

On the 12th of November I landed in Christchurch to kick off a one, hectic three week adventure. It wasn't surprising that the first day of my NZ tour gave me a perfect indication of how jam-packed my trip would be.

My first stop was the New Zealand Agricultural Show at the Canterbury Show Grounds (Christchurch). Here I had the opportunity to help prepare and show a line-up of excellent cattle from Waimak, Stony Brook & Blue Gum Murray Grey studs. It is them to which I owe a huge thankyou for allowing me to work with these animals to participate in not only the Beef Cattle Judging, where I was awarded Champion Junior Judge as well as the youth events.



Once my three days at the show concluded I moved in with George and Glenda Climo, where I proceeded to look around several studs including Waimak, Blue Gum, Cavan, Stony Brook & Newhall. All operations had an exceptional line up of cattle on display, as you'll see from the pictures below. I was astounded with the quality and consistency of the stock all over the island, as well as the demand from the Dairy Industry for Murray Grey Bulls producers have created. It was great to see the Greys reaching such a high level of success.

I was then given a tour of Christchurch. It was a humbling experience to see the devastation of the Earthquake so many years ago still lingering throughout the city and suburbs, however seeing the positivity through the people and the progress of the rebuild was equally as amazing.

Shortly after I caught the bus from Christchurch to Queenstown allowing me to take in some amazing scenery. Made only more amazing by prolonged snowfall through the mountains as well as high rainfall throughout the entire island.

I then proceeded through to Torrisdale Murray Greys, run by Barry McDonald, who supplies a number of sires into not only the dairy industry but also into the seed stock industry. I had the opportunity to help out with scanning and stock





work, gaining experience in raw data collection and scanning processes and its applications within the beef industry. Barry also operates beef brand, Ballyhooley Beef, which is sold through local markets and a into a series of cafes and restaurants. I had a crack at some samples and can confirm that Murray Grey Beef is the best on the market no matter what country.

From Torrisdale I ventured over to Silver Fern Murray Greys. Unfortunately tradition was not continued with the annual jet boat ride instead turning to go-karting get my fill of thrill seeking.

Following on from the other studs I visited, Silver Fern presented an excellent line up of cattle. Again a great opportunity to look over different breeding strategies some impressive results.

I then returned to Christchurch after a long wait due to missing my flight as I got lost in the expansive and vast Invercargill Airport, which for those of you who don't know doesn't have a lot of attractions to keep a bloke occupied for 5 hours. I stayed in Christchurch for another couple of nights where I visited, Cliffton Downes, who have just started breeding Murray Grey cattle and what a ripper start they've had with some excellent calves hitting the ground this year.

This stop was then followed by a visit to Murray Downs which was a truly amazing enterprise incorporating sheep, deer and cattle, and after seeing the price per kilo that Deer Antlers fetch, it took a lot of strength not to ship the Greys off and raise the fences when I returned home.

That then rounded out the tour of the South Island, and I flew up to Rotorua where I turned on full tourist mode, exploring some of the Maori Sites in the area as well as the sulfuric hot springs.



After a day of tourism Neill & Jane Burke and myself decided that we should probably reinvolve cattle into the scenario and returned to Chequers Murray Grey Stud where “Mad Scientist” Neill showed me around the herd, with yet again, more excellent cattle – you might of noticed a theme developing here.

Neill, Jane and I proceeded to then discuss genetics and breeding for the rest of my stay there were I think I was educated about Australian Studs I never even heard of. So I am forced to admit defeat there on the Australian side, however after watching three weeks of Kiwi’s play sport that is the only victory they’ll have in a while.

A trip I would consider way too short, I concluded the exchange at Willow Gully Murray Grey Stud with the Powell’s. While again I did enjoy looking through the cattle there, being the car tragic that I am I struggled to look past Tony’s Mustang. I was then treated to a tour of Auckland, we’re I flew out of 3 weeks to the day after I arrived.

This report only touches the surface of the experience I had over the pond. I cannot thank everyone enough for their hospitality, and you are hard pressed to find a bad animal at any of the studs I visited. New Zealand by itself is an amazing trip, being able to get around to so many Grey studs and meet our Kiwi counterparts made it an even better experience.

