



# BOP Branch of Holstein Friesian NZ



Image courtesy of Sue Pembroke, Uhuru Holsteins

***ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019***

**17-20 June 2019**

**Rotorua**



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# Conference Itinerary

## *Land of Plenty*



### Monday 17 June

- 11:00am** Official Maori welcome by Waikite Valley School pupils and opening of Conference at Holiday Inn
- 12:00pm** Buffet lunch and Semex Awards in Pohutu Room at Holiday Inn
- 2:00pm - 5:00pm** Leave from Holiday Inn foyer for Duck Tours and Buried Village bus trip
- 6:30pm** CRV pre-dinner drinks and guest speaker in Pohutu Room at Holiday Inn.  
Dress Theme - 1969
- 7:00pm** Buffet dinner  
Black and White Youth Auction Showcasing **bidr** auction platform with PGG  
Wrightson Livestock  
Entertainment and dancing

### Tuesday 18 June

- 9:00am** National AGM in Totara Room at Holiday Inn
- OR**
- 9:00 - 12:00 pm** Choice of two alternative trips- Canopy Tours or Bus trip to Tirau
- 12:30pm** Lunch in Chapmans Restaurant at Holiday Inn
- 2:00 - 4:00pm** Choice of workshops hosted by BlackmanSpargo, Nutritech, CRV, GEA/FIL, LIC, National Holstein Friesian Office, DairyNZ (topics tbc). Open to all interested farmers
- 6:30pm** Hangi Dinner and tour at Te Puia. Dress - Casual and warm

### Wednesday 19 June

- 9:00am** Bus trip to Fiber Fresh factory at Reporoa
- 12:00pm** Seafood lunch at Waikite Valley Hall courtesy of Royson and Paroa Studs
- 1:00-4:00pm** Bus trip to Rangeview (Phipps) & Raetea (Schnuriger) Studs
- 5:00pm** Redwood Tree Walk at Dusk
- 7:00pm** Dinner and National Awards at Holiday Inn. Dress - Formal

### Thursday 20 June

- 9:30am** Bus trip to Miah and Jenny Smith's farm - AgriSea in action
- 12:00 - 1:00pm** Buffet Lunch at Heritage Farm, Fairy Springs Road, Rotorua
- 1:00-3:00pm** Fun and Laughter at 3D Art at Heritage Farm
- 3:00-5:00pm** Steaming Hot Genetics Photo Stock Sale at Heritage Farm
- 7:00pm** Bay of Plenty Branch 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Dinner and Dance in Pohutu Room at Holiday Inn. Dress - blue, yellow and happy!



# Haere mai ki Rotorua!



Welcome to our wonderful lakes district, the heart of tourism and Te Arawa culture, a place with a unique and vibrant environment, a place that has welcomed people from around the world for more than a century.

Rotorua is a fantastic place to live, work and do business and is known around the world as a great place to visit. It is my pleasure as Mayor of the Rotorua district to welcome Holstein Friesian Conference delegates to our place, a place renowned for its strong culture and manaakitanga, the spirit of hospitality.

Thank you for bringing your conference here. Farming remains a key contributor to our local Rotorua economy and like your aspirations for your industry and organisation, our Council aspires to see this district continue to grow, develop and progress.

Your conference is about connections and that's what Rotorua's progress and the district's 2030 vision are all about, collaborating and working together and in partnership for the good of the district and its people. For you it's about collaborating and connecting for the good of your industry.

Rotorua is a good fit for your 2019 conference – this is certainly a 'Land of Plenty'.

We're a district on the up and on the move, a place with renewed energy and vibrancy

which welcomes new ideas, new thinking, new connections and new investment. We've set a clear pathway towards achieving our long-term vision and visitors remain a big part of that.

I know you will enjoy experiencing the diverse range of farming ventures which exist here. They're an important part of the ongoing resurgence of our district.

There's a lot to see and do in Rotorua and while you are here I hope you will make the most of all that we have to offer. I understand you will be enjoying a number of the many activities and tourist attractions which we offer here and which continue to keep visitors – and conferences – coming here.

I wish you all the best for a successful conference and again welcome you to our home in the heart of New Zealand. We hope to see you again.

**Hon. Steve Chadwick, Mayor of Rotorua**

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# Welcome to Rotorua!

The Bay of Plenty Branch of Holstein Friesian NZ are proud to be hosting the 2019 Conference.

As the conference convenor, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all members, supporters and sponsors from both New Zealand and Australia to our aptly named Land of Plenty Conference.

With its specular scenery, amazing tourist activities and beautiful farm land, Rotorua is an excellent city to host a conference. We can promise you four days of fun, friendship, farm visits, and learning. Relax and let us look after you.

A huge thank you to all our sponsors; your financial and moral support has been generous and very much appreciated. Please remember to support the sponsors with your business as they support us.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the support and hard work of the conference committee members; Eddie and Kath Lambert, Jess Judd, Pat and Shelley Schnuriger, Tony Buehler, Robert Cleland, and Laurie and Kate Phipps.

Thank you to my family and staff, who picked up my work load so I could focus on Conference.

Please relax, unwind, make happy memories, and take home a new idea or two from the Land of Plenty Conference.

