

## **NEWSLETTER 1 - 2018**

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2018. I hope everyone had a Happy Christmas and New Year, and that the weather has been somewhat kinder than it was in 2017 – although there are some areas which are still very dry.

In this newsletter we have reports from various Beef Open Days, Field Days and sales.

However, first cab off the rank is the 2018 AGM which will be held at Casino in northern NSW during their Casino Beef Week celebrations. The dates are 26 and 27 May (Saturday and Sunday). Accommodation is already at a premium so anyone who is intending to be there should be booking immediately. Current thinking is for the meetings to be held on Saturday with a dinner Saturday night. Planning is ongoing, and members will be updated as plans firm up.

Under the new Constitution, two of the current Councillors are required to stand down every year, (meaning there is a 1/3 turnover of Councillors every year), which Narelle Rossiter and Rick McDouall have agreed to do this year. However, they are also entitled to be renominated. David McDonald will be calling for nominations for Council during April. This note is just a heads up to get members considering their options.

While still on the subject of the AGM; - Rick McDouall has offered to put together a short tour of nearby cattle breeders for anyone who is interested. He was thinking three or four days, possibly ending at Yamba. Kildare could either be included or not depending on what people have time for. Interested people should contact Rick direct on 02 67827252. I would love to be able to do this, but the AGM is smack bang in the middle between Beef 2018 at Rockhampton and Farmfest at Toowoomba, so we just cannot be away from home for more than two days. There's a Red Wagyu stud at Armidale that I would really like to visit – along with the South Devon breeders in the area of course.

The next South Devon World Conference will be held in New Zealand from November 10 – 28, 2020. The Tour will commence on the evening of Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> with a meet and greet in Christchurch, before embarking on a bus tour of both Islands, visiting farms and seeing some wonderful sights on the way. The Tour will conclude in Auckland on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November. More details will be published as they become known to us.

## End of an era at Paltarra.

Kaye Arnold has retired from her wonderful Paltarra stud, with some of the cattle going to various new homes. However, as you will read in the following article (which Kaye has kindly supplied) – the stud will live on under the new ownership of Peter Gregory. We wish Kaye all the best in the new phase of her life and Peter continued success with his South Devon cattle.

### *Paltarra South Devons*

It is time to say Goodbye to what has been a wonderful time breeding South Devon Cattle for the past 35 years. It is time to hang up the boots and relax.

I will miss the cattle terribly but there are several nearby studs with young Paltarra bloodlines in their herds, which I will certainly follow with interest

Paltarra South Devons was established in 1983. Foundation stock was purchased mainly from Western Australia and Victoria to obtain different genetics in SA.

The current Herd which has been significantly reduced over the past 5 years comprises purebred and crossbred cattle and the Stud has now been formally transferred to Peter Gregory, at The Range about 2 kilometres down the road. Peter aims to carry on the Stud with the assistance of his son James, who is currently working on cattle stations in northern Australia. I wish them every success with the new “Paltarra”

The Paltarra Stud has been involved in showing cattle and entering carcass competitions with huge success since 1985. Numerous Grand Champion awards have been won over the years.



Interbreed success has included winning the prestigious Royal Adelaide Show Sires Progeny Group- Paltarra Nugget and coming runner up in the Interbreed Champion Pair at the Adelaide Royal Show –**Paltarra UB Quiet** (on left) and Paltarra Unique an amazing pair of South Devons.

In addition, Interbreed championships at numerous Country Shows have been won by Paltarra animals.

We have competed in carcass competitions for at least 25 years with great success



At the Royal Adelaide Show “Hoof and Hook” competition Paltarra bred the Champion Export Carcass which went on to be the Supreme Champion Carcass of the show. A huge thrill.

We were also awarded Reserve Champion Royal Adelaide Show Carcass a few years later.

The development of young beef breeders was also a very important part of our lives. We

trained up to 5 young handlers each year for 10 years, to look after and show our heifers at the annual SA Junior Heifer Expo. This was an amazing experience and I can still remember the joy of watching those children all dressed immaculately holding on to their well-groomed heifers for dear life.

Thank you to all of our clients and to all of the SD members who have shared their knowledge with us over the years.

