



One Stop Ram Shop



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Hebe speciosa. NZ has 88 *Hebe* species



Praying mantis about to seize a hoverfly for lunch.



Spectacular Ilam azalea.

OSRS



Sharing OSRS. *Dysdera crocata*, from northern hemisphere. Eats woodlice, a rare skill for spiders.

Predictions

- 1 Year 2100. Money available for young farmers to cut down radiata forests, clear the land and make their first farms
- 2 More farmers will take home cacti from OSRS after picking their rams
- 3 Pacifica, Chinese and Asian MPs each having their own caucus in Parliament
- 4 Renewed calls for Independence by Chatham, Stewart and South Islanders
- 5 Permanent labour shortages. Unemployed persons will not try for work
- 6 Meat and milk alternatives proven to have no nutritional or health benefits
- 7 More wars and 'land grabs' as humans compete for space
- 8 The unscientific Green house Gas 'effect' rubbished
- 9 Liz Truss will not last until the next UK election
- 10 Increased national sheep flock

NOTICES

- OSRS ram sales begin in the week, starting 21 Nov, 2022.
- OSRS SI sales will start in early December at Jeff Mosses, Clinton.
- OSRS Wiltshire flock is fully recorded. **Pure 2th rams are for sale.** All sheep are full shedders.
- Texel semen was sold to Chile.
- Chatham Island ram sales resumed.
- Covid disrupted Brazilian exports are planned to resume. Groundwork has been thorough.
- Robin is talking to the Finnish Sheep Society at its centenary celebration.
- Unchanged OSRS ram prices.



Voracious beetle larva with a liking for raspberries.

Sheep IDs

As predicted, a push to tag sheep and goats. Tags are costly, fall out and *they're not needed*. Foot and Mouth Disease is not a serious disease, it has been **made serious** by bureaucrats and media. UK's last epidemic started in Asia and travelled west to Europe. Animals affected over the vast distance were killed and eatenwhen FMD reached UK panic started. Historically, FMD was used as an animal health issue to exclude South American meat from Europe and US meat markets.

Tags are unnecessary for biosecurity. Long, lean NZ could be *closed easily with road-blocks*. Few are needed to isolate **any** area. *Movement control is easy in NZ.*



Finn-Texel two-tooth ewes.



Blowfly maggots are useful. Carcasses disappear.



Finn-Texel and Texel Suffolk lambs.



Family gathering. Covid lockdowns isolated everyone and stopped gatherings. Aug 2022



Excellent growth. 500 haylage bales. February



24ha of raphano for autumn feed.

Some History

In 2000, Chris Southgate, Robin with Australian farmer partners negotiated, in Sydney, with Beijing Province officials to establish a sheep breeding programme for China. US\$5.4 billion was allocated to agriculture programmes. The Beijing Governor attended a meeting and spoke, in perfect English, of his wish to work with us. We canceled our involvement because of legal qualms. Days later Beijing officials withdrew when China won the right to hold the Olympics; new sheep genetics were shelved. The \$5.4b helped fund the games.

In 2012 Putin arrived in Beijing. Robin was staying in the same hotel. Security increased. Putin signed a huge oil deal with the President Xi. Robin signed numerous agreements to exchange Maori and Chinese students between Chinese and NZ universities. The signature helped fill up official documents. No exchange of Maori or Chinese students took place. Robin was with a group of 36 Maori tribal leaders, led by Minister of Maori, Pita Sharples.



Pam Dunne, Pita Sharples, Robin Hilson, all from **Takapau**, Hawke's Bay. Pam is deputy head of the Beijing Mission, Pita is Minister of Maori, Robin, a farmer. Amazing **Takapau**. Beijing Embassy Marae

A Thank-less Job.