Regards,

***Sandie Redpath-Baird, Conference convenor***



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# The Bay of Plenty Region

The Bay of Plenty also known as Te Moana-a-Toi, was named by Captain James Cook in 1769 when he noticed the abundant food at Maori Villages in the region. Before Cook's discovery of the Bay it was already a rich storehouse of food and historical happenings.

The Bay of Plenty regions covers 12,000km of farmland and 9,500km of coastal marine area.

Around Te Puke and down the coast to Opotiki, horticulture is a major employer, with kiwifruit being the main crop alongside passionfruit, avocado, feijoas, tamarillos and some nut crops. These are all grown for the export market.

Dairy farming (and to a lesser extent deer and sheep farming) are the backbone of the remainder of the district.

There are large tracts of commercially planted exotic forest, mainly pine with most timber products being exported from the Port of Tauranga at Mount Maunganui.

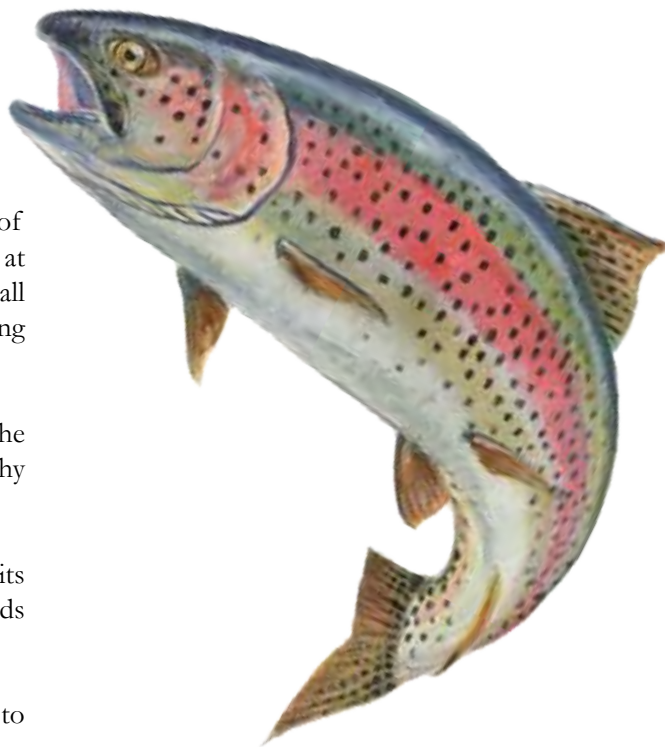
Aquaculture is a new industry for the Opotiki area with Whakatohea Iwi developing a 130-hectare Green lipped Mussel farm 8km off the east coast of Opotiki.

For sheer natural beauty, magnificent scenery and places of historical significance, the Bay of Plenty is unparalleled.





# The city of Rotorua



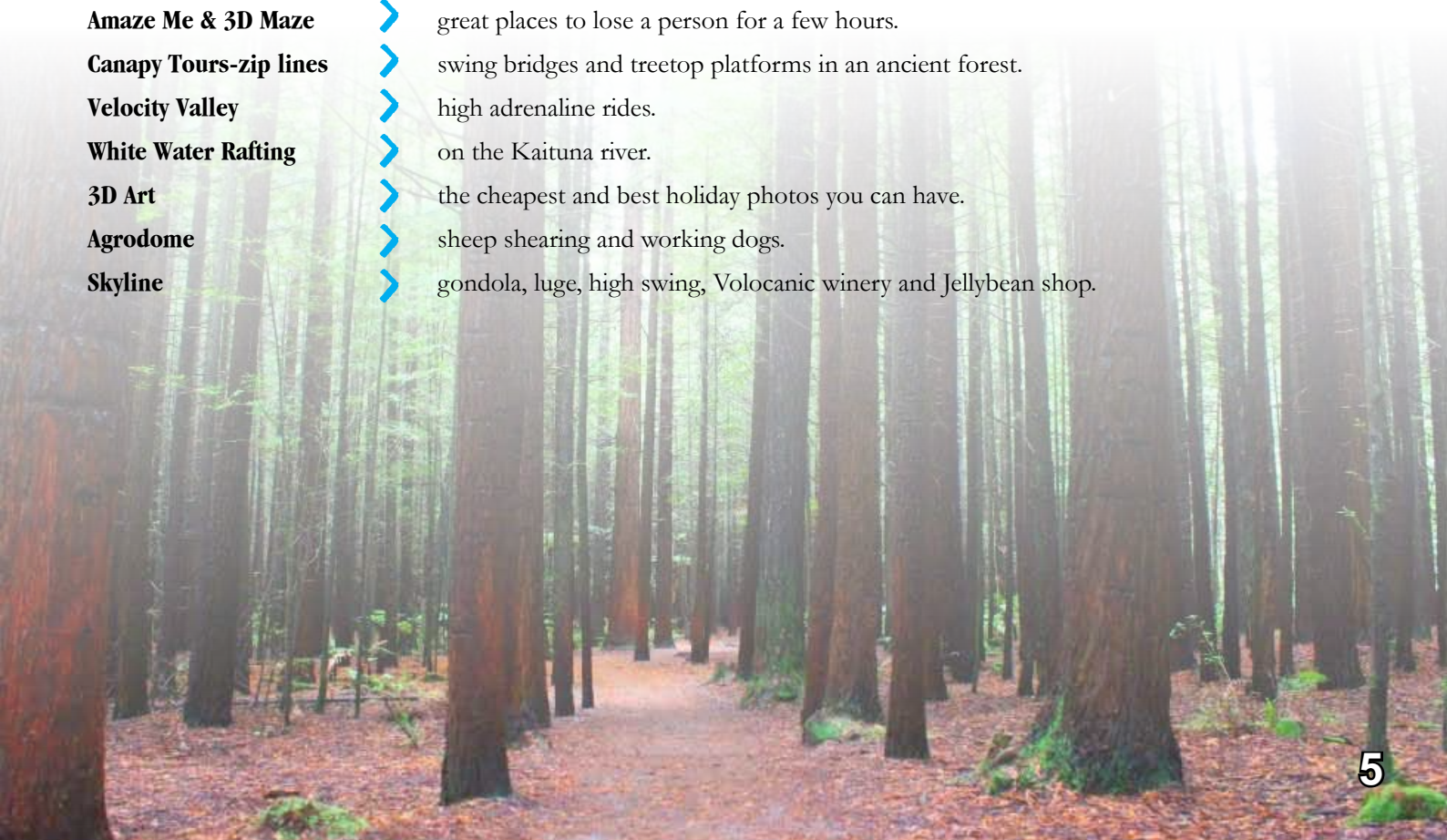
The city is known for its geothermal activity, which is the heart of much of its tourist appeal. Geysers (notably the Pohutu Geyser at Whakarewarewa) bubbling mud pools, and thermal springs are all nearby. Soaking and relaxing in sulphur water and mud baths have long been a draw card for visitors.