I have met some wonderful people and travelled overseas and around Australia in association with South Devons. I hope to continue to do so.

I actually haven't quite left as I have my last school steer in this year's RAS Carcass competition. !!!



Kaye Arnold.

**Photo top left shows typical Paltarra heifers; photo above right is of a top Paltarra matron sold to Callanish Grazing for use in their embryo flushing programme.**



*Just a little extra from the editor; Kaye was State Secretary for 16 years, had a stint as State President, and along with (late) husband Richard judged at many shows – the most challenging being the Channel Country Classic in Queensland (Boulia) where they judged all Bos Indicus cattle.*



**Photo is Paltarra Awesome at 6 months.**

**Here are some more photos celebrating Paltarra breeding.**



**From top to bottom;**

**Kaye in front of females sold to Sulby;**

**Paltarra matrons settling in at Watinga;**

**Phil and Lanise inspecting heifers at Paltarra on our AGM tour 2016.**



## **'Davelle 5<sup>th</sup> Opportunity Sale**

David and Rochelle Leese of "Davelle" offered 14 South Devon bulls, 12 South Devon Females and 2 Droughtmaster bulls on AuctionsPlus Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> February.

The results show the fickleness in the season around the country and cattle markets.

In a disappointing result, only 2 of the South Devon bulls and none of the Droughtmaster bulls were sold. Pleasingly 9 of the South Devon females sold.

Top price was Lot 9 Davelle Black Ranger M46 \$6,000 to John Brian "Babrooten" Stud Tongala Vic, he was the pick of the sale with great balance of type and performance at 15mths he weighed 648kg and ranked in the top 1% in all BreedPlan Indexes and in the top 2% for \$Profit. He was an AI calf of BC Progress 315U an imported black South Devon from the US. Mr Brian will use the black South Devon in his cross breeding operation where he aims to have 50/50 South Devon and Black Angus. They also picked up 2 of the older South Devon females to add to his herd at \$2,000.

The other bull sold for \$4,000 to Jim Walker through Elders Dubbo. The red South Devon bull Davelle United Prime M2 a very sound bull moderate bull by another import US sire MJB United 333U. Jim uses South Devon bulls over his 200 Hereford/Santa cross cows.

Long term supporter Alan and Stephen Sanders Murraytown SA brought 3 females to add to their commercial operation, topping \$2,200.

Highridge Pastoral Co, Paris Creek brought 3 females at \$2,000 to add to their growing South Devon herd. Highridge brought a bull last year.

GB & J Gale, Monato South brought a female at \$2,000.

"It was a tough sale and disappointing to see little demand at this sale. We had good enquiry before the sale but didn't result in sales. This is the swings and roundabouts of stud cattle breeding". South Devon and Droughtmasters are available for private sale.

2 of 14 South Devon Bulls sold to \$6,000 ave \$5,000

9 of 12 South Devon Females sold to \$2,200 ave \$2,022

0 of 2 Droughtmaster bulls sold'

**Thanks to David Leese for this report.**

**Beef Week Field Days in Victoria.**

#### TORR DOWN REPORT

'The past six months down here have been very unusual weather wise. Firstly, we had 500 mls of rain in the last five months of 2017, plus another 100 ml in January. Apart from a weekend in December and one in late January it has been cooler than usual for February with temperature down to as low as 5 degrees C at night.

Calving has gone very smoothly, but with only one heifer calf for the season !!!!

A young couple who have purchased 90 acres nearby have fallen for South Devons and have purchased four of our cows with steer calves at foot rejoined to T.D. Magnifico. These animals will, they hope, be the start of their stud.

We were approached by Stock and Land last November, wanting to do a story on the stud for their Beef Week Preview, which of course we were delighted to accept. The paper came out with stories on eleven different breeds of cattle. (Editors note. I couldn't fit this article in here, so it will go on the facebook page soon.)

Beef week day 3<sup>rd</sup> of February was very successful with a lot of new faces coming to see our cattle. One in particular who was breeding Red Angus X Red Poll, could be interested in a South Devon bull and is returning to see us in April, to see the first batch of Red Wagyu X calves, that are due next month, with another drop next spring.

