

South Devon Cattle Society of Australia (Inc)
Summer 2016 Newsletter



Hullo everyone and welcome to the latest newsletter for the Australian South Devon community. When I took on this position, Neil Hagger told me I had to include a photo as editors always had their photo in the corner, so this time I have. I think my pen name should be 'The Calf Scruffer' and as you can see; THE CALF IS RED! (The lady was a family friend from Brisbane who wanted to pat a calf). Needless to say, the photo was taken MANY, many years ago!

In this edition, we report the results from Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne Royal Shows; provide an update on next year's World Conference and the

production of our 2017 Review.

2107 Review

By now you should have received a reminder about the advertising and copy deadlines for the upcoming Review. We need all the support we can get from our members to make this an edition worthy of distribution at the World Conference and beyond. If you want to put your stud in front of South Devon breeders worldwide, this publication is the easiest way to do it. Every participant in South Africa will receive a copy as will every farm we visit during the accompanying tour.

Results from Brisbane Royal;



Photo; Kildare Princess 39

Heifer 12 and under 16 months;

1st *Kildare Princess 39* (s. Kildare D9 d. Kildare Princess 30) Kildare Grazing Co

2nd *Kildare Sassy 12* (s. Davelle Progress Blackrock H17 d. Kildare Belinda 18) Kildare Grazing Co

Cow or Heifer 20 and under 48 months

1st *Torr Down Natalie 132* (s. Torr Down Marvel 3 d. Torr Down Natalie 107) Graham and Heather Lindsay

Champion; *Kildare Princess 39*

Reserve Ch; *Torr Down Natalie 132*



Bull 12 and under 16 months

1st *Kildare Likabull* (s. Kildare Haggled. Kildare Juliet 2) Kildare Grazing Co

2nd *Kildare Lotte*(s. Davelle Progress Blackrock H17 d. Kildare Dianna 41) Kildare Grazing Co

Photo; Kildare Likabull

Bull 20 and under 42 months

1st *Kildare Knightley* (s. Kildare Graduate 2 d. Kildare Princess 26) Kildare Grazing Co

2nd *Kildare Kool Black* (s. Davelle progress Blackrock H17 d. Kildare Romantic) Kildare Grazing Co

Champion; *Kildare Likabull*

Reserve Ch; *Kildare Knightley*

Supreme South Devon Exhibit; *Kildare Likabull.*

From a Qld point of view, I would like to thank Rick and Sue for their support; without them there would have been only two entries (although Rick and Sue own Likabull, Graham and I have had him here all year and Graham showed him at Brisbane. I had told Rick for a couple of weeks that this little bull was going to win at the Ekka (wishful thinking I thought, although he really was looking good), and I happened to be standing beside him when the Championship was judged. Couldn't help myself; I just had to dig him in the ribs and say I told you so! Of course, Kildare couldn't lose anyway, as they had both contenders for the bull championship and also the Supreme.) Rick and Sue also supported many Qld shows as Trev Anderson and Barbara Evans from Trinity Vale Simmentals have been successfully showing the Kildare team around SE Qld all year.

Bolinda South Devons also had an excellent win at Brisbane Royal, taking out the coveted trophy for Most Points in their class of the Prestigious Paddock to Palate Competition. This is a 3-part competition, consisting of a feedlot section, followed by a carcass competition and finally a taste testing. This really was an exceptional win for Brian as he only entered one pen of steers, and most of the other winners came from large breeders who entered up to 6 pens of cattle.

ADELAIDE ROYAL SHOW RESULTS.

On the hoof; 11 South Devon Entries – 7 ribbons

On the hook;

Purebred Heavy Domestic 1st and Reserve Champion Heavy Domestic; *Davelle Ash*

Purebred Light Domestic; 3rd *Davelle Larry*

Purebred Export; 3rd *Paltarra stud*; 4th *Davelle Ace*

Schools Heavy Domestic; 2nd *Wudinna Area School*; 7th *Trinity College Gawler*; 9th *Keith Area School*.