Federated Farmers and Beef and Lamb have a huge task advocating for farmers. They are effective but too polite, **it's time to get tough**. Masses of new rules. An impractical environmental agenda. Winter grazing rules that don't recognise that it sometimes rains, emission pricing wrong. Three Waters stupid. Kiwis are frustrated and angry. Without a strong food producing sector NZ's standard of living will fall and repayment of the \$50b borrowed impossible. Our two farming lobbies are our voices; listened to and ignored. RMA reform, Essential Freshwater, animal welfare, local government reform, biodiversity rules; so much changing at once. The deluge of regulatory reform will only serve to **demotivate** and discourage the very people needed to be engaged'. (Karen Williams FF Vice President)

How can farmers address the avalanche of rules and still farm enthusiastically?

Builders, bakers and candle-stick makers are also over-whelmed. Governing sensibly is beyond Labour. *Will other political parties listen and do better?*



Cattle enjoyed all 'tidy up' fires, until it rained. April.

Wish List

- Stop importing cars. 4.6m vehicles registered in NZ is enough
- Mend 'things' and stop throwing away repairable items
- Stop pandering to divisive tribalism
- Leadership which rubbishes conspiracy theories and their promoters
- Stop demonising cattle for methane pollution; its insignificant
- Purchase only products packaged in recyclable material
- Learn from errors of history and don't repeat them
- Nurture democracy. Always vote
- That politics wouldn't interfere with OSRS sheep improvement programmes designed for Georgia and Iran.

The myths persist.

Deferred Grazing, Organics, Regenerative Pastures are all unscientific and have been tried by most pastoral farmers, including OSRS, and dropped. Claims that produce from these practices is healthier is not proved. If consumers want products raised by these methods and pay more that's good marketing.



Garden covered with creek water. May 2022



Floods wrecked internal and boundary fences. June



Mistake. 7ha of new pasture disced by contractor. Costly. March 2022



Riparian planting, Nelson.
Common sight in rural NZ.



Drowning worms were a feast for huge starling flocks.
OSRS, July.



Richard Hilson talking to visiting Rathkeale College students.
OSRS, June 2022.



OSRS: Thousands of beautiful native battens are for sale.



Water-logged paddocks. Rain fell each day from June on.



Flooded Porangahau stream provided canoe access between Waipawa and Takapau Pas.



Lambs on island. The **only** dry place.



Lambs huddled on dry land. OSRS, September



Finn Texel ewes milked well.



Wiltshire ewes and lambs.
The two-tooths docked 150%.

Pump Storage Hydropower (PSH).

Water is pumped to storage, used for power generation, then pumped to storage again. 600k possible sites worldwide are enough for a **100% global renewable electricity** system. There is no 'will' to drive the science.

Malcolm Turnbull;
Ex PM of Australia.

Cabbage Trees are grown worldwide. OSRS photographed five huge 100 year clumps in the Royal Palace Harem, Istanbul. In NZ the tiny sap sucker *Candidatus Phytoplasma australiense*, spreads a bacterium which prevents the nutrient flow. Trees die of dehydration, about year nine after first flowering.

Inflation. "People utterly, implacably loathe it" Economist 23/4/22

Only hyperinflation (Zimbabwe) causes economic carnage. From 1970 to 2022 world prices before and after inflation varied little. Inflation came about because products had a price rise as they moved from producer to consumer. At each junction there was a small price rise which cumulatively added to a big lift.

Simple explanation and correct.



Ross Berry has retired to a lifestyle block at Levin. He worked at OSRS (2 Years) and managed 'The Glen' (18 years). His skills, enthusiasm and sense of responsibility was appreciated. Thank you Ross, Joy and Robin.

Where to next?

NZ's priciest streets

Christchurch; Jackson's Road.
Home to Robin for twenty three years.

Wellington; Oriental Parade.
Second home for Joy for five years.

Auckland; Herne Bay.

Joy and Robin's next move?



Ginger making a 'pig' of himself. He gorged the total unripe grape crop. OSRS, June 2022

Wool

In 2006 David Norgrove, (secretary to Margaret Thatcher, Director of Marks and Spencer Textile Division- the world's third biggest business of its type) spent a month at OSRS. The M&S wool business was threatened by synthetics.

