

2025 BULL SALE HERD SIRES

While we know that there will be particular interest in Te Mania Rustler R300 sons (the exceptional Herd Sire that we purchased in 2022 for \$55,000 in partnership with Stokman Angus in Rotorua and Ardrossan Angus in Australia), we are really pleased with the way that all our Herd Sires are breeding strength and consistency throughout their male and female offspring.

- **Te Mania Rustler R300** (16 sons up for sale)
Strong early growth (200 WT in top 8%) backing off a bit at 600 WT and MAT WT being below breed average which is desirable. Top 20% for GL, a sharp all-rounder.
- **Fossil Creek Navigator N228** (7 sons up for sale)
Son of the renown 'Earnsclough Tussock', Navigator is Mr Reliability in every aspect. He sires well-muscled, good shouldered, deep bodied sons.
- **Clunie Range Plantation P392** (8 sons up for sale)
Sired by Baldrige Beast Mode with Thomas Up River genes from his Dam, used in both our E.T and A.I programmes, all progeny have eye appeal and data to match.
- **Fossil Creek Ripcurl R018** (6 sons up for sale)
A Black Loch crossed with Ibex - a stunning bull with a real presence.
- **Rockley Q7 Rocky** (5 sons up for sale)
Fantastic temperament and outstanding pedigree with Turihaua Centurian, Te Mania Powerhouse and Matauri Reality.
- **Fossil Creek Prophet P136** (6 sons up for sale)
Prophet's sire, Musgrave Stunner has been a consistent breeder with easy calving, explosive growth and strong package of carcass data - high carcass weight, fats and IMF.
- **Earnsclough Pisa Range** (6 sons up for sale)
A strong muscle pattern, great topline and outlook, Days to Calving, IMF and Fats EBVs. Sired by GDAR Regulator, one of the most reliable and consistent bulls to come out of the USA.
- **Te Mania Powerman** (6 sons up for sale)
TM Powerhouse and Kesslers Frontman bloodlines, a curvebender - exceptional calving ease yet strong growth from weaning to finishing, high IMF, Carcass Weight, and lower cow size.
- **Fossil Creek Shayer S258** (5 sons up for sale)
A Powerhouse son, sold to the Bell family of South Canterbury with his half-brother sold as a stud to Tangihaua Angus with a wealth of progeny now on the ground.
- **Fossil Creek Spirit S085** (6 sons up for sale)
A deep-chested Black Loch son with a good topline and a good balance of traits. Spirit was sold to the King family of Horarata, Canterbury.
- **Woodbank Woody 20107** (6 sons up for sale)
Bred in the hills of the Kaikoura range, Woody has crossed well, with all of his sons having a nice presence and strength.



The 80 sale bulls looking relaxed in the sunshine this week



What has really hit home for us is that it is important to not continually chase the latest headline herdsires and jump from one type of programme to the next. We feel that we have a very repeatable, consistent set of data and 'type' of bull coming through and will continue to fine tune our EBVs from a very strong base of good old-fashioned conformation, docility and structural soundness.

We look forward to catching up with you during May and June – remember if you are unable to make one of our Bull Walk days on May 14th and 29th or Auction Day on June 10th, then give us a call and we can show you around the bulls and hopefully around the rest of the farm at the same time.

Kind regards

Blair & Jane

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Jane & Blair, Charlotte, Henry and George



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AUTUMN APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

The positivity out there in the sheep and beef sector is uplifting. The demand for New Zealand's lean beef (even amongst tariffs and trade wars) is incredibly strong - and this, coupled with markedly lower interest rates and increasing lamb and mutton returns gives our sector the reliable returns that we need to underpin our businesses in the long term.

While the weather has been challenging in many parts of the country following a horrendous spring for many and crippling dry in parts of the country, many of these areas have had more favorable weather going into Autumn. Hard times are often followed by an opportunity to strip back your business and focus on the basics of what actually makes your farming business tick. Well-known accountant Pita Alexander has always said "the most boring parts of your business are the most profitable", the old mantra "Fed well, Bred well" comes to mind.

We really thrive off our Fossil Creek clients spending the time to identify what makes their beef herd tick and choosing the right bull for the job. Please remember that we can help you through this process - we live and breathe EBVs, bloodlines, genomics and structural assessment and so please put the pressure back on us to help you decipher the wood from the trees, this is literally our job.



