

# NZAGA Newsletter

NZ Arapawa Goat Association - May 2017, Issue 10

## From the Editor

Hi all. It has been an amazing journey over the last few months, contacting people and updating the NZAGA Registry. While it initially appeared we had built up the numbers to 221 Arapawa goats breeding in domestication, through the census it shows we are currently down to 181 (129 does and 52 bucks), with a number either deceased or sold as pets and/or their whereabouts are now unknown. On the positive side, I am aware there are a few kids around who are yet to be registered and some does have, or are in the process of, going to the bucks. Hopefully the end result will be an increase in registered Arapawa goats in Spring.

Sadly for Al and me, our time on the farm is nearly over. Al has had a series of strokes and is no longer as strong as he was. We are now building a house close to town which we hope to move to in September. As you will be aware, the book '*No Ordinary Goats. The story of NZ's Arapawa Goats*' is now published and circulating both in NZ and overseas. Over recent months the Arapawa goat story has also been published in articles around NZ's farming communities, so I believe it will be very hard for DOC to eradicate them completely. Although I will continue to take an interest in the Arapawa goats, perhaps through the registry and the newsletters, I firmly believe that as one door closes, another is preparing to open. Recent communications suggest the new opening is a project involving the identification of the origins of the Arapawa goats.

Take care, and let me know when you have your kids so I can add them to the registry.

Warm cheers, Alison

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*Cutest little weed eater*

## The Origins of the Arapawa Goats

Early DNA tests, using microsatellites and testing hair follicles of 35 Arapawa goats, gave us sufficient information to determine the Arapawa are a unique breed, but this does not tell us their origins. While the historical research provides evidence that proves goats were left on Arapawa Island during Cook's voyages and survived, we have yet to prove the actual origins of these goats. This is because Cook, on his second and third voyages to NZ, had English goats as well as some purchased at the Cape de Verde Islands and Cape Town.

To solve the mystery of the origins of the Arapawa goats, 50k SNP chip genotyping, using either hair follicles or tissue sampling, will be undertaken on some Arapawa goats living in domestication around New Zealand. This process is much more comprehensive than the earlier DNA tests and, providing we have comparison samples, will reveal their heritage. Under very strict requirements, 40 Arapawa goats were identified as suitable for the project. If you have one or more of the selected animals, I hope to be in touch within the next month in regards to obtaining samples. But the timing is dependent on some very busy people who have other priorities.

Those who have been following my Facebook page (yes I have finally succumbed to the pressure and rewards of social media), the DNA extraction from the samples will be completed in a NZ university laboratory, and the 50k CHPs will be created overseas (this is the most expensive part of the process, but so worth it!). Once this process is complete, the data will be returned to NZ for analysis and comparison made with other goat breeds. Which of course leads us to the next challenge - how we find similar DNA data results for primitive breeds of goats, especially the British breeds. Not to worry, turns out there are mounted trophy heads in a Scottish museum, and even more exciting, several feral herds believed to be similar to the traditional old English goat have been found in the Irish and Northern English hills.

Once completed, as well as revealing their origins, the results should also provide us with a baseline for identifying Arapawa goats and their parentage in the future. As to the final outcome: whatever it is, once I know – you will know!

*Alison*



*Millard Farm Meadow*



## Arapawa Does in Domestication

Some old and new additions to the NZAGA Registry. From left to right are Jo and Garry's does: Riverside Amalthea, Riverside Calypso, WildAcres Millie, Riverside Daphne, Home Farm Octavia and Riverside Claudia. Photograph is by Marina Steinke, Editor of Rare Breeds NewZ. This photo has been edited by Michael Trotter (NZAGA's Website Master) and added to the gallery on our website: [www.arapawagoats.com/](http://www.arapawagoats.com/)



In the book *'No Ordinary Goat. The story of New Zealand's Arapawa Goats'* I mention two leading agricultural researchers, Asher & Clarke, visiting Arapawa Island in 1977 to study the feral goats and determine their origin. In their report they commented on the homogeneity of the Arapawa goats which, they claimed, indicates they were of one breed, with little or no genetic influence from other breeds. The uniformity they were referring to was the "wild type" coat and facial pattern, the goats' colouring and their lack of tassels, all physical characteristics that remain with the Arapawa goats in domestication. Marina's photograph of Jo and Garry's does portrays this regularity beautifully.