David asked my opinion of the future for wool. He gently wrecked all my statements about wool's potential as a natural fibre. He said wool cannot compete with the annual US\$600 million available to synthetic fibres for promotion. To compete, wool needed to combine with artificial fibres which held colour, didn't shrink and dried instantly. He provided contacts, costs and scientists who could develop new fibres.

Capital impetus could only come from farmers or NZ Govt; neither of whom would be interested. Wool is **finished** as a profitable product for most NZ sheep-farmers. Only fine-wool producers have any future.

OSRS campaigned successfully (2009) to remove the wool levy. Minister David Carter chastised David Ritchie, Joy and Robin at Parliament for causing this. Levies collected for decades, worth millions, were to create demand. Wool's value only declined. David Carter rebuffed an offer by David Norgrove to return to NZ and explain the **only** route possible for wool's profitable future.

2022 and wool is unprofitable on most sheep-farms.

Campaign for Wool, Strong Wool Action Group, and Wool Impact are clones of earlier organisations. All will fail. There will be some little successes. Farmers are changing to 'no-shear' sheep genetics for sound reasons.

Specialty Fibre Marketing (an OSRS company) exported high-bulk wool successfully in the 1980s. Exporting is tough, the industry is packed with 'middle-men' and no place for a 'hands-on' farmer.

Disinformation, fake information and unscientific hogwash.

'We all know that red meat is bad for the planet' paper headline.

Red meat contributes to Green house Gases (GhG), which contribute to Climate Change. **Wrong.** Red meat has been around for eons. It is humans who have changed not red meat.

1 billion more humans every **12 years**; that number influences climate. Too many humans. If they stopped eating red meat and lived longer, climate change issues would multiply. After Joe Bennett, Lyttelton writer.

GhG theory has not yet been peer checked. GhG gases are unable to hold heat let alone **radiate it back to earth** from the troposphere boundary and break the second law of thermodynamics (**heat moves from a hot to a cool body**). At night cooling earth radiates heat to deep space. **Heat cannot travel in two directions at once as the GhG 'effect' suggested.**

Fake food is a US\$50b problem. Dairy, veges, herbs, spices, oils, miss-labelled. 27% of 6000 herbal products tested fakes in Australian. Solution; buy local.

Milk, meat and fish alternatives are not milk or fish or meat. After gaining customers for ethical reasons alternatives are rapidly losing customers. Almond 'milk' uses huge amounts of water. **Biofuel production uses the yearly calorie needs of 1.9 billion humans.** Plant protein markets are struggling because consumers are not sure they are clean. There is no proof products are sustainable.

NZ human trials confirmed red meat's nutritional advantage compared to 'alternatives'.

"We measured the nutrients in the bloodand saw significant differences in the type and amount of amino acids from the digestion of protein of red meat compared to protein of the processed 'meat' alternative" Dr Broakhuis. Amino acids are of greater biological value and more easily absorbed.



The dying dance of slugs. Poison prills work. June 2022

Points of irritation

1, MP Stuart Nash said Groundswell was "full of racists and antivaxxers". No apology. *Labour has no time for farmers.* Farmers are a tiny minority, 30k (?).

2, 80 pieces of NZ legislation have secrecy clauses. Included are 20 from this Government which promised transparency. *They are a secretive bunch.*

3, Greens and City interests favour high carbon prices even if traditional farming is destroyed. Living standards will plummet as export volumes fall.

You have been warned.

4, John Roache (Science advisor, MPI) "Farmers will have to adapt to climate change". A **\$339m** Government organisation is to fast-track solutions. People of the land have adapted. *More science but not another organisation, please.* NZ's primary sector benefits from climate change.

5, Buildings are part of 40% of total carbon emissions. Floorspace the size of New York, is added each month throughout the world. Home heating and cooling effects 20% of the carbon emissions.

Stop building?

6, Climate Change Response Act (2002) gave free emission units to Steel, Animal Health, Chemical, Cement, Fertiliser, Glass, Paper industries. Worth **\$30 m**. Selective generosity. **Farming is caned daily by critics for polluting, why not these industries?**

7, Budget 2022. **\$710m** to tackle emissions. A centre for climate emissions.

