



Annual General Meeting 2026

Notice and Weekend Schedule of Events

Canterbury

15 May 2026 – 17 May 2026

Friday 23 May, 1900 - Meet and Greet

Saturday 16 May, 1000 – AGM Registrations

Saturday 16 May, 1100 AGM Commences

Saturday 16 May 2026, 1400 – Whisky Tasting

Saturday 16 May 2026, 1730 – Guided Tour of Riccarton House

Saturday 16 May 2026, 1830 – Dinner Commences at Riccarton House

Saturday 16 May 2026, 1900 – Haggis Piped in

– Dinner service

– Raffle Drawn

Sunday 17 May 2026, 1000 – Fold Visit, Willie & Cynthia Christie, Skeoch Fold

1230 – Lunch – Cleavers Corner



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OUR SPONSORS

Thank you to the sponsors of our raffle prizes. To purchase the limited number of tickets visit our Website





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1 Introduction

A very warm welcome to New Zealand Highland Cattle members, past members and friends as we invite you to spend an exciting weekend with us in the wonderful City of Christchurch and the town of Ashburton for our 2026 AGM weekend.

While the AGM meeting itself, is for current members you will see that there is a range of add on social occasions that we hope you will take full advantage of.

We are running a raffle in the lead up to the AGM. We have had some amazing prizes donated. The Raffle will be drawn at dinner on Saturday 16 May. You do not have to be in attendance to be the lucky winner! See how to purchase tickets below.

We will update the contents of the raffle on our Facebook page as the donations roll in!

Sorry, due to New Zealand gambling rules, only members of the Society are able to purchase raffle tickets.

Tickets are \$10. There are 100 tickets available. Raffle tickets can be purchased via the website by following the AGM RSVP link. Even if you will not be attending the AGM you can still purchase your tickets through there.

For more information contact Anne Meyer at anne.meyer@highlandcattle.org.nz

2 Information for AGM Weekend 15/16/17 May 2026

2.1 Schedule of Events

SCHEDULE FOR AGM WEEKEND 23/24/25 MAY 2025

Please RSVP by following the link on the website

Friday 15 May	1900	Meet and Greet, (RSVP) The Little Fiddle, 132 Oxford Terrace
Saturday 16 May	1000	AGM Registration: St Albans Community Centre, (RSVP) 1049 Colombo Rd, St Albans, Christchurch
	1100	AGM Commences (RSVP) Finger food, Lunch arrives at 1200. Participants break to select lunch, toilet break and return to seats for AGM to continue. Tea/Coffee available throughout the day.
	1300	AGM ends
	1300	Council Meeting, Quick Face to Face check in for current and newly elected council members.
	1400	Whisky Tasting, Whisky Galore 834 Colombo St Christchurch

	1730	Guided Tour of Riccarton House (RSVP) 16 Kahu Rd, Riccarton \$15 per person
	1830	Haggis Piped in, Ode Ceremony
	1900	Dinner Service commences at Riccarton House (RSVP) Raffle Drawn Virtual Show results announced and presentation
Sunday 17 May	1000	Visit to Skeoch Highland Fold (RSVP) 145 Somerton Rd, RD2, Ashburton
	1230	Lunch at Cleavers Corner (RSVP) 159 West St, Ashburton
Please RSVP by following the link on the website		

AGM attendance \$20pp (includes tea/coffee and lunch)



Whiskey Galore, Whiskey Tasting (RSVP by 10 May)

Cost: \$25 per person

Whisky runs through Michael Fraser Milne veins, he grew up in the highlands of Scotland with distilleries on the doorstep of his rural home, providing after school jobs under the watchful eye of his father, a seed, grain and whisky merchant.

After chasing his kiwi wife Stella to the fine shores of New Zealand, it was inevitable that his broad Scot's accent should start attracting questions from inquisitive folk about his interest and knowledge in Whisky. After attempting to give folk guidance on whiskies they should source, he was surprised to find that they weren't readily available in New Zealand. Whisky Galore was born.

The ball started rolling in 1993 with small shipments for family & friends sourced via Mr. Milne Snr. A snowball effect soon ensued and by 2003 it was decided that a physical and online store was necessary to

further spread the gospel and ensure Cantabrians and New Zealanders had better access to a great dram or two.