A variety of activities take place on and around the 17 Lakes in the Rotorua area with Lake Tarawera being world famous for trophy Rainbow trout.

The Redwood Forest has become a mountain bike haven, with its extensive network of tracks and trail rides, catering for all ages, speeds and experience.

Rotorua has an extensive range of activities for locals and visitors to enjoy. If you have time you might like to check them out:

<b>Rainbow Springs</b>	➤	first opened in 1932. Showcases trout, a kiwi hatchery, plus a log flume water ride.
<b>Wing Span</b>	➤	bird of prey rehabilitation centre.
<b>Paradise Valley Springs</b>	➤	Rotorua born and raised pride of Lions, and trout pools.
<b>Zorb &amp; OGO</b>	➤	two different ways to race downhill inside a large clear ball.
<b>Duck Tours</b>	➤	travel to and on the lakes in an amphibious WW2 landing craft.
<b>Buried Village</b>	➤	the village that was covered in ash when Mount Tarawera erupted in the 1800's.
<b>Redwood Tree Walk</b>	➤	walk high among the trees in Redwood forest.
<b>Motion Entertainment</b>	➤	mini golf, ten pin bowling, laser tag, indoor tramp, and escape rooms.
<b>Amaze Me &amp; 3D Maze</b>	➤	great places to lose a person for a few hours.
<b>Canapy Tours-zip lines</b>	➤	swing bridges and treetop platforms in an ancient forest.
<b>Velocity Valley</b>	➤	high adrenaline rides.
<b>White Water Rafting</b>	➤	on the Kaituna river.
<b>3D Art</b>	➤	the cheapest and best holiday photos you can have.
<b>Agrodome</b>	➤	sheep shearing and working dogs.
<b>Skyline</b>	➤	gondola, luge, high swing, Volocanic winery and Jellybean shop.



## ***Glenmead - Kevin & Felicity Clark, Waimana***



Kevin's family purchased the original farm of 52 hectares in 1970 as a going concern, milking a mixed breed herd of 120 cows. Today the farm has grown to 130ha milking 430 cows. Glenmead is located just out of Waimana, and like a lot of farms in the Bay of Plenty, it is very picturesque with a creek running through it and a lot of mature trees. It is a mainly flat farm with some steep hills at the back that are milked on. A large part of the Glenmead herd has been graded up over the years through the supplementary register. It was Selwyn Beynon who got Kevin interested in pedigree cows in the late 1980's, with the Glenmead Stud being established in 1988. They bought two Singing Brook NB Mascot daughters in partnership at the first Ambreed sale of imported American heifers: Peticote US Msct Marta-ET and Peticote US Msct Marye-ET. They have both left big families in the herd. The Pickard Acres Vic Kai daughter SRD Glenmead Kai Renee GP84 has also had a big influence on the herd. Through her descended Mascot daughter Glenmead Mascot Renee GP83 and granddaughter Glenmead Fantastic Ren-

ET VG87 by Fatal, dam of Glenmead FR Renegade, who was a heavily used, high production LIC sire.

Glenmead has always been a high indexing herd. Currently the herd has a BW of 114 and a PW of 161. Glenmead has contributed well in excess of 200 bulls to NZ breeding companies with a good percentage going on to become AI sires. Glenmead Hailstone, Holiday, Rush, Renegade, Rockfest, Rocksolid and Pater have all contributed thousands of daughters to the national herd.

In recent years Kevin has been using a 80/20 split of daughter proven bulls and genomic-proven bulls. Kevin believes that in New Zealand there is a good wide range of proven bulls available. His main breeding criteria are BW, udders, management traits, fertility and SCC. Surplus heifers are exported to China as rising one-year-olds or sold on the local market as in-calf heifers. Kevin culls heavily to ensure the cows fit his system, and this is working well with a herd of good, sound, typed cows of medium size, who produce very efficiently.