\$110m boost for Biosecurity.

\$190m for advisory services.

\$40m to accelerate transformation of primary industries (to what?) **\$32m** to protect Animal Health and reputation. This includes enforcing objectives. *Lots of OPM (other people's money) and unnecessary. New jobs and bossy bureaucrats. Farmers need less regulatory bullying.*

8, Food and Fibre exports were a **record \$52.2 b**. Up 10% in one year upon 13% less productive land. The primary sector 'got' NZ through the pandemic. This result is ignored by the media and Labour. Not ignored is 'wicked' water pollution (mostly natural or of urban origin), *reduction of biodiversity* (often urban expansion?) and *production of food* (which is 'harmful' to humans)

9, This Government initially did well but then flopped because it lacks business acumen. Few politicians have

run their own business where they survive by their own decisions. To be reliant on consultants and bureaucrats and obsessed with secrecy shows inexperience. They need to be 'turned out' to graze quietly while living with a series of **their** poor decisions. Their legacy is now a mess. They lost it. *How many of the 120 MPs can you name?*

10, Best governance of local issues is achieved **by locals**. Councils are accountable locally. Centralised control has failed world-wide, even in socialist countries. Labour 'knows best' and is changing control of water, health, climate issues, polytechnic institutes and altering the RMA. Changes will affect all Kiwis. If Labour put more money into helping councils deal with infrastructure aging and policed expenditure and contracts, councils would cooperate. **Labour does not know best**. Changes are politically driven and consultants provide ways to achieve change. The flawed Three Waters proposal has created jobs for bureaucrats and consultants. Cost so far **\$34m**; **OPM**.

11, Why has Maori Agriculture received **\$35.4m** to establish a platform for Maori Climate Action. One group gets money when ALL farmers are facing the same issue of having to reduce agricultural emissions. **OPM** again.

12, New biodiversity rules about significant natural areas (SNA) are vague. Councils will enforce ground-work for Government, at the landowner's cost. By 2027 each SNA must be identified and mapped. It's almost 2023. There will be plenty of tears before this work is completed. Some SNAs will be in city home gardens.

13, How stupid to make a 'Plain Language Bill'. Every government agency will require a 'Plain Language Officer'. *The onus is on all Kiwis to speak clearly and be understood.*

14, Labour promised no new taxes but reneged. New 'clean' car tax on petrol vehicles, non-deductible housing interest, 39% tax rate for high-earners and GST on Kiwisaver provider fees are ALL taxes. The latter was tossed-out only 24 hours after introduction.

Incompetent governance.

15, New regulations have been made; were old regulations removed? Adding layers of rules is stifling business, slowing originality. NZ's 'can do' attitude is becoming 'can't be bothered'.



*Looking for a day without rain.
Annual rainfall: 650mm
2022 in nine months: 1126mm*



Texels and Texel Suffolk rams for Chatham Island Farmers. Jan 2022

Five Liners

NZ's population. 1920, 1.24 million. 2003, 4 million Kiwis. 2019, 5 million. **25% growth** in 17 years. Housing shortages are inevitable with a million extra Kiwis.

Are Matariki fireworks politically correct? Maori never had them. What about noise and smoke emissions? Pets were frightened. Thousands of car trips to venues were polluting. **But, it was fun!**

Meat production in 2018. China, 87 million tonnes. Europe, 65 mt. US, 48 mt. India, 8 mt.

Earthworms. Best NZ soils have 640-3000 kg /ha with only 800kg of livestock grazing above.

Massey study. Sheep grazing steep hills with a small stream spent .2% of their time in the riparian area. No hoof damage. Negligible sediment loss.

A healthy diet per day (adequate calories and nutrients) costs \$US 3.10 in USA. \$2.70 in Spain, \$1.90 in UK. American retail is expensive; large floor space, wide choice. European shops, less choice, less size: More profit per metre.

