



## THE WELSH BLACK CATTLE BREEDERS SOCIETY OF N.Z INC.

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### December Newsletter 2019

Greetings to all Members,

Christmas is almost upon us bringing another year to the end. The Society has had another uneventful year but New Zealand has certainly made the headlines with some very unfortunate happenings, two of which have resulted in significant human demise.

So far we have been spared the terrible fires being experienced in Australia – let's hope that we never have such horrific events but with the encouragement to plant pastureland into pine forests and the expected rise in temperatures the stage is being set for such catastrophes to occur in future. Drought is being experienced in New South Wales and hay is being bought in which of course can be a significant cost. Germany has also had to deal with drought this season as well as their conifer forests being affected by bark beetles, the main one being *Cryphalus abietis*. Let's hope that our border security system is capable of keeping insects such as this and the destructive marmorated stink bug which has spread across to Europe from Asia away from New Zealand. Dealing with *Mycoplasma bovis* incursion and TB re-entering regions is bad enough.

At present the South Island has been plagued with flooding and severe road damage so I think again how lucky we were 3 years ago when we hosted the World Congress here. Have those of you planning on attending next year's being held in Wales notified the organisers there? It is a pity that it coincides with such a busy time in southern hemisphere farming.

I hope that all breeders have had successful calvings this season and good grass growth. The north is getting a bit dry with the warm weather and wind but this coming week is supposed to bring rain; hopefully not too much. Prices are good all round at present and we look forward to them holding up for some time to come.

I have just received the Welsh Black journal from Wales and read an article about three Evans brothers who all breed Welsh Black cattle. When one of the was asked "What makes a good animal?" he replied "There must be a leg in each corner and a good flank." Go and check your herds and I'm sure they will all qualify and you can be happy and satisfied.

I wish all members and their families a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Shirley Jenkins.

## **AGM 2020**

Next year's AGM will be held in Christchurch on 27, 28 and 29 March, 2020. Accommodation has been reserved at the Famous Grouse, 2 Gerald Street, Lincoln which is 17 km from the airport – about 25 minutes. The phone number is 03 325 2408 and rooms are \$130 per night single and \$150 per night double. Don't forget to tell the receptionist that the room has been booked under the Welsh Black Cattle Society.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, TIM JENKINSON**

**As another year draws to an end I hope it's been a good one for everybody. The high prices for lamb and beef may they continue as farm costs continue to rise with animals and compliance. This government seems to want to push good farms into forestry with fresh water and other compliances.**

**I hope everyone has a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope to see you all in Christchurch at the Welsh Black annual meeting**

Regards,

Tim Jenkinson,