# Geographical Distribution of Arapawa Does in Domestication





# Arapawa Bucks in Domestication

## Introducing Bam Bam (AG #277)



Ellerslie Stables Bam Bam is out of Staglands Stella (AG#166) and Millard Farm Griff (AG#167). Now residing in Warkworth, he has the honour of being one of the most northernmost entire Arapawa buckling/studs in New Zealand.

With one entire buck established in Invercargill and another lone buck living in Waipu (Northland), plus a further 50 stud bucks spread in between, the geographical spread of Arapawa bucks is healthier than it has been for some time. But we must not become complacent. While the geographical range of our gene pool appears to be increasingly more viable, the recent census clearly demonstrates the number of bucks available for stud is declining. It is only when you wonderful people establish and maintain satellite herds of the Arapawa goats, both stud bucks as well as does, that their chance of survival as a breed in domestication can continue.

The map overleaf shows the geological spread of Arapawa bucks available for stud in New Zealand ...

*"Bam Bam is a Happy wee Arapawa bubba Buck" says Kitt Wyatt, the proud new owner. "He is such a chirpy and adventurous fellow. He has been climbing onto the roof of his enclosure and frolicking around like legend. I will hopefully find a young doe for him in the next cycle."*

# Geographical Distribution of Arapawa Bucks in Domestication



## Transporting our goats around NZ

While it is convenient to use the stud buck living closest to the doe, to ensure a more appropriate mating it is sometimes necessary to go further afield. While taking the doe to the buck, or vice-versa, is usually best done in your own vehicle, this is sometimes not the cheapest or most practical solution. With Morley's currently not transporting the goats, several members have successfully used alternative pet carriers:

The size of the cage we took on the Interislander was 760L x 480W x 530H, which comfortably housed a 3 month old buckling. As a guide, an adult goat needs a cage that is a minimum size of 900L x 760H x 680W.

**Cool Critters Cartage:** <http://coolcritterscartage.webs.com/price-list>

Ph: 027 270 5454

Cool Critters Cartage Ltd concentrates on Pet and Small Animal Cartage from Bluff in the South Island to Manakau in the North, with all areas in between. They are not a Door-to-door service, having set pickup/drop-off points for the journey but this can vary according to their bookings. They have a 3 weekly schedule and an air-conditioned van that is set up for all small animal needs. And yes, they will transport our goats, providing you tell them the size of your goat so they can arrange the appropriate sized cage. Note: while all animals are fed and watered twice daily, and checked at each drop off point on route and watered when needed, food must be provided for the animals in transit and the goats are required to come with a collar.

**The Pet Bus:** [www.petbus.co.nz/](http://www.petbus.co.nz/) [petbus@xtra.co.nz](mailto:petbus@xtra.co.nz) Ph: 027 332 1991

The Pet Bus' usual monthly run is from Auckland to Dunedin to Gore and back to Auckland. They also have a Northland courier who links up with the Pet Bus and will go as far as Northland. I used this service to send a buckling and mature doe from Masterton to Whangarei. I was impressed with the size of the cages in the truck and both goats arrived relatively stress free. The cost of transporting the goats on this service was \$120 each but you can expect to pay twice as much if you are transporting goats interisland (i.e. across on the ferry).