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Michael was joined by Stella & his daughter Siona in the very early days, and they have been by his side in business ever since. Together they make regular trips back to Scotland to feel the pulse of the Scotch industry they love so much, always ensuring that the finest and fairest selection of whisky gets on a boat to sail the seas and arrive safely to New Zealand.

These days under the watchful eye of the Fraser Milnes, “Whisky Galore” has a very passionate and engaged team of whisky enthusiasts who delight in maintaining a high level of knowledge. They enjoy nothing better than sharing their expertise to assist you, the customer to find the perfect whisky match for your needs. Michael and Stella have very kindly subsidised the cost of the Whisky Tasting experience for attendees of the Annual gathering weekend.

Riccarton House (RSVP by 10 May)

Optional Guided Tour prior to the evening events

Cost: \$15 per person

Riccarton House and Pūtarangamotu Bush in Christchurch, New Zealand, is a unique heritage site encompassing historic buildings, parkland, gardens, and an ancient podocarp forest with kahikatea trees up to 600 years old. The reserve is home to a variety of native and introduced birds on a tranquil 12-hectare reserve, situated just 3.5km from Christchurch City centre.

Dinner

Cost: \$60per person

Dinner will be held at Riccarton House, 16 Kahu Rd, Christchurch.

Dress code: Tidy Casual

Menu

Welcome drink of Beer or Wine on arrival

Canapes

Slow Braised Harissa Lamb Shoulder with condiments

Farmers Market Organic Salad

Double Roasted Agria Potatoes

Moroccan Style Cous Cous

Artisan Breads

Dessert – Classica Pavlova

RSVP's

Please RSVP to by following the [RSVP link](#) on the website by 10 May 2026 for the Meet and Greet on Friday night, Optional Saturday Whisky Tasting, tour of Riccarton House, Saturday dinner, the Fold visit on Sunday morning, the lunch visit on Sunday and to order your raffle tickets. You will receive one invoice for the entire AGM weekend's events.



2 Virtual Show

Entries close 1 May 2026 and can be made by downloading the entry form from the website (or it is attached below) and then emailing your pictures and entry form to editor@highlandcattle.org.nz

This year, in conjunction with the Annual Gathering we will be running a Virtual Show. There is no cost to enter and there are multiple classes to suit all of our members, what a great opportunity to show off your cattle!! Judging will be announced at the formal dinner on Saturday 16 May 2026. Ribbons will be awarded for First, Second and Third. A Champion Male and Female will be awarded, as will a Supreme Champion. There is a cash prize for Champion Male and Female, kindly sponsored by Holyrood Highlands. Placings in all other classes will be awarded a ribbon and certificate.

Champion Male and Female, and Supreme Champion will be selected from the Winners of each of the classes.



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Virtual Show Entry Form



CLASSES:

1. Bull, NB to 6 months
2. Bull, 6 to 12 months.
3. Bull, 12 months to 4 years
4. Bull, over 4 years
5. Senior Bull, over 8 years
6. Steer, under 12 months
7. Steer, 1 to 3 years
8. Steer, over 3 years
9. Heifer, up to 12 months
10. Heifer, 1 to 2 years
11. Heifer, under 3 years
12. Cow, 3 to 5 years, with or without calf at foot
13. Cow, 5 to 10 years, with or without calf at foot
14. Senior Cow, 10 years and over, with or without calf at foot
15. Picturesque photo featuring at least one Highland cow
16. Comedy photo featuring at least one Highland cow

Submission Details:

For classes 1 – 14, please submit a side photo of the animal being entered.

For classes 12 – 14, the calf at foot may be a separate photo from the dam

For classes 15 – 16 you may include an explanation or quote with the photo.

When emailing the photo, please label it with the class and animal name. All identifying information will be removed prior to the photo being presented to the judge.