Wearable technology is changing health diagnostics. Early detection. Drugs work, at most, on 30-50% of patients.

People will become hypochondriacs?

Electric eels taser prey with 860 volt shocks. Sharks hunt prey by using electricity as an extra sense. Spiders fly (balloon) by using atmospheric electric charges. Could this electricity be harvested?

Many countries are scrapping 'purchase' incentives for EVs. UK subsidy money is going to

recharging sites. China is giving privileged parking and not charging congestion taxes for EVs.

Petrol vehicles of comparable size to an EV, has a lifetime total cost, of **half** that of the EV.

Economist 20/8/22

German seismometers picked up vibrations from floods 30-45 minutes before they hit lower country. Would they help when the Maitai floods in Nelson?

Steel cables or moulded barriers along highways save lives. Of 54 kms between Waipukurau and Havelock about half have barriers. Shattered uprights and dented steel was noted 24 times on a recent journey.

1900-1910 born people survived WW1, 1918 influenza, Great Depression, WW2. Covid scared an entire generation. Home with computers, TV and Internet was easier. The 1900s pandemic was worse.

300 scientists were questioned about their Covid media responses. Many experienced harmful harassment. Hold scientists to account, but they should not be targets of disinformation.

Ukraine; Rocket launchers shoot and scoot. Caesar rockets fire 10/minute and move 40 seconds later, before retaliation. Archer launchers are gone 55 seconds after the first shell lands. Excalibur rockets fly 40 kms to hit moving targets.

The rise and rise of non-debating. Opinionated oafs don't debate, they don't listen, they want to 'win' all conversations. To disagree irritates them. This behavior is growing fast.



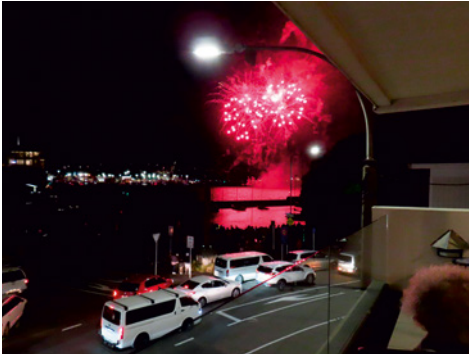
Colourful inflated lizards, 'arty' Wellington April.



Golden hippo on a roof opposite Te Papa.



Colourful sharks look quite friendly. Wall art. Wellington.



Matariki fireworks. Cars stopped. Dogs hid. Oriental Parade June.



Wellington sheep frightened by Matariki fireworks.



Some **feat** to lose both **feet**. Wellington.



Alan Fraser with "my very favourite Texel" ABS collected OSRS semen for Chile. Cambridge, February.



Trevor Bokser weed-wiped many hectares of thistles **successfully**. January OSRS.



Shaun and Joe Fouhy; stockmen. Knowledgeable. OSRS Nov



The stone looked like a crouched hare. Once lifted onto the post it was never **shot** again. OSRS.



Don and Denise Pride. Texels for Kaipara Flats.



Gerry Williams (Pacific Basin Exports) and Robin. An experienced agent for South America. Jan OSRS

Rewriting history

Sir Apirana Ngata. "What remains of the Treaty of Waitangi? What is there in the Treaty that the Maori can today celebrate wholeheartedly with you? Let me say one thing: Clause 1 of the Treaty handed over the mana and sovereignty of NZ to Queen Victoria and her descendants forever, that is the outstanding fact today. That but for the shield of the sovereignty handed over to her majesty and descendants I doubt whether there would be a free Maori race in NZ today...I doubt whether any native race has been so well treated by a European people as the Maori of NZ.

Comment from one who knew, 90 years ago.

Marama Davidson(Green) referred to the role of "the monarchy in oppressing the power of others, including here and countries around the world"

Rawiri Waititi (Maori Party) argued "we must always speak our authentic truth: the British Empire and the power of its monarchy was built of stolen whenua, stolen resources, and stolen taonga"

The latter two would rewrite history. Sir Apirana however would be impressed with the generosity/compensation of successive governments to Maori. The Queen united people. Politicians enhance tribalism and disunite people.