## **Glenmead Farms Limited**

### **Kevin & Felicity Clark**

34 Raroa Road  
RD1, Waimana  
027 612 3319  
k.clark@xtra.co.nz



## *Greenmeadows - Mary Woodward, Te Puke*



Mary Woodward & Okains EC Vrai VHC

Mary grew up at Tauriko, near Tauranga, where her parents Les and Mrs Hopping ran the Ferncliffe Stud. She had a pioneering upbringing, her father completely clearing the land after WWI and setting up his farm.

When Mary married her husband Mick, they began share-milking at Papamoa, before buying their first farm at Te Puke. Here they developed what was considered a model dairy farm until booming kiwi fruit prices became just too tempting. They sold that farm and bought the present Greenmeadows farm at Paengaroa.

Mary is still farming the Greenmeadows Stud, which was started in 1957 with 12 cows from her parents Ferncliffe Stud. Amongst these cows were some representing lines developed by the late George McIntosh of the Okains Stud near Paeroa. In particular there was Okains EC Vrai VHC, who held the New Zealand record for fat production in one year, and was a great show cow in her younger days. The Hopping herd was full of this blood and it continues today in Mary's Greenmeadows herd.

Mary is continuing the family tradition of not retiring.

Although son David takes care of the day to day running of the farm, Mary appears faithfully twice a day to milk the cows.

Being a third generation Holstein Friesian breeder, Mary has lived with black and whites all her life. She was always told to breed top cows for profit and to look after these four legged friends. Every breeder should take time out to walk amongst

the herd and appreciate what you have got and worked for- walk, rather than ride on a motor bike in a hurry!

Mary is happy to be a Holstein Friesian breeder, and wishes Bay of Plenty members a successful sale and the Association a happy conference.



Mary Woodward receiving HFNZ Long Service Award in 2007

## **Greenmeadows Mary Woodward**

385 State Highway 33  
RD9, Te Puke  
07 533 1886

## ***Paroa - Robert & Liz Cleland, Whakatane***



**Paroa Colin Shelly**

### ***The Art of Breeding***

Russell Cleland, my father, started buying pedigree Friesians in 1941, but book work was not recorded until Noeline came along and recorded the calves in 1950. Cows that were not recorded could not be supplementary registered.

Russell went to the Pukeroro sale and bought the two cheapest bulls, one of which was Pukeroro Wakalona Rositer. The dam of Rositer ended up being the highest producing cow in NZ. These bulls were the foundation of the Paroa stud.

The payment was for litres and fat and Russell spent many years as Director of Bay Milk to bring protein in. Breeding for fat takes time but breeding for protein takes skill and is a slow process. Russell could see from the meat on the rump of a cow the quality of protein.

We use a machine to ultra scan the top line of heifers to analyse the meat to fat ratio. The aim is to start the season with a P/F ratio of 0.95 and then throughout the season to lose and replace the meat on the back of the cow. Holding a 0.87 to 0.90 P/F ratio was the ultimate goal. Payment by

Open Country at 2.65 P/F is an advantage for the Holstein Friesian breed. One disappointment over the years has been the lack of diversification of the factories to move into more protein products. Niche market products should perhaps have been the priority while making surplus into milk powder?

Over the years we have line bred the Paroa Stud and one outstanding bull was Paroa Sheik Prophet. We breed cows with strong ligaments in the udder and well placed thurls for walking, plus wide strong heads and width of muzzle allows strength throughout the cow. Capacity and spring of rib was also a passion of mine.

Over the years we have used outside bulls but then used a son of a Paroa cow. This brought ¼ cross into the herd and has helped improve the fore udder and lifted the rear udder. If faults appear in the third generation, we will stop the line. Once you have a family line of four generations of VG or better, and use a bull from a dam of a VG or better, there will be very few faults appearing.

One exercise we would do was to select daughters of 3 bulls:





1. Daughter out a bull from 85 point dam
2. Daughter out of a bull from 88 point dam
3. Daughter out of a bull from EX dam

Out in the paddock you could see the different qualities of daughters from EX progeny.

Over the years we have bred 42 EX cows and 24 were bred from our own bulls. This success, in our opinion, was due to line breeding a cow with hybrid vigour which could stand up to the challenges ahead. This breeding practice gave us much pleasure.

At one stage we sold 45 heifers and 40 bulls for stud breeding. Today we still sell 40 bulls privately.

Some farmers have used Paroa bulls over many years, accepting the quality of cattle with traits such as good udders, long lives, teat placement, reproduction and protein.

After talking to people like Dr Paul Detloffe from America,

the qualities of 'swirls, happy lines, protein rings and udder curls' are all signs of a good hybrid cow (these are old fashioned terms describing qualities of a cow - originating from Amish and Midnite people groups).

The time has now come for us to take a new direction. Our children are well settled into other careers, but our nephew Ashley Parkes has a 50/50 job in Canterbury and has the pleasure of carrying on the Paroa Stud. I (Robert) have enjoyed travelling down to see the cows milking at their potential.

We wish to say thank you to fellow breeders past and present for your input into our stud and the many hours discussing the breeding of cows, each of us wanting the same goal of top quality Holstein Friesians.