Email your completed form and photos to editor@highlandcattle.org.nz

Rules:

- All cattle submitted must be registered with the NZHCS, and owned by the person submitting the entry. In the case of steer and bull calf (<1 years) entries – the dam and sire must be registered (steer) or eligible for registration (bull calf).
- Photos must be at least 2MB in size
- Cattle must not be standing in a body of water
- A maximum of 10 entries per Fold will be accepted



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CLASS ENTERED	
OWNER NAME	
ANIMAL NAME & HB NUMBER	
BREEDER	
ANIMAL DATE OF BIRTH	
CLASS ENTERED	
OWNER NAME	
ANIMAL NAME & HB NUMBER	
BREEDER	
ANIMAL DATE OF BIRTH	
CLASS ENTERED	
OWNER NAME	
ANIMAL NAME & HB NUMBER	
BREEDER	
ANIMAL DATE OF BIRTH	
CLASS ENTERED	
OWNER NAME	
ANIMAL NAME & HB NUMBER	
BREEDER	
ANIMAL DATE OF BIRTH	
CLASS ENTERED	
OWNER NAME	
ANIMAL NAME & HB NUMBER	
BREEDER	
ANIMAL DATE OF BIRTH	
CLASS ENTERED	
OWNER NAME	
ANIMAL NAME & HB NUMBER	
BREEDER	
ANIMAL DATE OF BIRTH	

Email your completed form and photos to editor@highlandcattle.org.nz



Information for AGM Weekend 15/16/17 May 2026

3 Notice of Meeting

Notice is given that the New Zealand Highland Cattle Society 2026 Annual General Meeting will be held:

1100 Saturday 16 May 2026
St Albans Community Centre,
1049 Colombo Rd,
St Albans,
Christchurch

Registrations will commence at 1000 with finger food served at 1200. The meeting is scheduled to end at 1300.

3.1 AGM Meeting Agenda

Agenda
New Zealand Highland Cattle Society Inc
2026 Annual General Meeting
1100 Saturday 16 May 2026, St Albans Community Centre, 1049 Colombo Rd, St Albans,
Christchurch

	Item	Person	Page
1	Health and Safety instructions and weekend event schedule	President, Judy Smyth	
2	Welcome		4
3	Attendance and Apologies		
4	Call for Items of General Business for discussion at the end of the meeting		
5	Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 25 May 2025		11
5.1	- The meeting is required to resolve to accept, reject or amend the minutes		
5.2	- Matters Arising from the minutes		
6	Reports for Year-End 31 December 2025		
6.1	- President's Report		17
6.2	- Registrar's Report		Registrar, Lisa Holloway



Agenda
New Zealand Highland Cattle Society Inc
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	Item	Person	Page
6.3	- Treasurer's Report	Treasurer, Doug Maclean	21
6.4	- The meeting is required to resolve to accept, reject or amend that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The President's, Registrar's and Treasurer's Report be accepted, and 2. The Annual Report (attached), including the financial statements prepared by the Treasurer (DB Maclean) and reviewed by (SJ Novak B.C.A) for the year ended 31 December 2025, be approved and adopted. 	President, Judy Smyth	37
7	<p>Appointment of Financial Reviewer Under clause 7.16b, Accounts and Audit of the Constitution of the Society, the Annual General Meeting of the Society is required to appoint an accountant to review the annual financial statements of The Society.</p> <p>The Treasurer recommends that SJ Novak B.C.A. be appointed to review the 2026 accounts of the New Zealand Highland Cattle Society Incorporated.</p>	President, Judy Smyth	
7.1	- The meeting is required to resolve to accept, reject or amend that "SJ Novak again be appointed to review the 2026 accounts of the New Zealand Highland Cattle Society Incorporated".		
8	<p>Election of Councillors to the Council of Management Anne Meyer (Vice President) and Bella Marshall are due to retire under the Constitution's three year rotating provision. Lisa Holloway has tendered her resignation so that she can focus on the Registrar role. There will be a minimum of four Council positions available.</p> <p><u>If</u>, as at the 12th April 2026, (the closing date for nominations) no nominations for these Council vacancies have been received, then nominations will be taken from the floor during the AGM.</p>	President, Judy Smyth	38
9	Remits for Consideration		



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New Zealand Highland Cattle Society Inc
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Christchurch

	Item	Person	Page
	There are no remits for consideration		
10	Items of General Business,		
The meeting is scheduled to close at 1300			

3.2 Virtual Meeting Facility Available

The meeting will be live streamed using Microsoft Teams.

In the week prior to the AGM, we will send an electronic invitation to each member who has not registered to attend the AGM in person. Microsoft Teams will also allow you to electronically record a vote if any such vote is required.

Our Constitution allows for electronic voting but not proxy votes, therefore you will need to ensure that the person listed as the nominated voter in your membership file is the person voting.



