



# Warm Greeting From Your Vice President

Hoping you all had a trouble free calving and are now enjoying a flush of spring grass for the cows and calves. The winter here in the Hawkes Bay was very dry, made it easy to get around the farm; ie no muddy gateways and lamb survival was great however, it was so dry feed was short.

We had a rush of grass November 2020 which enabled us to make plenty of silage which kept the cows going this winter but following the drought of 2019 and a very dry 2020 (the govt declared it as not a drought just very dry) the cows were like they had been to "weight watchers".

Although they did not look too flash with plenty of magnesium lick blocks, we had no deaths from staggers or milk fever and the calves all fell out easily. Something to be said for lean and mean, but would have liked more condition on them. However, with the sudden flush of grass about calving time and still going they are now looking exceptionally good.

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### *Continued...*

Not to spoil Christmas but as we all know Covid is dominating our every day lives and what is happening in Europe now, with a further outbreak as they go into winter, we can only expect winter 2022 in NZ could be very trying time. With that in mind the Galloway society will be very restrictive in what we can do re social gatherings. Hopefully we get our AGM on 27th March before any major outbreak.

Council have had a busy year getting Riggits excepted as our fourth breed, joining white's, blacks and belties, all four are appearing on our letter heads and memorabilia.

Miniatures are becoming very popular, if you have any or are wanting to buy some contact your local councillor for what is available for sale, and if you have a calf that looks like a miniature from a registered parent be sure to register it, it will be recorded with "M". if you have any Galloways regardless of type that is about fence height it may well qualify as a miniature which are proving popular with lifestylers wanting something small for their blocks.

We are planning several regional gatherings at end February one in Masterton for lower North Island East coast, and one in Waikato possibly more, we will send out an e-mail regarding dates and locations, also you may get a phone call from your area councillor to get your ideas on what you would like the Society to be doing for you as members. Well I hope to see some of you in Masterton and hopefully many more at the AGM. Keep safe, wishing you all very Merry Christmas and a better 2022 .

Kind Regards,  
Gus & Anita Smith



*Our last hieffer Elle yet to calve  
she is really hanging on just  
loves the attention*



*Our main herd both  
pedigree and commercial  
are further up the back  
of the farm*



# Registrars Report

## December 2021

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Hello to everyone. I hope your farming season is going well. I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

A warm welcome to all of our new members over the past year. I hope all has gone well on your farm and with your Galloway Cattle. Should you have any questions please contact me so I can help.

At the end of January 2022 I will get your 2021 Calf Returns posted out to you in the mail, (if you prefer me to email them to you then let me know). Please return these forms to me by the due date.

Also a reminder that if any of you have used a SIRE born after 1 January 2019 then you need to make sure you have had him DNA profiled and the microsatellite number has been given to me to add to the animals herd book details. Calf returns cannot be processed until this is done.

If you need any DNA sample envelopes let me know and I can get them to you or if you are unsure of what the DNA profiling is all about please get in contact with me. If your SIRE was born before this date then you don't have to get him DNA profiled.

Stay safe over the Holidays.

Susan Nicol  
GCSNZ Registrar  
Belite.susan@farmside.co.nz  
027 2317 399



# Meet & Greet

## Kylie Brewer

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### **Belted Breeder**

**Stud name - Thorncombe**

**Regional Partner, DairyNZ**

My name is Kylie Brewer and I'm based in Te Awamutu in the Waikato. I'm a Belted Galloway Breeder and my stud name is Thorncombe. I joined the society in 2019 as an associate and became a breeder in 2021.

I've recently joined DairyNZ as a Regional Partner for the North Waikato area, after two and a half years in the Mycoplasma Bovis programme, where I held several roles with both Asure Quality and MPI. Outside of work I'm a keen tramper and horse rider and I recently completed Trek for Life Stage 2 in Northland on horseback and I have just signed up for stage 3. I didn't grow up on a farm so I didn't get to experience calf club as a kid.

It was while I was living in Christchurch in 2014 that I was introduced to showing cattle through a friend who was breeding and showing Angus and Shorthorn cattle. I started cattle showing in 2015, with my steer George in the inaugural RAS Youth Canterbury Steer Competition.

When I relocated back to the Waikato, I introduced a steer and heifer competition into several of the Waikato A and P Shows and competed with my Angus steer Charlie. This ran for 2 years and was then put on hold due to M.Bovis. So I've previously shown cattle from 2015 - 2017. I had hoped to get back into showing this year, but many A and P shows have been cancelled due to Covid.

I'm also a keen baker and have been entering A and P baking competitions around NZ since 2014. My specialties are caramel slice and afghans and I won 1st place with my caramel slice and 2nd place with my afghans at the 2021 Oxford A and P show which we attended as part of the Easter herd tour.

One highlight was winning 3 firsts at the Helensville A and P 2019 Winter Baking competition. Baking is one of my relaxation activities and I love sharing my creations with friends, family and work colleagues. For something different last year I did a cake decorating course.







# Jurie & Tui Snyman

About 40 years ago we met in the dining hall of a hospital down south. We've been lucky enough to have been together since. In 2003 we decided to buy a rather wild-looking farm on the West Coast of the South Island.

We chose this particular block of land to be away from challenges like flood plains, river frontage, landslides, fire risk and droughts. But, we replaced those challenges which we definitely wanted to avoid, with different ones. At least we don't lose cats to snake bites anymore.

We spent the next 15 years as absentee owners, whilst continuing our professions trying to earn money to pay for our farm, implements and related development of infra-structure. We finally moved to the farm early 2019. Here we dedicate about 40 ha to breeding Belted Galloways, with the rest of the block mostly bush-covered.