Highest Scoring South Devon; *Davelle Ash* 91.46 points

Thomas Foods, team of 3, Hoof and Hook Combined Points; 2nd

Bred by Paltarra South Devons, exhibited by Mt Compass Area School

Bred by Willaby Pastoral, exhibited by Wudinna Area School



This is one of the Paltarra steers at Adelaide.

Bred by Gum Hill South Devon Stud, exhibited by Clare High School.

Thanks to all schools involved with Steer Presentation.

Mt Compass High School, Riverton High School, Trinity College Gawler, Booleroo Centre High School, Keith Area School, Wudinna Area School, Burra Community School, Clare High School.

MELBOURNE ROYAL.

Shaun and Sheree Hamson bred the steer that Billabong High School prepared and showed to a 4th place in the Heavyweight Steer class. This has been an ongoing successful partnership over several years now.



Chris and Leonie Daley from *The Bend* Stud were the only South Devon competitors at Melbourne Royal – which in no way detracts from the quality of their entries. This photo shows *The Bend Lasseter*, who was Champion South Devon Male and Supreme South Devon) with

Chris and other officials after the judging.



Champion South Devon Female was *The Bend Lily* (shown in the second photo). Both of these youngsters are by *The Bend Gently*. Lasseter is out of the matriarch Lincoln Rose 27, while Lily's dam is The Bend Felicity (AI), also from the strong female line of The Bend Pearl.

Chris and Leonie have entered steers in the Lardner Park Grassfed Trials for the final time and at the time of writing, they were leading the weight gain by quite a margin. For those who were not aware, Chris and Leonie have retired to Mirboo North having successfully sold their farm, their whole stud and their farm machinery and other associated gear. Maybe we need to get some tips on salesmanship!!

STOP PRESS; The South Devon steers entered by The Bend have again had the highest weight gain at the Lardner Park Grassfed Trials. Way to go Chris and Leonie – finish as winners!!

BITS AND PIECES.

Queensland.

Despite all the news about rain all over Queensland; in fact, quite large tracts of the state are still very dry, especially the South East where most of the South Devon members live. There has been the odd scattered storm in the last week of November, but even where it rained during winter, follow up rain is needed fairly shortly to prevent a repeat of previous years. At least cattle prices are holding for those who have to sell.



Ashlea has its first calves by Elker 642A on the ground and by all reports they are well and truly meeting expectations. It is a period of renewal/refreshing of bloodlines at Ashlea and this coming year should see the first calves out of the Durango heifers. There are already calves on the ground by Durango sons.

This is one of the Ashlea females with an Elker 642A calf.

Athlone has welcomed the first calves by Athlone Gordon out of their Torr Down females. Torr Down Helen has twin heifers, Torr Down Natalie 131 has a lovely heifer and Torr Down Natalie 130 presented us with a very nice bull calf.

Graham successfully underwent heart surgery in October and is now well and truly on the mend.

Twin Vales has been having a good run with the weather (bit unusual for the Warwick area but I'm sure very welcome). Greg and Narelle are looking forward to the South African conference next year.

New South Wales.



Merilba has supplied young cattle to NEGS school at Armidale. The accompanying photo shows John Cassidy with the heifer and her handler flying the South Devon flag.

Kildare is having a wonderful season and also had a very successful show season in Qld. The first AI calves by Elker 642A are excellent, and Rick is also very pleased with his calves by the home bred bulls and Davelle Blackrock H17. He **may** be biased, but Rick is especially pleased with the Kildare Haggie calves. Ever the innovator, Rick has purchased a Red Wagyu bull to use over his South Devons. This will be an interesting cross as research shows that South Devons were imported to Japan as part of the foundations of the Red Wagyu breed.

Stephen Harris and **Lisa Brook** of *Braxton South Devons* report that they have just had a local gourmet butcher process a body for them (from one of their easy care, feed efficient South Devons). The butcher was very impressed with the quality and yield, that he also tasted the cooked product. This impressed him so much with its tenderness and flavour that he promptly ordered a body to be sold through the butcher shop. His only concern now is that customers who have eaten South Devon meat will then demand only South Devon meat! This is no surprise to those of us who have been eating South Devon meat for years, but it is still very satisfying to hear it from butchers.