3.3 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 25 May 2025

Date: Sunday 25 May 2025
10:00

Venue: REAP House
340 Queen St
Masterton

Chairperson: The President, Anne Meyer

Minutes: The Secretary, Scott Withers

1 Welcome

2 The President, Anne Meyer, welcomed attendees and thanked everyone for attending.

3 Call for Items of General Business

The Chairperson called for items of general business to be discussed at the end of the meeting
The Chairperson will go through the minutes of the Annual Weekend Gathering held on 19 June 2024

Anna Buckley from Bonnie Glen Highlands in NSW, Australia is looking for folds to visit in July that may wish to participate in an exchange of genetics by way of semen collection or embryo collections from Fullblood Highlands. If you would like to find out more please reach out to the Secretary after this meeting concludes.

4 Attendance and Apologies

Attending in person: Doug and Sharon McLean, Lisa Holloway, Jim and Julie McMurray, Tony Wright, Shirley and Ian Blanchard, Debbie Bassett-Clark, Jenny Sheldon, Jessica and Scott Withers, Anne Meyer, Judy Smyth, Katherine and John Anderson, Julia Leask,

Attending by MS Teams: Ali Williams, Bruce Burnell, Catherine and Martin McLeod, Bella Marshall and mother, James Brown, Cynthia and Willie Christie

Apologies: Patrizia Vieno, Pete Holloway, Amanda and Mike Billingham, Harry and Beth Prescott-Ballagh, Gail and Trevor Simons, Debbie Morgan.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 19 June 2024

These were previously distributed in the AGM agenda packs and taken as read.
Amendments to be made: Cynthia and Willie are not listed as attendees,

Moved Tony Wright
Seconded Lisa Holloway

Minutes unanimously accepted

5 Reports for the year-end 31 December 2024

These were previously distributed in the AGM agenda packs and taken as read.



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Amendment to be made as the FB page has 1,048 members not 10,048

President's Report – The Outgoing President, Anne Meyer, presented her report.

Moved Tony Wright
Seconded Judy Smyth

Presidents report unanimously accepted

Registrar's Report – The Registrar, Shirley Blanchard, presented her report

There was a small discussion around Myostatin and how animals are tested or free by heritage, with the exception of Bulls having mandatory testing.

Cynthia queried the continued requirement for show passports and if the Society should approach the RAS to remove this as a criteria. This was an established process when there were multiple Societies but now the NZHCS is the only one. Lisa Holloway answered that this was going to remain the required process as some AMP Shows were getting confused and turning eligible animals away that did not have passports, this process also acts as a safeguard to ensure unregistered animals are not entered into shows.

Question from the Teams chat, If a junior member registers a Fold and purchases a registered Bull will the transfer go through with the bull remaining registered? Shirley confirmed that it would.

Jenny Sheldon stated to members that when tagging animals with NAIT and Society herd tags to list the herd tags as the secondary tags with NAIT. Cynthia advised members can order a management set of NAIT tags and this will automatically link their Society herd numbers to their NAIT tagged animals.

Shirley pressed the importance of sending hair samples to her from every animal, even if you don't plan to DNA test them at the time as she holds these on file for any future needs.

Judy urged members who sell animals to promote the Society, especially in light of Doug Sheldon's passing as the Sheldon's were responsible for the registration on 299 Animals during their membership years (240 Females and 59 Bulls)

Moved John Anderson
Seconded Doug McLean

Registrars report unanimously accepted

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer, Doug McLean, presented his report.

Cynthia Christie questioned the risk situation on a Society basis, Is the council and the financial subcommittee actively focusing on threshold levels for incomes and expenses and looking at this based on a 5 to 10 year projection. Doug McLean confirmed that Council have set out a number of KPI's for the 3 Subcommittees for 2025. Doug McLean agreed that a projection process would be extremely valuable. Cynthia would like such projections to be presented at the AGM. Council will discuss this at the Face to Face.

Cynthia Christie would like to see the AGM documents done almost solely electronically to save postage costs as the constitution does allow for this.



John Anderson would like to see brochures provided to purchasers of cattle from the breeders outlining the benefits of joining and an application form. Council will discuss this tomorrow and see what can be done. Doug McLean will look to make the online transfer process have a mandatory section to enter details of the purchasers when doing a transfer.

