



Haere Mai, Haere Mai, Haere Mai.

Welcome, welcome, and thrice welcome.

My name is Tim Brittain a Board Member of Angus New Zealand, and it is my great honour to extend an invitation to you tonight.

The New Zealand delegation have travelled many miles to be here tonight, and after a wonderful week enjoying the immense hospitality here in Calgary, I can confirm that each and every mile spent in a cramped aeroplane has been well worth the journey!

Firstly, I bring with me heartfelt greetings from Will MacFarlane, President of Angus New Zealand. Unfortunately, Will couldn't make the journey to be here tonight, but he is certainly with us in spirit and sends his best wishes to you all.

I would next like to pass on my warmest congratulations and thanks, to the Canadian Angus Association, President John Donaldson, Chairman John Lee, and CEO Doug Fee for the outstanding Forum we have just experienced. May I especially say thank you to Doug for the very generous way he has treated New Zealand as the next hosts and his help in everything we have asked.

Can I also pay tribute to my fellow Kiwi travellers who have done a fine job promoting our event in 2013 and I am sure they have been obvious to you in their New Zealand uniforms!

The past week have been a total immersion in everything Angus, and as a passionate Angus breeder and farmer myself, I can't think of anywhere I would rather be. Enjoying the Canadian hospitality, warmth and friendliness has been an added highlight, and on behalf of all the New Zealand delegates here tonight, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and from the bottom of the world.

Speaking of the bottom of the world, it is now my pleasure to welcome you to the World Angus Forum 2013 to be held Down Under, in New Zealand. We are delighted and honoured to be hosting this prestigious event, and will certainly be working extremely hard to produce a Forum that matches the experiences we have just enjoyed.

In my journeys around the world, I'm often asked questions about our country Down Under. Do we have electricity, the internet, what's it like standing upside down all day, and does the bath water go down the plughole in the opposite direction?

My answer to all these questions is, come and see for yourself. If you've never seen mud bubbling up out of the ground, or thermal geysers spraying boiling water high into the air, then come and see for yourself. If you've never been on the receiving end of a Maori warrior challenge, or tasted food from a hangi cooked in the ground, then come and see for yourself. If you've never stood upside down at the bottom of the world, then 2013 is the time to come and see and do it for yourself.

But we're not just about fantastic scenery and natural wonders. New Zealand boasts some of the world's most talented chefs, and our wines are recognised internationally as being first class, as is our accommodation. Come and enjoy our renowned Kiwi hospitality – our laid back, relaxed attitude, where visitors are always welcome and made to feel at home, where friendliness and openness is a way of life.

Whilst the pre and post-Forum tours will allow you to see much of our beautiful islands, there are three key locations where you will be spending more time.

Rotorua, where the main Forum will be held, is the geothermal hub of New Zealand. Rotorua is set on the shores of a lake in the centre of the North Island, and is surrounded by so much active geothermal activity the region can best be described as nature's cauldron. Maori history has strong roots in Rotorua, so you'll be immersed in culture, myth and legend.

Following the main Forum event, we travel to the South Island city of Christchurch. Known as the Garden City, Christchurch is in sharp contrast to Rotorua. Picturesque and demure, Christchurch has a strong English heritage, with beautiful old stone buildings and willow trees along the river. A vibrant entertainment scene means you'll never be short of a restaurant or café to sample our world class cuisine and wines.

We then move on to the jewel of the South, Queenstown, set on the side of Lake Wakatipu and surrounded by snow-capped mountain peaks. Queenstown is known as the adventure capital of New Zealand, so you can try your hand at bungy jumping, white water rafting, jet boating and heli-skiing. Or you can take life more slowly, wandering amongst the shops and enjoying a leisurely meal in this beautiful and memorable location, where the 2013 Forum will come to a close.

The Forum in 2013 will be a particularly special event for us in New Zealand, as it celebrates a very special milestone in Angus farming, marking 150 years of the introduction of the Angus breed from distant Scotland. We are fortunate in New Zealand with our temperate climate and small, concentrated population, which has resulted in millions of acres of lush grazing pasture. So it makes sense that in the 150 years since Angus arrived on our shores, we have become recognised world leaders in grass-fed techniques and technology. The 2013 Forum is a unique opportunity for us to showcase our wealth of

knowledge and expertise in grass-fed systems. We look forward to sharing all of this and more with you in four years' time.

But that is all still four years away. And we are here tonight, where we are saying thank you and farewell to old friends and colleagues we have caught up with over the past ten days, and to new friends we have made, and to the beautiful country of Canada and your wonderful people.

So in the words of the Maori, I bid you all good health and farewell, until 2013. Ti Hei Mauri Ora*. Haera Ra. Haera Ra. Haera Ra.

(* Pronounced: Tea Hay Mauri Ora)