

NZAGA Newsletter

NZ Arapawa Goat Association May 2016, Issue 6



From the Editor

Hello again everyone. How quickly 3 months goes by and how much can happen in such a short time. Since the previous newsletter I have been privileged to meet a young woman who is the caregiver of Arapawa goats in a children's zoo in the USA, and to gain an opportunity to visit the Arapawa Wildlife Sanctuary – the details are in the article 'Pilgrimage to Arapawa Island'.

Mindful that the Arapawa goats are a rare and endangered breed, I acknowledge the wonderful work of the 'Rare Breeds Conservational Society of NZ'. I joined this organisation before establishing the NZAGA and am grateful for the ongoing support and advice through its members and informative website: <http://www.rarebreeds.co.nz/>. This year, the AGM for the Rare Breeds Conservation Society is to be held at Staglands Wildlife Reserve in Akatarara, Upper Hutt, on the weekend 14th-15th May. All NZAGA members are welcome, however if you wish to vote, you will need to join the Rare Breeds Society which is \$40 pa for an individual or \$55 for two people sharing the same address (more details re. joining are on page 4). The Agenda for the AGM is overleaf. Please contact Molly directly (Phone 04 526 7529 or Staglands wildlife@staglands.co.nz; www.staglands.co.nz) if you plan to attend the dinner and/or wish to book overnight accommodation. Alan and I will be there on the Saturday and would love to catch up with you. Incidentally, 'Staglands' have their own herd of Arapawa goats. Their founding bucks and does were rescued directly from Arapawa Island by DoC's hunters in February 2013; ordinarily they would have been shot as part of the annual cull.

Thank you to those people who have shared their stories, ideas and questions so that we might better nurture the Arapawa goats that are being raised in domestication.

Alison Sutherland
alison@xtra.co.nz
021 2015 007

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*Welcome home
Millard Farm Anzac*



A special invitation to the members of the NZAGA to

Join the Rare Breeds Conservation Society of New Zealand (RBCS)

<http://www.rarebreeds.co.nz/>

Benefits to NZAGA members of joining the Society:

- Actively participating with others in saving our rare breeds.
- Free Buy and Sell advertisements on Webmart.
- Free listings in the Breeders Directory.
- A quarterly magazine, *Rare Breeds NewZ*.
- 33% discount on webpage/website design and hosting.
- Annual Conference/AGM.
- Advice on obtaining and looking after Rare Breeds of livestock.
- Contact with others with similar aims and interests.
- You will be helping to conserve genetic diversity in livestock.

If you would like to join the Rare Breeds Conservation Society – fill in the [On-line Membership Application](#), and transfer the appropriate subscription fee (\$NZ40 for individual membership, \$NZ55 for joint) to the Society's bank account:

03 1355 0685162 00

SUBSCRIPTION:

Individual – \$NZ40 per annum; **Joint** (two members at one address sharing the quarterly publication *Rare Breeds NewZ*) – \$NZ55 per annum;
Overseas – \$NZ50 and \$NZ65 respectively

ALTERNATIVELY: You can download a [Membership Application Form](#) which you can print out, fill in, and send to us, together with the appropriate subscription fee,

OR: Write to us at **Rare Breeds Conservation Society, P O Box 20 116, Bishopdale, CHRISTCHURCH 8543 (New Zealand)**, or send a message to the [Webmaster](#), and we will post you an application form to fill in and return with your subscription. (*Please do not ask for a form to be posted unless you really intend to join.*)

PLEASE NOTE: If you wish to have your contact details listed in the Rare Breeds website Directory, please fill in the [Breeders Directory Listing](#) form after you have joined.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
RARE BREEDS CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND**

STAGLANDS WILDLIFE RESERVE
2362 AKATARAWA ROAD, UPPER HUTT

Saturday & Sunday, 14th – 15th May 2016

Saturday's Agenda



Sunday's Agenda



All members of the NZAGA are invited to attend

AGM Weekend 14 – 15 May 2016

A big thank you to Staglands Wildlife Reserve for hosting and organising the combined Rare Breeds Conservation Society and Kune Kune Association AGM weekend this year – they have supplied all the details you need below and the official programme over the page. Keep an eye on the website for updates. We look forward to seeing you there.

