

AUSTRALIAN SOUTH DEVON NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

Following on from the coverage in the last newsletter of Brisbane Royal, in this issue we celebrate the hard earned second place won by the South Devon steers at Adelaide Royal in the Thomas Foods International Steer competition.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA;

11 South Devon steers were prepared by breeders and schools in the 2017 Royal Adelaide Show Led Steer and Carcase Competition.

Steers were supplied by Gum Hill, Paltara, Davelle, Watinga and Willybee (commercial

breeder). Davelle prepared their own steers, with the rest being prepared by 9 different schools. This is an awesome effort by South Australian breeders, and testament to their commitment to the breed.



Davelle Buster, Watinga Milo and Davelle Davo (*l-r in photo*) were selected as the South Devon entries in the TFI Teams Championship, in which they placed 2nd. John Burston selected the steers for the team, so congratulations to the owners/breeders and preparers, and to John for a job well done.

As with the Borthwick Trophy in Melbourne, the Thomas Foods International competition is split into 2 sections; Hoof and Hook.

In the Hoof section, all steers are weighed and scanned (EMA, Rib and Rump fats). Steers are separated into classes within Light Domestic, Heavy Domestic, and Export. There are separate sections for Breeders and Schools. There is a movement to stop the scanning of live animals as at times there is great discrepancy between hoof and hook data.

Placegetters in the Hoof Section;



Davelle Buster (on left) was in the first class of the day and came away with a 2nd place in the Breeders Light Domestic Class 375 – 430 kg. (405 kg; 85 EMA; fat 7/6)

Davelle Blacky, prepared by Booleroo Centre District School was 3rd in the Schools Heavy Domestic class 435 – 460kg. (435 kg; 82 EMA; fat 7/5).

Watinga Milo, (photo in hook section results) prepared by Coomandook Area School was 2nd in Schools Heavy Domestic 510 – 530 kg. (525 kg; 94 EMA; fat 9/7).

Willybee Russell, prepared by Wudinna Area School was 4th in Schools Export 560 – 595 kg; (585 kg; 95 EMA; fat 12/12).

Paltarra Spud, prepared by Mount Compass Area School was 4th in Schools Export Class 615 – 640 kg. (620kg; 94 EMA; 16/14).

Davelle Davo, (photo below) prepared by Faith Lutheran College, was 2nd in Schools Export 645 – 695 kg.



(695 kg; 112 EMA; fat 10/7).

In the Hook Section, steers are sent to TFI Murray Bridge for slaughter and judging of the carcase.

Placegetters in the Hook Section;

Davelle Axel, (Davelle), 1st Breeders Export 300 kg + (358.6kg;
HSCW 56.5%; 106 EMA; Fat 18/6; MSA Index 63.74; 87.64 pts.

See photo in major awards – below.



Watinga Milo, (Coomandook Are School) 2nd Schools heavy Domestic 240.1 – 300 kg.

(295.4 kg; HSCW 56.3% 92 EMA; fat 9/5; MSA Index 61.41; 87.06 pts).

Bred by Neil and Yvonne Hagger.

Davelle Davo, (Faith Lutheran College) 2nd Schools Export 300 + kg (404 kg; HSCW 58.1%; 125 EMA; fat 6/9; MSA Index 66.61; 87.11 pts). *(see photo in hoof section).*

MAJOR AWARDS;

Davelle Axel; Reserve Champion Export Carcase and highest scoring South



Devon (87.64pts). *(Editor's note; David commented that as Axel hadn't placed in the hoof section, this was the only photo they had taken of him. This result reinforces my belief that very few people can accurately judge a carcase while it is standing in front of them. SD have a lot more going on under the skin than most people realize and getting that fact acknowledged is one of our greatest challenges. More*

results like these from Adelaide and the Lardner Park grass fed trials and the carcase competitions a couple of breeders enter in Qld are needed to be put out there in front of the public – which means that more of us need to keep entering these competitions. We can't win them from our paddock!)

In summary, this was a great showing of South Devons, well prepared and presented. There were many favourable comments on the consistency of the steers, and the number there from such a small group of breeders. (Editors comment – it's

not the size of the dog – it's the size of the heart – Sth Aussie breeders have big hearts!)

A reminder to breeders that to provide steers for the TFI competition, the sire needs to be registered with the South Devon Society, the dam can be commercial but must be at least 7/8th SD.

MELROSE AND JAMESTOWN INTERBREED SHOWS – October Long weekend.



