



# TURIHAUA —ANGUS— GISBORNE

Newsletter - Turihaua Angus  
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We hope this newsletter finds everyone fit, well and productive as we come out the other side of the Covid-19 lockdown period. For those of you with school children and toddlers at home I hope you have a new appreciation for the education system and our amazing teachers. We certainly do.

Firstly, we must thank all our supporters and clients. You guys are the reason we get up each morning with a bounce in our step. It is so rewarding for us to hear amazing stories of high conception rates and incredible bull longevity. It is a privilege to be such a key component of your businesses and to help you achieve your goals of increasing productivity on your farms.

The unprecedented dry coupled with the Covid-19 crisis has seen a perfect storm for some farmers. Never have we seen such a huge turn around in schedule prices in such a short period of time. Our thoughts go out to everybody affected, the key to these situations is remaining positive. It will rain at some stage and red meat will be back at the top of the food chain again...we just don't know when.

As the saying goes "the show must go on" and this has been the case at Turihaua. Hamish and I flew to Christchurch in March to attend a 5 day course on Regenerative Agriculture run by Graham Sait and Nicole Masters of Integrity Soils. We arrived home buzzing with new information and plenty of enthusiasm to continue researching how we can implement these farming philosophies here. It has reignited our passion for the environment, the animals and the future.

At Turihaua, 'sustainable' is not good enough, we want to be improving in every way possible.

We have allowed the environment to dictate our decision-making for over 120 years and this has not changed. Our goals as cattle breeders remain the same – to offer a compact, highly fertile breeding package with incredible constitution and inherent efficiency. These are the key drivers of production in any cow herd. Do not conform

and allow a set of numbers to dictate your decision-making. Be honest with yourselves and back your own judgement. Remember, EBV's are an estimate and should only be used as a guide.

The team here are super excited about the future and we are stoked to have you on the journey with us. The bulls are looking magnificent and we can't wait to catch up with you either before or at the bull sales.

**Best Regards - Paul and Sarah**



# DIAMOND BEEF



**Diamond Beef continues to thrive even under the Covid 19 lockdown.**

**Fletch and the team at the Village Butchery have done an excellent job adapting their business to continue to provide our beef to the local community.**

Often there is a silver lining that comes out of an economic shakedown, and this has been the case at the Village Butchery. Restructuring sales to online beef boxes has been popular and is opening up a new aspect to the business. It also gives us more scope to target consumers out of the district and grow volumes. Support has been exceptional, and sales have remained steady with 3-4 carcasses being processed a week.

We are also developing a collaboration with Food Cartel (Gisborne's My Food Bag equivalent) which will be an essential

piece of the puzzle allowing us to shift bigger volumes of secondary cuts.

Looking to the future, we are aiming to use the services of Mobile Beef Packers, an MPI audited portable abattoir. This will be a game changer and allow us to slaughter and process all beef and lamb on farm, reducing our costs and improving the quality of the product. It's the way of the future!



## ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

We have been remarkably successful over the past 12 months in applying for grants towards the ecological restoration of the Turihaua Stream. Trees that Count have provided us with 5000 trees to be planted this month in the Jakes Reserve Paddock. We were blown away by a generous grant from the 1 Billion Trees Project towards planting and fencing costs for the 3 kilometre length of the Turihaua Stream that runs through the centre of the property. Key challenges we are working through are cattle crossings and preventing them from browsing the natives as they travel through the planted margins, and the subdivision of already small paddocks due to the meandering nature of the stream. We are really lucky to have the support of Lana and Nigel Hope at Native Garden Nursery.

The 1BT Project is quite a process to apply to. It closes this year but can be used up to the year 2024.

If you would like to find out more about the grant process do not hesitate to touch base with Sarah for more information.



# STAFF UPDATE



Brandon and Kayla Kirtlan

James and Natalie Busby and family left in March on a grand adventure to Adelaide, we wish them well! We welcome Brandon and Kayla Kirtlan from Kaitaia to the staff. Brandon is our new Head Shepherd and has a background in all aspects of sheep and beef farming, including ownership of a small Ayrshire dairy stud. We really look forward to them settling in and making a great contribution to our team.



Owen Boynton-Sidwell

You may not be aware that our other staff mainstay Owen Boynton-Sidwell is a local identity and is the presenter for the television series Toa Hunter Gatherer. The series screens on Maori Television, Tuesdays 9.30pm or TVNZ On Demand. Toa Hunter Gatherer recaptures the traditional knowledge and techniques that have been lost since using modern ways to source kai.