BULL SALE – TUESDAY 10TH JUNE 2025

Our 2025 Bull Auction will again take place on the second Tuesday in June, with the auction at 2pm and bull inspection / lunch from 12 noon. There will be plenty of cheese rolls, soup and other rural fare so make sure you don't grab a pie on the way! Doug Brand, slow-cooked

25th ANNUAL ON FARM FOSSIL CREEK ANGUS BULL SALE

Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 2pm
434 Dunrobin Rd, Five Forks, North Otago

BULL WALK DAYS

Wednesday 14th May
& Thursday 29th May

1.00 - 4.00pm

Newhaven Farms
434 Dunrobin Rd
Five Forks

BBQ extraordinaire will be on site for a good 12 hours before the sale to ensure we have some slow basted red meat delights waiting for you immediately after the auction. We will be livestreaming our sale again this year on BIDR for those that can't make it to the sale. Please take the opportunity to attend one of our Bull Walk afternoons on Wednesday 14th May and Thursday 29th May, the bulls will be in their Lot numbers and it is a more relaxing time to do your homework on the bulls compared with on auction day. As usual, if the open days don't suit you then we are more than happy to show you around the bulls leading up to sale day, just give us a bell. We also love the opportunity to show you our in-calf Heifers and this year's crop of calves on the hill block (and the cows from a distance, who spend the late Autumn/Winter/ early Spring out in the back blocks). We will have our 2025 Bull Catalogue out to you in the mail in Mid-May, with the e-catalogue is always a week or so quicker than NZ Post so we will let you know when the catalogue is online via our website and Angus NZ. To be honest, we are bloody excited to present our 2025 R2 Bull line up for June 10th, including sons from Fossil Creek R018 Rip, Te Mania Rustler R300, Clunies Plantation and Fossil Creek Navigator N228 amongst others. At the risk of sounding like shiny car salesmen, we genuinely believe that we possibly have the strongest, most even, large lineup of bulls that we have ever had. When cataloguing them last week one comment was that the choice of selection for buyers will be outstanding. All bulls have been independently Structurally Assessed, Semen Tested, DNA Parentage tested and Genomically Tested through '50K' DNA testing. While these all come at a cost, these are all crucial, independent steps to ensuring that every bull that we put up for auction is rock solid.

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FOSSIL CREEK IN THE FIELD

After a challenging year weather wise in 2024, we seem to have started 2025 well with 200mm of rain since New Year (compared with 60mms this time last year) which is a bonus when our annual rainfall ranges between 350-750mm, averaging 550mm over time (if there is such a thing as an average year).

Pregnancy scanning is always a highlight of the Autumn, with our A.I programme (Dave Robertson of Oamaru Vet Centre), E.T programme (Reuben Brown and Jo Scott of Targeted Breeding) and natural mating all showing good, tight calving pattern results. Fetal-age scanning remains



Freshly weaned calf V256, March 2025.

a key cornerstone of our operation, we can't recommend it enough - not just for analysis of reproductive performance of both the dam and the sire, but it is an incredibly handy tool for allowing us to keep the cows right out in the back blocks up until their week of calving, saving the closer tussock blocks without them being eaten out before calving. With a late, cold Spring and a short growing season this is very handy.

The 360 weaned calves are looking good and they've had a pleasant surprise to have plenty of tucker on hand amongst the tussocks, unlike the last couple of Autumns. We are seeing some exceptional calves coming through and we look forward to presenting these at our 2026 sale.

While Blair and Jane have owned 100% of Fossil Creek Angus since 2024, Neil and Rose still remain actively involved. They have bought a beautiful home in Tai Tapu, Christchurch to be nearer family and they travel back down to Fossil Creek when they can. Being in Canterbury means their youngest daughter Georgia (recently graduated from Otago University with a commerce degree) is living with them and its an easy

flight to head to Australia where eldest daughter Amelia (and her young family) and middle daughter, Ella are based.

Blair and Jane's young stock are now 18 (Charlotte), 16 (Henry) and 13 (George), with Charlotte first year at Otago University, and Henry and George both boarding at Waitaki Boys' High School, where they seem to be fitting a (small) amount of school work in amongst helping run the school farm and joining every sports team in sight.