Dinner on Saturday night – at Staglands, two course meal \$25 per head, please advise the number attending by **10 May 2016** by contacting the Secretary secretary@rarebreeds.co.nz (or see contact details in the back of the Rare Breeds NewZ), with payment made to the Rare Breeds Conservation Society of NZ, preferably by direct credit/deposit to bank account **03 1355 0685162 00**

Accommodation Recommendation –

Special rates are available for the AGM weekend, contact Staglands on (04) 526 7529 to book:

Wellesley Country Park	4 Bedroom House \$240 Cabins w Linen \$25 Dorm Bunks \$18 Units w ensuite \$120	2120 Akatarawa Road Upper Hutt	04 526 7524 www.wellesleycountrypark.co.nz	2 km
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Other useful information:

When booking accommodation please note that Staglands Wildlife Reserve's address is -

2362 Akatarawa Rd

RD2

Upper Hutt 5372

Please also note that we do not have any public transport to and from the reserve, you will need to arrange your own daily transport.

Suggested Activities Directory

The following activities are recommended if you arrive on the Friday or depart late on the Sunday.

Close Activities

- Efil Doog - Garden of Art Eco Park - is an eleven acre garden and sculpture park situated in the beautiful Akatarawa Valley.
 - Ph 04 568 5824 for opening hours.

Kapiti Coast

- Waikanae River Walk
- Visit Nga Manu Nature Reserve
 - www.ngamanu.co.nz
- Southwards Car Museum
 - www.southwardcarmuseum.co.nz
- For art lovers Waikanae's Artel Gallery and Mahara Gallery are a must see
 - www.artelgallery.net
- For craft beer lovers...take a tour of Tuatara Brewery
 - www.tuatarabrewing.co.nz

Hutt Valley

- For those with an interest in craft beer...Upper Hutt has two award winning brewery's. Visit their web sites for opening hours:
 - www.kererubrewing.co.nz
 - www.panhead.co.nz
- Wellington Poultry Show – to be hosted by the recreation center, Upper Hutt exhibition space, 836 Fergusson Drive, Upper Hutt.
 - www.wellingtonpoultry.com

Arapawa Goats' Update

Update on Peppercorn, Willis, Chellie & Mila - from their owner, Mara Davison of Blenheim

Peppercorn continues to be the love of my life and is so confident and bossy with the other goats ... not me. She comes for a slice of Vogel's bread or fruit loaf each day she won't eat other bread makes! Peppercorn follows me everywhere and sits on the deck waiting for me until I come out, she walks into the house to inspect all the rooms and then trots back out. Her best mate is Cinnamon, a wild rescued goat I got from the SPCA. They are never apart and

keep themselves separate from the other goats choosing to walk with me at the back of the train of goats that I walk along the tracks every day. She is gorgeous and she thinks that she is bigger than she really is! I really do love her. 😊



The buck below is Willis, the goat I acquired from David Hughes. He lives next to the girls in a paddock he shares with two KuneKune pigs that he sleeps with at night, all curled up together in their little house. He really is a handsome boy and very gentle. I will possibly breed Peppercorn with him next spring.



The two Arapawa does on the right are Chellie and Mila. I bought them from Michelle Green. I may eventually let them have kids with Willis too.



Peppercorn

Millard Farm Peppercorn (AG172) is the offspring of Island Girl of Arapawa Island (AG105) and the late Tutukinoa Dobby (AG002).



Members may recall an article in the August 2015 newsletter describing this tiny little black nymph (initially mistaken for a lump of poo) rejected by her mother in favour of her very sturdy brother, Sultan.



Mara Davison

Pilgrimage to Arapawa Island

Such an adventure!

Alison and Alan Sutherland

Totally unexpected, I received an email from one of the Manager's at the Sedgwick County Zoo in the USA. A young biologist, the keeper of their small herd of Arapawa goats in the children's section of the zoo, was on her O.E. with a couple of friends; could she visit Arapawa Island to see the goats in the wild? Slightly amused, I replied that it wasn't quite as simple as just 'dropping in' while driving past the Island. Unperturbed, she put me in contact with Kimberly Olsen and so the arrangements were made for us to meet in Wellington on 8th March 2016 on board the 9 am sailing of the Picton Interislander Ferry. This was to be a day trip as the girls were booked in at Kaikoura for the night. Alan and I met up with Kimberly and her friends Amy and Sarah; they were just delightful young women and wanted to know everything about Arapawa Island and the goats. The first thing we learnt about them was that they are from Kanzas which is completely flat and 12 hours from the nearest ocean. Sailing Cook Strait was to be part of their adventure as they had no idea what this 'ferry' or the crossing would be like.