Sir Steve O'Regan, "NZ is best served by the Constitutional Monarchy"

Quotes

o 'Hi Robin, all good down here in the south. A very trying autumn and long winter, bloody magic just now. I really enjoy your newsletters, don't stop. I like the comments, quotes and thoughts' Greg Ramsey, Owaka. 1/12/21

o 'Good morning Robin. We would like to congratulate you and your team for an excellent Rams Newsletter. We are dairy farmers but are totally onboard with your sentiments. Keep it up! S&L W of Rangitikei . Dec 2021

o OSRS ewes, farmed by Anne and Philip Munro at Wairewa Station, Fairlie scanned , MA ewes 184%, two-tooths 174%. *This is a great result because recent seasons have been difficult.* The rams they produce for OSRS are 1/4 Finn, 1/4 Texel, 1/2 P/R; **excellent tough sheep.**

o Southland clover used to be the envy of all visiting livestock farmers. 'Where has it gone?' John Horrocks, Gore. 28/1/2022. Climate change has affected clover. Clover is still present and if conditions are perfect the white mat appears. The clover weevil is a culprit too. In the mid 2015s HB did have perfect summer conditions and farmers were amazed to see white clover flowering after being absent for years.

o A person asked "what is your main concern for the world at the moment?" Answer-the absolutely hopeless standard of politicians both in NZ and world at present, and the lack of quality leadership. It's abysmal!

Add to that the complete lack of recognition of the beef and lamb sector's performance when it comes to our carbon footprint. In the last thirty years we have halved the number of sheep, reduced our emissions by upwards of 20%, and still produce the same amount of meat to help feed the world. No other sector has got anywhere near this!" John MacPhee, Mason Ridge, HB. 16/11/21

Dog owners - give generously



Oregon, USA

When in Iran first in 2013, I crossed the border in NW Iran to Azerbaijan. 'No photos Robin, you're being watched'. This was a disputed area. There were no signs of a border. I flew to Georgia. Bulldozed lines indicated borders but barriers were absent.

It would be no trouble to gallop a horse (or tank) all the way to Mongolia....no wonder these people with different religions have been scrapping for centuries.

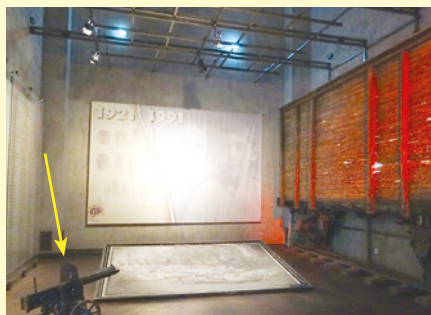
Visiting Georgia in 2013 (OSRS business) made it possible to see the vicious side of the Russian occupation of 70 years. Georgians are deeply religious Christians. Russian occupiers tried to squash Christianity. Churches and icons were systematically desecrated. Immediately after the collapse of USSR refurbishment started. Georgians are proud of their democracy. Putin returned and annexed 20% of the country in 2008. George Bush threatened to defend Georgia. Putin stopped. Invading Russians did not waste bullets on Georgians they just cut their throats.

4/1/22 from Beka in Georgia. "Hello Dear Robin. Hope you are well and fully with energy. Have a happy NY. We are fine , already three kids. Working hard as usual. Busy with sheep, cattle, feedlot, meat butchery. Shop and animal feed production. Hope to manage once visiting you in this 2022. Greetings to all shepherds in New Zealand"

Georgians love Rugby; Beka was a very good rugby player.



Boundary cairn Georgia. Stock and people do not pass. Open country through to Mongolia.