Thanks,  
The Cleland Family

## Shiloh Plains Ltd

### Robert & Liz Cleland

422 State Highway 30  
RD1, Whakatane  
07 308 8554  
shiloh50@xtra.co.nz

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We used Sexed Ultra 4M semen from ST Genetics on some of our cows last year. We had a conception rate of 63 % confirmed pregnant which was higher than our conception rate for conventional semen. (The industry target is 60% conception rate for conventional semen). We are very happy with these results.

Knowing this now enables us to select the top cows in our herd to get Sexed Ultra 4M semen and use Beef semen on the rest of the herd. This means that we get all of our replacement heifers from our top cows and beef calves from the lower end of herd.

We have full confidence in Sexed Ultra 4M Semen and will continue to use in the future.

**Mike & Rachael Marshall**

MJM Farm  
West Otago







## ***Rangeview- Laurie & Kate Phipps, Waikite Valley***

Rangeview was established in 1978 and has been an active member of the Holstein Friesian breed since then.

We went through the share milking system to achieve farm ownership and over time have expanded to 228 hectares of rolling to steep contour on seasonal supply. We calve 280 pedigree Holstein Friesian cows on 105 hectares with the balance of the property running all dairy heifer replacements, 100 dairy beef, 30 breeding bulls and a sheep flock. There is also 28 hectares of Radiata pine plantation. We continue to protect and enhance small areas of original Native Bush which are uncommon in the area.

The property at Waikite Valley, Rotorua, is generally self-contained, most years buying in approximately 80 tonne d/m maize to aid autumn production. We consistently supply very low Somatic Cell Count and Grade Free milk to Fonterra.

At Rangeview we have always strived to breed a herd with a good combination of production, conformation, management and economic traits. The herd scores well in nearly all 'BV' values. This is a tool we really focus our breeding strategies on to further breed a well-balanced herd. We have always herd tested and classify every year. Recorded ancestry is 100% and the average classification score is 85.



Rangeview Sonball Plus EX3 at 11 years old

We nominate a combination of mostly NZ Proven Domestic Sires and some Overseas Sires, with emphasis on fertility, longevity, body condition score and good functional type traits.

In 2010, we entered Rangeview Oman Bramley in the HFNZ/LIC Discovery Project. She was awarded Elite Heifer and has since classified VG87 and has bred very well. Her daughter Rangeview Mint Bramley-ET VG85 won the 2015 HFNZ Tokaora Trophy. This family have gone on to provide young bulls to both CRV and LIC.

Rangeview MPG Glowing S2F (112557) from Rangeview Oman Glota S2F VG86 has become a popular, all round proven bull at CRV.

Our most prolific cow family descends from SRD Sky High Global Plus EX, who was purchased in 2004 as an in-calf cow for \$600. Her two daughters Rangeview Sonball Plus EX3 and Rangeview Pierre Plus EX have bred extremely sound and good type cow.

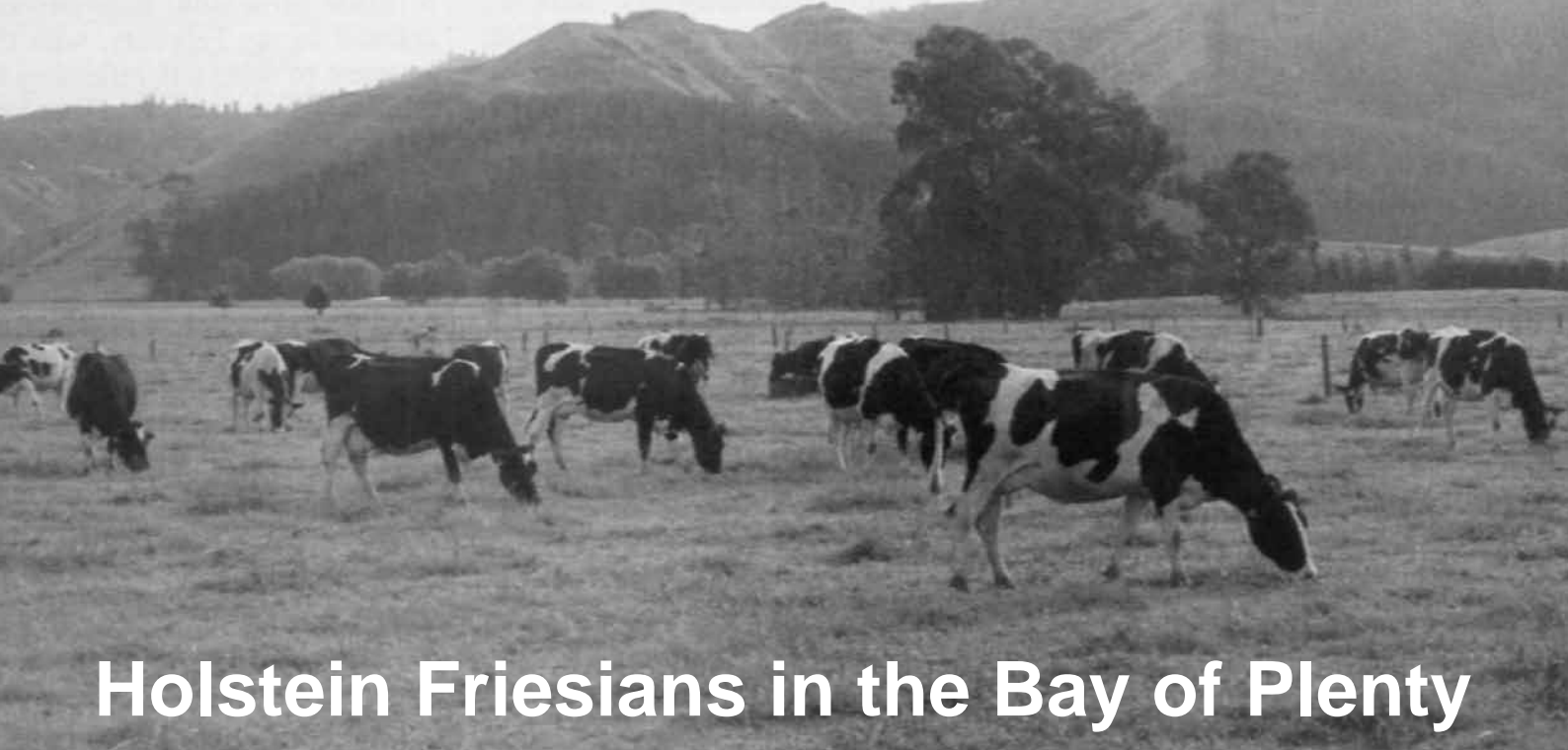
Laurie & Kate Phipps & Family welcome Holstein Friesian enthusiasts to the Bay of Plenty/Central Plateau for the 2019 Conference.