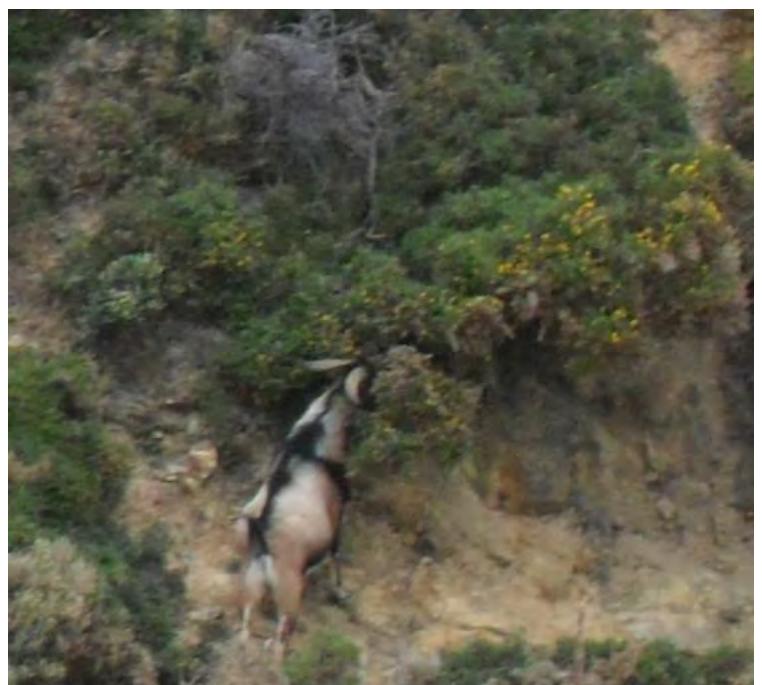
At Picton we separated from Sarah and Amy and met up with Takutai Beech. Takutai drove us to Waikawa Bay where we were introduced to her husband, Peter (passionate about the environment, he is the 'Guardian of the Sounds'). Al and I feel so privileged to meet this wonderful, genuine couple. They have been very close friends with Betty and Walt Rowe; Peter built Betty's coffin and was involved in scattering her ashes where she would have wanted to be – at home on Arapawa Island with her beloved goats. We climbed on board their boat 'Tutanekai'. The "Tut" is a 90 year old kauri hulled launch and cruises at 9 knots, taking about 1 hr 45 mins to get down to East Bay, which is on the western side of Arapawa Island and is where the Wildlife Sanctuary is situated. Peter and Takutai run a small 'Myths & Legends' Eco-tours business; the hours spent on Tut were

filled with the rich history and stories that surround Arapawa Island. As we entered the gap between Pickersgill and Arapawa Islands, the excitement of 'goat spotting' began. We had already seen four feral goats on the mainland, but it was the Arapawa goats we had come to see. The Tut took us into the bays and close to the shore of Arapawa Island, but there was no sign of a goat. As we immersed ourselves in the friendly, relaxed companionship, partaking of kai, conversation and goat spotting, I couldn't help but compare this experience with the more formal tourist excursion