**PET MOVE:** Ph: 0508PETMOVE [karenmarkpetmove@gmail.com](mailto:karenmarkpetmove@gmail.com)

They move all animals via Air New Zealand. The cost depends on weight and destination: Based on a 30kg goat (this includes crate hire, flights and empty crate return), within island (north or south), any airport to airport, you can expect to pay \$432 (if one airport is Christchurch it is \$42 less as they are based there). Between islands any airport to airport the price is \$620 (if one airport is Christchurch it is \$42 less, again because they are based there). Note: Pet Move's standard big crate is 1020L x 760H x 680W which should cater for a standard size doe or young buck (without the huge horns of a mature buck).



## Arapawa goats in the USA - by Kimberly Olsen (biologist at Sedgwick County Zoo)

A local news station recently did a story on our Arapawa Goats!! The story focused more on the agility we do with them, and not the breed itself. But I thought I'd share the video with you, thought you'd enjoy it!! When we do our agility demo, one keeper is training and a second is talking with guests about the Arapawa breed. So although the story doesn't feature their breed, we do use it to educate our guests on Arapawas!!

Oh! And the goat, Mouse, featured in the video, is the granddaughter of Yellow Tag!! (Two lots of Yellow tag's semen was sent to the USA via NZ Rare Breeds Gene Bank in an attempt to increase their genepool. Clearly successful!) Thought you'd appreciate that genealogy tid bit! I know videos can be weird in different countries, so hopefully the link works!



Painting by Mouse

<http://ksn.com/2017/03/14/segwick-co-goat-shows-off-skills-goes-through-tunnels-jumps-hurdles/>

Also, kidding season has begun for us!! We have 2 males and 2 females so far! Pictures are attached! One is completely black! Have you ever heard of that before? We hadn't. We also had one doe (who has a history of being a fantastic mom) give birth to 2 stillborns. So we are mourning their loss, but rejoicing with the 4 we have so far, and praying our last 3 does have smooth births and healthy babies!! (We have 3 more pregnant does on loan at the Kansas City Zoo, but have not heard yet if any of them have given birth).



*Alison: Some of you may recall an earlier newsletter when I mentioned Kimberly coming to NZ. We visited Arapawa Island together and Kimberly kindly gave me a painting done by Mouse. As for their gorgeous little black kid, while relatively rare, solid black or solid dark brown colouring where the badger markings are not visible was observed on Arapawa Island by two scientists (Asher & Clarke) in 1977. "The majority of the goats observed were of a dark brown, tan, or white colouring, with black markings on the face, shoulder and/or dorsal (along the back) ridge. Their coat pattern was combined with distinctive facial markings of a brown, black or white stripe extending from the ears, over the eyes and to the muzzle, with a correspondingly coloured chin and throat. Some of the Arapawa goats sported pure dark brown or black coats with no distinctive facial markings." (Sutherland 2016. No Ordinary Goat, pp 113-114).*





## How we became involved with the Arapawa goats

By Jane Adcock

It was the article back in 2014 about Diane Kelly and her rare breeds, with the photo of Patsy and her triplets (including Curly), that made me decide that if we ever had goats they would be Arapawa goats. [The article referred to was in *THE PRESS*, Christchurch, Friday, September 26, 2014, page 11. 'Property a haven for rare breeds']. I kept the article and now, over 2 years later, I still can't quite believe that we actually own one of those very same triplets and have the daughter of another of them - I guess it was all meant to be and we're loving having them. The other thing that was a pleasant surprise, was that considering there aren't that many Arapawa breeders in Christchurch we couldn't believe our luck when we discovered that another Arapawa goat owner lives very close to us and is only a couple of hundred metres from the school I teach at. When we arrived to look at her goats and without my having said a word to her about my copy of the article, she had the very same article in her hand ready to share with us."

All our dealings to date with the Arapawa goat "group" have been so friendly and positive. After unsuccessfully trying to locate Diane Kelly initially, we then got Michael Trotter's contact details off the Directory of Rare Breeds website and he was more than happy to let us meet our first Arapawa goats face-to-face. Since then you have been so very helpful and Heather has been simply wonderful; giving us advice and hay as well as keeping in contact with us to see if all is well. She has even loaned me a couple of books to read and has gifted me my own signed copy of "Arapawa - Once Upon an Island" by Betty Rowe which I have now read from cover to cover.