Rangeview Echo Plea-ET EX, daughter of Sonball Plus

## **L & K Phipps Rangeview**

174 Hossack Road Extn  
RD1, Rotorua  
07 333 1703 - 027 333 1709  
rangeviewfarms@gmail.com



# Holstein Friesians in the Bay of Plenty

The first Holstein Friesian herd in the Bay of Plenty belonged to Jim Parkinson; the Waituku herd was founded in 1907, with two cows purchased from WT Woods. He then imported more cows from the USA and was active in the formation of the Association, becoming President in 1916-17.

The BOP branch was formed at a meeting in Taneatua in February 1926, then went into recess in 1939, and was reformed in 1959 with 27 members.

## Interesting facts:

- *In 1918 Jim Parkinson had the highest fat producing herd in the Dominion.*
- *The Supplementary Register scheme came into force in 1968 and many of today's members joined the Association because of the Supplementary Register scheme and the ability to upgrade their own cows.*
- *In 1985 Athol Famous Prefect (Murray family) was the first bull to reach half a million inseminations.*
- *The BOP Herd Improvement area was the first North Island area to use more Friesian semen than Jersey semen.*
- *In 1986 the BOP branch moved a remit at the AGM for National Council to promote protein A+B-C payment system. The first NZ Dairy Company started using this system in 1989.*
- *The BOP branch formed 3 Clubs in 1975; Eastern Bay, Western Bay and Central Plateau. These clubs were strong in their time but by 2010, they had re-joined their resources to the main BOP branch*
- *At its peak in the early 1970-1980's the BOP branch had 120 members. Due to land going into housing, horticulture, and farms being amalgamated, there are now 23 studs as members.*



# Members we remember and honour



## Longest BOP member

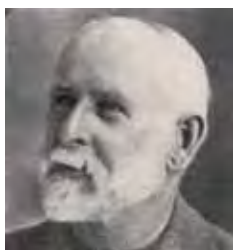
Mary Woodward (1959-current) of Greenmeadows  
Stud, Te Puke



## Distinguished Service

Russell Cleland -Paroa stud, Whakatane

## Honorary Life members



James (Jim) Parkinson  
Waituku Stud,  
Opotiki



Merton Leslie  
Lesdale Stud  
Reporoa



John Murray  
Athol Stud  
Whakatane

Les Hopping  
Ferncliffe Stud  
Tauranga

## Long Service Medals



Bruce Aitchison  
Glengyle Stud  
Galatea



Ron Chynoweth  
Maeroa Stud  
Murupara

Russell Cleland - Paroa Stud, Whakatane  
Mary Woodward – Greenmeadows Stud, Te Puke  
George Checkley – Wynholme Stud, Thornton

## NZHFA Centennial Medal (2010)

Bruce Aitchison -Glengyle Stud

## ***Raetea - Shelley & Pat Schnuriger, Waikite Valley***



**Raetea Licorice Brandy VG86**

Raetea Holsteins was established in 2009 when two registered Holsteins were purchased. The reason for buying the Holsteins was a very strong interest in showing and also the main herd at the time was predominantly straight Holstein Friesian so it made sense to stay with that breed.

The farm is situated under the Paeroa ranges in Waikite Valley, Rotorua. It is one of the original ballot farms that was settled in the 1950's. The contour is a mixture of steep, rolling with some flat areas along the roadside, and is farmed using a biological approach to pasture and soil and animal health. The milking platform is 72 effective hectares and in total 80 hectares.

From 2006 the herd was milked once a day. This was mainly a lifestyle choice and it suited the type of cow at the time. The production was very good from these cows but as more overseas genetics came in, the herd started to change, and it became apparent that their genetic potential wasn't being reached and we were holding them back. Also the once a

day cows were not doing so well in the show ring due to the amount of condition they had on. So the decision was made to shift back to twice a day milking, to lift production and cash flow and see what happened. The first season back, production lifted 40% and we dominated the 2017/18 production awards for the Bay Of Plenty in many of the age groups, clearly this was the way to go with our type of cows now.