I took several weeks previously to Queen Charlotte's Sound. This was not a tour, it was a priceless experience; a pilgrimage really. We approached the jetty at Lily Valley (where the Wildlife Sanctuary is), took photographs under Betty and Walt's sign, and stepped into the past. There is an aura about this small place of history; a sadness. I felt as if I were entering a cathedral and should only speak in whispers. Perhaps the others felt the same as we were all very quiet and stepped lightly through the scrub and loose rocks. Goats and horses had left their mark. Suddenly, a tan coloured doe jumped out of the bush and scampered away up the crumbling hill. She bleated once; Kimberly and Peter followed her trail but couldn't find her. There was no more sign of goats at the sanctuary and it was time to return home. A little disappointed, but nevertheless gratified with the whole experience, we settled down for the slow voyage back to Picton. But we hadn't allowed for the energy of this spiritual place. As we exited East Bay, there on the rocky shore of Arapawa Island were a group of eight stunning goats browsing on the vegetation. Bucks and does roamed together. The most magnificent of all was a mature buck prominently displaying the 'Jerusalem Cross' that Betty had spoken of, where the dorsal stripe was crossed with the bold shoulder colouring; so distinctive and so rarely found, even on New Zealand's Arapawa goat. Kimberley and I tripped over each other as we took photos of these beautiful, endangered animals. If ever I wanted a more powerful camera, this was the moment!

The summer cull is over and the remaining goats are alive and free to roam in relative safety, at least for a little while. For Kimberley, Alan and I, this was more than an adventure, it was a pilgrimage that connected the feral goats of Arapawa Island to our domesticated Arapawa goats back home. Priceless.



The photos on the next page were also taken from 'Tut' during our pilgrimage to Arapawa Island.



USA update

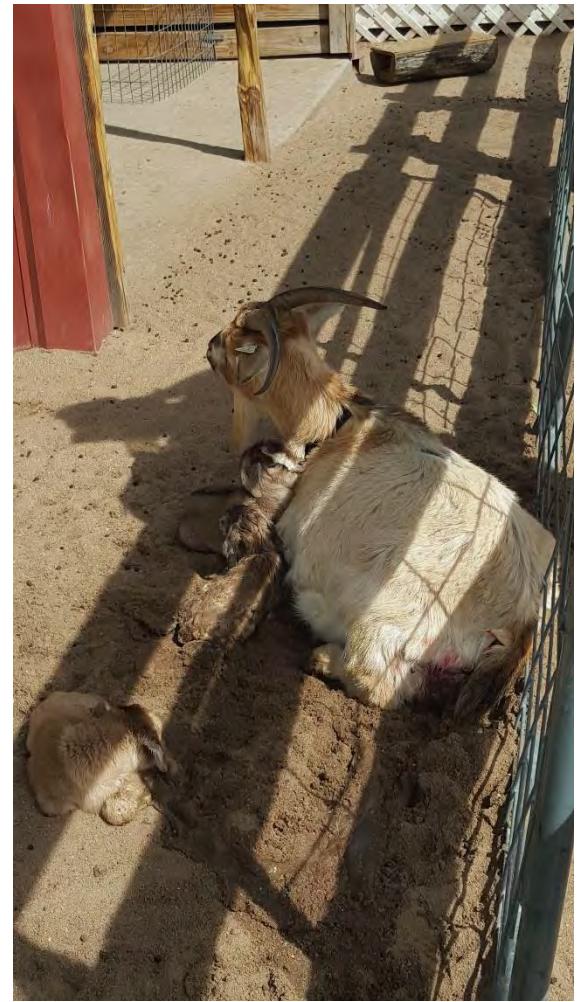
Communicating with Kimberley via email, then meeting her in person was a wonderful experience. Not only did her visit offer me another opportunity to go to Arapawa Island to see the Arapawa goats in their natural habitat, but it also provided me an opportunity to learn about the Arapawa goats in the USA.

In 1993 a founding herd of Arapawa goats, 3 bucks and 3 does of unknown parentage, was exported to a living museum - Plimoth Plantation - in Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA. Their genetic lineage was crossed and recrossed, growing to 10 small herds spreading across the USA from Massachusetts to Oregon. Concerned with the limited gene pool, in 2006 an Oregon breeder travelled to New Zealand and arranged for semen to be from 5 bucks belonging to David Hughes. Since then the Arapawa goat breed in the USA has thrived. Readers can see the numbers and names of the purebred goats registered via the [arapawagoat .com](http://www.arapawagoat.com) website, or directly:

<http://www.arapawagoat.org/sites/default/files/ArapawaGoatRegistry2016-01-01.pdf>

Kimberley's small herd in Wichita, Kansas is part of the Children's Farm area that showcases rare heritage breeds of livestock. It was evident from Kimberley's comments that these are much loved animals, nurtured and valued. On her return home, Kimberley sent me the following email:

"Today was my first day back after my trip and to welcome me back Kipper, one of our Arapawas had triplets! My boss said our Arapawas have only had twins once before a long time ago. 2 boys and one girl, all good weights and nursing! We are very excited! The pictures attached are of Kipper and the kids, and their sire Rob. Thought I would share the joy with you!"