*Bulls Westcoast Scene*



*Tui's arm over Stephan (right side), Jurie on then left*

The weather on the West Coast can be very dramatic and therefore can be pretty exciting - when it rains, it pours, when it's sunny, it's beautifully sunny. Our region can get 2,000 sunshine hours, with more sunshine hours than many other places in New Zealand. We love the landscape. We get around 2-3m of rainfall p.a., and then like this year, 4m (and still going). Dry spells do occur, especially in late summer and during winter. The last autumn to now has been brutal, and is still ongoing.

Summers can get hot, but this is nothing compared to our experiences of heat and droughts in Africa and Australia. We are unlikely to ever have to endure such droughts again, or be part of fighting bush fires and seeing, and smelling, the aftermath.



With wet duck-shooting weather starting around May, and with grass not really getting away before mid-October again if we're lucky, our growing season is short. Baleage is mostly freighted across from Canterbury and stockpiled before autumn.

Winters are special. Some suggest that these are often the driest part of the year, with temperatures much warmer than Christchurch and Queenstown. But with winters around 0–3°C, such winter days of sunshine, with fresh snow on the mountains, provides for stunning views.

Feeding out in the cold and pouring rain we sometimes find challenging, only made tolerable by the cows that seem truly grateful for their feed. Sometimes in spring, we might even get treated to a dusting of snow.

Our area provides real-life experience of the rather notorious pakihi clay and gravels. These have perched water tables as a result of very compacted, impermeable subsoils on an iron 'pan'. Pākihi is unique to the West Coast, characterised by infertile soils with little or no peat. Establishing pasture requires first faith, then money, lime, superphosphate and patience. Starting with soils 'flipped' to a depth of 2–3m is a good start.



*Our idea of a quiet corner of peace and tranquillity.*



*Dunollie Brick in some rain, at the start of December '21, having shed his winter coat.*

With features as described above, and wanting to breed cattle, one breed stood head-and-shoulders above the others. Figuratively, of course. With us past our youthful prime, a medium sized breed seemed more practical.

On a lovely Saturday afternoon in the summer of 2013, walking around the farm, a local friend suggested Belted Galloways, as these were reported to cope with poor pasture and inclement weather, in spite of which they then grow high quality marbled meat. Our friend Andy took out his cell phone, and within minutes had chanced across an ad in TradeMe by Galloway Society Member Allan Brown. We called Allan straight away.

Our foundation purchase was six cows, each with a calf at foot, and possibly pregnant. We could not have wished for better, especially as Allan was kind with our lack of knowledge, and happy to share valuable information. We still remember his knowledgeable discussion about  $\alpha$ -Mannosidosis. Soon after we bought Glamis Stefan from Kaye Hende.

Just over a year later we added five cows from Rob Hall, and five from John Taylor. Eight of the cows calved, one being a beautiful little dun bull calf: Dunollie Brick, the product of AI from Peppercorn Zula.





*Tui & young bulls*

In the future are looking forward to taking steps to improve the genetics of our herd. We have one child, a son whom we are most grateful for and very proud of. He is still studying at university. We are looking forward to him joining us on the farm.

Over the years, our love of nature and wildlife has coalesced into admiration and respect for these beautiful animals.

**"Over the years our love of nature and wildlife has coalesced into admiration and respect for these beautiful animals."**

With quite dense bush around us, we enjoy birdsong often. Tui started her life on a farm, and has now returned to the life she loves back on a farm. Some suggest this is a full circle of life. On the contrary, this is our start of what is a new chapter of our lives, especially special to us in these insecure and turbulent times.

We look forward to spending many more years enjoying our stock, and welcome any visitors who feel similarly. Long may this last.

Tui & Jurie Snyman

Dunollie Belted  
Galloway Stud

0204 086 9077

# Upcoming Social Events

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## ***NORTHLAND/AUCKLAND***

*SATURDAY 12TH FEBRUARY*

A gathering for all Galloway society members in the Northland and Auckland areas will be held on Saturday 12th February at Tracy Wood's place in Wellsford. Time to be confirmed. Please email Tracy to let her know if you'd like to attend



## ***WAIKATO***

*SATURDAY 12TH FEBRUARY*

A gathering for all Waikato Galloway Society members will be a lunch on Saturday 12th February, at Camarosa Cafe in Hamilton at 12.30pm.

To RSVP please contact Kylie Brewer at [kylie.brewer@gmail.com](mailto:kylie.brewer@gmail.com) with numbers for attending.





# 2022 Galloway Society AGM & Herd Tour Weekend

***25-27TH MARCH 2022***

Save the date! The AGM and Herd tour is going to be held over the weekend of the 25-27th March 2022 in Northland, in the Wellsford area.

More details to follow.

# Proposed Inaugural Bull Sale

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In 2022 the society is looking to hold it's inaugural bull sale in the Waikato. This is to raise the profile of the society and to increase the value of bull sales for our members.

We are seeking expressions of interest from members who wish to sell their yearling and two year old bulls at this sale, likely to be held in May 2022. For biosecurity and disease management reasons it is preferable that all bulls sold are virgin bulls. However, if you have bulls that have been used over your herd that you wish to sell, please still register your interest but clearly state that these have been used over your herd, but clearly state that it is a proven sire. We will then discuss the suitability of these bulls with the livestock company we will appoint to host the sale.

As part of this sale, we are also looking to sell heifers. All animals to be sold must be registered animals or animals from registered breeders. If you are outside of the Waikato and are interested in selling your bulls or heifers this way please also register your interest. As we may consider holding an additional sale in another region, depending on demand.

If you would like to register your interest for your bulls or heifers to feature in the sale, please email

**kylie.brewer@gmail.com** with the following details:

- Name
- Location/Region
- Galloway type
- Stock class - bulls or heifers or both
- How many of each stock class
- Contact details