Jane ran her first (and last) marathon this year and Blair is still hacking away on the hockey field.

Ben Paton is in his 5th year working for us and Millie Williams joined us in December, after graduating from Otago Polytechnic's High Country Farming programme. Millie hails from Central Otago and she is looking forward to playing flanker in the local 'Waitaki Wahine' rugby team. We also have Archie Rooney a boarder at Waitaki Boys' High school with us one day a week on the secondary school 'Gateway' programme which we highly recommend being involved in.



Millie Williams & Archie Rooney.

HEIFER E-TAG STUDY UPDATE

In November 2023, B+LNZ Genetics commenced a Beef Study trial here at Fossil Creek with our 160 Yearling Heifers and 70 Two year old Heifers, using SenzTag CowManager tags to analyse their movements and heats leading up to and during the mating period. It has been an interesting exercise to evaluate the data from the tags alongside pregnancy date-scanning data. Neil is currently analysing all the data from the last two years alongside the team at BLG and seeing some interesting trends, especially when coupled with other monitoring that we are doing in the heifer fertility space. We will keep you informed.



Fossil Creek Heifer with her Sensor Tag.

PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT

A reminder to prioritise insuring your new season bull upon purchase – consider this as an investment to protect your asset, just as you would when you buy a new Hilux or Can Am. Most bull sales include 14 days free cover for FMG clients, so please take the time to consider extending this for a 12-month period to get your bull through his first breeding season. We of course have our Fossil Creek 3 Year Guarantee for fertility and structure, but this won't cover off injuries from misdemeanors like fighting which are of course always on the cards when it comes to anything full of Testosterone!



Herdsire Fossil Creek R018 Ripcurl.

BLACK AND GOLD

You may recall that Fossil Creek Angus are a sponsor of Olivia Brett from the New Zealand Canoe Sprint Racing K4 crew. We were on the edge of our seats back in Spring when their team of 4 won a Gold medal at the Paris Olympics in a time of 1.32.20, beating Germany and Hungary to the top of the podium.



Olivia has promised us that she will be using her sporting profile to promote New Zealand Red Meat as superior nutrient-dense protein to fuel athletes and we discussed this further when she brought her Gold medal back to Fossil Creek and Five Forks School recently. The team are gearing up for the next round of World Champs as they work towards Los Angeles in 2028.

E.STAR – The Five E Star Indexes

For the past 8 years, Fossil Creek has engaged Abacus Bio to run our Bull data through a comprehensive sub-index system which separates out crucial traits, then weights them appropriately into 4 separate indexes.

In early 2023, five other studs from around NZ joined us to invest in expanding the original Fossil Creek subindex system and this evolved into what Neil coined the 'E-Star' index system, with the star 'dashboard' idea coming from Jason Archer.

We have been pleased to see Beef+Lamb Genetics recently develop 'N Prove' that closely aligns along the same concept and we watch with interest on how this develops with the thought that we may possibly integrate our E Star system into this over time, as long as it is able to keep it as simple as E Star is for clients.

An important mantra for any indexes is that they should simplify the job of the bull buyer, and not overly complicate their bull selection process (or simplify it too much that it becomes meaningless). If a matrix is too complex, it may disqualify large numbers of bulls that would have actually been very suitable for your herd requirements. In the meantime, we will continue to work with our partner studs in E-Star, which will be appearing in the centre of our Fossil Creek Catalogue again this year.

EXPLAINING 'E-STAR' The E Star Indexes:



- ✦ **MATERNAL INDEX:** This is a grouping of traits specifically related to the beef cow/calf operation, with a small component of weaning weight. Desired outcomes include improving fertility and moderating cow size.
- ✦ **TERMINAL INDEX:** An index that highlights those animals which are going to grow fast to suitable carcass weights with high yields and good eating through Intramuscular Fats.
- ✦ **EFFICIENCY INDEX:** This index can be used on its own to identify animals which are superior for efficiency, which gives the beef industry further strength when it comes to environmental sustainability.
- ✦ **HEIFER DIRECT:** Designed to be a standalone selection tool for ranking bulls as suitable for mating yearlings.