Nope, Rob's not dead; he's just sleeping! And is that a Jerusalem Cross I see on his back?

Given Kimberley's knowledge and role at the zoo, which includes caregiver of the Arapawa goats, I asked her about the state of the health of the other herds throughout the USA. I thought her response would be of interest to breeders and other members of the NZAGA:

"I can only speak for our herd, but all our kids are doing great! We had triplets for the first time in 15-20 years (Callene said it had been a long time since we last had triplets) and they're all doing great! One of our does (Frogger) had something happen to her udder last year where she only produces milk out of one side, the other is completely hard (the vets couldn't agree on what was wrong), but last year she successfully raised both kids with just the one udder and is doing a great job so far this year. We weigh them regularly to make sure they're gaining weight, and so far they're growing like champs! The only health problem we've had with our herd is one female (Kelly) has had to have a C-section the last 2 times she was pregnant and both times they were still born. We no longer breed her for her safety, but we did try an embryo transplant with one of our Nigerian Dwarf Goats (she is large for a NDG so she could handle the slightly larger babies, and she has been a very successful mom), but it didn't work. We are hoping to try again this fall. We want to keep Kelly's genetics going! One of our 3 bucks (Ben) randomly went infertile 3 years ago (we have no idea what happened), we have a female (Heather) that has never bred, but other than that, our herd is doing great! We had 6 does breed this last year (for a total of 11 kids, 6 male, 5 female), the other 5 were too young, so we are very pleased with our herd, their health and their abilities as mothers! Callene was actually contacted this last week by the Oklahoma City Zoo (3 hours south of us) about getting a couple of does. They aren't interested in breeding at this time (they do not have the room to house a buck), but we've talked about breeding the does first and then sending them to them. As of now there are only 3 zoos that have Arapawas, us, the Philadelphia Zoo and Animal Kingdom in Disney Land (as far as I know, they only have females and don't breed), the rest are privately owned. So we are excited to potentially get another zoo on board so we can get the word out to the public about these amazing goats!"

Developing satellite herds around the world ensures the Arapawa goats will survive, despite biosecurity threats such as Foot & Mouth, and eradication culls by determined bureaucratic officials (although I understand this is less of a threat currently; the culls are controlling numbers on the reserve rather than seeking to exterminate the breed). It has also been an interesting experiment – seeing the population of goats grow with a foundation herd of only 6; it was about this number left by Captains' Cook and Clerke in Queen Charlotte Sound.

Of interest to those establishing a children's petting-type zoo, Kimberley told me that one of their does 'Mouse' has been trained to paint, and she loves it. Her paintings are sold to the general public as a way to gain funding to improve the goat's environment. While personally I'm not a big fan of zoos for Arapawa goats, I appreciate the reasoning behind the establishment of heritage parks and was very moved to receive one of these colourful masterpieces.



A special offer to members of the NZAGA

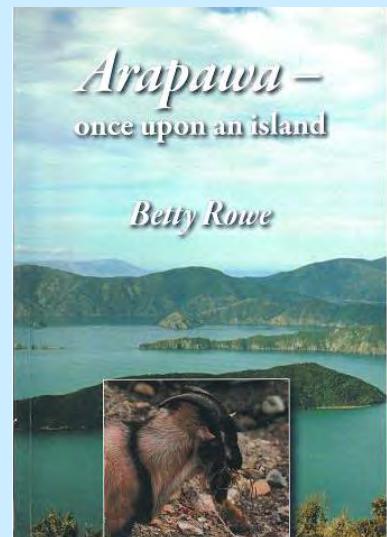
The Rowe family have kindly agreed to a special deal of Betty's book to owners, breeders and enthusiasts of Arapawa goats.

\$25 per book with GST and postage included

All proceeds from Betty's book go to the Wildlife Sanctuary on Arapawa Island.