Our neighbours Brad and Trish Gooch are progressing with their property plans with 420 Oak trees vaccinated with truffle spores and also developing a Boxed Beef business with Dry Aged Grass Fed South Devons. They have also purchased some heifers from Hilary Jankelson and George Stephens, the older heifers are in calf to Red Wagyu. Trish, is blown away by the wonderful temperament of her "GIRLS" and sits amongst them grooming, stroking and talking to them. They are a very progressive couple and will be an asset to our breed society. '

**Thanks to John and Sue Harvey for this report.**

*John and Sue had a visit from NZ breeders Mark and Diana Eagle in January. I believe the vocal chords were very well exercised and a lot of bull (and cow) was talked.*



**Ebenezer Park (Bolte family) participated in a group field day at Mt Gambier recently. They have also been out and about at the local shows with their young cattle. Photo from Mt Gambier show. Sarah has sent the following**

**report.**

'This year we decided to have a go and participate in beef week for the first time. It was during the Mt Gambier show that I was asked if I'd like to join the Limestone Coast Combined Beef Week Field Day that's held at the Mount Gambier Show Grounds which we felt was a fabulous option as more people could see our cattle. There were 12 studs representing 9 breeds on show and this year had the largest number of display animals to date. We had approximately 50 people come through for a look and chat with the majority being in the morning. Several of the studs made on the day bull sales with 2 from smaller breeds like the South Devon which is a positive.

For us this year wasn't so much about selling animals on the day but just getting out there so people can see what the breed has to offer. We had 2 people specifically come to say hello and just have a look at the South Devon's we had on display which was awesome, and a few others stopped for a chat on the way past.

We took Nigel (our yearling bull) to Tyrendarra as his first show and considering I would have liked to put more time into him, he didn't put a foot wrong all day. Even had to share the truck ride with the kid's ponies! We got champion any other breed male. The Royal Melbourne winning Limo bull took out grand champion. It was well deserved as he was a very nice bull.

I must also find out who the judge was as he was very knowledgeable regarding the South Devon breed with his closing comment to the



audience being that the breed has exceptional carcass qualities, often dominations carcass competitions and isn't seen as often in the show ring.'

I was hoping to have some sort of results from Lardner Park steer trials for this issue, but I can't find them anywhere online so I'm guessing that until after the presentations, they will not be available to the general public. These will be published in the next newsletter as well.

Gaylene Garrett did mention (at the last Council meeting) that some of the South Devon entries were in danger of putting on too much weight and therefore being penalised. I personally can't see that putting on too much weight is a problem – proof of SD feed efficiency in my book!



**Victorian South Devon stalwart Peter Hutchinson turned 80 recently and was given a surprise party by his family. Peter has been a regular winner and placegetter in the Lardner Park Steer trials with his**

**wonderful even lines of SD cattle. We wish Peter many more such birthdays.**

### **QUEENSLAND;**

Some areas of Queensland have had decent rain and many areas, particularly in the Central West are staring down the barrel of the sixth consecutive failed wet season. However, Beef 2018 to be held in Rockhampton in May, has over 1600 Stud cattle entries. At least three SD studs will be represented, with Kildare, Jambili and Athlone making the trek to fly the South Devon flag.

If anyone knows someone who would be able to bring some boxes of magazines up from Neil Hagger at Bordertown (SA), I would be very grateful. We need to have magazines to distribute at Rockhampton – there will be thousands of people there.

The Queensland show season is just starting – no SD have been shown yet.



## **NEW SOUTH WALES.**

The season is patchy in NSW as well – even Kildare is a bit on the dry side. At present there are fires to the west of Kildare. The Red Wagyu calves from the SD heifers are growing really well despite the less than favourable conditions.

**In the South of the state, the group (led by Mick Hamilton) organising the steer competition are working hard to make sure their inaugural competition goes off with as little stress as possible. Interest has been extremely strong; not surprising given the focus on education as well as competition. Results and a full report will be included in the first newsletter following the competition. If I leave the next newsletter till the end of April and have a shortened gap till the following one, I can cover this steer competition in the next newsletter and Beef 2018 and the AGM in the following one.**

As ever, I rely on people supplying me with news and photos, both for the newsletter and the Facebook page. I use the Facebook page for immediate distribution of news (Australian South Devons) because most people seem to use Facebook. If you would like something added to our page, send it to me. While anyone can comment on a post, actually posting items is restricted. Our Facebook page is not the forum for grievances nor blatant stud advertising; use your own page for advertising and I will share some information and photos across. I don't play favourites; I try to give everyone some exposure and to keep only positive information in the public domain.