Victoria.

LARDNER PARK GRASS FED TRIALS.

Chris and Leonie Daley - *The Bend*, The Garratt Family – *Brejayanne*, and Peter Hutchinson – *Winterwood*, all entered purebred South Devon steers this year (2016) in the Lardner Park Steer Trials. Peters son Ken entered a pair of SD x Angus, and Philip Johnston of Mirboo North entered a pair of Friesian x Angus x South Devon. The final weighing took place on November 30th. There were 50 steers representing many different breeds and crosses. The Bend steers have averaged the highest weight gain for a pair; gaining 1.62 kg per day. The steers finished at 558 kg and 616 kg and may be penalised 2 points per kg for being over the carcass weight specification of 210 – 285 kg. Peter Hutchinson's purebred South Devons have the second highest weight gain as a pair, being 1.44 kgs per day and finishing on 530 and 492 kg. They will probably fall within the carcass weight specs and are strong contenders for a major award. The carcass results will be announced at a presentation in February. It will be very interesting to see the final results and awards. (They will be published in full in the next newsletter, and on our Facebook page as soon as I have them.)

Don't forget these are *grassfed trials*, with all animals run in the same paddock under the same conditions.

News from Torr Down Stud

SUPER SOUTH DEVONS



Torr Down Marvel 3, a ten-year-old Homozygous Poll sire, bred and owned by John and Sue Harvey of Trentham, Victoria, Australia, has been sold to two prominent Red Wagyu Akaushi breeders. The new owners are Melaleuca Red Wagyu, Canning Vale, Western Australia and Mazda Wagyu International Pty Ltd Mossiface, East Gippsland.

The two studs wish to promote polled cattle in the Red Wagyu Akaushi breed and Torr Down Marvel 3 has this ability along with the attributes of faster growth, excellent carcass specifications especially eye muscle, together with his outstanding docility, plus the South Devon's renowned maternal traits.

The interest in Torr Down South Devons commenced several years ago, probably brought about by the Torr Down Stud winning the mature section of the Paddock To Palate competitions at Avoca, Victoria and the following year again at Sydney in the Grand Final competition, this time securing the Grand Champion award against all other breeds. The judges noting that the grass-fed meat was, quote “tender, very flavoursome and well marbled”.

Following this, steers sired by Torr Down bulls won the Supreme Carcase Awards at The Royal Adelaide Show 2011 and The Royal Melbourne Shows 2012 & 2013, the first occasion that this recognition had ever been bestowed on South Devons.

These accolades along with multiple successes at Lardner Field Day Trials, by Gippsland South Devon breeders, endorsed the various attributes that the South Devon Breed possesses.

Meanwhile Torr Down Marvel 3 was being acclaimed with favourable comments in the U.K. and New Zealand. After the arrival of his first progeny, the sole purchaser of a large quantity of Marvels semen in N.Z. said, quote “at twelve months of age my calves are proving to be the best I have ever bred”.

In June 2016, Torr Down Merlin 20, a seventeen-month-old son of Marvel 3 and Torr Down Natalie 123, having been purchased by G & H Lindsay, Athlone South Devons in Dalby, Queensland returned one of the best scans of thirty-nine bulls, covering all breeds at the Toowoomba Farm Fest. These scans were run by the Natural Ecosystems Group, Carcase Merit Index (CMI) scores.

He weighed 770 kgs, Fat measurement of 4/5, EMA 110.85 sq cms & IMF 3.3 %, totalling 3431.1 points, some 334.4 points more than the second highest bull in his age group, up to the age of 20 months, putting him into the SUPER ELITE CATEGORY.

Torr Down Natalie 132, an eighteen-month-old daughter of Marvel 3, also owned by the Lindsay's, was placed fourth out of twenty-six heifers up to the age of twenty-four months, also putting her into the SUPER ELITE CATEGORY.

The Harvey's in their 50th year since establishing the Torr Down Herd of Pedigree South Devons in England, feel very honoured to have had their senior stud sire, chosen to contribute to the progress of the Red Wagyu breed.