To place an order, contact Mitch & Debbie Rowe:

d-m.rowe@xtra.co.nz



Arapawa goats in the media

Sharon and Glenn from Levin have written an article about their Arapawa goats. It has been published in the 16th April Issue of the Manawatu Farming lifestyle magazine. Here's the link:

https://issuu.com/nsmm/docs/mfl_apr_16

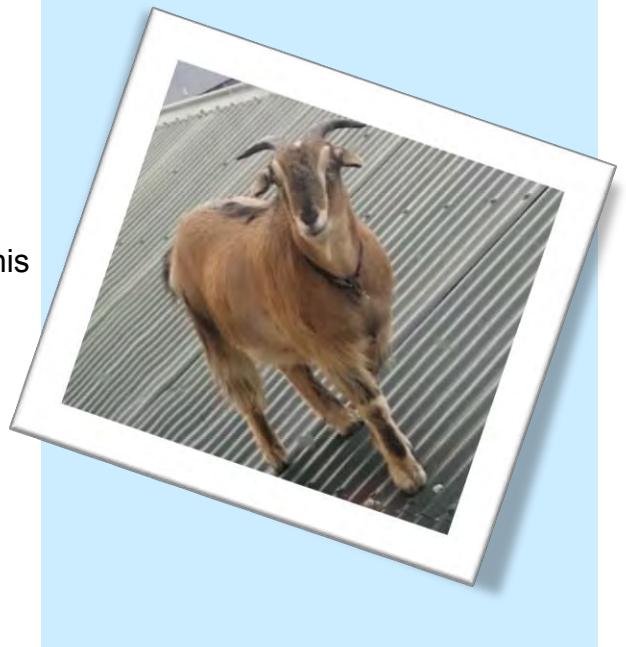


Is Kevin an Arapawa goat?

Diane Blair has brought our attention to an article in the Sunday Star Times, 6th February 2016. "Kevin the goat terrorises neighbours". There has been no claim of him being purebred, and there's no 'Kevin' on the registry, so this offender can't be one of ours. Still it's a good story, and what a goat!

Here's the link if you want to read the gruesome details:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/oddstuff/76627048/kevin-the-goat-terrorises-neighbours>



The ones that got away

A new member of the NZAGA has shared this story so that others may learn from her misfortune. She prefers not to be named, or for the breeder to be identified. This was no one's fault, it is part of the learning curve as we all work together to bring the once feral Arapawa goats into domestication, ensuring a greater chance of survival for these beautiful animals.

"We arranged to buy four does and have them delivered by the owners.

We prepared a paddock of about an acre with new fences of sheep netting, then a barb wire and above that an electric wire which made the fence height about 1.1mtr high. We were told that the does currently lived behind sheep netting and were 'ok' with people.

They were freighted for 5 hours in the back of a ute and arrived here late in the afternoon. One of the does was removed from the vehicle and a demonstration of hoof trimming was done and then she was released, and then the others were let out. They all bolted away to the furthest corner of the paddock and we thought it was best to leave them to settle down. Before the previous owners left, about 15 mins later 2 of the does had already escaped out of the paddock. The two remaining does did not want us anywhere near them and would not approach the shelter at all.

Assuming the first 2 had escaped over the fence we spent a number of hours in the dark adding height to the area they had originally run to. We left the remaining 2 does overnight and during the night it rained so in the morning they were wet and cold.

We attempted to quietly encourage them into a pen so we could move them into the shelter but during that process one of the does knelt down and forced herself through the netting and escaped before we could grab her. This was through the bottom of the sheep netting where the wires are closer than at the top so the gap was very small.

I think the main problem was that the does had not really had any one-on-one human time and were not 'ok' with people at all. If we had known this we would have released them directly into the shelter for some quiet time and perhaps then it would have been more obvious just how unsettled they were with people. They were probably also rather traumatised by their trip."

The lesson we can all learn from this experience is to always contain animals when they are first introduced to your property. Even if they are considered friendly, you are a stranger to them.

No matter how settled the newcomer appears, isolate him/her from the rest of the herd, giving time to adjust to the new surroundings.

STOP PRESS

One of the escaping does has returned to the paddock.