Tony would like to see a section for cattle for sale when doing events such as shows.

Moved Judy Moved

Seconded Debbie Basset Clark

Treasurers report unanimously accepted

6 Appointment of Financial Reviewer

Doug McLean proposed that SJ Novak B.C.A. be appointed to review the 2025 accounts of the New Zealand Highland Cattle Society.

Debbie Basset Clark questioned what the cost was and if it needs to be done by an accountant. Doug McLean stated that the cost comes to about \$600-\$700 per year.

Cynthia confirmed that the Constitution does require the review to be done by a suitably qualified person preferable a member of the registered Chartered Accountants.

Moved Cynthia Christie

Seconded Debbie Basset Clark

Attendees unanimously accepted

7 Nomination & Election of New Councillors

Members were advised in the April 2025 Newsletter, printed on 28/03/2025, that Judy Smyth, Jim McMurray and Martin McLeod were due to retire under the Constitution's three-year rotating retirement provision.

As at the 5th April 2025, closing date for nominations, Six nominations for the Four Council vacancies have been received. All nominations have met the nomination requirements.

1. Ali Williams, Nominated by Jessica Withers, Seconded Jim McMurray
2. Jim McMurray: Nominated by Anne Meyer, Seconded Martin McLeod
3. Judy Smyth: Nominated by Lisa Holloway, Seconded Anne Meyer
4. Lisa Holloway: Nominated by Anne Meyer, Seconded by Debby Morgan
5. Martin McLeod: Nominated by Bruce Burnell, Seconded by Jenny Sheldon
6. Tony Wright: Nominated by Anne Meyer, Seconded by Neil Aitcheson

Anne Meyer confirmed the Councillors as dually elected.

8 Remits for Consideration

No remits for consideration



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The draft Constitution was presented to comply with the incorporated Societies Act changes. Doug McLean discussed what was being done to ensure we are compliant and that he will send out an electronic copy of this to members. This needs to be done to ensure that we keep our charitable tax status.

Minimum number of members will now be 10

Need to identify how we benefit the community.

There may be a slight issue with the Society promoting the sale of animals.

Get a copy of the constitution from Doug McLean

Will send notes out by the end of June to members

Cynthia Christie wants the regulatory things to be done in a separate, prioritized process to ensure we meet the deadline.

Tony Wright confirmed that the Society has public Liability insurance which covers the Councillors and officers.

Debbie Bassett-Clark, called the charities office and confirmed that Councillors can also hold Officer roles.

9 Items of General Business

1. Anna Buckley from Bonnie Glen Highlands, a registered breeder in NSW Australia, is looking for interested Folds to build a relationship with and expand their genetics. She is wanting to find suitable, Fullblood, animals and organise collection of semen or embryo's. Ideally she would like to visit potential folds in July.
If this is of interest for you please let Anne Meyer know at the end of the meeting and she can pass on Anna's details to you. Send to Tony Wright. Anne also asked for permission and posted on the FB page where a few members have made contact with her.
2. Debbie Bassett-Clark as Archivist is concerned for the risk of having physical documents without online backups as they can degrade or otherwise be destroyed. She has discussed the possibility to send documents to Willow Bank for storage. Willow Bank Farm park in Christchurch is offering free physical storage and an option for them to digitize documents at a cost to the NZHCS. Massey University also has storage options.
Cynthia Christie advised that she also still had documents that she has been trying to move along to someone in the NZHCS without success. Shirley discussed putting this information on the database so Cynthia no longer needs to hold their documents. Shirley and Cynthia will continue to discuss this further to find a solution.

Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at 1:30 pm

Anne Meyer(President)

Chairperson

President of the New Zealand Highland Cattle Society Inc.



3.4 President's Report

Presidents Report 2025/2026 To Members of New Zealand Highland Cattle Society

It is with solemnity that I present my Presidents report for the 2025/2026 year, it has been an unsettled year of serious time-consuming challenges for Council that have required constant ongoing management. I am aware that my style of management as President, could be viewed as “soft” but I am and continue to be an advocate for natural justice, due process and personal moral codes of ethical conduct.

Having been cautionary in my opening statement I need to balance that with genuine gratitude and positivity.

Personnel

Lisa Holloway of Woolly Manor Moos in Otaki and who is currently a Councillor, has taken on the Registrars role, for which the Society is very grateful. Lisa has had a considerable number of years' experience in both breeding and showing Highland Cattle, so she is a wonderful fit for the role.