**Daphne Lines has unearthed some historical information which may interest members.**

'Some History: by Daphne Lines

A recent cupboard clean out brought many surprises amongst which were some early South Devon newsletters, and I highlight some of the contents for your interest. **Inserts in red are my own (editor's) comments.**

The Australian South Devon Cattle Breeders Association

Newsletter 1 January 1978

Begins: This is the first newsletter of our newly constituted Association which incorporates the Western Region consisting of the State of Western Australia,

and the Eastern Region, comprising of the States of NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. The inaugural meeting of the Federal Council was held in Adelaide SA on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 1978. (This explains to those who puzzle about it why the Public Officer needs to be resident in SA)

Ross Thompson Nardlah WA was elected as President, John Brian as Vice President and June Ironmonger Secretary.

Excerpts as follows: Prior to the meeting delegates had visited Craigvon at Langhorne Creek and Lincoln at Victor Harbor, (steers for the Royal Adelaide Show carcass Comp were inspected, this was the first year that a South Devon team was entered in the O'Conner Cup, now National Foods with an entry from Craigvon, Lincoln and Gum Hill) During the meeting which went from 10am to 6pm with 2 breaks, one for Lunch and one to meet the press, good discussion was held on all matters under consideration, and many decisions were made by resolution. It was agreed to adopt the International year code and the Tattoo criteria for grading. The Annual subscription was \$50.00.

A sale date of February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Shepparton Showgrounds was set with 5 purebred Bulls, 7 Purebred females, 9 second cross females and 29 first cross females in calf or with calf at foot. (This is the sale where we purchased Taheke Express Janitor from the May family, to take up duties from Harlau Punch which had serviced some of our herd since 1975)

South Devon Logo and slogan: Legal advice indicated that the use of the slogan "the best dam breed" could result in documented evidence being required to prove such a statement so the original slogan "the big beef breed" would be retained.

A report from Victoria indicated that there would be on farm fields days held by members prior to the sale in February and in Tasmania breeders had attended the International Cattle Breeders Convention held in Devonport and Sam Beattie had exhibited in the Devonport show with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  cow and 14-week-old  $\frac{7}{8}$  heifer calf at foot, and it was planned to have a promotional stand at the Canberra National Show.'

If anyone else can unearth historical data, I am happy to add it to the newsletter when space permits.

Till next time. *Heather Lindsay* – Communications.

[Gh.lindsay@bigpond.com](mailto:Gh.lindsay@bigpond.com)

This is Torr  
Down  
Dynamo  
(AI) at six  
weeks. He  
is by Grove  
Hannibal 3  
and out of  
Torr Down  
Pride 100.  
John and  
Sue had  
one straw  
left in their  
tank – it  
has been  
sitting  
there for  
about 20  
years, and  
this is the  
result.. My  
name is at  
the top of the list!!!



I thought his interesting breeding warranted this photo being included.

***POINT TO PONDER – BECAUSE I ENDED UP WITH A SPARE HALF PAGE.***

I have a question to ask of our members – especially the ones who show cattle. At present the policy of the Society is that individual shows are responsible for the rules on eligibility of cattle to be shown. When contacted, the Society merely confirms whether an animal is registered or not.

My feelings on the matter are that we should only be showing SD with a ‘P’ classification EXCEPT if it is a calf at foot in a cow and calf class. I personally do not have a problem with a SD cow with a good cross bred calf at foot being shown (except at Royal shows where I think everything should be purebred.) My personal opinion is that a good calf displays the excellent

crossbreeding attributes of our breed and as that is where most of our bulls are used, I see that as a positive.

**We have an Annual General Meeting coming up in May.**

**Do we need to formalise the registration status of South Devon cattle at shows? OVER TO YOU.**