The doe in the article's photo is Tutukinoa Patsy (AG 50; *now deceased*). The kid on the left of the article's photo of the triplets is Homefarm Curly (AG179). On the right is a photo of Curly now, with her latest kid behind her.



Photo of Jane with her Arapawa goats

## Arapawa goats at Masterton's A&P Show

Well I am not one for shows, but as I mentioned in the previous newsletter, the opportunity arose to put up a tent at the Masterton A&P Show, held at the Solway Grounds on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017. I went to work and designed some posters and banners that illustrated the Arapawa goat story. Having gone to all this trouble, I refused to be put off by the dismal weather. As the rain bucketed down, I erected the newly acquired pop-up tent and put on a display that, notwithstanding my initial hesitation, included two little wethered bucklings nestled in a cage. Despite the pouring rain, my two little boys (Blaze and Wally) and I were kept busy (that's them in a cage at the back of the tent on the right). The kids soon learnt that if they gave a little bleat, passers-by would come over to chat to them and give them an animal nut from the jar I had on the table (rations were one nut per kid per child). The posters and banners created a forum for questions from the public, and the time flew by. So now I am prepared and just waiting for another opportunity to raise awareness of the existence of New Zealand's Arapawa goats.



If anyone else wants to give this a go, I would be delighted to share pdf files of the posters and banners. Printed through Vistaprint, I found them quite affordable, the quality was acceptable and they arrived in time as promised.

## Q & A

### Q. What breeding line should I use?

I am very keen to get some more does but am unsure what to look for in the breeding lines? I wondered if you may be able to guide me as to suitable breeding in the future, either with our own buck or a buck from someone nearby.

A. *This is where the Registry is particularly useful. Because the initial herds in domestication were interrelated, it is very difficult to avoid line breeding to some extent. However, given the rescue of the 9 goats off Arapawa Island in 2013, we have been able to inject some variety into the genepool. Six of the 9 rescued goats survived and their progeny are slowly being distributed around New Zealand, thus providing opportunities for introducing new genes into your herd. The Google Earth map of Arapawa Island below illustrates where Betty Rowe's home was, where the Wildlife Sanctuary was established, and where the rescued goats were captured by DOC's hunters:*



- 1 - Rowe's home
- 2 - Wildlife Sanctuary
- 3 - Island Girl (#105) & Island Babe (#103)
- 4 - Frank (#106) & Phil (#107)
- 5 - Sarah (#110)
- 6 - Roy (#108)

- *When selecting a buck for a doe, first check the parentage of both. If either has a parent in common, do not go ahead with the planned mating. If there is no common parent, check the grandparents of both the doe and the selected buck. If there is **more than one common grandparent**, or a parent and grandparent are the same, then look for a different buck.*
- *Sometimes related goats will inadvertently mate. If this happens you should still register the kids, but ensure there is no direct relationship between these offspring and any potential mate.*



**Q. I see dk on the register - does that mean unknown?**

A. *DK or dk does stand for 'don't know'. This is used when we know the offspring is pure Arapawa but we are unsure of the parentage, usually when bucks and does are running together (e.g. on Arapawa Island or on some properties where the goats are used for weed control and there are no other breeds of goats nearby). Sometimes a doe inadvertently gets into the paddock with several bucks, or bucks are found in the paddock with the does – but again they are purebred Arapawa goats. To make it clearer, an alternative term introduced on the Registry is 'farm herd'. This is when Arapawa does and bucks are deliberately run together and the parentage is difficult, if not impossible, to determine.*

**Q. Are they mating?**

For the last 3 weeks we have been watching our young buck to see if we spot a mating, but haven't as yet. So far he has only been interested in one doe continuously. So daily, usually in the morning and the evening, he chases her round and round for half an hour or so. She appears to hide in corners sometimes, and other times she stops along a wall. He puts his head over her back about her shoulders and nudges her a bit but then doesn't seem to do any more. She usually takes off again and then things stop after about the half hour mark. Is this usual behaviour and perhaps she isn't ready yet and he knows it? None of the other does seem interested in him either, and vice versa. I was just wondering if young bucks need a bit of old buck advice, or they just know what to do instinctively and it will happen? I'm assuming this is the beginning of the mating season which will probably last for 4-5 months. The does certainly have not been having any noticeable heats for the last 5 months or so.