Owen is an invaluable member of our staff as General Hand. He can lend his hand to anything, is a qualified plumber and experienced builder.



Nihī 'Nicks' Leach and James Busby

Nihī Leach recently retired after working at Turihaua for 28 years. He has been a very loyal and dedicated member of the team who has contributed so much over all these years.

His in-depth knowledge of the farm water systems, his expertise with the sheep and cattle, his building skills and latterly his groundsman skills have been exemplary. We wish him a restful retirement with his extensive whanau, he deserves it.

## JUNE SALE 2019 RESULTS

Turihaua Angus achieved a sale-high price of \$35,000 and an almost total clearance of 71 rising two-year-old bulls at our annual auction.

It was another solid sale for us, with a very strong top end, and really good commercial buying further down the catalogue. The bulls came through really well in what was another good, even line-up.

Thirty-nine of the bulls realised five figures, topped by \$35,000 for Turihaua N63, bought by Keith and Gay Higgins of Morland Estate stud, Masterton. Another sold for \$25,000 — bought jointly by Brookwood and Elgin Angus. Two others sold for \$22,000 — one to Alpine Angus at Pehiri, the other to Ratanui Angus of Tolaga Bay. A highlight post-sale was the slow cooked smoked Turihaua Diamond Beef Brisket cooked by Smokey Bros, Moreere.

We have an exciting meal planned involving seven cuts of one beat for the 2020 June Sale. Fingers crossed MPI allow us to cater for you all!

### Spring Sale 2019

We had a strong yearling sale in September 2019 achieving the highest breed average of \$8607 for yearling sales in the country. The yearlings are treated the same as our two-year-old bulls before they are sold and are guaranteed for three years. For the first time, we sold a handful of two-year-old bulls at the Spring Sale. They sold very well and gave our clients the opportunity to purchase bulls for their mixed age cows. These bulls may be later maturing than those sold at the June Sale and are generally as good as or even better than their age counterparts. We will be selling a selection of these again in September.

# THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

We are constantly looking to improve on our herd and there is no quicker way to do this than through introducing new bloodlines.

Our bull battery is constantly evolving and underperforming sires are quickly removed and replaced with what we believe will be a step forward in the specific traits we are aiming to improve on. We are really excited about the young sires coming through and feel they will have a big impact on our herd.



Taimate Laser

Our keeper bull Matador N194 has come on exceptionally well. After serving 60 cows he continues to grow and fill out nicely. He has huge volume and depth with a clean shoulder and beautiful disposition. One to watch for in the future.



Turihaua Matador



Turihaua Hulk

We purchased Turihaua Hulk K100 back from Ben and Kylie Johnson, Orere Angus where he has been residing for the past 4 years. We have been using semen through AI and ET work with a great line of bulls up for auction this June. We love the progeny and are thankful to Ben and Kyle for allowing us to purchase him back.

Turihaua Rhino L159 was retained to follow on from his sire Turihaua Rex who had bred so well for us. A moderate bull with immaculate feet and heavy muscling, an efficient package built for the hills. He offers a solid Turihaua pedigree with his Trojan dam being a productive breeder. He has a very consistent line of bulls for sale.



Turihaua Rhino



Turihaua Torpedo

Turihaua Torpedo M27 exemplifies Angus! This bull is a beast. Super sound with good bone and huge width. An ET son of our old matriarch Y356, he will breed very impressive daughters.

*Commercial or Stud semen packages are available for any of these sires on request.*

# REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

## IT JUST MAKES CENTS!

**Regenerative Agriculture is a system of farming principles and practices that increases biodiversity, enriches soils, improves watersheds, and enhances ecosystem services.**

Regenerative Agriculture aims to capture carbon in soil and above ground biomass, reversing current global trends of atmospheric accumulation.

At the same time, it offers increased yields, resilience to climate instability, and higher health and vitality for farming and its communities.

For over 10 years we have been practising Regenerative Agriculture at Turihaua and had not even realised we were doing it. We have always believed in a low input system where the environment dictates our decision making. The transition from a chemical fertiliser programme to a more biological approach was an easy one to make, especially with the assistance of Dr Phillip Schofield from Abron. We have also employed the services of Integrity Soils and together they have helped us set some exciting goals:

- Learn new regenerative techniques to improve soil health, reduce inputs and lift production
- To farm holistically and allow the environment to guide decisions
- To be a benchmark farm for Regen Ag, a leader in medium pastoral hill country
- Improve soil carbon
- Adapt the livestock policies to assist in the processes
- Develop the genetics to suit the system (low input, high constitution)
- Offer a genetic package that excels in fertility, soundness and efficiency
- Supply a nutrient dense extremely healthy beef product (Diamond Beef)
- Improve farm biodiversity through pest control and retiring and planting waterways
- Leave the farm in improved condition for future generations.