The Council thanks most sincerely Shirley Blanchard, the outgoing Registrar for her expertise and competence she brought to the role and is very grateful for the time and support she has given to Lisa by way of a “handover”, to fully understand the complexities of the tasks associated with the role. Also, a big thank you must go to you, the Membership for your patience whilst waiting some months for outstanding tasks to be completed. The backlog of cattle registrations and transfers are now up to date.

Scott Withers, our Council Secretary has tendered his resignation due to a change in his employment circumstances, balancing this with continual Council work has become untenable. We thank Scott most sincerely for the time he so willingly donated to the Society within the Secretarial role of, a myriad of tasks. Anne Meyer, a current Councillor has offered her expertise in IT & Communication skills to undertake this role after the AGM.

Martin Mcleod 1 of our 2 Vice Presidents has also resigned from Council, the gap he has left is immense and his legacy as a long-standing Member, Councillor for countless years and both Bull Assessor and Co-Ordinator is 2nd to none. Bruce Burnell a current Councillor has taken on the role of North Island Bull Assessment Co-ordinator, Bull Assessment applications will still be furnished to the Registrar who will process them and Bruce will co-ordinate with the Breeder applicant and team of Bull Assessors in order that task is completed. James Brown remains as the South Island Co-ordinator.

Finances

Our Financial position remains cautiously stable with a conservative budget in place for this financial year; however, it is notable that, income revenue from merchandise sales is supplementing the Societies Cash flow. Doug Maclean, our Treasurer has highlighted to Council just how important it is to increase the membership and for members to be registering cattle, in order to provide the funds necessary, to maintain a healthy Society cash flow which should be 1 of the core goals of both the Council & Society. The Treasurers Report furnished by Doug will speak to the financial specifics.



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The Constitution

The NZHCS Constitution has governed the Society since the Society was first incorporated in October 1993, some 30 years ago. To comply with new Charities Commission legislation, a significant review of our Constitution was undertaken by Council with leadership, from Doug Maclean our Society Treasurer, in the first half of last year, 2025. The newly drafted, updated Constitution was subsequently circulated to all Members and ratified at a Special General Meeting held in late October of last year 2025, this was passed and updated in the 1993 format. This was then furnished to the Charities commission and includes the necessary clauses that ensures we are compliant with both the Charities Act and the Incorporated Societies Act.

A huge thank you must go to Doug who guided Council through achieving/meeting such a significant milestone task.

The Breed

The demand for quality Highlands remains relatively stable although considerably lower than the halcyon days when we had some 400 members. There is no doubt that strong public interest is shown in Highlands when in the public arena i.e. shows and Field days. Thanks must go to Ginni Alexander and her support network for consistently flying the Highland flag at our yearly National Field days at Mystery Creek and to Anne, Lisa and Pete who have attended 4 shows in the Lower North island this past show season with a minimum show team of 5 animals. Judges have spoken eloquently on the calibre of the animals, particularly when placed ahead of other Beef Breeds to become Supreme Champions.

Significant changes have been made to Bull Assessment as a result of, the Breed Committee spending considerable time reviewing and revising Bull Assessment documentation. The following are the changes that have been made in the interest of continually upgrading the standard of our stud bulls and for effective and efficient maintenance of the processes and procedures around the assessment process itself.

1. You may apply for a Bull to be assessed at any time of year. The applicant will need to furnish a Myostatin negative test for the Bull, assessment will take place once the Bull has reached a minimum of 12 months of age.
2. Only progeny from Fullbloods or P3 parents (P4 progeny) will be eligible for assessment and subsequent registration into the Herdbook.
3. A minimum daily growth rate of .6 kgs is required, should the Bull fail this daily growth rate, he will be declined for Registration, if a 2nd Assessment is required a 2nd Assessment fee is payable.
4. Bulls will be Assessed as being either ... Below, At, High, against Breed Standard criteria, 3 Benchmarks now, not 4.
5. Frame scoring will be introduced as a, new optional measurement.
6. A 3rd form of Assessment will be implemented by means of Video link if costs of getting Assessors onsite become prohibitive or when Assessors cannot attend an Assessment in a timely manner.