A. *It sounds like he is 'in love/lust' with the one doe which is evidence that he has the inclination. The other evidence that he is in 'rut' is the smell which is unmistakeable. It's caused by the buck spraying urine all over himself, including into his mouth. On average, the does tend to cycle every 3 weeks and will stay on heat for 1-2 days. Where other breeds of goats have a 'season' which starts in the Autumn and slows down in the Winter, my Arapawa does' season starts in February, goes strong for a couple of months and then becomes intermittent, dependant on the presence of a buck. It is quite possible that your boy has already mated with the other does (yep, sometimes we miss the action as it is so quick!) and is trying to stimulate one girl into being receptive. I wouldn't worry about him, clearly this is a buck who knows what's what. And don't worry about teaching him the behaviour – nature has a way of stimulating the interest. One thing is certain, time will tell. You have a few months of wondering ahead. It takes 5 months until the does are full term, and I have sometimes wondered if a doe is really pregnant up until the last few weeks.*

**Q. Does anyone know what the best thing is for combating scours? My 3yr old doe seems to have developed it.**

A. *Get the fluids into her (**WARM** water, glucose and a **PINCH** of salt) as well as 30 mls of BioBrew a.s.a.p. to replace lost minerals. If she hasn't been drenched in recent months, give that a go. Take a sample of her poo to the vet and ask them to test for worm burden and coccidiosis.*

**Q. Is my goat an Arapawa?**

I adopted a little goat from the SPCA. She has very limited background information other than she was owned previously by someone who kept various types of goats. She has markings of a possible Arapawa goat. Is there a way to get her genetically identified and what would the likely cost be? Attached is a photo of her, we have no name for her yet. We already own an Arapawa and have an interest in helping the breeding programme along in time. Just wondered if this little goat might have the genetic material?

A. *From the photo I can certainly see why you think she might be an Arapawa goat. When we established the Arapawa goat Association, given the number of feral goats in the Marlborough Sounds area (the whalers had taken them from Arapawa Island in the early 1800s and put them on the mainland), we had to determine a criteria for what is the 'Arapawa' goat. After much thought, it was agreed that any goat registered had to be traced back to the Island and meet the physical characteristics of the Arapawa Goat. (These characteristics can be read on the [www.arapawagoat.com](http://www.arapawagoat.com) website). While your beautiful girl certainly appears to have the physical characteristics, sadly, we cannot register her without knowing her parentage or being able to connect her in some way to Arapawa Island. You raise an interesting question about the DNA. Incomplete DNA studies were conducted some years ago which would not be of much help. However, we are now in the process of arranging more comprehensive testing that could help us to identify goats that are, in fact, Arapawa goats.*

**Q. I'd like to know if anyone has a good treatment for arthritis in goats.**

Andrea Gauland responded to this question: *"Feed willow. The bark is the same as salicylic acid - that's the active ingredient in aspirin, and it helps with pain. You can also offer the goat any of the artemisia family, as all have anti-inflammatory qualities, but wormwood, mugwort and southernwood are the most potent, from what I have read. We have all three growing here for the goats, and we use wormwood tea ourselves for pain and insomnia (it's VERY strong and bitter, but lots of honey helps to make it palatable for us people). I find if the goats really need it, they will eat it, otherwise they will ignore it."*

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The next NZAGA newsletter is due in August; articles, photos and questions welcome

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