Paddock Size

Unlike the goats on the Island, Arapawa goats in domestication do not require a lot of space. In relation to the story above; 'The ones that got away', Andrea Gauland advises that "an acre paddock is still too large in our experience, especially with Arapawas. They can stay far enough away that they never get used to being handled or being near people."

As a rule of thumb, the research recommends 6 to 12 goats per acre (depending on the size of the goats). We have found a one acre paddock, divided into smaller paddocks to enable rotational browsing, quite adequate; this has since grown to two acres for the goats. Because goats are browsers, not grazers, we put a couple of calves or steers into the goat paddocks to clean up the grass and discarded hay; goats don't eat food that's been on the ground. They also need trees and bush for minerals – our forage forest has reached the stage where we pick branches and leaves and throw them into the goat paddocks. They love it!

We also set the gates up as temporary holding pens for when we want to drench or vaccinate. Simply entice the goat into a corner with animal nuts, then close the gate so that it holds the animal secure.



Introducing bucks

Having lost our Dobby to pneumonia, we thought we would never again have a stud buck on Millard Farm. Then one day I saw a young buck advertised on Trade Me; it was our Sultan – an absolutely stunning boy I had been reluctant to let go. So Sultan came home, accompanied by Millard Farm Meadow, the very first kid born to our Maana and Dobby. A few weeks later I was contacted by a woman who had purchased another little buckling from me – Anzac had grown and was making himself a nuisance around the neighbourhood. Would I advertise him in the next newsletter? Another beautiful entire buck, and the only registered progeny of an elderly doe I had inherited, loved and lost soon after Anzac was weaned. So Anzac came home too. Both boys were reintegrated onto the property in separate paddocks, each with a doe or two for company. Both were very happy chappies with neither showing interest in escaping over, under or through the fences. Then it came time to separate the boys from the girls. The boys would have to share a paddock. Never having done this before, it was a bit of trial and error. The process I used to achieve this, and the mistakes I made, is illustrated below. But **first** - remove the does to another paddock/area, preferably where the boys can't see them (mind you, my girls in the neighbouring paddock were fascinated; it made great entertainment for them).

Step 1: Let them become acquainted through the fence over several days.



Step 2:

Open the gate, having one buck on each side (**keep out of the way!**).



Step 3:

Hope your gate is strong enough as the boys fight it out.

Step 4:

They will leave the safety of the gate; make sure there is room for them to get away from each other. **Stay well clear.**



Step 5:

It can get very nasty. At this point Sultan's horns got caught in Anzac's collar and Alan and I had to intervene.

Lesson learnt: **remove collars first!**



Step 6:

We have a winner. Sultan is to be the dominant buck.

Hierarchy established; the boys today.



Historical purpose for goats

While researching for the upcoming book on Arapawa goats, I came across 'The book of Goats', written by Holmes-Pegler in 1909. While not relevant to the book I am writing, there was some interesting information on the 'uses of goats' that I thought others might be interested in. This is a précis:

Goats' Hair. The hair of the common varieties is manufactured into a strong though coarse kind of fabric, and worn as garments by the peasantry. That of the shaggy kinds, especially the males, is employed for making barristers' and judges' wigs. It is also excellent for ropes that are to be used in water, as they last considerably longer than those made with hemp. Many goats have a very fine fleece, which has long been employed for articles of dress, such as gloves, stockings, etc., and is highly valued. Some of this wool was woven with silk into a very beautiful shawl, the texture of which was greatly admired.

He-Goats with Horses. Although unpleasant to the olfactory organs, this odour is by no means unhealthy, but rather the reverse with animals, especially with horses, on which it is supposed to act as a preventive against the staggers. For this reason he-goats are mostly kept by innkeepers and persons having large stables. Numerous are the cases that have been cited to me at various times of the beneficial effect of keeping a he-goat amongst horses, but the following being specially fixed upon my memory I give it here : My informant was a large contractor who, having lost annually several horses by the staggers, was one day advised to try keeping a " billy." In despair he determined to give it a trial, and bought one. It turned out that for three or four years whilst the goat lived not a single death from the old enemy occurred, and thinking he had obliterated the disease once and for all from the premises and was safe for the future, he did not at once replace the animal. To his dismay, however, in less than six months another death occurred in his stables from the same disorder. He then lost no time in procuring a fresh goat, and no more horses died from this disease.

