainly no big profit for any individual at the end of the day (despite various concerted efforts and ploys) but our obligations to the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service and the South Australian JV funders were fulfilled and our 'Assured Scrapie Free Boer and Angora Goats' commenced their work, infiltrating all the Australian states and, in the case of the Boers, many, many foreign shores.

This summary of events and observations brings us to the point of 'life in Australia, with Boer Goats - post SFAP'.

1996 had a couple of curve balls from left field for us, just when we thought ourselves clear.

These will be covered in Chapters 9 and 10, after which we will consider the history finally and satisfactorily documented.

Once again, we appreciate those of you still hanging in and thanks to those of you who have conveyed your interest.

Back soon. Celia.

Photo below supplied by Celia Burnett-Smith



Celia judging at the 2013 Wanaka A&P Show – photo by Jenny Bassett

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.