Marvel has gone into quarantine for semen collection, for the second time in his life. having been collected for the U.K. and New Zealand in 2013.

Torr Down will be participating in the Beef Week Open Days in January 2017, with inspection day on Sunday 29th January. John and Sue would love to see show you their cattle.

New Victorian South Devon members Jason and Sarah Bolte of Ebenezer Park South Devons have expanded their fledgling stud with additional purchases from the dispersal of The Bend. They also joined the South Australian members at their recent Farm Walk.

We'd also like to welcome to the South Devon family, a new Junior member Toby Bowron of Waratah, Victoria who has bought the Melbourne show heifer *The Bend Lily*. He has entered her to be shown at the Bass Coast Show in January. Toby is very keen and we would like to encourage him as much as we can.

South Australia. (Report from Daphne Lines)

South Australia, like most of the country has experienced a topsy turvy weather pattern recently, with strong winds and heavy rain in places leading to flooding. Many areas have had record rainfalls for September, close to 200mm in the Northern Agricultural areas and the South East and up to 300 mm in the Hills. It was not uncommon to see utes bogged alongside tractors with tow ropes attached. Spray units have been replaced by planes in an endeavour to maintain some semblance of normality in spray regimes. Hail has taken out many crops, and a record amount of hay is being made, partly as a result of the weather damage. Crops not affected by the hail are heading well and in the earlier districts harvest is underway. Canola and lentil crops seemed to have fared worst from the rain. Stock prices have been maintained and off shears sheep sales have also had excellent results. Bull sales for some studs have been constant and cow/calf units have brought close to \$4000; so very different to the past few years. Many country shows had to abandon the Cattle sections due to waterlogging of the grounds.

The **Royal Adelaide** Show carcass competition gave several breeders a chance to showcase the breed and 11 steers were entered with excellent results. **Davelle** showed the Reserve Champion export steer, and the team of 3 in the **Thomas Foods** competition were placed 2nd behind the Murray Greys. The Thomas Foods selection team of **Neil Hagger** and **John Burston** felt that the class of the breed was higher this year, a compliment to those who had prepared them, including several schools most of whom have already asked for steers for next year.

SA held a meeting during Show week to discuss the member's thoughts on the proposed changes to the Constitution with healthy debate resulting in several resolutions being drafted and forwarded to Federal Council for consideration. Office bearers will remain in place until further direction is forthcoming.

A well-attended farm walk was held on November 6th at the property of **Graham and Nell Lucas** at Mt Shank (between Mt Gambier and Port McDonald). Victorian members **Jason and Sarah Bolte** were very welcome visitors, as was **Alan Grocock**. The Lucas family have had South Devons since retiring from dairying in a 26" to 30" rainfall area. They have 400 acres and 80 breeding cows, which they plan to expand to 100. Stock are sold after Christmas, a market that Graham has identified as best for his product. We thank Graham and Nell for their hospitality and for taking the time to share their farming passion with those who attended.

Life Member **Joy Scragg** celebrated her 90th Birthday with a Garden Party on October 2nd. Even the sun celebrated with her and shone brightly for the afternoon. I'm sure all South Devon members wish Joy all the best and may she have many more such happy occasions.

Congratulations to **Garth and Shirley Huppertz** who have again flown the South Devon flag at Millicent Show winning the coveted broad ribbon for Grand Champion Vealer Steer; as well as 1st and 2nd for Best Steer Calf, and 1st and 2nd for Cow with Steer Calf at Foot.

Gum Hill has now passed all the required tests to allow cattle to be sold to Western Australia. This was undertaken in response to requests from WA breeders for Gum Hill bloodlines.

Christmas Greetings from all South Aussie's to our South Devon friends.

News from Davelle Stud

Davelle will be participating in SA Beef Field days on Wednesday February 8th 2017. Once again, the Field Day will be used as Sale inspection day. South Devon burgers will be available along with refreshments.