Preventing Abortion in Cattle. There is an old-fashioned and very prevalent idea that running a goat amongst cows is a preventive of abortion. Instances are numerous of the success of this practice. The following is one case amongst many of which I have personal knowledge. Mr. Sam Woodiwiss, breeds on his farm, amongst other stock, pedigree Red Polls. The farm proper, where the bulk of these cows are kept, is situated about half a mile from the house, whilst at the stud farm a few only are retained for domestic use. The goats are located in the latter establishment. Now, at the former, as at all his neighbours' farms, abortion is more or less prevalent, but amongst the cows kept at the stud no case has ever occurred during the nine or ten years that the place has been the present owner's property. It had always been my impression that it was the scent of the male goat which had the supposed quality in question until one day I chanced to meet a large

breeder and exhibitor of longhorn cattle a great believer in the utility of the goat as a preventive of abortion and he surprised me by saying it was always a **she-goat** that he had running with his herd. On one or two occasions when such a goat died and no other was available, abortion reappeared, but so long as a goat was there he was never troubled in that way. One of the theories advanced to account for this is that a goat pastured with cattle eats with impunity some kind of herb or grass which is the cause of abortion amongst cows, and if there be any truth in this it is easily understood that the sex of the goat is of no consideration

Goats and Dogs. Goats and dogs are not naturally amicable, but they are both sociable animals, and when reared together they enjoy each other's companionship and often become fast friends. I have kept several varieties of dogs, and most of them took kindly to the goats, but a Sussex spaniel I once possessed had a most extraordinary attachment to his caprine associates. A she-goat that was trained to draw a carriage was his particular favourite, probably on account of the rides she gave him. The moment the goat was harnessed this dog would jump into the vehicle and thoroughly enjoy the ride he obtained, keeping his seat no matter at what pace the goat was going.

The neutered buck. The castrated or neutered bucks are ideal as leaders of a flock of sheep. First train the young buck to follow a few of your commands and then put him in with the ewes (not rams!). They will bond with him and follow him as he follows your commands. Holmes-Pegler said two of these neutered goats have been seen to lead a flock of 2000 sheep, even across rivers.

We can't wait to try this! On Friday 29th April Meadow gave birth to two little bucks. Unless someone shows an interest in them as future stud bucks, we plan to wether them and train them to run with the few ewes we run on our property.



If a fence will hold water, it will hold a goat.

~ Old proverb

New goat house - Lesley Thomas

The house has a door at the rear which is down in the photos as the goats like to play chase and look out, it helps with cleaning but can be closed once the colder weather hits. There is a passage inside the front entry to limit the wind and the whole house is raised off the ground for ventilation and to avoid damp. They plan to add spouting which will feed in to a trough.



Q & A

Two of our little ones have got bad diarrhoea. I think it might be worms as we hadn't wormed the mums for a while due to them being pregnant. We have now wormed them all. We have also been trying to give them an electrolyte to try to stop dehydration. Have managed to get this in one dead easy (he just loves to drink it), I am struggling with the other one who seems weaker. Can you recommend anything to try to slow the diarrhoea and stop them getting dehydrated? How long after being wormed should they start getting better? Am going to contact the vet tomorrow if they still have dodgy bums but just wondered if there was anything you could recommend e.g. natural remedies as well as drugs

Diarrhoea in kids is a concern as they can go down very quickly. Ring your vet to determine if it is worms or Coccidiosis. If you don't want to pay for a vet visit, take a sample of the faeces and ask them to test it. Easy fixed if positive result but a killer if left. In the meantime, get 10 mls Bio Brew into them by syringing (minus the needle!) it directly into their mouth; this will replace any lost minerals. Best to syringe onto their tongue or up onto the roof of their mouth – NOT down their throat.

Can you let me know what you think are goat food treats besides fruit and veges and goat nuts? I'm planning on getting some crushed barley.

Crushed barley is all we use for goat treats, or whole barley, whichever they respond to the best. But fruit and vege is also good, as long as it's cut into small strips, rather than chunks, otherwise it can pose a choking hazard. (Andrea Gauland)

The next NZAGA newsletter is due in the first week of August. Articles, photographs, ideas, questions – all are appreciated.

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