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7. More than 1 current photo is required of the dam if she is not present

I am delighted to report that our policy of compulsory testing of Bulls for the Myostatin gene, prior to assessment has been fully implemented and to date, no further Bulls have tested positive for the gene, some Folds have chosen to test all dams as well, to ensure that male progeny born are declared “ Free of” by birth/inheritance. To date the goal of containment towards eradication is being met. We are however, monitoring another genetic defect “Rats tail” and this will be visually checked for at Assessment.

The Herd Book

For the past 18 months Council has wrestled with the knowledge that a member of the Society has registered cattle in the UK Herdbook without first registering them in the Herdbook of the country of birth, namely New Zealand. This has been perceived as contravening our Herdbook Rules and Regulations Nationally and Internationally.

Our Rules and Regulations were examined over time by a small group of Counsellors, and a technical loophole was found by means of a non-alignment of clauses which nullified the perceived breach. The clauses were then rewritten to align, subsequently Council received a formal written complaint centred around the above issue which has now been assigned to an external mediator for an unbiased, non-emotive perspective. All parties have agreed to abide by the findings.

This next year

Must be one of revised priorities and strategic direction in order that the Society, through Council, reinvigorates and recovers from the difficult circumstances of this past year. I believe we need to:

1. Implement a Code of Conduct.
2. Learn to navigate disagreement constructively and fairly.
3. Review Herdbook Rules & Regulations for currency, constructively, through different lens and perspectives.
4. Remember our Core Objectives, showcasing our cattle in as many ways to the public as possible, to invigorate Society Membership, engagement and cattle transactions.

Acknowledgements

My sincerest thanks, on behalf of you the Membership, must go to those specific persons who sit in Management roles both within and outside of Council and fulfil a myriad of tasks in an extraordinary manner.

Anne M, my Vice President, or should I say my “Therapist” who has stood by me through some dark days as President and the loss of Paul. This lady is kind, very, very capable and highly efficient across several domains.

Doug M, Council Treasurer, who is fiscally very, very competent, dependable, measured and a voice of calm, well-informed reason.



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Scott W, Council Secretary, who has often been the “frontsman”, that has fielded your inquiries and provided the structural framework for Council meetings.

Shirley B & Lisa H , Past & Present Registrars, the go-to persons for all Breeding matters, Registrations, Transfers, DNA Testing etc, they are the person who ensure traceability of your Folds Breed pedigrees and accuracy of, as reflected in the Society Herdbook.

All the above persons offer their expertise in a voluntary manner and as a Society we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Finally, to all Councillors, Anne, Lisa, Bella, Bruce, Jim and James, you have all donated your time, effort and respective skills in a very dedicated manner during some highly emotive, turbulent times this past year and it behoves me to thank to you all most sincerely for your significant contributions to both Council and the Society.

I finish with the Gaelic proverb ... “Tar eis gach stoirme tagann aiteall” ... which translates as, after every storm comes a spell of calm, let’s make it count!!!.

Kindest Regards Judy Smyth,

President NZHCS



3.5 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for the Year ending 31 December 2025

I am pleased to table the Society's accounts for the financial year ending 31 December 2025.

2025 Financial Results

The 2025 financial year ended with an increase in our current and term deposit accounts of to \$2,579 to \$25,896. This is a pleasing result, given the comments below.

As stated last year the challenge for the Society continues to be to develop its membership base, using the accumulated funds to invest in adding value to members and thus encouraging and supporting active breeding and herd management programmes. This is a significant risk to the Society's financial wellbeing. Council has continued the work from last year to ensure that our cash position remains positive for 2026.

2025 trading income was lower than 2024 at \$25,609 compared with \$29,423 for 2024. This was largely due to DNA income received in 2024 for members undertaking significant verification of animals into the Grade B scheme.

The attached, reviewed, accounts have the following headlines as of 31 December 2025:

Accumulated funds \$ 25,896

Assets \$36,936 Compared to \$34,350 for 2024

Liabilities \$18,360 Compared to \$10,656. Represented by membership fees paid in advance, GST balance and withholding tax due for payment in January. An historical adjustment is included of \$5,549 being insurance and honoraria payments incorrectly coded into 2026 but reversed into 2025.

Net Assets \$18,576 Down \$5,117 on the 2024 year being the 2025 loss.