David and Rochelle Leese (Davelle) entered 4 South Devons at these shows.

At Melrose, all entries placed in their classes, with the highlights being 1st Breeders pair (Male and Female) and 2nd Breeders Group. It is always nice to do well in these as it shows evenness of entries.

At Jamestown; again, all entries placed in their classes and in the groups, with highlights being **Davelle United Prime**

M21 placing 1st in Bull 14 – 18 mths and Reserve Junior Champion Bull. *See photo.*

Both shows were well attended with approximately 50 entries from Shorthorn, Santa Gertrudis, South Devon and Droughtmaster breeds.

My thanks to David Leese for that report and to David Leese and Neil Hagger for the photos.

More news from South Australia.



The South Australian members held their usual dinner during Adelaide Show week. This year, it coincided with the 68th Wedding Anniversary of Roy and Joy Scragg. What a wonderful achievement! Congratulations to both of them.

I'm thinking very much ahead, but if we could get a really good photo like the line-up of South Devon steers at Adelaide that has been supplied for this newsletter, wouldn't it be the sort of photo we need to adorn the cover of our next magazine? Believe it or not, this time next year we could well be right in the middle of planning the next Review. New Zealand will make a decision by the end of this year as to the timing of their hosting of the World Conference. It looks like being a choice between Autumn or Spring 2020. If it is Autumn we will need to have our Review ready for

the printers by Christmas 2019. I know this is long range planning, but photo opportunities don't always work to a timeline. If you happen to see a great photo opportunity featuring South Devons – please take the photo! Our Facebook page is always available for reporting show/competition results and for promoting our breed through good photos. It makes my life a lot easier if you can email me the photo; if you send it to me on my phone, I then must email it to myself so I can save it on my computer and then put it on the Facebook page. Call me technically backward if you like, but I don't run the Facebook page off my phone.

MELBOURNE ROYAL SHOW.



Unfortunately, there were no South Devon entries in the Stud Cattle section of Melbourne this year, which will probably mean that there will be no stud classes for South Devons in the future. However, team H prepared and presented 2 South Devon x Limousin steers in the steer classes. While they placed in the led section, they did not fare as well on the hook. The photo shows the steers acquainting themselves with the snow which

was trucked in by the Melbourne Show committee as an attraction. It appears that most Royal shows care more about public entertainment now than they do their origins as showcases for industry, especially primary industry.



LARDNER PARK UPDATE.

The South Devon entries in the Lardner Park grass fed trials are continuing to impress with their performance. The Brejayanne steers are currently showing an average daily weight gain of 1.71 kg; those entered by The Bend are showing 2.14 and 2 kg/day; and the Winterwood entries are gaining 1.77 and 1.91/day. They are well and truly in the running for placings on present performance. We wish them well and thank them for having the conviction to enter their cattle in performance trials such as these. By the time the next newsletter is out, the trials will probably have ended, however results are not usually announced until early in the following year. We'll

keep following their progress. The photo above shows one of the SD steers about to be weighed.

Just as a matter of interest, the average daily weight gain for all entrants for the whole competition is 1.29 kg, so the South Devons are performing well above the average. Don't forget these are Grass Fed Trials and the weather in Gippsland had been quite wet and cold. All these steers were born in 2016, but some of them are about 20 months of age and some only just over 12 months.



Victorian Junior Member Toby Bowron has supplied a couple of photos of his heifer “The Bend Lily” and her new bull calf Nebraska. It's great to have a junior member so enthusiastic about his cattle. The Bend Lily was shown at Melbourne Royal last year. Her calf is by The Bend Knight rider, a bull which the family admired so much they have now purchased him as well.

NEW SOUTH WALES;

Important change to the date of the Bolinda dispersal. This has been postponed till the 2nd November. Keep an eye on the AuctionsPlus website and also the South Devon Facebook page for updates.



Some photos of the Red Wagyu x South Devon calves at Kildare. I haven't seen them but Graham has and he is quite impressed with them – they don't look like their sire! We will be following their growth with interest. It will be quite interesting to see how they scan and how they compare with purebred South Devons of the same age.

The first photo shows one of the 2-year-old heifers which has produced these calves. They have had no special treatment, just run in the paddock the same as all the breeding cattle at Kildare.

I know there are other breeders (one in Victoria and Shane Hooper in South Australia) who have used Red Wagyu over SD, so it will be quite interesting to compare and contrast the growth rates. They are in three quite different climates.