One of the main limiting factors for us to implement the principles of Regen Ag is Turihaua's farm contour. Almost all examples we have seen are being practiced on flat to rolling farms where a tractor and direct drill are used to get new species into the ground. This is not an option at Turihaua and we are having to think outside the square. We are currently trialling some different methods to get diversity and biologics spread through the farm detailed below.

- We have developed a loose mineral lick consisting of kelp meal, humates and a huge variety of seeds. The animals love it and we are not only addressing their gut health but also using them as a tool to spread the seed in their manure. In this way the seed has a high chance of germination regardless of weather conditions.
- We are mixing seed through our Abron Calci-life and a bio stimulant fertiliser recommendation and are



**The cross slot direct drill is applying various seeds combined with living fungi and bacteria strains**



**The boys love their kelp and mineral feed**

flying it on by fixed wing. This year we have applied 2.2kg/ha of three clovers, plantain, chicory and lucerne, over the whole property (1000ha).

- Hoofing and Toofing. A variety of rye, three clovers, plantain and chicory were flown onto a 6.4ha paddock by chopper at a rate of 6.6kg/ha. We then proceeded to drive it into the ground with 1650 stock units of pressure consisting of 200 stud cows and 660 ewes.
- Cross slot direct drill. Dugald Hamilton of Respond International put in a 1ha trial paddock consisting of vetch, rape, captain crimson clover, daikon radish, oats, chard and cereal rye combined with 12 different fungi and bacteria strains in a living form. This is new and exciting technology he is developing and we are excited to be involved in this trial.

Cages will be put out and production of the pasture will be measured monthly with samples sent to Q Labs to get the nutritional value tested.

In conjunction with the seed trial we will also be implementing rotational grazing and fallowing of a percentage of paddocks annually.

The main reason behind this shift toward a more holistic farming approach is simple:

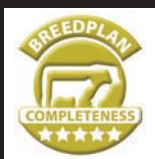
**Healthy Soil → Healthy Pasture → Healthy Water → Healthy Animals → Healthy Food → Healthy Humans.**

Regenerative Ag is a constantly evolving concept that we are only just beginning to scratch the surface of. We expect to make mistakes, but we will learn from these, adapt our practices and improve. It is certainly an exciting way to farm.



## 2020 Annual Sale Update!

Over the past month of compiling this newsletter, our message around the restrictions and how this may impact on the June 23rd Sale has been a moving feast. We will hopefully downgrade to Alert Level 1 on the 22nd, however in the instance we stay at Alert Level 2 we are not allowed more than 100 people at the event. Please take this into consideration when planning to come to the sale and keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for updates. We strongly encourage you to get in touch with Paul and to view the bulls on farm in the weeks leading up to the sale if you like to make your purchasing decisions as a team. **We will also be holding a Bull Walk on Sunday 7th June at 11.15am.**



### Completeness of Recording

Herds with a star rating of “5” are gold standard. They are considered to be recording “complete” performance information with BREEDPLAN for all animals across all traits for which EBVs are available

The team at Turihaua work tirelessly to record and submit as much information as possible about our cattle. Therefore, it is no coincidence to have been awarded a GOLD STAR rating every year since the inception of “Completeness of Performance.” The “Completeness of Performance” herd rating system assesses the quantity of pedigree and performance information that has been submitted to BREEDPLAN by an individual seedstock herd.

While ultimately EBV accuracy values provide an indication of the reliability an animal’s EBVs, one of the key factors underpinning the accuracy of EBVs is the quantity of performance information that has been recorded with BREEDPLAN. The “Completeness of Performance” star rating provides both seedstock and commercial producers with an assessment of how much performance has been submitted to BREEDPLAN by a herd.



### Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/Turihaua](http://www.facebook.com/Turihaua)

We update our Facebook page very regularly with videos of cattle, photos, interesting articles and events.

This is a public page so you do not need to be a member of Facebook to view.

# Diamonds are a girls best friend. Your girls deserve a diamond quality bull.

**Turihaua’s diamond quality herd is bred with clear objectives targeting the traits that are hardest to measure:**

- Fertility • Conformation
- Efficiency • Constitution

**Contact Paul to discuss how our programme can make your herd more profitable.**

**Two Year Bull Sale 3:30pm 23 June 2020  
Spring Bull Sale 1:00pm 23 September 2020**

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