Russian occupation (1911-1991). This wagon, loaded with Georgians, was machine-gunned. Museum Exhibit, Tbilisi

A Vet's view of CHB in 2022

What a difference 12 mths makes! This time last year we were reaping the fallout of a prolonged autumn drought with ewes tipping over at lambing due to lack of body condition, stressed immune systems and high parasite challenge. Lambs suffered as a result of poor milk production. This year we have been inundated with rain, rain and more rain. Scanning percentages weren't as high as expected: higher number of dries. This may be attributable to zearalenone following a warm humid autumn and fungal growth on grass litter. Bearings have been prominent with fat ewes carrying multiples. Recently feed has disappeared with so many water-logged and pugged paddocks. This led to milk fever in ewes on the drop. Mastitis flourished in the mud. Docking is a real challenge, actually getting it done and the risk of contamination infections. Hopefully once it dries, ewes and lambs will be given the break they desperately need after so many challenges.

Harry Whiteside, Senior Vet,
Vet Services HB. 12/9/22

A Farmers view

Hi Robin, Just thought I'd drop a line to tell you how happy we are with the sheep. We find the 1/4 Finn, 1/4 Texel, 1/2 Perendale rams we have had from you over many years certainly suit us in many ways. Firstly I love that they see me coming! Open face, alert and quite smart given the chance. They start moving two paddocks away when I turn up on the bike with my dogs. Start tooting and they're mobbed before I arrive. Brilliant! The farm rises from 300m to 500m ASL, with steep gullies and smooth rolling tops. Quite difficult to muster in places , so the way they move is welcome.

My lamb buyer is always telling me the sheep produce consistently great lambs off this country.

1749 ewes were mated. Scanning. Dries, 1.65%. Singles, 24.4%. Twins, 72.1%. Triplets, 3.42%. Overall 177%. 16/7/22 (abridged)

Ross McCormick, Waitomo, CHB.



Russians vandalised village churches. Now churches are being refurbished.

	●	● SIL Recorded	Top 10%	Top	Elite	Commercial	Number
TEXEL SUFFOLK	●	Texel Suffolk	1400	1200	1000	800	
TEXEL	●	Texel	1400	1200	1000	800	
1/4 FINN TEXEL	●	Romney & Perendale ¼ F ¼ T	1400	1200	1000	800	
FINN TEXEL	●	Finn Texel	1400	1200	1000	800	
PERENDALE TEXEL	●	Perendale Texel	1400	1200	1000	800	
WILTSHIRE		Wiltshire		1200	1000		



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Freight to South Island \$25/head.

Teasers, all Finn crosses, young and sexy \$250.



Quarter Finn Texel (¼F ¼T ½P&R)



Texel



Texel Suffolk



Wiltshire



Finn Texel



Perendale Texel

The Queen did not come to afternoon tea.

The Bowen family established the Agrodome Tourist venue in Rotorua to promote NZ sheep breeds and their products. Pampered rams tolerated tourists but sometimes a ram was exceptional; 'show-smart'. A OSRS Perendale became a 'Super Star' in a team of eight going to UK. He was destined to be gifted to the Queen for the Balmoral Estate.

The team was delayed in Hawaii and missed a crucial 'blue tongue' export date for UK. USA and Canada became the new destination with many shows. Crowds loved the show. Numerous offers of US\$10k by loud-mouths, "I must have that ram" rang out. All talk. Nobody came to collect him. He was sold in Canada for US\$8k.

If he had gone to Balmoral I could have visited him and the Queen could have come for tea at OSRS (as was standard for dairy farmers who gifted Jersey cattle). I wonder what sort of tea she would have enjoyed in HB?



Rata (from Waikaremoana) and Clematis (home grown), flowering. OSRS Nov-Dec



Family Xmas. Food, presents, laughs and pictures. Cousins not behaving for Richard. 25th Dec 2021.



Jan Riddell died in September. Jan was an enthusiastic farmer and fervent conservationist. Cheerful, wise, experienced, helpful, practical, Jan was quite unique. Because her practical knowledge was so extensive she had much to give. Jan did not suffer fools. Her opinions were backed by sound science. Jan was a wonderful contributor to rural Southland. She was a special friend with whom I spent many thoughtful hours.