The Davelle 4th Opportunity Sale will be held on Friday 10th February 2017; once again using AuctionsPlus, as this seems to be an excellent format for both buyer flexibility and animal welfare. Davelle have introduced a "Freight Incentive' for each bull purchased. Delivery will either be by Davelle or the first \$300 freight costs will be met by Davelle. Buyers from all over Australia can now buy, knowing that freight is less of a burden. At present there are 20 bulls and 18 females selected.

The bulls are a very even line. Sires represented are; Lincoln Toryson 39A, Davelle UBRighton H26, BC Progress 315U, Torr Down Hermes 3, Davelle Barossa J5, Davelle D51 Prime J1 and Ace 11.

It is hard to part with breeding females but generally there have been daughters retained in the stud. This is an opportunity to acquire proven South Devon females.

Due to recent changes in WA health requirements, Davelle are now a MN3 herd, allowing them to send cattle to WA, believed to be the first South Devon herd with this status.

MJB Cool 548C is now in residence at Davelle. The spring mating was delayed so he could be used over selected cows. Cool was recommended by Jim Brown due to his very strong family lines, both paternal and maternal and his very even set of figures and data. Davelle Black Ace has been exported to MJB.

Davelle continue to target low birth weights, good growth and excellent carcass (as shown by the Davelle successes at Adelaide Royal). (thanks to David Leese for his news)

Top Year for Western Australia (courtesy David Corker)

WA cattle breeders have experienced possibly the best season in the lives of many involved.

Late March rains which are usually a nuisance by causing a germination that subsequently dies leaving no dry feed were actually followed up by a timely second and third soaking which, with the earth still warm, produced cattle feed within five to six weeks.

Gentle rains continued through the winter replenishing dams that had dried during the previous very poor season.

Hay feeding periods were reduced considerably on previous years and cattle were in forward condition very quickly. Good rains kept coming right through to the beginning of November leaving an abundance of dry feed for the summer.

I'm only a young pup at sixty-three but I have never seen a season this good that was also returning such good prices for cattle.

With store and yearling beef steers often over 300 cents per kg and heifers matching them cattle people were finally being appropriately rewarded. Steer vealers topped over 400 cents and heifers about 30 cents less.

Old bulls could be quit for over 200 cents which often realized over \$2,400.00 with old cows frequently bringing over \$1,400.00.

Our little band of breeders is continuing to push along and encourage each other to keep breeding quality South Devons. Our newest member, Gavin Russell, has been conducting very successful embryo transfer programmes which have produced some outstanding young cattle. Our most experienced member has produced some eye-catching calves from an AI programme using a top New Zealand bull. Mr “In the Middle” has some of the best calves he has produced in thirty-seven years of breeding South Devon cattle.

All up, we are happy travellers in WA. On the travelling note, we are looking forward to the South African South Devon Experience and hope to catch up with many old friends in 2017.

2017 World Conference;

There are now less than 140 days till we meet in South Africa (frightening thought – where has the year gone?) Planning is well in hand by the host organisation and a handy weather report has been circulated recently to intending participants. At present John and Julie (Miller) are also experiencing very dry conditions, so we hope they can score some welcome rain to enable them to showcase their country looking it’s best. At the Council meeting on 29th November it was decided that Daphne will present the Australian segment at the Conference, so anyone with something they would like included should contact Daphne. Really good photos showcasing our cattle are always useful (and I would like them too so they can be used on the Facebook page as well as in future newsletters.)

Last Word.

If you would like to showcase your stud or breeding programme in our newsletter, or tell us about some excellent show results or sales, put pen to paper or fingers to keyboard and write something down. Send it to me with photos and I will quite happily include it (with minimal or no editing mostly – I will take out blatant advertising). I can also use it on our Facebook page which is a more immediate way of getting good results and sales out there. It really is a self-supporting circle – you tell me – I tell everyone – the whole world ends up knowing how well our cattle perform!!

If you can send me articles in an email as an attachment (as a Word document as opposed to PDF), I can just cut and paste which makes life a lot easier for me. Photos need to be JPEG so they can go straight onto Facebook; send them large – they reproduce better.

Merry Christmas everybody – Have a safe and Happy New Year and send me lots of news in 2017!

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