The herd today is 140 cows with 97% registered Holstein Friesians. Our breeding philosophy has to be correct type with strong udders and excellent legs and feet. Fertility and stature are something that has been worked closely with over the past two seasons, to get the size of the cows down and improve their fertility. A mixture of nominated sires are used from overseas genetics matching each cow accordingly. Some bulls are reared from strong cow families within the herd noted for their production, type and strong health traits. Because of a keen family interest in showing, cows have



been purchased from top Holstein breeders allowing us to build up the show type of the herd. There has been many successes in the show ring. The best so far would be at the Easter show April 2018 where Raetea Brew Master Curry as a calf, won the Junior Champion Holstein and Junior All Breeds Champion, and Champion of Champions. Her dam was 1<sup>st</sup> three year old Holstein and best udder in class at the Waikato A&P on farm show in October 2018. A sister to Curry sells in the conference sale.

Another great win was with Raetea Licorice Brandy VG86, she was 1<sup>st</sup> 2 year old Holstein and best udder in class and

Intermediate Champion Holstein in the Waikato on farm show. She is a grand daughter from the very first registered cow bought, Happyland Breanna S3F VG88, who is still in the herd today at 13 years old. A great cow family has been built from her. And a grand daughter sells at the conference sale. Raetea also offers for sale a calf from another strong production cow family whose dam is looking to hit 1000 kgs of milk solids this season.

So the future of Raetea is an exciting one, continuing to breed quality cows that not only look great but will produce and last through the generations.



Raetea BMaster Curry

## Schnuriger Family Trust

### Raetea

1173 Waikite Valley Road  
RD1, Rotorua  
021 177 6230  
[pschnuriger@farmside.co.nz](mailto:pschnuriger@farmside.co.nz)

## ***Royson - Eddie & Kath Lambert, Whakatane***



The Lamberts have farmed under Mount Putauaki since 1928, when Eddie's grandfather came up from Wellington, originally milking 40 cows by hand until electric power came to the area.

The Lamberts are now farming 170 hectares, milking approximately 450 cows through a 24 aside herringbone shed. Most of the farm is volcanic ash from the Tarawera eruption, and is prone to drying out, so now 105 hectares is irrigated with long laterals used. Breeding cows of quality and then feeding them under a low-cost structure system to reach their potential means that the Lamberts carry less cows to the hectare.

Breeding objectives have always been temperament, udders, capacity and A2 components. Using bulls like Skelton, Pierre, Magley, Donor, Macca and Pamment, with some overseas genetics, plus Oman, Planet and Super-sire, for their health

traits, has given the Royson stud a herd with a few bigger animals. Then crossing back to the New Zealand genetics from both CRV Ambreed and LIC, this moderates the stature. Some of the bulls recently used are Phonic, Beamer, Gauntlet, Hot House, Fire-up, Chevron (who was in the Holstein Friesian Genetic Leaders team in 2016).

Royson HSS Priscilla S1F EX is an animal that the Lamberts held very dear and she along with her sister Royson Hss Cleopatra S1F VG88 seemed to spark the passion for breeding quality animals. From these two animals there are 100 descendants, which are in turn proving to be quality animals. Embryo work has been done with the best of these daughters and some bulls every year are taken into LIC and CRV Ambreed's sire proving schemes.

The Lambert family hopes everyone has an enjoyable conference, and takes advantage of what the Bay of Plenty has to offer.

## **Royson Farms Ltd**

### **Eddie and Kath Lambert**

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## *Sue Pembridge, Atiamuri*

Dick and I, along with our seven year old son, emigrated to New Zealand from Kenya in 1977. After continuous political instability and insecurity, the move to our new adopted country has been a decision that we have never regretted. I have often been asked over the years the origin of our stud prefix. "Uhuru" is the Swahili word for "freedom". Swahili was the most common language spoken across all sectors of our society.

In June 1978 we purchased our first farm in Ngakuru, south of Rotorua, and in 2005 moved to a farm in Atiamuri where the herd is still farmed. Ever since my early childhood I had a passion for cows. This has proved to be an incurable disease! With encouragement from the late Peter Twyman, of the renowned Rahiri Stud, our first seven SRA cows formed what has essentially grown into the present day herd. I have immensely enjoyed the journey over the last four decades

developing the herd, and ask myself if the work is ever complete?! I believe that over the years I have bred many super cows but even today my all time favourite is Uhuru Calypso Bounty EX4, inaugural winner of the Valden Trophy\* and continued to win it on a further two occasions. She was a top producer and her family legacy continues to the current day with Uhuru Shottle Beau VG85- 2nd top cow in the herd with 746kg m/s for the 2018/19 season. Uhuru Mint Beth VG86 has also been a recent high flyer being the dam of Uhuru Inca Bandwagon who is awaiting a proof at CRV. This cow family remains one of the strongest in the herd today, the foundation of which stems from a heifer purchased from Taikura Stud back in 1978.

I have had many moments of huge satisfaction over the years with Uhuru Gerris Atomant, graduating with LIC, and Uhuru Geris Acrobat, as a joint venture bull with CRV.



**Uhuru Calypso Bounty EX4**

\* In 2000, 2001 & 2004, before the competition changed to Valden Cow of the Year from 2012.





Uhuru Mtoto Mouse VG89

the Uhuru girls have served me like true champions and I will never be able to extinguish the passion I have for them. I feel blessed that my working life has also derived so much job satisfaction.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Conference participants to the Bay of Plenty and trust you will have an enjoyable time.