This is a steak from a just 2-year-old SD heifer from Kildare. The marbling is evident and apparently it tastes as good as it looks. As you can see it completely covers the dinner plate. The heifer had been running on a paddock of oats.

QUEENSLAND;



Ross and Dell Cauley at Ashlea have had their young bulls scanned with some impressive results.

Ashlea M28 (on left) scanned 24/9/17; born 27/8/16; weight 635 kg, p8 7 rib 4; ema 107; imf 3.9.

Sire; Elker 642A, dam Ashlea E23 by Ashlea Zeus.

Ashlea M09 (on right) scanned 24/9/17; born 21/6/16; weight 700 kg; p8 7 rib 5; ema 114; imf 6.2.



Sire; DLCC Durango 26Z, dam Ashlea G46 by Ashlea E02 (sire Ashlea Homer).

Ashlea 2-year-old heifers by DLCC Durango – these heifers average 650 kg and are about to be mated. They will calve in winter of next year when they will be put onto a paddock of oats.

Bits and Pieces from the Editor;

Graham and I recently took our three grandchildren to South West Western Australia for the first week of the school holidays. It was so green and lush over there, and it rained for half the time we were there, such a change from our dry paddocks.

We met up with David Corker at Perth Royal Show, and I had a good catch-up with David while Graham chatted to the Charolais breeder who also prepared David's place getting young Charolais bull (the kids were in sideshow alley which is conveniently right beside the stud cattle area).

What I most admired about Perth show cattle facilities was the fact that there was a grass area right beside the cattle stalls where cattle could be taken for a walk and safely tied up as a break from their stalls – which are double sided rows of wooden stalls. I know the Perth facilities couldn't handle the sheer numbers of cattle entries that Brisbane has, but it was such a relaxed atmosphere there. I can't comment on Melbourne facilities because I haven't been there but they appear to be modern undercover buildings – essential given Melbourne's weather I suppose. Brisbane cattle facilities are very old and hopefully about to be replaced – we're just hoping that cattle sense prevails with the design of the replacements.

Unfortunately, there are no longer any South Devon stud classes at Perth Royal. In fact, I think the only Royal Show which still has South Devons shown in stud classes is now Brisbane. If we don't get our cattle out in front of other cattlemen (and it doesn't have to be at the Royal Shows), we have only ourselves to blame when we are overlooked in favour of more 'popular' breeds. As with most things in life, most cattlemen are followers and go with what the general trends are. We all know commercial breeders who swear by their South Devon bulls and will keep using them, BUT we need to keep bringing in new owners/buyers and unless we have some sort of public profile, that isn't going to happen. We have a handful of breeders in each state who spend lots of their own time and money promoting our breed, but we are such a small society that we need EVERY breeder to do just that. South Australia definitely has the highest participation rate at present.

Our AGM next year may well have to be held in a central place such as Melbourne, as there doesn't appear to be any firm interest from anywhere in hosting it. A decision will be made at the next committee meeting in mid-November, so there is still time for submissions to be sent to David McDonald.

As always, I need your support to provide articles for the newsletter. If anyone has been out and about with their cattle, please send me some photos and information. Can you please include the breeding of the cattle, and if they have been scanned, the scan information would also be appreciated. I like to see what different bloodlines are doing in different parts of Australia, and I'm sure there are others who also enjoy comparing and contrasting.

Speaking of out and about – a none too subtle hint that Beef 2018 in Rockhampton already has their website up and running. I know it is a huge ask for most SD breeders to go to Rockhampton – even for us it is over 7 hours' drive. If you don't send cattle, consider a holiday in Rockhampton and just go for a look. The weather is usually very mild in early May and nowhere else will you see so many different breeds of cattle in one place at the same time. There is also an educational programme attached to Beef which I believe to be well worth investigating. Be warned however, that early bookings for accommodation are essential.

I would like to hear from Junior Members for the next edition. I would need details such as; their age; where they live; why they love their South Devons (or SD x); what they do with them; and their future plans for their cattle. Two or three photos would also be appreciated.

I will include a couple of photos from South Africa just to get people thinking about NZ 2020.

Till next time -

Heather Lindsay - Newsletter Editor

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This is Phil and Lanise (NZ) and John and Julie (South Africa) in front of the iconic Table Mountain in Cape Town.

There is absolutely no doubt that the tours associated with World Conferences are not only fun, but also educational. We now have firm friendships with South Devon breeders in other countries, and an expanded knowledge of how people in other countries live and work.



I love baby elephants and these were very cute.