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Mr Steve Novak has again completed his annual review of our accounts and his review letter, which is attached, states:

"ACCOUNTANTS REPORT

New Zealand Highland Cattle Society Incorporated

I have reviewed the financial statements of the New Zealand Highland Cattle Society Incorporated. The Financial Statements provide information about the past financial performance of the New Zealand Highland Cattle Society Incorporated for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Nothing has come to my attention to indicate that the financial statements do not give a fair view of the results of their operations for the year ended on that date.

My review was completed on the 28th of January 2026.

Steve Novak B.C.A.

Oakura"

I ask that the Society adopts this report at it's 2026 AGM and resolves to appoint Mr Steve Nokak as Financial Reviewer of the 2026 financial accounts.

Doug Maclean
Treasurer
5 April 2026



3.6 Registrar's Report

This year's report is somewhat brief as I am new to the role and still learning how to access the various sections of the database that tell me things such as how many of each colour have been registered! I came into the Registrar role in February of this year and completed a two day handover with Shirley where I learned the ropes around registrations and transfers. A huge thanks to Cynthia Christie who wrote a guide to completing these transactions as it has come in handy multiple times now. It has been interesting to gain an understanding of the behind the scenes of the database and see the absolute wonders that Doug, our Treasurer has created to make this database do all of the amazing things that it performs!

Herd Returns

Herd returns continue to be an area of concern for the Council. There is a lack of compliance with the completion of this essential document and this in turn leads to a gap in the data that we need to collect, check and enter each year. A reminder that if you do not complete a Herd Return then any animals you wish to register need to undergo DNA testing prior to entering the herd book. This adds cost to your registrations and delays the registration from happening.

Registrations

2025 = 97 2024 = 99 2023 = 118 2022 = 69

Registrations are slightly down on the year previous. Please register any females you have born. An unregistered female, down the line leads to a whole generation potentially losing a lineage. If you are selling heifers to non-members, please still register the animal as a future owner may wish to bring it back into the herd book. It is much easier to do a transfer than undergo the parentage/DNA process. Once there is a break in the pedigree then the cow will need to come back into the Society via the grade B scheme and start the pedigree all over again.

Transfers

2025 = 86 2024 = 74 2023 = 49 2022 = 45

As you can see, transfers are up. This is another great result as it allows us to see that our animals are staying within the herd book. Please complete a transfer even if selling to a non-member. Again if the animal is at some stage to re-enter the Society through a member purchasing it, the process is a lot smoother if we can track where the animal has been in the meantime.

Herd registrations

2025 = 9 2024 = 5 2023 = 10 2022 = 8

Herd registrations nearly doubled in 2025. This is a promising result as it shows that we are continuing to attract new members.

Bull Assessments

Following last years change to the Bull assessment scheme where all bulls need to be DNA profiled and proven to be myostatin free before they are put on the assessment list, we have been able to see a traceability around myostatin. Bulls need to be Myo-free to be registered. A further change to the bull assessment process was made in 2025 and that is that assessment can now be applied for year-



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round rather than it only occurring twice a year. The bull assessment form has had some minor updates made to it. This form is accessible on the website if you wish to perform your own critique of your bull prior to assessment.

Show Passports

We have had an increase in show passports being requested and granted. This has come about from new interest in showing coming about. Showing in the ring is a great way to see where you are at with your breeding and a fantastic experience in learning handling and grooming skills. If you wish to give showing a go, please get in touch with Anne Meyer, or myself who would be only too willing to support you.

DNA Testing

DNA results are taking in excess of 10 weeks to come back at present. Please keep this in mind when you are sending in your hair samples.

Ear Tags

The secondary or unique identifier tag in your cattle's LEFT ear is the crucial piece of evidence that ties it to its registered pedigree. The NAIT tag in its RIGHT ear is equally as important as it allows traceability of movement. If your cattle have lost either tag, please replace it, and notify me of the replacement numbers. You can have your secondary tag re-printed with the original details, but the NAIT tag will be a differing number.

N is the current letter for the secondary ear tags. This will change to O on 1 June 2026.

Your secondary ear tags should read as your member code (3 letters), the year letter (N), the year, and then the order of birth.

This will look like: ABCN26-01 for your first born in 2026, ABCN26-02 for your second born etc.

Wishing you all the best for the rest of your 2026.

Lisa Holloway



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