Uhuru Gerris Lady



Tessa Honeyfield & "Bingo" preparing for the show ring

For a number of years I enjoyed the local show circuit and had some great cows flying the Uhuru banner. Uhuru Mtoto Mouse VG89 was one of the best. She was awarded Champion of Champions at Rotorua in 2006. She was also placed 3rd in the Semex photo competition the same year in her respective age group.

I have also had some light hearted moments such as when one of my cows Uhuru Gerris Lady was used to help promote Tip Top ice cream in the area! There are just too many stories to record them all here.

I suppose I now have to be realistic and suggest that I might not make five decades as a hands on dairy famer! No one has found the switch to halt time but I wish I could. I have and still do derive enormous pleasure from my cows. Over time



Uhuru Gerris Lady, Tip Top fan!

## Uhuru Farm Ltd

### Sue Pembridge

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## ***Waimoa - Alan Baird & Sandie Redpath-Baird, Rotorua/ Opotiki***

Waimoa came in to being in the early 1990's when Alan and Sandie were share-milking, and wanted to own and breed "proper cows" with good resale value.

Waimoa is a joining of Kukumoa (Opotiki) where Alan and Sandie grew up and Waikite Valley, where they share-milked and their children were born.

Since 1993 they have owned and added to a conversion farm in Ngakuru. Their herd of CRV sire proving cows have an average production of 510kg m/s per cow. The herd is now half nominated and half sire proving, with bulls chosen for capacity, protein and udders.

In 2016 they purchased Alan's family farm back in Kukumoa, Opotiki, where Jess Judd contract milks 150 Holstein Friesian cows. The base of this herd is from Choicevale (Sidwell Family) in Northland.

At present, Alan & Sandie's three children are all busy with their own careers. Alicia is a secondary school teacher in Rotorua, Zane is a master plumber and drain layer and Marcus has a Diploma in Landscape Design and has his own landscaping business.



But Alicia and Lee's children, Jordan and Camryn, love visiting 'Pops farm and as their great grandparents (on Lee's side) are Peter & Ann Bannan (Wainui Stud in Galatea) maybe one of them will be a future farmer to continue the 'Wai' thread of Waimoa and Wainui!



### **A Baird & S Redpath-Baird** **Waimoa**

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# AgriSea Case Study

## Miah and Jenny Smith



### KEY STATS:

**LOCATION:** Atiamuri  
**AREA:** 260ha effective  
**COWS:** 535 Jersey crossbreeds  
**PRODUCTION:** 2018/19 target: 200,000  
-210,000kg milk solids

**FARM DAIRY:** 74-bail rotary, ACR, Protrack, auto teat sprayer, in-dairy feeding  
**PASTURE HARVESTED:** 10t DM/ha  
**SUPPLEMENT:** 400t

Miah and Jenny Smith have witnessed a significant improvement in soil and pasture quality since they embarked on a trial comparing biostimulants and fertiliser applications.

Their farm in Atiamuri was harvesting just 10 tonnes DM/ha and had a tendency to go dry quickly in the summer because the plant roots were short, Miah says. "We were putting on 150kg N/ha, heaps of DAP, super phosphate, potassium – the works. But we were always chasing our tails and running out of grass. It was stressful."

Miah attended an AgriSea workshop with Australian Dr Christine Jones and he came away completely converted. **The change in thinking to looking after soil biology first and foremost was like a light coming on**, Miah says. "It's about starting with the soil first, not your cows first. It's how to feed soil biology."

### The 3 Year Test

Three paired sites were chosen that were comparable in contour, aspect and fertiliser history, and each site was split into conventional fertiliser and AgriSea biostimulant programmes. The biostimulant paddocks had three applications of AgriSea Liquid Soil and Pasture Nutrition per year while the conventional paddocks had capital and maintenance fertiliser of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulphur, magnesium and calcium.

The scepticism from other farmers has been continuous, but people can now see the results of how well the paddocks are performing under the programme. Everything Miah and Jenny had learnt in the past has been turned upside down, but if they can

make money and look after the environment at the same time it's a win-win, the couple say. "We are trying to look after the land, that is what looks after us," Jenny says. "I thought I was doing a good job of looking after the environment, but by doing this we won't have any (fertiliser) runoff and it takes the pressure off." Change is coming whether we like it or not and we feel we are ahead of the game"

**"We really wanted to test it. There was no gap in pasture production after three years, and the AgriSea paddocks came in at half the cost. There is more available N in our AgriSea paddocks, where clover is actually fixing nitrogen, than the paddocks that had N fertiliser put on."**

### A New Approach

Miah and Jenny still cop some flack for going down a different path, but the couple can see the results and they want to act now before they are made to by new regulations. "Most people won't change unless they're made to change. Most people will wait and come back in another three years and see how we are going. A lot of people said our soil will be depleted after 3 years, well it's not. This farm had no topsoil, it had been bulldozed off. You can see it changing in the paddocks. The roots were only going down two inches, now they're growing up to a metre." Miah and Jenny are taking a step further over the next two seasons and are trialling regenerative grazing and multi-pasture species.

*This case study is summarized from the article "Alternative Test" which appeared in the November 2018 issue of Dairy Exporter magazine. Used with permission.*







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